

City of Philomath



Park Master Plan

December 2012



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the citizens and staff who provided input for the development of this Park Master Plan. The project was a true community effort, anticipating that this plan will meet the needs and desires of all residents of our City. The elected and appointed officials who reviewed and approved this plan are gratefully acknowledged for their patience while this document was developed.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2009, the Philomath City Council adopted updating of the 1998 City Park Master Plan as one of its goals. The Park Master Plan provides an opportunity to check in with the community and learn what the current needs and future interests of residents are and provide for a comprehensive and coordinated effort to address these important issues and identify needed facilities.

This community of almost 5000 persons envisions a future where a wide variety of opportunities is available through a diverse system of parks and recreational opportunities. It should address the needs of all citizens, particularly those with limited mobility and finances. This would be accomplished through a coordinated effort with state and regional governments to avoid duplicating services.

These facilities would be distributed throughout the community, incorporate school facilities, and would be easily accessible to all neighborhoods via pedestrian and bicycle ways. As such, this Park Master Plan is not so much driven by a theoretical population, but rather by a spatial analysis and where development is likely to occur. It includes developed parks as well as open spaces to protect natural resources and views that the community holds in high regard. The citizens also know that simply planning for and providing the opportunities is not enough — funding must be secured to properly manage and maintain the system.

Philomath residents are served by the Philomath School District, which provides a solid base of recreation opportunities and a variety of City parks. The school facilities include several outdoor fields, play equipment for children, a walking track, and outdoor basketball courts. The City's contribution includes several City parks situated predominately on the southern section of the community and a few smaller pocket and one neighborhood park north of Highway 20/34.

To develop a solid foundation for the Park Master Plan, the City solicited feedback from a cross section of the community via a questionnaire delivered to a sampling of residences in the City. The survey results were then evaluated regarding the needs, preferences, and attitudes for existing and future park demands.

The survey suggested that the current Philomath population anticipates spending considerably more time on such low impact activities as walking, picnicking, biking, and general relaxation. The survey also reflected a nominal increase in court and field games, which is in keeping with national trends. There are several activities, which given greater opportunities, would have a significant increase in participation. These included: walking and hiking trails, clean park facilities, and viewing wildlife. In terms of future funding priorities, parking (automobile) came in at the top, followed closely by expanded amenities and increased maintenance.

With 42 acres of park land under the City's control it is evident that Philomath has a solid base of park land. This acreage, combined with the approximate 71 acres of open space and fields on school property provides roughly 113.4 acres for park and recreation activities.

By identifying the acreages and amenities that would serve for future neighborhood parks, the community has provided a clear direction as to the basic features to meet future demand and needs. The distribution of parks demonstrates that the City has a need for several parks and amenities in the area north of Highway 20/34.

Trails and trail-related activities are among the most popular recreation activities in terms of participation across most populations, as well as anticipated demand for future use. Therefore,

linear parks or trails that connect parks, neighborhoods and other community destinations are important to the community, responding to the growing interest in walking, biking and other trail related recreation. The proposed linkages are primarily along the drainage system associated with Newton Creek and detailed in the City of Philomath Local Wetland Inventory.

Given the major role of the school facilities in Philomath, the City must continue to actively work with the School District to provide for the most efficient use of the limited resources to meet current and future park and recreation demand. Joint development of new facilities not only increases the resources available to build high quality facilities, but the shared use brings more of the community into these facilities.

Also identified was the lack in the City of a community center for all ages.

With a total price tag approximating \$1.9 million, it is evident that the City does not have the resources needed to immediately make this vision a reality. However, the Park Master Plan does present a blue print as to how the City of Philomath envisions its future; coordinates this master plan with transportation and other infrastructure; and establishes priorities and locations for park improvements. By taking the first steps, identified as the top priorities in implementing this plan, the City will foster a positive “can do” experience for the community resulting in the belief of this plan becoming a reality. With donations of land and certain improvements from the development community, local system development charges, and the use of state and federal funding opportunities, the City can bring this plan to fruition.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

The 2009 Philomath City Council adopted updating the City Park Master Plan, which was developed in 1998, as one of its goals. The Park Master Plan provides an opportunity to check in with the community and learn what are current needs and future interests of residents. In addition, the planning process builds on the community priorities, goals and policies developed as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. With significant growth having occurred since the first Park Master Plan, it was important that the City once again review its Park Master Plan to identify the existing resources and future demands for park and recreation facilities.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Philomath has experienced a relatively stable growth pattern over the past decade. However, as more of America seems to be learning of the amenities of small town Oregon, development pressures have increased. Philomath is well placed to attract such interest being only 5.5 miles from downtown Corvallis, on a major highway corridor to the Oregon coast, and a thriving community in its own right. With considerable residential and commercial development having both occurred over the past 14 years, an updated Park Master Plan would help guide the City in evaluating future growth demand and opportunities. The Plan will also provide assistance in coordinating activities and development between the City, Philomath School District and local recreation providers.

Though primary function of the school district has always been to provide educational opportunities for local residents, much of the park and recreation supply is provided by the Philomath School District. In fulfilling this role, the facilities provided by the school system have become a major source of user oriented recreation. In Philomath, just as in many municipalities, particularly rural municipalities, school recreation facilities are often the primary public recreation facilities available. This relationship between the School District and the City will be discussed in greater detail later in this Plan.

Statewide, public schools provide a substantial portion of a number of user-oriented recreation facilities including:

- 76% of all Outdoor Basketball Goals
- 68% of all Football/Rugby/Soccer Fields
- 65% of all Baseball/Softball Fields
- 53% of Equipped Children's Playground
- 51% of all Outdoor Tennis Courts

The intent of this Plan is to make the most efficient use of existing park and recreational facilities available within the community in relation to future demand.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The 2009 official population for Philomath was 4640. At the time of the 2000 United States Census Survey, the number of people in Philomath, OR was 3,838. The 2000 census reflects:

- The number of men in Philomath was 1,908, which represents 49.7 percent of the total for the community (The national average is 49.10%).
- The estimated female population in Philomath was 1,930 which is 50.3 percent of the total population (Compared to the national average of 50.90%).

- The median age of people living in Philomath, OR was 31.6 at the time of the last full census survey. (The United States average at the time was 35.3).
- The number of people under the age of 5 living in Philomath was 289; there were 2,520 people above the age of 18, which represents 65.7 percent of the entire population (compared to the national average of 74.30%); and 6.9 percent of the population (264) in the community was 65 years and over, compared to 12.40% nationally.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The planning process for the Park Master Plan was organized into four phases.

Phase I: Where Are We Now? Phase I reviewed the planning context, the inventory of parks and recreation facilities, an evaluation of assets and the proposed community wide survey. This phase included a review of land use and development patterns and a synopsis of existing park and recreation goals and policies from the Comprehensive Plan.

Phase II: Where Do We Want to Be? Phase II involved outreach to the community through a survey delivered to a cross section of residents within the City. The community identified major park and recreation needs and priorities. In addition to the qualitative community input, the City staff conducted a technical analysis and inventory of the park system, facilities and trails.

Phase III: How Do We Get There? Based on the findings of the first two phases, the staff developed recommendations to help the community and decision makers realize its vision for the parks system. These recommendations address parks and facilities, trails, recreation facilities and natural areas. Recreation programming was specifically excluded from this process as being both unwieldy, due to lack of staffing, expense to the City, and local involvement of the Philomath Youth Activities Club.

Phase IV: Adoption: In Phase IV, the Park Master Plan underwent a public review process, where the plan was presented to the Planning Commission and the City Council via a public hearing land use process for refinement and adoption.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Philomath Park Master Plan is organized as seven chapters. These include:

Chapter 1 - Introduction: describes the purpose of the Plan, the planning context and area, the planning process, public involvement in Plan development and the organization of this document.

Chapter 2 - Planning Framework: describes the vision, goals and objectives for parks, open space and recreation services via the Comprehensive Plan.

Chapter 3 - The Park System Today: defines the City's classification system for park land and summarizes the current inventory and availability of parks, and recreation facilities in Philomath.

Chapter 4 - Public Involvement: describes the survey, public involvement process and presents key findings.

Chapter 5 - Needs Analysis: summarizes the community needs for park land, recreation facilities, and trails.

Chapter 6 - Recommendations: describes strategies for enhancing the park system in Philomath, which include new parks, existing and planned sites, recreation facilities, natural areas, and trails. The chapter includes specific recommendations for developing the proposed system.

Chapter 7 - Implementation: explains strategies for the City to pursue to achieve the recommended improvements to the park system, including prioritizing capital projects. A funding package, targeted to include adequate resources to complete all of the highest priority projects is also included.

CHAPTER 2 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

This chapter summarizes the goals and policies that define the preferred future for Philomath's park system. These elements form a planning framework that has guided the development of the Plan recommendations that appear in the next chapter, as well as the prioritization of Park Master Plan projects.

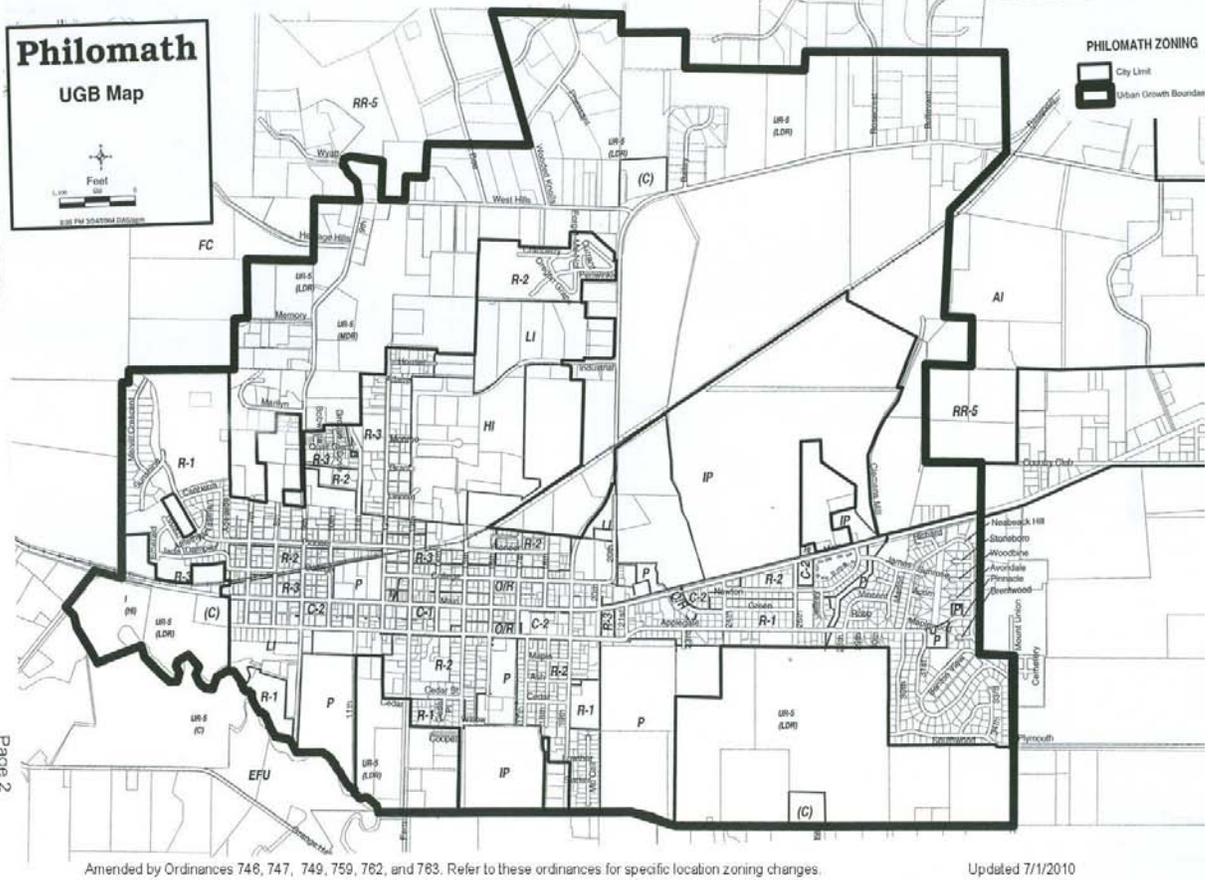
The Park Master Plan is an implementation document that builds on the Comprehensive Plan effort and applies the goals and policies that are outlined below. **These goals and policies are presented here for context, since they were developed more than 20 years ago. Clearly, certain policies are not reflective of current standards and some have been accomplished. However, until changes are made to the City's Comprehensive Plan, the current version of the Comprehensive Plan represents the official guiding policy for the implementation of this plan.** This does reflect, however, upon the need to revisit these goals and policies and update them as appropriate. With a projected population of 4844 in the year 2020 the City will not be looking to plan for future population, but rather utilize a park planning framework that is based on spatial allotment. As such this park plan focuses on where and what parks should be developed within the current urban growth boundary, rather than predicated on some theoretical population.

GOALS

The Comprehensive Plan contains policies and implementation measures toward achieving the goal of designing a park and recreation facilities plan. It is the intent of the City to recognize that some of these facilities and services are the responsibility of the City and some are the responsibility of others, such as the School District. These policies from the 1980's, and updated in 2003, Comprehensive Plan are as follow:

Parks and Recreation Policies

1. The City of Philomath shall coordinate its development of recreational facilities and programs with other governmental agencies (state, county, school district) to assure community needs are met and avoid duplication of effort.
2. The City of Philomath shall consider the needs of the elderly, the handicapped, and the low-income when developing recreational programs and facilities.
3. The City of Philomath shall utilize the Oregon State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the National Park and Recreation Association (NPRA) standards as guidelines for allocating park land in the future.
4. The types of recreation space which shall be provided to meet the City's recreation needs are community/district parks and neighborhood parks.
5. The City of Philomath shall continue to provide funds for park acquisition and development through the present City ordinance establishing an assessment for this purpose as a part of building permit fees.
6. Parks and recreation needs of residential areas in the urban fringe shall be analyzed during plan update.
7. The City of Philomath will consider the development of bicycle paths between city parks and between residential areas and parks.



8. The City of Philomath will continue to encourage the school district to allow the public to use its recreational facilities through the Community Services Program.
9. The City will continue to update and refine the City's 1998 Park Master Plan to meet the on-going needs of the City for passive and active recreational needs.
10. The City will consider sponsoring recreation programs when fully supported by user fees.
11. The City will encourage and recognize volunteers to minimize the operating expenses associated with park maintenance.

Pedestrian Ways

1. The City shall require safe, convenient and direct pedestrian ways, and the maintenance thereof, within all areas of the community.
2. New development and redevelopment projects shall encourage rather than discourage pedestrian access by providing convenient, useful, and direct pedestrian access.

3. Safe and convenient pedestrian facilities that minimize travel distance shall be provided by new development within and between new subdivisions, planned developments, shopping centers, industrial parks, residential areas, transit stops and neighborhood activity centers such as schools and parks.
4. Where minimizing travel distance has the potential for increasing pedestrian use, direct and dedicated pedestrian paths shall be provided by new development.
5. The City shall encourage timely installation of pedestrian facilities to ensure continuity and reduce hazards to pedestrians throughout the community.

Open Space

1. As urbanization occurs along watercourses some open space area should be maintained in order to minimize erosion potential; maintain water temperature, quality, and natural drainage channels, and to allow for linear parks along these channels.
2. Park and recreation land shall be considered for dedication in relation to the Park Master Plan when urban development occurs as a means of preserving open space.
3. The City shall coordinate with the Oregon Department of Transportation on the use and development of the portion of the Corvallis-to-the-Sea Trail that is within the City and UGB.
4. Appropriate trails, creeks, and watercourses should be preserved via a Public zone designation, easements or other mechanisms to ensure their protection, connectivity, and possible utilization for multi-use recreation purposes.
5. All City owned property shall be reviewed for potential park or open space use before it is declared to be surplus.
6. The City shall continue efforts to enhance Marys River Park in recognition of its role in providing open space.

Scenic Views

1. The City encourages Benton County to protect the Mount Union Cemetery from relocation and development that would encroach on the scenic views from the Cemetery.
2. The City shall evaluate and consider all areas above 300 feet Mean Sea Level in an effort to maintain and preserve existing views and viewpoints. All development where natural vistas may exist should take into consideration means to preserve these vistas through design and location of streets, parks or open space, and lot layout.
3. The City shall encourage and coordinate with Benton County, to maintain connectivity and public access between open areas within the City as well those open space and scenic view areas outside the UGB.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

In order to ensure that these goals and policies are implemented, a common definition of park facilities is needed and how these policies can be incorporated into the Plan. The following provides for general descriptions of basic park land classification, amenities, and recreational standards.

Mini-Park

These small parks focus on limited or isolated recreational needs. Mini-parks generally serve less than a ¼ mile radius of residential areas. These parks are usually between



Lions/Triangle Park

2500 square feet and 1 acre. NRPA (National Parks and Recreation Association) standards call for 0.25 to 0.5 acres of mini-parks per 1000 people. The Pioneer Street open space, at 12th and Pioneer Street, and Lions Park, at 7th and College Streets, are mini-parks.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are the foundation of the parks and recreation system, as they provide accessible recreation and social opportunities to nearby residents. They generally contain facilities like basketball courts and softball diamonds, as well as more informal areas like open fields and playground equipment. They often contain open areas for picnicking



Westbrook Park

and undeveloped natural areas. These parks are generally between 1 and 5 acres, though may go as large as 10 acres and serve a ¼ to ½ mile radius. When developed to meet neighborhood recreation needs, school sites may serve as neighborhood parks. NRPA calls for 1 to 2 acres of these parks per 1000 people. The Westbrook Park (at Topaz and Jade Streets) is a neighborhood park.

Community Park

These parks focus on serving community wide recreation needs. Community parks have facilities for organized sports, large group picnicking, and large gatherings. Community parks often have large undeveloped natural areas served by trail systems. These parks are generally between 20 and 50 acres and serve a 1 to 2 mile radius. NRPA standards call for 5 to 10 acres of community parks per 1000 people. City Park (south of 23rd) and Marys River Park (south of 11th) qualify as community parks.



City Park

Linear Parks

Linear parks offer opportunities for trail-oriented outdoor recreation along built or natural corridors, connect residences to major community destinations and provide some active greenways are Hunsaker Bikeway and riparian corridors. Acquisition and protection of these natural areas will be more important as the community grows.



Hunsaker Park Playground



Hunsaker Bike Path

Special Use Areas



Special use areas are recreation lands that are specialized or single purpose in nature. Examples are dog parks, skate parks, golf courses, display gardens, recreation activities and facilities. Many respondents to the Philomath questionnaire noted the need for some place to walk their dogs or just let them run un-tethered in a dog park.

Open Space

Open spaces are publicly or privately-owned areas, undeveloped or minimally developed, and are intended for either active or passive outdoor recreation. Open spaces may include developed facilities that support outdoor recreation and trail-oriented recreation, or areas solely set aside for nature-oriented recreation and the protection of natural resources, such as fish and wildlife habitat. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides or other similar spaces as well as land intentionally left undeveloped to protect surrounding land uses or to manage stormwater. These properties have also been referred to as green spaces or greenway areas and are intended to contain a natural quality that protects valuable natural resources and provides wildlife habitat and opportunities for nature-related outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature and participating in trail activities. Old Reservoir Park (at the easterly terminus of Applegate) would fall within this category.



Looking North from Marys River Park

Undeveloped Parkland

Undeveloped park sites include land that has been acquired by the City for future park improvements. Their size varies depending on the purpose of their acquisition. Undeveloped parkland is differentiated by the intention to develop this land into another park category. This category recognizes city ownership of the property, but avoids overstating the developed park acreages. These sites currently provide open space in Philomath and may be developed to one of the other park classifications in the future. The vacant city owned lands on Industrial Way, north of Highway 34 at the College Street bypass, and the wetlands owned by the City south of Cedar Street in Sunshine Estates meet this definition.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Community recreation facilities can be defined as, “the wide variety of indoor and outdoor sports and leisure facilities publicly-owned and operated to promote the health and well-being of the community.” Some are used primarily for active recreation, and others are designated for passive uses, with some overlap among or within individual facilities. The City of Philomath has no indoor recreation facilities.

SPORTS FIELDS

Competitive sport fields are an important part of any park system. These facilities provide space for community leagues, school sports and informal practice and an area for games to be played safely. In some cases, the fields are inadequate for organized sports due to factors such as condition or size, but the fields still present an opportunity to meet community needs for sports play.

Baseball Fields: Baseball fields must have a backstop, dugouts and a grass infield. Outfield and baseline dimensions vary according to intended age group and league. An outfield fence, although desirable, is not required. Fields must be level without holes. One baseball field exists in the City of Philomath that is not under the School District’s control, which has 3 fields.

Softball Fields: Softball fields must have a backstop, skinned infield and dugout area or player benches. Outfield and baseline dimensions vary with intended use. An outfield fence is not required, but fields must be level without holes or mounds. A total of 3 softball fields are located in Philomath at the high school.

Football & Soccer Fields: Soccer fields can vary in dimension according to the intended age group. However, in order to support regulation play, a soccer field must be at least 50 yards x 80 yards for youth and 60-75 yards x 110-120 yards for adults. Portable goals are generally used. Fields must be level without holes or mounds. A total of 5 areas can be used (multi-use) as soccer fields in the City of Philomath with 1 at the elementary and 4 at the high/middle/primary school. One football field exist in Philomath at the high school

SPORTS COURTS

Basketball Courts: Outdoor basketball courts may be half court or full court configurations and are generally used for informal pickup games. Basketball courts are usually constructed in pairs at larger parks and schools. Courts must include regulation hoops and lines. The playing area should be covered with asphalt or some other hard surface. No major cracks or irregularities should exist. There are 10 outdoor courts at the schools and one each at Westbrook Park and Triangle Park.

Tennis Courts: Tennis courts are generally constructed in pairs or groupings of four or more. Courts must have adequate fencing, net and a color-coated surface. No major cracks or surface irregularities should exist. Tennis courts are usually located at larger parks, such as community parks, or at high schools and middle schools. There are no tennis courts in Philomath.

OTHER FACILITIES

Dog Parks: Dog parks can be either free-standing facilities or dedicated portions of larger parks. In either case, these areas are designed as off-leash areas for dogs. Dog parks should include shade structures, trash receptacles and drinking fountains. There is one “off leash” dog park recognized at Marys Park along the north edge.

Picnic Areas: Picnic areas are groupings of one or more picnic tables within a park setting. Picnic areas may be situated under shade structures or in permanent pavilions, in which case, they are referred to as group picnic areas. Group picnic areas should be able to accommodate groups of 25 or more. Often, barbecue pits or grills are provided. Drinking water and restrooms should be located within easy walking distance. Usually, group picnic areas can be reserved for a fee by groups for family or business events, weddings and other gatherings. The City has roughly 30 picnic tables and several grills, mostly at City Park.

Boat Ramp and Docks: Waterfront sites are highly valued for fishing, hiking and swimming. Access to the Marys River can include trail access, as well as opportunities to launch boats for fishing and floating. Boat use on the water varies from small craft, such as kayaks to inner tubing. Small boat launches can be as simple as a clear path to walk canoes and kayaks down to the water. This may occur at Marys Park.

Horseshoe Pits: Horseshoe pits consist of sand boxes with a metal stake serving as a target. Pits come in pairs and in many cases several pairs are located together for group play. There are 4 pits in the community parks.

Restrooms: Restrooms can be unisex/single-occupant facilities, multiple single occupant facilities within one structure, or gender-separated facilities of varying capacities. In addition to being self-contained or part of a larger community facility, restrooms can be temporary or portable. Restrooms are highly valued facilities at park sites, such as community parks, that are distant from home and for activities that last multiple hours. Both community parks have multiple fixed restrooms.

Off-Street Parking: Off-street parking is formally developed parking that is included within a park site. Existing surface treatments include paving and gravel/dirt for overflow parking. The standard for parking lots in Philomath is a paved surface. The parking lots serving the two larger community parks, City and Marys River, are paved and graveled, respectively.

INDOOR FACILITIES

Community and Senior Centers: Community centers are facilities that provide a focus for recreational, social, educational and cultural activities within a neighborhood or community. The Philomath Public Library qualifies as a community center, but there is no general public facility or senior center. Currently much of this need is met via the local churches, and past participation has demonstrated little demand for such.



However, the City should continue to evaluate future opportunities for a multi-use indoor facility.

TRAILS

Trails and connectors provide public access routes for commuting and trail oriented recreational activities including sidewalks, bikeways, multiuse trails and paths. Trails and connectivity have increased in importance and will continue to be a need in the future as was clearly reflected in the community survey. They can be soft-surfaced or hard-surfaced. Examples of soft surfaces include soil, crushed rock and wood chips. Hardened surfaces include asphalt (permeable or impermeable), concrete, crushed rock or soil stabilized with resin products or cement, open or solid masonry and boardwalks. Most soft surfaces do not provide accessibility for people with disabilities, but are preferable for some recreation activities, such as running. Most hardened surfaces are accessible, with the exception of some masonry surfaces. Hard-surfaced, multi-use pathway designs may incorporate adjacent soft-surfaced paths for running.

There is a considerable trail system that runs around and through Marys River Park, Old Reservoir Park; and the Hunsaker bikeway.

SCHOOL SITES

Given their contribution to the City's recreational opportunities, school sites are included in the park classifications. These sites include playfields that range in size and amenities, since their design characteristics are based on the different opportunities for joint use offered at the school sites.

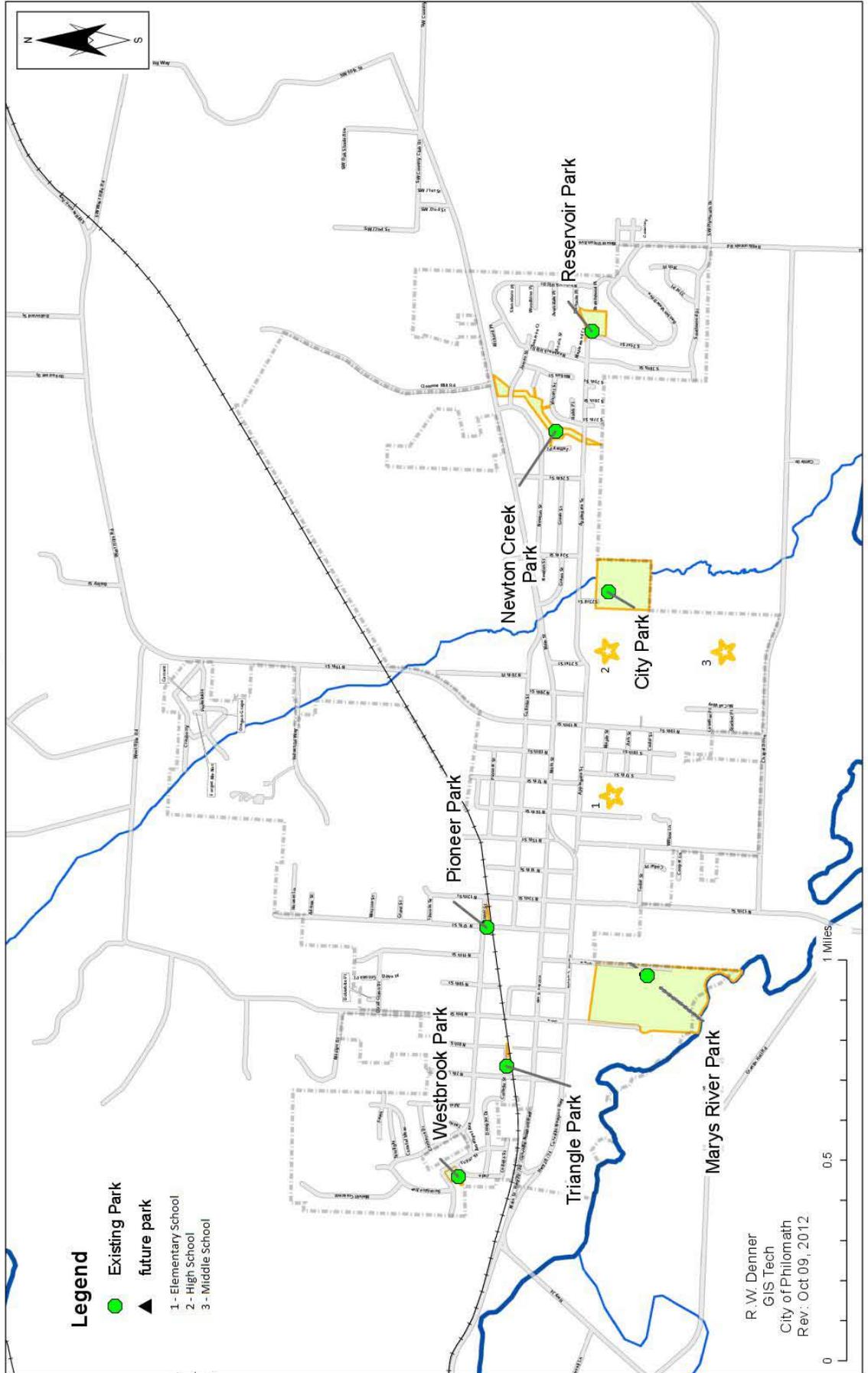
Elementary school playfields often serve as neighborhood park sites, and middle and high school playfields often fill many functions of community park sites. This is the case in Philomath. There are four school sites in Philomath, which are detailed later in the School Inventory Table and denoted on the City parks overview map.

CHAPTER 3 THE PARK SYSTEM TODAY

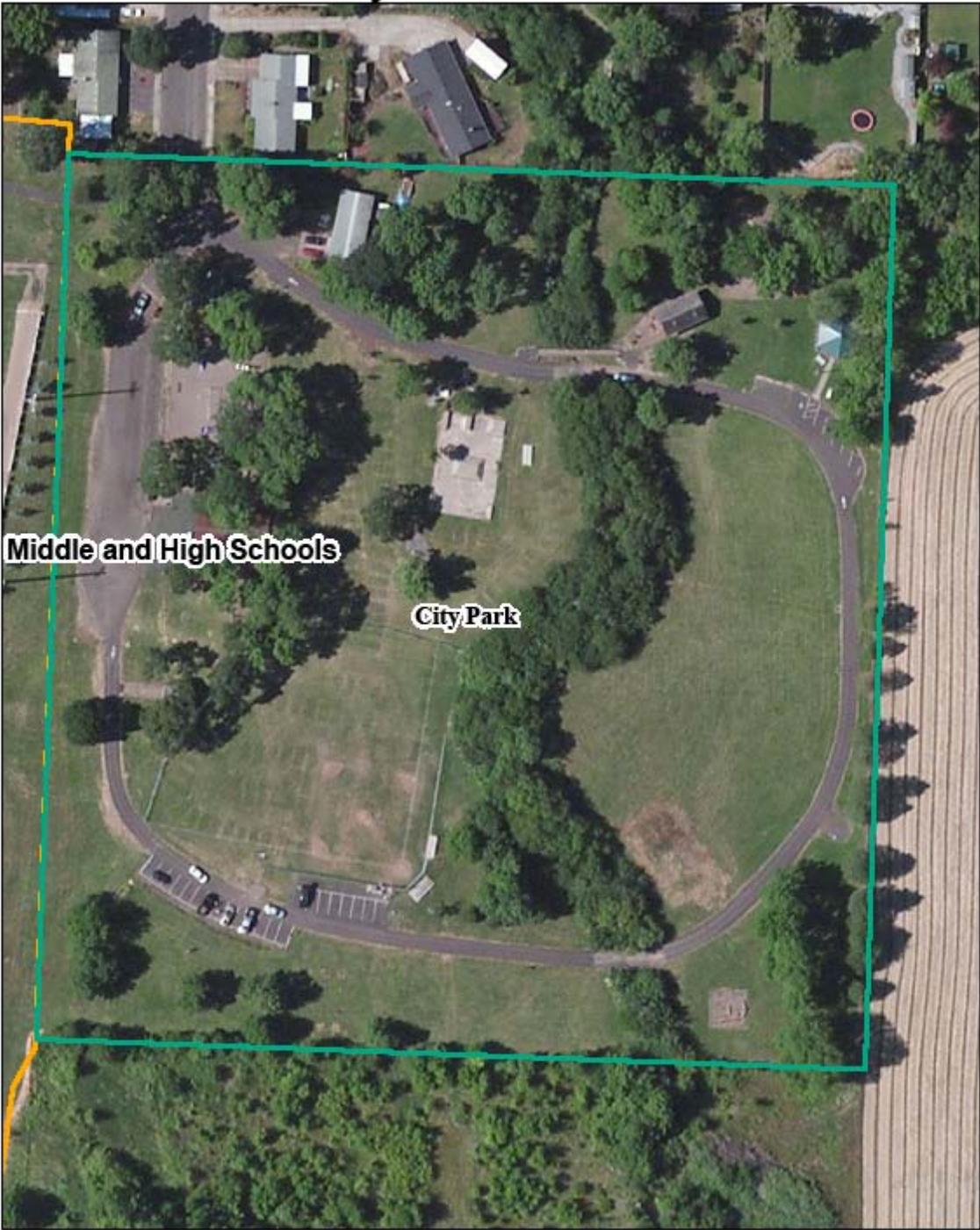
This chapter identifies the City's park and recreation resources and describes the park classification system used to categorize and analyze specific park sites. It includes an inventory of City-owned park sites and school recreation facilities within the City. Philomath residents are served by the School District that provides a diverse array of recreation opportunities and several City parks. These school facilities include several sports fields (track/football/soccer), play equipment, and outdoor basketball courts. The City's contribution includes operating and maintaining several pocket, neighborhood and community parks with a multitude of recreational facilities such as play equipment and fields and park amenities (picnic tables, grills, restrooms, covered shelters, etc.). The City does own other undeveloped parcels that are expected to or may be used for park purposes. The details of each park and school facility are attached in the following tables.

The following map denotes the existing city parks and school sites. The photos following that map provide a general layout of these sites.

2012 Existing Parks

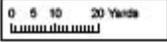


City Park



Middle and High Schools

City Park



City of Philomath
Bing Aerial Imagery

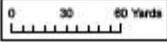


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Mary's River Park



Mary's River Park



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Bing Aerial Imagery



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Westbrook Park



Westbrook Park

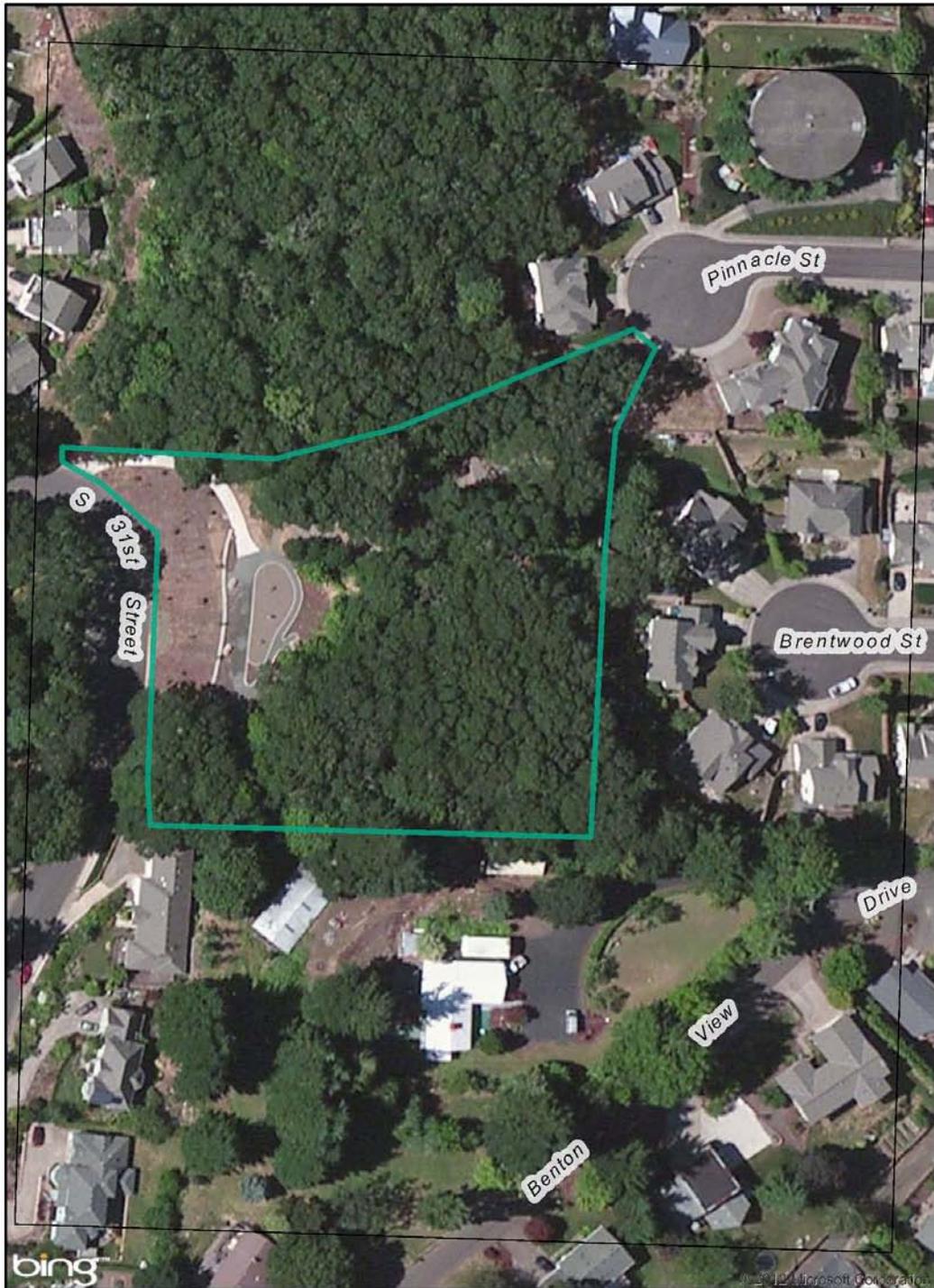


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Bing Aerial Imagery

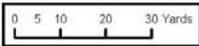


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Reservoir Park



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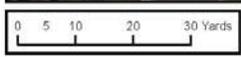
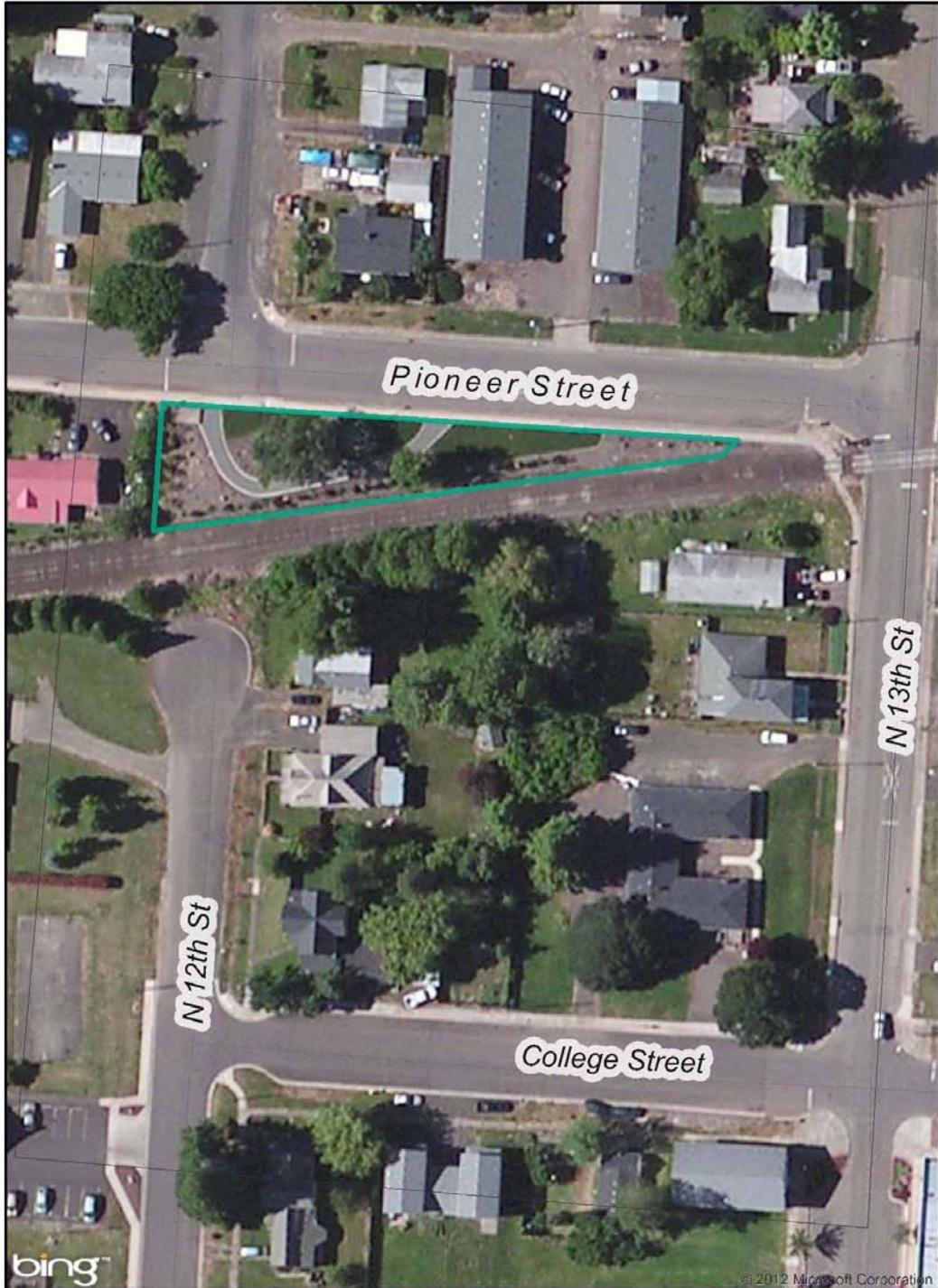


City of Philomath
Bing Aerial Imagery

- Parks
- Schools

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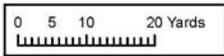
Pioneer Park



City of Philomath
Bing Aerial Imagery

-  Parks
-  Schools

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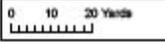


Triangle Park

Bing Aerial Imagery

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Rev: Oct 17, 2012

Philomath Elementary School

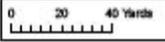
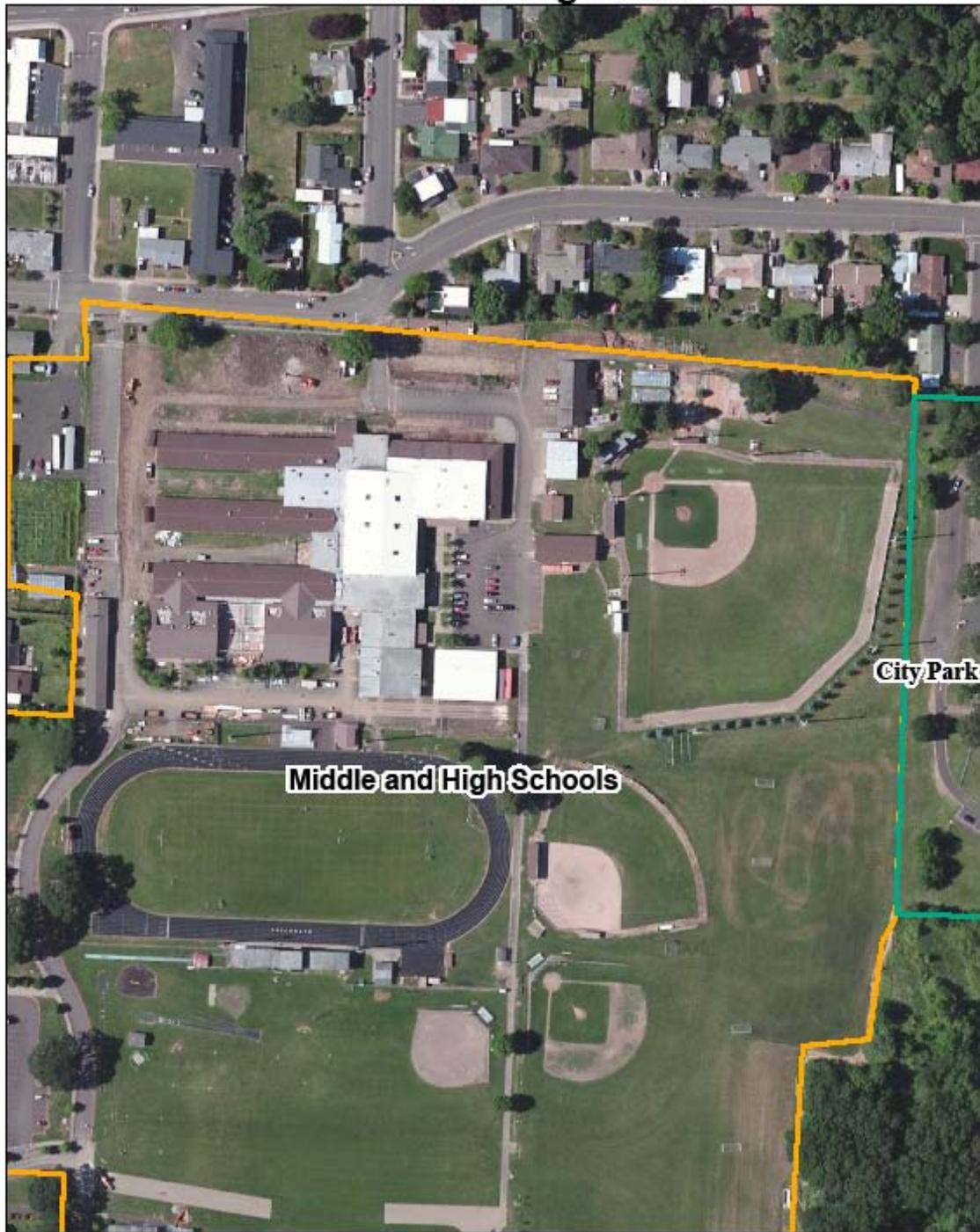


City of Philomath
Bing Aerial Imagery



R.W. Denver
GIS Tech
City of Philomath
Rev. Feb. 22, 2012

Philomath High School

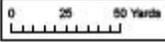
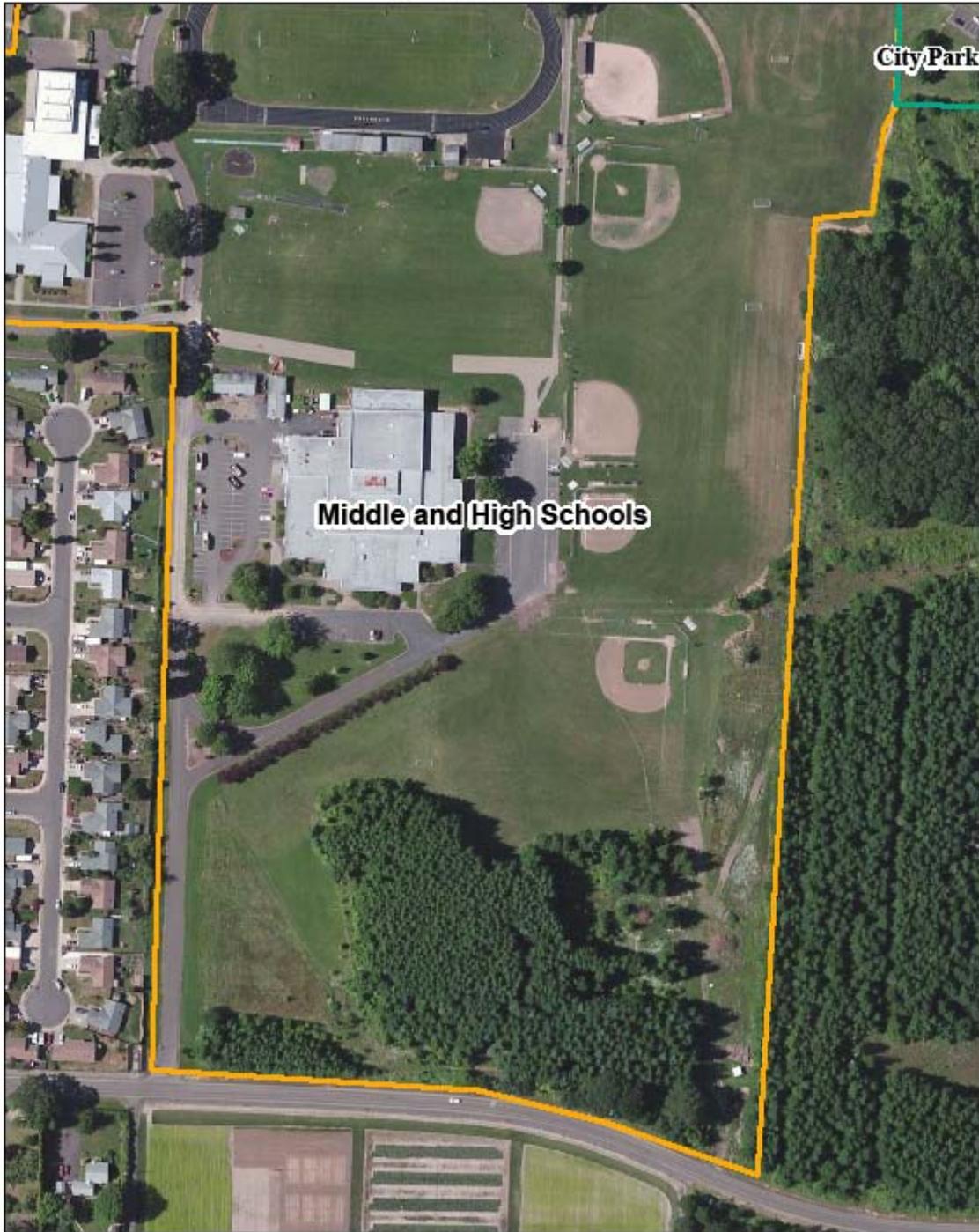


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City of Philomath
Rev. Feb. 22, 2012

Philomath Middle School



City of Philomath
Bing Aerial Imagery



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GIS Tech
City of Philomath
Rev: Feb 22, 2012

CITY INVENTORY

Site / Park	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Name	West-brook	Pioneer	Triangle	Marys River	City Park	Old Reservoir	Hunsaker Bikeway	TOTAL
Type	Neigh.	Pocket	Pocket	Community	Community	Neighborhood	Linear	
Acreage	0.78	0.28	0.21	28.00 ¹	10.56	1.57	0.69	42.09
Recreation Facilities								
Basketball-outdoor courts	1		1					2
Boat & canoe access				1				1
Fishing access				1			2	1
Play Equipment	.25		.33	1	2			9
Frisbee Golf				9 holes				9
Soccer fields								
Softball / Baseball fields					1			1
Swimming beaches				1				1
Tennis courts								
Trails (miles)				0.5		0.17	0.58	1.25
Volleyball courts								
Wildlife observation				Yes				Yes
Horse Shoe Pits				2	2			4
Skate Park					1			
Amenities								
Benches	2	1	1	4	7	3	6	24
Community center								
Grills				1	3			4
Picnic tables	2		1	4	25	1	1	30
Restrooms				2	4			6
Shelters	1		1	1	1			5
Water fountains	1			1	1	1	1	5
Other:					Gazebo			1
Special Features								
Lakes or ponds								
Rivers or streams				X				1
Wetlands				X	X			2
Woodlots / Forests				X	X			2
Other:				Off-leash site				

¹ Does not include the 8 acres of city owned land west of S. 9th Street

SCHOOL INVENTORY and COMMUNITY TOTALS

Site	S1	S2	TOTAL School		Total City	Grand Total
Name	Philomath Elem.	High/ Middle/ Primary				
Acreage	6.76	64.53	71.29		42.09	113.38
Recreation Facilities						
Basketball-outdoor courts	2	8	10		1	12
Boat & canoe access					1	1
Fishing access					1	1
Play Equipment	4	2	6		7	15
Frisbee Golf					9	9
Soccer fields	1	4	5			5
Softball / Baseball fields		3/3	6		1	7
Swimming Pool		1			1	1
Tennis courts						
Trails					1.25	1.25
Volleyball courts						
Wildlife observation					Yes	Yes
Horse Shoe Pits					4	4
Skate Park					Yes	
Amenities						
Benches		22			24	46
Community center						
Grills					4	4
Picnic tables					30	30
Restrooms					6	6
Shelters		2			5	5
Water fountains		3			4	4
Other:					1	1
Special Features						
Lakes or ponds						
Rivers or streams					1	1
Wetlands					2	2
Woodlots / Forests					2	2

CHAPTER 4 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND TRENDS

To develop a solid foundation for the Park Master Plan, the City solicited feedback from the citizens via a questionnaire delivered to a representative sampling of residences in the City. A cross section of the community, that included the Parks Planning Committee, evaluated the results of this survey regarding the needs, preferences, and attitudes for existing and future park demands. The committee then developed a vision for parks and recreation services. This chapter summarizes the results of the public involvement process. It includes key findings for parks, recreation facilities, trails and recreation programming. The park and recreation needs identified here provide a foundation for the recommendations identified in Chapter 6.

OVERVIEW

A survey of the community was conducted during the planning process to ensure participation from a cross-section of the community, including various age groups and diverse special interests. In total, about 500 residents were sent surveys, of which around 200 were returned in this planning process.

Community Questionnaire – In the spring of 2010, Philomath residents were invited to provide input on how much they use parks and recreation facilities currently and anticipated into the future. The survey also asked about the quality of parks, needed facilities or improvement, and funding. The questionnaire is attached as Appendix A

KEY FINDINGS

Citizens were asked to comment on current activity and anticipated activity and how many hours in an average week were spent on various recreational activities. The 3 highest current activities are **bolded** below. The top 3 increases are **highlighted** below.

ACTIVITY	HOURS	AVERAGE	% INCREASE
Walking	Current Expected	3.29 4.71	1.43
Jogging	Current Expected	0.89 1.40	1.57
Picnicking	Current Expected	0.80 1.43	1.78
Bicycling	Current Expected	1.75 2.74	1.56
Court Games	Current Expected	0.69 1.38	1.99
Field Games	Current Expected	1.80 2.23	1.40
Relaxation	Current Expected	1.78 2.62	1.47

What the survey suggests is that the current Philomath population spends much of its recreational time spent on walking, field games or relaxing. However, it anticipates spending considerable more time on such activities as picnicking, jogging, and court games (tennis).

Citizens were also asked if the City undertook developing opportunities would that affect how often you engage in outdoor recreation. It would: (1) have no effect; (2) lead to a small increase in your outdoor recreation activity; or (3) lead to a large increase. The top 5 are highlighted below.

Hiking Trails	2.08
Benches	1.59
Closer Parks	1.80
Expand Parks	1.94
Expand Parking	1.60
Ensure Clean Facilities	2.18
Walking	2.21
Jogging	1.41
Picnicking	1.78
Relaxing	1.80
Play	1.75
Bicycling	1.84
Skateboarding	1.22
Viewing Wildlife	1.92
Outdoor Sports	1.77
Equestrian Trails	1.25

In order of priority there are several activities, which given greater opportunities, would have a significant increase in participation. These included: walking, hiking trails, clean facilities, expanded parks, and viewing wildlife.

The questionnaire also reflected the following findings:

At a ratio of 2:1, citizens felt there were adequate park and recreation facilities in town and generally were somewhat or very satisfied with the park system. As to the question of what could be done to improve the system, there was strong response for an expanded trail system, with tennis and new parks coming in as the next most requested items. Improved park equipment and facilities, including a dog area were the third most noted areas.

The community was equally split on the adequacy of services to various age groups, with those feeling more could be done specifically for our youth, teens and seniors. The survey showed 54% of the respondents felt funding should remain the same; 45% felt it should be increased. (3 felt it should be reduced.)

The community was also asked: What would be your priority for future funding and projects? The following were offered on a scale of 1 to 3; indicate (1) for high priority, (2) for lower priority and (3) for lowest priority for each of the following. The top 3 are highlighted below.

Parkland for Passive Recreation Activities	1.79
Parkland for Active Recreation Activities	1.79
Wildlife Areas	1.78
Increased Maintenance	1.85
Trails Throughout City	1.57
Expand Park Amenities	1.81
Expand Parking	2.19

The survey reflected that the community was most interested in seeing expanded amenities, increased maintenance and more parking.

The full survey is attached as Appendix A.

CHAPTER 5 NEEDS ANALYSIS

The purpose of the needs assessment is to establish in quantifiable terms the need for park-related amenities and recreation facilities in the City of Philomath. These needs are based on the resources that exist and those that are desired for the future. For this reason, the identification of park and recreation needs is intertwined with the planning context for existing resources and the community's vision for the future. This chapter summarizes the results of the needs assessment. The park and recreation needs identified here provide a foundation for the goals and objectives identified in Chapter 6.

PARKLAND NEEDS

The need for parkland in each category was analyzed based on a geographic model of park access, other regional standards, public involvement findings and the trends observed in park systems throughout Oregon and Colorado, which has good data on facility demands. This multi-faceted approach identifies specific needs for parkland and reflects community preferences for the park system.

These criteria were used to analyze and determine how the City compared with State or national level of service (LOS) standards. The park land analysis evaluated existing and proposed level of service standards, expressed in terms of acres of land per 1,000 persons in the City of Philomath, for each park type and various recreation facilities.

The needs analysis of park land also included a geographic element. The Proposed Park and Trails Map illustrates 1/3 mile service areas around each park and school that provides basic neighborhood park amenities. This geographic distance was "stretched" from 1/4 mile given there are limited impediments to pedestrians or bicyclists such as a railroad or major highway. These service areas are based on access to the parks using the street or trail network. Much of the City is outside of the service areas of existing parks, as noted in the previously mentioned need for more parks. The analysis by park type includes needs based predominately on geographic access.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Standards Analysis

The majority of Philomath's parkland (outside the school facilities) is contained within the Marys River and City Parks, which are south of Applegate, at 11th and 23rd Streets, respectively.



Marys River Park encompasses roughly 28 acres (with an additional 8 acres immediately west of S. 9th that is not currently part of the park). City Park has 10.56 acres of available community parkland. Both parks provide a diverse array of basic community park amenities that includes: restrooms, sports fields, covered shelters, picnicking, and open space. With a 2010 population of 4710, the current level of service, or LOS, is 8.1 acres per 1,000 residents. Both parks are constrained by floodplain issues; Marys River Park with floodway concerns as well.

Geographic Analysis

These facilities serve much of the community; however, their location on the south side of the city indicates a need for a more diverse geographical distribution north of Highway 20/34.

Summary of Need

The amount of acreage and facilities indicate that the community conforms to general standards for community parks. Though located on the southern edges of the City, these parks do comply with geographic distribution of service population within 1-2 miles (1 mile in this instance), though the general populous north of the highway system must cross the east and west bound lanes of traffic on Highway 20/34. With a surplus of acreage, the City has little need for additional community parkland, though a prime opportunity to expand exists given the City owned eight acres west of Marys River Park.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Standards Analysis

Philomath has 1 neighborhood park, which is part of the Westbrook residential development on the very western edge of the City. The development contains approximately 0.75 acres of park and open space. The 1.57 acre Reservoir Park, on Neabeack Hill on the east side of town, is included in this category. However, it contains few of the basic amenities associated with neighborhood parks, being limited to only a few benches and picnic tables and minor trail system. The accepted LOS for neighborhood parks is 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents; Philomath has 2.25 acres where 7.0 are currently warranted.

Geographic Analysis

The Proposed Park Area map identifies the location of each existing and proposed neighborhood park. Ideally, each of these parks should be within a 6-8 minute walk for the residents of the neighborhoods in which the parks are located. As the map illustrates, many areas within the City cannot meet this standard. All of the underserved areas appear to have adequate land appropriate for neighborhood park use. All underserved areas should be targeted for basic park amenities in either neighborhood or linear parks. The City should consider action toward acquiring land and facilities to serve those residential areas in the general vicinity between N.9th and N. 19th Streets, north of the highway. Given the lack of any community park or school facility north of the highway; these future neighborhood parks should be of significant size to meet future demand for major court or field facilities.

Summary of Need

The NPRA average acreage standard for neighborhood parks should be 1.5 acres for 1000 residents. With only 3 acres of neighborhood park land, there is a current need for additional neighborhood parks throughout the community and developing areas. Considering improvements to and placing amenities in linear parks will help to meet the geographic distribution of basic park amenities found in neighborhood parks. However, it is very evident that the City should take steps to develop significant park facilities north of the highway. Without significant transportation barriers, the City could consider "stretching" the distance between parks to 1/3 mile.



LINEAR PARKS

Standards Analysis

Philomath has one linear park, Hunsaker Park, which incorporates additional amenities that include play equipment installed in 2012 and picnic tables.

Geographic Analysis

Linear parks may meet local park needs, but are designed to serve many purposes, including trail corridors and natural areas. The trail park could be included in the geographic service analysis to fulfill local park needs throughout the City. Where

underserved areas include existing or potential linear park corridors, these sites should be considered for additional development. Some underserved areas that could potentially be served by existing linear parkland are the developing areas to the north of the highway utilizing the existing riparian corridors.

Summary of Need

The citizen survey showed a strong interest and need for a neighborhood park system that could benefit many of the local interests.

MINI-PARKS

Standards Analysis

NRPA (National Parks and Recreation Association) standards call for 0.25 to 0.5 acres of mini-parks per 1,000 people. The Pioneer Street open space, at 12th and Pioneer Streets, and Triangle Park, at 7th and College Streets, are mini-parks. Triangle Park does contain significant amenities (basketball court, shelter, and play equipment); while the Pioneer Street Park contains only a bench.

Geographic Analysis

Mini-parks generally serve less than a ¼ mile radius of residential areas. Triangle and Pioneer Parks serve the neighborhoods from 8th to 12th Streets, However there remain regions of the City that have limited park amenities.

Summary of Need

With only 0.40 acres of mini-parks, where almost four times more acreage is needed at .33 acres per 1,000, there is an identified need for more mini-parks. There remain neighborhoods in the northwest section of the City (N. 9 and 11th for example) and vicinity of N. 16th that are not served. These areas would be well served by developing mini-parks.

OPEN SPACE

Standards Analysis

The term open space has served as a catch-all category that has included lands called greenspaces and greenways, as well as undeveloped park land.

Geographic Analysis

The City controls a 2.19 acre parcel immediately north of the highway and east of N. 20th Place and 1.1 acre parcel south of Cedar and west of S. 13th. Both parcels are constrained with wetlands that include a creek through the 20th Place parcel and vernal pools on the Cedar

Street site. Vernal pools are a valuable and increasingly threatened ecosystem, often smaller than the bulldozer that threatens to destroy them. Great efforts are being made to protect the remaining vernal pools, as their disappearance marks the loss of rare and important habitat and some of the associated plant and animal species as well. In addition, there is an approximate 4 acre site in the northwest corner of the Starlite Village Subdivision that is planned as part of the subdivision, though not platted or dedicated for such use.

Summary of Need

With considerable acreage of available open space in the southern edge of the City, as well as the rural setting of the community, Philomath has limited need for more open space. Action should be taken to continue to promote parks and open space in the community and urban growth area north of Highway 20/34.

SUMMARY OF PARKLAND NEEDS

Based on the proposed standards, guidelines and geographic analysis, the acreage needed can be determined. There is an adequate inventory of community park land existing within the City and efforts should be put in place to ensure that the City continues to provide appropriate amenities within these parks. The supply of neighborhood parks is where the City is deficient.

With only 2 neighborhood parks, the City is lacking in the variety and scale of neighborhood parks to serve the various regions of the community. The number of mini and community parks do, however, mitigate this deficiency to a certain extent by providing basic amenities and open space. However, there remains a strong need for substantial park land and facilities north of the highway.

Recommended Park Land Dedication Standards

A general park land dedication standard for Philomath was developed by eliminating some of the facilities not commonly possessed or desired by small towns (e.g. fishing access or swimming pools). This helps to determine a total general park land dedication standard that might be readily adopted into the City of Philomath Development Code.

The NPRA standards as reflected herein would indicate that the City of Philomath should have approximately 50.4 acres of total park land based on the population of 4,640. This is based on a current average standard per 1,000 residents of :

- 7.5 acres of community park ($7.5 \times 4.640 = 34.8$ acres);
- 3.0 acres of neighborhood park ($3 \times 4.640 = 13.9$ acres)
- 0.375 acres of mini-park ($.375 \times 4.640 = 1.75$ acres)

To consider future demands on development and to keep current with the existing inventory, the City must develop a method to base future park demand as development occurs. This is demonstrated in the following.

Example: A 10 lot residential unit subdivision is proposed:

Multiply 10 times 2.5 (the average number of residents per unit) equals 25 new residents;

25 divided by 1000 equals .025;

multiply .025 times 10.875. The result is 0.27 acres of required dedicated land to the City of Philomath for park land for every 10 residential units.

TRAILS

Trails and trail-related activities are among the most popular recreation activities in terms of participation across most populations. Providing safe off-street opportunities for people to walk, jog, bike and skate is becoming an important part of city transportation and park systems. Walking, both for pleasure and exercise, tops most national and city surveys as a favored recreation activity. Therefore, linear parks or trails that connect parks, neighborhoods and other community destinations have become popular, responding to the growing interest in walking, biking and other trail related recreation.

Results of the 2010 Philomath park and recreation questionnaire support the SCORP survey findings. From this survey biking, walking and trails were consistently noted as areas that were important or needed to be expanded.

The primary considerations in developing a city-wide and regional trails network are to serve all the existing and potential users, improve safety and to serve the origins and destinations with direct non-circuitous routes. Achieving these goals requires a trail network that provides multiple opportunities for access to key destinations from home and work. These locations may



be origins, destinations or just a stop along the way in the future trail system, which will eventually connect Philomath's neighborhoods. The top destinations in the City of Philomath include community and neighborhood parks, schools, the library and the downtown area. Through this planning effort, as well as the neighborhood trail study, the proposed trail system was assessed to identify linkage opportunities in the trail network. In addition the City will

coordinate this trail system with the County trails system that incorporates the Corvallis to Coast (C2C) Regional trail system.

RECREATION FACILITY PLANNING STANDARDS

In addition to open land, the facilities that support play, learning and exercise are a critical part of the overall park system. The analysis of facility needs is first based on the LOS as it relates to the adopted standard. Taking the comments from the public outreach and national and regional trends into consideration, the discussion provides suggested actions to take. In the absence of a local standard, facility needs were taken from the Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan and State of Colorado study done for small cities (less than 10,000 population).

Park planning standards simply represent the demand for, and capacity of, parks and recreation facilities. The following facilities demand ratios are taken from a study for Colorado's small communities. These are a general statement of the minimum facilities that small communities should provide residents. Clearly, every community will have unique needs (e.g. softball may be a popular activity in one community, whereas fishing or picnicking is more so in another). The uniqueness of need or population served is evidenced when the Colorado standards are compared against the Oregon standards that show some facilities demanded almost 3 times as much in Colorado in relation to Oregon. Nevertheless, the system of standards provides at least a general "rule of thumb" for the number of facilities to be provided by facility type and population.

Essentially, standards are a function of both the level of demand per capita (the number and frequency of individual participation) and the capacity of the facility types.

For example:

Volleyball courts have a higher capacity than basketball courts, but due to higher demand for basketball facilities (i.e. more basketball players playing more often), more basketball courts are needed per capita.

A mile of fishing accessible shoreline serves nearly 3 times the population of a mile of trail because participation rates in trail activities are much higher than fishing.

Fortunately, many expensive parks and recreation facilities, such as playgrounds, swimming pools, and skate parks serve large blocks of population, in the 6,000-15,000 person range.

Note that although group picnic areas can serve population up to 15 times more than the smaller family area, studies indicate that less than 10% of all household picnics require group sized areas.

Although the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) developed planning standards over 20 years ago these were based on urban level models and in many cases are neither recognized nor usable by small communities. Moreover NPRA standards reflected only loosely defined park types rather than actual demand for recreation facilities. Recreation planning standards simply represent the demand for, and capacity of, recreation facilities for small communities. They are a general statement of the minimum facilities that small communities should provide residents. Because the projected population so closely approximates the current population, future projections are not included based on population. Rather the following tables are provided as a measure of where the City stands in relation to outside studies and standards.

COLORADO SMALL CITIES STUDY

Parks System Facility Types	Total Population Served by 1 Facility per month	# of Facilities Needed Per 1000 Residents	Philomath Facilities Needed	Philomath Facilities Provided
Soccer/Multi-Use Field	1,050	0.95	5	5
Ball Fields	1,640	0.61	3	7
Tennis Court	1,030	0.97	5	0
Basket'bl Court	1,100	0.91	5	12
Volleyball Court	7,540	0.13	0	0
Paved Multi-Use Trail (mi.)	960	1.04	5 mile	0.75
Multi-Use Trail Dirt/Gravel (mi.)	430	2.33	11 miles	0.50
Parks System Facility Types	Total Population Served by 1 Facility per month	# of Facilities Needed Per 1000 Residents	Philomath Facilities Needed per	Philomath Facilities Provided
Playgrounds (3200 sq. ft. of developed area)	6,270	0.16	1	3
Family Picnic Area	160	6.25	31	7
Group Picnic Area (with shelter)	2,780	0.36	2	2
Park Bench	130	7.69	38	46
Park Area				
Mini Parks		0.375	1.74	0.4
Neigh. Parks		3.0	13.9	4.16
Comm. Parks		7.5	34.8	38.56

- Facilities provided include the schools

OREGON RECREATION FACILITIES STANDARDS (including schools)

Facility	Average Number in Oregon per 1,000 Pop.	Number in Philomath	Current Need in Philomath
Baseball & Softball Fields	.71	7	6.5
Basketball Goals	1.04	11	5
Community Walking Trail/Path Miles	.13	.23	.61
Day-Use Picnic Tables Grills	7.46	30	35
Equipped Play Area Acres	.36	.86	1.67
Football/Rugby/Soccer Fields	.52	5	2.42
Outdoor Tennis Courts	.37	0	2

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Based on the general standards above, Philomath can make several assumptions about its current and projected need for recreation facilities. This is based on whether you use the actual number of facilities per the Oregon SCORP or the per 1,000 population standard of the Colorado study.

BASEBALL and SOFTBALL FIELDS

- ✓ Philomath currently has 7 baseball or softball fields located predominately at the school sites, where 4 might be required.
- ✓ Philomath will need to develop one additional field in the general vicinity of N. 12th Street in the planning period.

SPORTS FIELDS

- ✓ Philomath has 5 sports fields for football, soccer and other related field sports that are provided for at the school sites; 5 is anticipated as being needed.
- ✓ Philomath will need to develop additional fields in the planning period as development occurs and the population increases.

PICNIC FACILITIES

- ✓ Picnic facilities are grouped together to include grills, tables, and picnic areas. In the needs analysis studies, the City shows a deficiency in picnic area, tables and grills. This is likely based on the lack of overall park area within the community or amenities at the school sites that might provide for outside tables or benches for the community's benefit. The acreage needs have been developed in the park land needs section above. However, there is a need for an additional 5 picnic tables to meet current needs. The recent loss of the City Park cooking and eating shelter will also need to be addressed as the City looks to replace the structure lost to fire in 2011.

PLAY AREAS

- ✓ It would appear that current demand is being met with the play areas provided at the schools and City parks. However, these are natural and logical components of any neighborhood park and should be included in all design work.

TENNIS COURTS

- ✓ Both facility demand charts reflect a need for at least 2, if not 5, tennis courts to meet current and projected demand. In addition, there was significant demand reflected in the Philomath survey to construct tennis courts. The City and School District should continue to evaluate the need for tennis facilities and plan to have land available to meet the demand. In order to meet tournament or high school league demand, 4 tennis courts would be desired.

TRAILS

- ✓ Philomath has a real need for walking, biking or hiking trails. Under the Oregon SCORP model the City has a need for at least a half mile of trails. Under the Colorado analysis the City will need approximately 15 miles to meet demand. Moreover, in looking at the City survey, walking and hiking ranked highest in current use and projected demand. Clearly, given the disparity in studies, the City should develop its own trail system based on present and future opportunities. Such a trail system could be designed along the

riparian corridors within the City, so as to meet the need and interest in wildlife viewing as well.

DOG PARKS

- ✓ There is currently no fenced, off-leash area, though a portion of the open space at Marys Park does provide an off-leash location south of the City buildings.
- ✓ Philomath will need to recognize and provide different types of facilities for dogs in meeting the guideline when the identified dog parks/off-leash areas need to be developed.
- ✓ There is no current guideline about size and amenities required at a dog park.

COMMUNITY CENTERS

- ✓ There is no community center.
- ✓ Consideration should be given to the type of facilities needed to provide services to the growing and changing elderly population.
- ✓ The national trend has shifted from specialized senior centers to multi-generational, multi-use community facilities.
- ✓ The City should consider opportunities to develop a facility.

PARK AREA

- ✓ The City has a solid inventory of land area but additional acreage will be required to meet general demand models for neighborhood and community parks. Plans should be developed for developing areas to ensure that future demand is met.
- ✓ Development plans should be established for the lands currently held by the City.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

- ✓ The primary off-street area for walking and jogging is the high school track and Hunsaker Bikeway.
- ✓ The City has a limited trail system and this amenity was frequently mentioned by the area residents as needed.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING NEEDS

Due to the associated costs of operating and providing for recreation programming, it is not identified within this plan. It is the City's position that it will be far more efficient to provide and maintain facilities as opposed to operating programs. Such coordinated activities will be left to local volunteers, such as the Philomath Youth Activity Club that has taken the lead in youth recreation programming.

CHAPTER 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter outlines a series of recommendations for parks and recreation facilities in Philomath. These recommendations are based on the findings of the community needs assessment and include new parks and facilities, improvements to existing parks and facilities and system-wide improvements.

PARK SYSTEM CONCEPT

The vision for Philomath's park system, as noted in Chapter 2, is one of a walkable, accessible, interconnected park and open space system that supports a wide variety of recreation experiences and opportunities. This ideal park system will consist of a variety of park types, each offering certain types of recreation and/or open space opportunities. While each park type may separately serve a primary function, collectively these parks will meet the needs of the entire community. In this manner, the park system will serve Philomath residents on several levels. It also will provide the facilities needed to support a variety of programs and a balance of recreation opportunities.

PARKLAND RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Philomath has a limited amount of parkland and developable properties for park purposes. Furthermore, while some residents have parks or schools in close proximity, other neighborhoods north of the highway and developing areas are in need of some or additional parkland. Fortunately, Philomath is surrounded by undeveloped land with the potential to meet the park and recreation needs of current and future residents.

The community needs assessment identified a future need for additional parkland and amenities to meet the existing and future demand in developing areas. As noted in Chapter 4 there are several demand areas recognized in the community survey and needs analysis. The survey demonstrated that walking/jogging, biking, and relaxation were the most involved activities. It also showed that improved facilities in these areas would generate increased use. The analysis of facilities, per Oregon and Colorado standards, showed a significant deficiency in tennis courts (given none in the City versus the 2 to 5 recommended), with some disparity in the amount of trails needed though the local survey showed a need and interest for an expanded trail system.

Some of this needed park land is already in City ownership and simply needs to be developed as parks or can be traded or exchanged for other private lands. Existing and designated parks are denoted on the park map. The proposed parks will require property acquisition or dedication as part of the future development. Opportunity areas are marked with a triangle that identifies the general vicinity for the proposed park location. The actual locations will be determined based on land availability, acquisition cost, park development standards and property owner's willingness to dedicate or sell. In looking at the actual development the local standards demonstrate the need for facilities that would be included in these parks.

Planned trails are identified with dashed lines. The park concept map was developed after analyzing projected population growth, current land availability and the ability of the City to acquire land in meaningful locations. This analysis is detailed in the needs analysis chapter of this plan. It is important to note that the map is a conceptual representation and is not intended to pinpoint exact locations for future park sites. Access to neighborhood and community parks is increased through the distribution of park facilities. Potential park locations are within a one-third mile walking distance of most residents and most are sited in locations near the planned pathways system.

PARK AMENITIES

Parks rarely serve just one purpose for visitors. Many parks include amenities, such as play areas, trails and pathways and a recreation area. Each of these serves a specific purpose, but together they contribute to the visitor's overall experience. It's important to understand that when developing parks, the amenities—as much as the classification—are equally important in ensuring that Philomath residents are provided ample recreation opportunities.

There are basic park amenities that must be provided to reach the level of service desired across the park system:

- ✓ Playground or play area;
- ✓ Trails or pathways;
- ✓ Benches, tables or other seating areas;
- ✓ Activity-oriented features, such as a basketball or tennis court, geared at increasing opportunities for play and physical activity;
- ✓ Site features such as trash receptacles, lighting, and a drinking fountain.

These features would not all be included in every park, but the goal is to have a park serving this variety of needs within walking distance of each resident. Ideally, the full range of basic facilities would be provided at one site, but in some cases, basic park amenity access could be achieved through the combination of several sites in one area.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY PARK TYPE

The recommended improvements to Philomath's park system are detailed according to park classification. To address the planning components and needs analysis each park will be designed to address these issues as appropriate. Proposed additional park types are included in the discussion of the park classification that the new park is intended to fit.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The City has two community parks, City Park and Marys River Park. No new community parks are projected. It is anticipated that projected needs for those amenities found in community parks can be incorporated into the proposed neighborhood parks north of the railroad. The following are recommendations for the community parks.

Marys River Park

The purpose of Marys River Park is to serve as an open space, natural area with no expectation of improvements or active fields and court sports. This is in particular regard to the overlay of the existing flood plain and floodway. This area will help address the City's need for passive recreation and relaxation and walking/hiking/biking demand.

Major improvements would include an improved circuitous gravel path for year round enjoyment. This path would be augmented with natural paths provided to specific points, such as the gravel bar at the river's edge.

Amenity	Description	Quantity	Price Range	Planning Cost
Benches	Recycled plastic with metal supports	3	\$600+sh	\$2000
Picnic Tables	Recycled plastic mess	2	\$825+ shipping	\$2000
Garbage Can & Holders	Pole-mounted plastic cans	2	\$450	\$900
Trail System	Expand trail system with 3', graveled	0.61M	\$21,500/mi.	\$13,000
			GRAND TOTAL	\$17,900

City Park

The purpose of City Park is to serve as a multi-purpose community recreation area with its cooking facilities, shelter and multiple restrooms. This area will help address the City's need for passive and active recreation. With a community trail proposed to run to and through this park, it is expected that the existing paved road that runs around the park will serve to help meet the demand for walking/hiking/biking (though additional lighting might prove beneficial). Additionally, the City should consider tennis courts and relaxation, with more benches dispersed throughout the park.

Amenity	Description	Quantity	Price Range	Planning Cost
Drinking Fountains	Disabled accessible, higher price for frost-free model	2	\$2200+s/h	\$ 4,500
Benches	Recycled plastic with metal supports	4	\$600+sh	\$ 2,600
Shelter and enclosure	800 sq. ft covered area with 400 sq. ft. enclosed		\$55,000	\$ 55,000
Garbage Can & Holders	Pole-mounted plastic cans	2	\$450	\$ 900
Site and Walkway Lighting	Ornamental poles; 10-15 ft. high	5	\$4500	\$ 22,500
Tennis Courts	4 full court, park grade installed including nets, posts, fencing and painting	4	\$59,000 ¹ per set of 2 courts	\$118,000
			GRAND TOTAL	\$203,500

1. Includes economy of scale reduction, but increased cost for fill in the flood plain.

Neighborhood Parks

Changes in the ways that people use parks creates opportunities to meet basic park needs in a variety of settings, which will be predominately through neighborhood parks. To allow for future neighborhood parks, the City will use a base model for future development, with the addition of several neighborhood parks, approximately one-third mile from each other along the southeastern and northern boundaries of the City's Urban Growth area. The standards will vary depending on the level of service for each park; but the following are anticipated on a per acre basis, for such things as benches or picnic tables, or per park such as court facilities where noted.

Neighborhood parks have a general size of 1 and 5 acres, though may go as large as 10 acres and serve a ¼ to ½ mile radius. Given the fact that there is no community park anticipated north of the railroad tracks these neighborhood parks should tend to be on the large side, provide a greater diversity of active uses, and be spread approximately 1/3 mile apart. The proposed parks in the southeast, given their proximity to existing facilities are projected to be of a smaller scale to meet localized neighborhood demands.

Amenity	Description	Quantity	Price Range	Planning Cost
Benches	Recycled plastic with metal supports	3	\$600+sh	\$ 2000
Picnic Tables	Recycled plastic with metal supports	2	\$825+s/h	\$2000
Garbage Can & Holders	Pole-mounted plastic cans	1	\$450	\$ 500
Paved access paths	Prices vary widely, accurate estimates require site visit	0.018 mi.	\$77,500	\$ 1400
Site and Walkway Lighting	Ornamental poles; 10-15 ft. high	4	\$4500	\$18,000
Toddler Playground	Ages less than 6 years		\$35,000	\$35,000
Shrubs and Landscaping	Level land, irrigation, landscape, and grass		\$5700	\$ 5700
Shade trees	Min. 1.5 inch caliber w/ average canopy of 20 feet	40 per acre	\$200 each	\$ 8000
Children's Playground	Ages 6 to less than 13 years		\$35,000	\$35,000
Sports Courts	1 full sport court, including nets, posts, fencing and painting	1	\$30,000	\$30,000
			GRAND TOTAL	\$137,600

TOTAL COSTS (TIMES 7): \$963,200

In addition to the above noted amenities; there remains a demand for sports fields in the future neighborhood parks in the north. This is due to the lack of school facilities that would otherwise meet the demands from future growth in this general area. Sports fields that would meet area demand for soccer, football, or baseball needs to be addressed, thus requiring larger acreages than might normally be associated with neighborhood parks. One proposed location would be an oversized neighborhood park in the general area west of 9th Street and north of 12th Street, extended. One other sports field should be anticipated in the neighborhood park area north of 19th Street. These amenities should be closely coordinated with the School District and any future plans for District facilities in this general area of the City.

LOCAL TRAIL

Local multi-use trail networks are planned throughout the City of Philomath and, generally, follow the river drainage corridors, anticipated development patterns, and meant to compliment the City's Transportation System Plan. These local trails will provide important connections between neighborhoods, parks and schools and simply an off-street place to walk or bicycle for exercise. The purpose of this project is to focus on potential paths that would improve the convenience of daily trips to school, work and shopping areas.

The project is part of a broader strategy to get people out of their cars and to promote a healthier, more sustainable community. Future implementation of the community trail project recommendations will result in more choices for moving around Philomath and help create a better place to live. It is anticipated that this multi-use trail system will be a paved surface trail, 8-feet in width and will serve the expanding areas at a cost of \$121,000 per mile.

The Hunsaker bike path is a good example of the expected local trail system. The following are paths anticipated to be developed.

26th Street north to Reservoir Avenue

North of the Highway at 26th Street to West Hills Road; this trail would run approximately 1.36 miles; going north of Highway 20/34 to the railroad tracks then NE along the south side of the railroad tracks to the intersection of Reservoir Avenue and West Hills Road. It's anticipated that the total cost of this path would be \$164,560.

Hunsaker Trail south to Chapel Drive and North

Extend the Hunsaker trail south through the Lowther property along the eastern branch of Newton Creek to Chapel Drive and back north along the western branch to and through the City Park. This east path would accommodate east bound traffic; while the west side trail would lead back to the City Park, High School and trail systems to the north and west. Total distance of the Lowther property trail system is roughly .99 miles at a cost of \$120,000.

Industrial Way to N. 9th Street

The northwest quadrant of the City would benefit from a trail from Industrial Way (city park property) west along the riparian corridor to N.9th Street. This trail would feed into a north/south trails system on N. 12th that would serve this developing area and bicyclists on West Hills Road. Approximate length of .57 miles; costing roughly \$69,000.

12th Street to West Hills

The 12th Street path is intended to be included in the future improvements to 12th Street and is calculated in this study as an off-street path. This path will run from Pioneer Street to connect with West Hills Road; it is to be coordinated with possible Benton County bike paths and will intersect with the possible park and the east/west path that would run into 9th Street, thereby avoiding the steep elevation changes on that street. The overall length of this north/south leg is 0.89 miles with a cost of \$108,000.

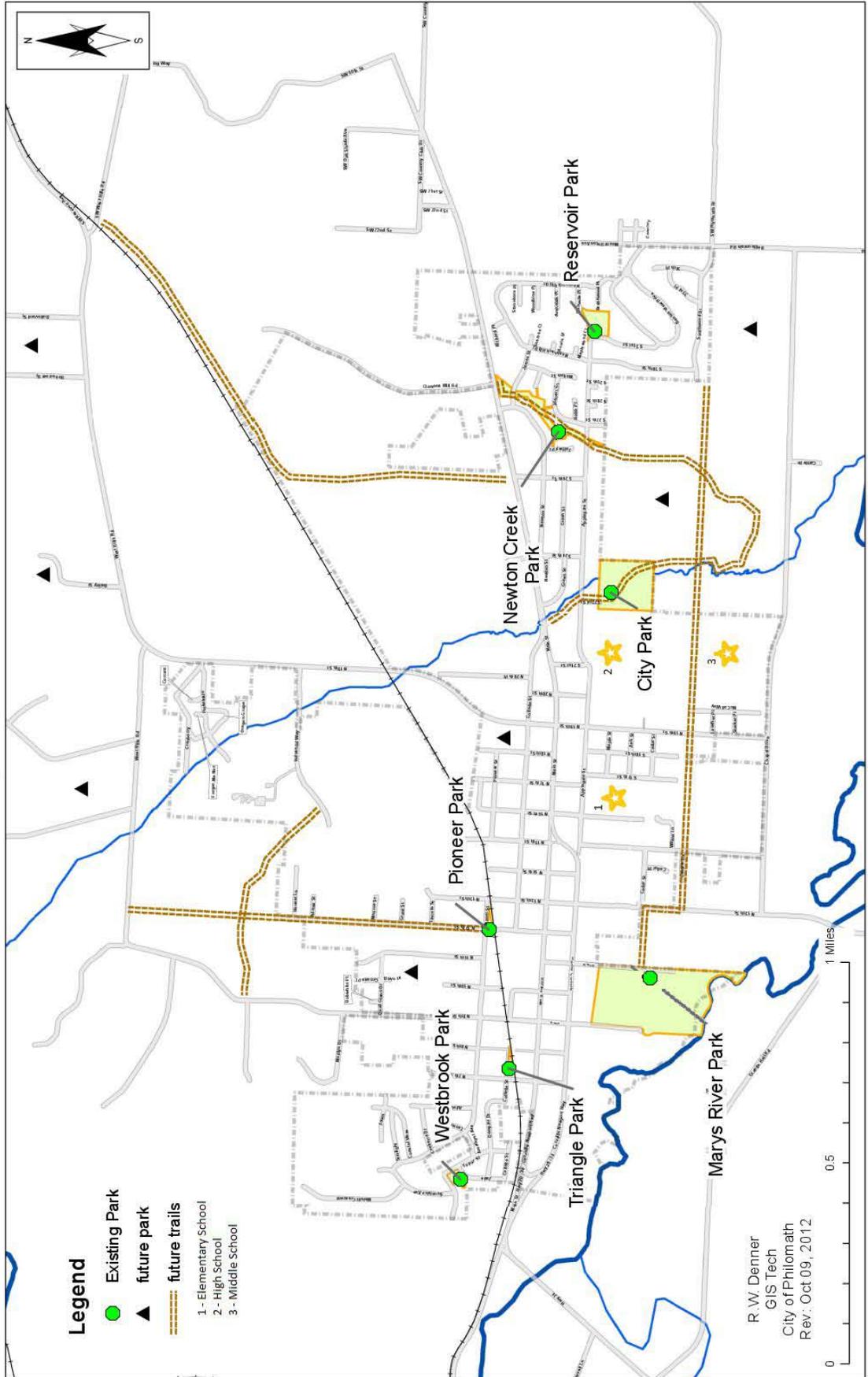
Southside bikeway: Bellfountain Road to Marys River Park:

This path will run from Bellfountain Road, through the Lowther Property then to Marys River Park. The overall length of this south leg is 2.11 miles with a cost of \$257,000.

With a grand total distance of roughly 3.81 miles and a cost of \$121,000 per mile for an 8-foot wide asphalt path, these trail improvements are anticipated to cost roughly \$719,000.

The total park improvements equals roughly \$1,903,600. These proposed parks and trail systems are shown on the following "Existing and Future Parks and Trails" map.

2012 Existing and Future Parks and Trails



CHAPTER 7 IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter both identifies specific projects for achieving Philomath's vision for parks and recreation, and describes prioritization criteria for the projects. However, this is a long-term plan and the City of Philomath does not have the capacity to meet all the needs of the community nor implement all of the recommended projects in the near term. For these reasons, it is important to identify the highest priority actions, guiding the first steps that the community should take to maximize the success of the plan. This chapter considers the current political and financial realities and lays out a course of action to implement the recommendations and assist in community decision-making over the long-term.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

As the need for indoor space increases with new program opportunities, classrooms, gyms, and performance spaces will become more important to meeting the community's needs. The limited resources of the school district is forcing them to be ever more focused on the core services they provide, chiefly teaching and learning. In many cases, the recreation and physical education activities that school districts have typically supported in the past have been cut back. This affects not only the opportunities that children get in school but also the development and maintenance of facilities that have always been used by the community to supplement the park system.

Joint development of new facilities not only increases the resources available to build high quality facilities, but the shared use brings more of the community into these facilities. The use of these school facilities by citizens increases the awareness and value of these large public investments. The more that the public interacts with the schools and sees the best use made of the tax funding going to them, the more support the school district and City will see in elections for additional capital and operations funding.

Cooperative efforts between the school and the City offer substantial benefits to both organizations and even more benefit to community members. However, with partnership comes an increased need for coordination between the two organizations. The City should take an active role in developing this partnership by establishing direct City Council and School Board discussion about the public benefits and over-arching policy arrangements needed to make this arrangement work best for their constituents. An agreement in principal about why and how the partnership should work can be followed by the formalization of policy about what each side will contribute and any limitations necessary. One of the most important factors to address is the maintenance responsibility for shared facilities. There are a variety of ways this can be worked out, from direct reimbursement to either entity taking on maintenance of specific sport fields. The final details will depend on how the agreement works best for both parties.

Cost Implications

The partnership in itself will require some staff time to support bringing the elected decision makers together and taking the ideas from concept to agreements and policies. Following the establishment of an agreement between the two organizations, the cost to the City will be determined by how much maintenance and development of school property is agreed upon or vice-a versa. Alternatives to meeting community needs without this collaboration would require the purchase of significant parcels of land, which is expensive at best and in some cases simply not possible.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The acquisition and development of new parks, trails and open spaces will continue to build the opportunities for recreation in the system. Moving forward, many of the capital projects related to the acquisition, design and development of parks and facilities will be focused on improving local access to parks and supporting a wider range of activities and events.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

The recommendations in the prior chapter include considerably more projects than the City of Philomath can reasonably complete in the short term. In order to quickly and realistically move forward with these recommendations, the projects have been prioritized, based on public input and the planning framework provided by the Comprehensive Plan.

The following criteria were developed to realize these goals and objectives as soon as possible. By applying these criteria, the complete list of recommended projects were prioritized to identify the projects that should move forward first.

- Meets Master Plan Needs: Projects should be prioritized based on their ability to meet park and facility needs as identified in the community needs assessment (i.e., their ability to fill existing geographic gaps, create connections between parks or satisfy relevant ADA or design guidelines).
- Builds Connections: Projects should be prioritized on their capacity to create or strengthen physical and organizational connections within the City.
- Expands Recreation Opportunities: Priorities should be determined based on a project's capacity to expand the city's recreation opportunities (i.e., their ability to accommodate new activities in high demand, or leverage potential for grant funding).
- Promotes Economic Development: Park and recreation projects that: enhance Philomath's position as a town center, attract visitors and create a positive environment for businesses and their employees should be prioritized.
- Strengthens the Community: Lastly, proposed projects should be prioritized based on their ability to strengthen community identity, foster interaction between citizens and build true community. For example, projects that would serve a diverse cross-section of the community or projects that support community events should be ranked high in priority.

All of the projects included in the project list are important in achieving the vision of the community. Recognizing the importance of all of the projects, the priority rankings are described below. Priority 1: Projects should be recommended to include in the capital improvement list immediately and implemented or at least instituted within 3 years. Priority 2: Projects are less urgent or require additional work to prepare for implementation. Priority 3: Projects should continue to be considered but would require a special opportunity, such as the residential development of private properties, or the completion of the higher priority projects before they are actively considered

PRIORITY 1 CAPITAL PROJECTS

After evaluating all projects recommended in this plan by the criteria noted above, numerous capital projects were identified for implementation in the Park Master Plan. The Priority 1 projects are anticipated to be implemented within eight years of adoption of this plan. These projects are the focus of the implementation plan presented in this chapter. These projects have been assigned preliminary project budgets to assist in developing a funding strategy for Philomath.

The costs presented for the Priority 1 projects are based on current construction costs for similar parks in Oregon, as well as the experience of the City staff. As the projects move forward, site designs will result in more accurate estimates. The Priority 1 projects and their planning costs are presented below.

PARK NAME	PROJECT TYPE	PLANNING COST
City Park	Shelter	\$ 55,000
Safe School Routes	Trail from 17th to Marys River Park (0.57m)	\$ 69,000
Marys River Park	Trail enhancements	\$ 12,000
Marys River Park	Install 4 picnic tables and 5 benches	\$ 3,300
City Park	Drinking fountains, trash cans benches	\$ 7,400
N. 11th St Park	Neighborhood Park Partial Improvement ¹	\$41,500
Park Design Plan	Neighborhood/Comm. Park N. 12th St.	\$ 20,000
GRAND TOTAL		\$208,200

1. Includes play equipment; 1 bench and table, garbage can, and paved path.

PRIORITY 2 CAPITAL PROJECTS

After evaluating the priority one projects recommended in this plan by the criteria noted above, the City can evaluate those projects that are next on the priority list. These projects should be considered for completion over a period of 9 to 15 years. These projects are the focus of the implementation plan presented in this chapter. The Priority 2 projects and their planning costs are presented below.

PARK NAME	PROJECT TYPE	PLANNING COST
City Park	Walkway Lighting	\$ 20,000
N. 16th St Park	New Neighborhood Park	\$153,700
N. 11th St Park	Acquisition of 2 acres and development	\$162,200
GRAND TOTAL		\$335,900

PRIORITY 3 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Priority 3 projects are long term projects that serve to guide the community as it develops well into the planning period of 15 to 20 years. These projects are not anticipated to be completed within any specified time frame given their long-range nature, but instead will only likely be developed when circumstances warrant such.

PARK NAME	PROJECT TYPE	PLANNING COST
Trail system	Community wide	\$462,000

PROJECT FUNDING

There are a number of possible funding sources for programs, non-capital projects, parks and facilities acquisition, development and maintenance. Most sources are limited in scope and can only be used to fund specific types of projects but will not fund operations. Because of these limitations, the City of Philomath will have to carefully consider all funding options to determine the best strategy for implementing system improvements.

OPERATIONS FUNDING

Securing funds for maintenance and operations is a challenge for most cities and will be critical to the expansion of the City of Philomath park system. For the projects in this Park Master Plan, new and ongoing operating resources will primarily be needed for the incremental increases in

maintenance costs as new parks and facilities are developed. The following funding sources may be used for ongoing maintenance and operations, as well as capital projects.

- General Fund
- Local Option Levy/Serial Levy
- Fees and Charges
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Taxes and Surcharges
- Parks and Recreation District

A variety of funds/funding options are included within the categories noted above. Each of these options is described in Appendix B: Funding Sources. As long as the City maintains its commitment to funding the maintenance of the park system, including new park acreage as it is added, major shifts in the sources of operating funding should not be necessary. In order to provide reliable, ongoing funding for operations, a special district (which may or may not include both parks and recreation responsibilities) would be the recommended funding source. The district would require voter approval but would not require the reauthorization of a local option levy. The independent funding of any recreation program should be considered prior to the initial start-up.

By providing these services, the strong connection to the City will be maintained and the public goodwill accumulated and attributed to the district and the City.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Priority 1 capital projects will require significant investments of one-time acquisition, planning and development funds over the course of plan implementation. The following funding sources may be used.

- System Development Charges (SDCs) for capital expenses only
- Grants
- General Fund
- Bonds
- Local Improvement Districts
- Donations
- Trusts, Estates and Exchanges

Descriptions of specific funding sources for capital and operations are described in more detail in Appendix B: Funding Sources. The City should be cautious in pursuing capital development unless funds are available to maintain new assets.

Existing Capital Funding Sources

The City of Philomath relies on two major types of funding for capital projects: grants from federal, state and local agencies and fees and charges (primarily system development charges). Several smaller sources, including donations also contribute to capital funding. With the exception of system development charges, which are tracked separately for accounting purposes, all capital funds are tracked in the Land, Building and Equipment Fund. Each of these sources has the potential to continue to contribute to the development of the park system over the next ten year period. The discussion below projects the amount that could reasonably be expected over the next ten years.

The largest source of capital funding for Philomath's park system is the system development charge (SDCs) designed to mitigate the impacts of growth on the park system. System

development charge funds can only be used for projects that expand the capacity of the system. Some improvements at existing parks, such as replacing features, do not qualify. The City routinely updates the methodology for calculating SDCs; however, due to the downturn in the economy the past several years, very little in the way of funding has been generated. Over the course of the implementation of this plan, economic recovery will balance out this downswing. As a conservative estimate, Philomath is likely to see about 20 new dwelling units per year; with a current fee of almost \$800 the City will bring in slightly less than \$16,000 per year on average over the next ten years. This totals \$160,000 during the 10-year implementation period. The lack of substantial funding should prompt the City to reevaluate its commitment to the capital improvement plan.

The second major source of funding for capital projects has been grants; however these have been quite sporadic and project specific. If the City were willing to dedicate staff time to grant development, an irregular stream of capital funds could be expected.

**APPENDIX A
PARK SURVEY**

Q1. Do you and your family currently spend more time, about the same amount of time, or less time in outdoor recreation activities than you did 5 years ago?
(Please check one box.)

More time – please write why you spend more time _____

About the same

Less time – please write why you spend less time _____

Q1A. Do you and your family expect to spend more time, about the same amount of time, or less time in outdoor recreation activities in the next 5 years? (Please check one box.)

More time – please write why you spend more time _____

About the same

Less time – please write why you spend less time _____

Q2. For each of the following activities please write, under Current Hours, about how many hours you and your family spent on each activity in an “average week” over the past year. How many hours per week do you think it will increase or decrease (for example: +/- 20) over the next five years under Expected Hours.

	<u>Current Hrs.</u>	<u>Expected Hrs.</u>
Walking for pleasure (on streets, paths, or trails in or near your community)	_____	_____
Jogging or running for exercise (on streets, sidewalks, paths, or trails)	_____	_____
Picnicking	_____	_____
Bicycling on paved roads or paths	_____	_____
Outdoor court games (volleyball, basketball, tennis, etc.)	_____	_____
Outdoor field games (softball, baseball, soccer)	_____	_____

Relaxing in the local park or a playground _____

Q3. Is there any outdoor recreation activity that you would like to start doing – or do more often?

- No – (if no skip to Q5)
- Yes, would like to start a new activity
- Yes, would like to do an activity more often

Q4. What activity would you like to start or do more often, and what would help you achieve this (for example, improved facilities, more facilities or facilities closer to home).

Activity: _____

What would help? _____

Q5. If the City undertook developing opportunities for the following activities, would that affect how often you engage in outdoor recreation? For each action, circle the number indicating whether it would: (1) have no effect; (2) lead to a small increase in your outdoor recreation activity; or (3) lead to a large increase (3).

(A small increase is generally 50% or less than your current time. For example if you play tennis twice a week, increasing to three days would be a small increase. If you went to 4 or more days then that would be a large increase.)

	<u>None</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Large</u>
Develop walking/hiking trails closer to my home	1	2	3
Place more benches along trails	1	2	3
Develop parks closer to my home	1	2	3
Expand park facilities (picnic tables, restrooms, etc.)	1	2	3
Expand parking at parks	1	2	3
Ensure clean and well-maintained parks and facilities	1	2	3
Walking for pleasure (on streets, sidewalks, paths or trails in your community)	1	2	3
Jogging or running for exercise	1	2	3
Picnicking and family gatherings	1	2	3
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat, noise, etc.	1	2	3
General play at a neighborhood park / playground	1	2	3
Bicycling on paved roads / paths	1	2	3
Skateboarding	1	2	3
Viewing natural features such as scenery, wildlife, birds, flowers, fish, etc.	1	2	3

Outdoor sports and games (baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, tennis)	1	2	3
Equestrian Trails	1	2	3

Q6. Do you believe there are an adequate number of park and recreation facilities within the City? __Yes __No. If no which facilities should be increased or expanded:

Q7. How satisfied overall are you with the quality and variety of the City parks and recreation facilities?

- Very Somewhat Neutral/Unsure
 Somewhat Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied

Q8. Do you feel that the recreational facilities for age groups and abilities are being adequately provided for? If not which group is under served?

Q9. Do you think funding for the City parks and recreation facilities should be: __ increased, __ decreased, or __ stay about the same?

Q10. What would be your priority for future funding and projects? Please indicate (1) for high priority, (2) for lower priority and (3) for lowest priority for each of the following:

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Lowest</u>
Acquiring parkland for passive recreation activities (trails, nature study, picnicking, etc.)	1	2	3
Acquiring parkland for active recreation activities (playgrounds, sports fields, tennis, etc.)	1	2	3
Preserving open space areas to protect wildlife and natural areas	1	2	3
Increased maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities	1	2	3
Walkways, trails and bicycle paths throughout the city	1	2	3
Expand park amenities (picnic tables, restrooms, etc.)	1	2	3
Expand parking	1	2	3

Please use the space below for any additional comments or suggestions you want to share in planning for the future park system for the City.

Thank you for completing the survey.

APPENDIX B FUNDING SOURCES

GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is the primary operating fund for the City. It goes to support a wide-variety of City functions, including police, court, transit, finance, administration/planning, parks operations and maintenance. Parks and recreation competes with these City services for dollars. Still, the General Fund is, by far, the largest source of revenue for parks operations and maintenance. Staff salaries and benefits, office supplies, equipment maintenance, and staff training are all covered by the General Fund in annual budget cycles. The General Fund is fed by property taxes, interest earnings, intergovernmental transfers, and other funds as noted below.

Property Tax

Property taxes are the largest single source of revenue for Philomath's General Fund. Property tax revenues are used to support parks operations and maintenance.

Intergovernmental Transfers

This funding mechanism refers to funds transferred from outside agencies. Examples include transfers from the state government as an allocated pass-through revenue source, such as cigarette and liquor tax monies.

Other

Other sources of general fund support include municipal court revenue, building permits, and franchise fees.

LOCAL OPTION or SERIAL LEVY

A levy is a property tax mechanism that raises funds based on an amount of assessed value. Levies are voter-approved and are subject to a double majority, except in November elections in even-numbered years, when a simple majority will suffice. Levies can be used for either capital or operations expenses. Capital levies can be imposed for ten years and operating levies can be imposed for five years. If the local option levy combines capital and operating expenses, the levy is subject to a five year limit. Local option operating levies can be used for general operations or for a specific purpose. If used for a general purpose, they will be receipted directly in into the City's General Fund. If used for a specific purpose, a special revenue fund must be established. Cities can place up to four local option levies on a ballot within a calendar year. Potential revenue from a local option levy may be reduced due to the \$10/\$1,000 of real market value property tax rate limitations for general government taxes. If the \$10 limitation is exceeded for any individual property, all general government-taxing authorities receive only a prorated share of their tax levy, so that the total general government taxes remain within the cap. This situation is called compression. Compression occurs in two stages, with local option levies compressed first, followed by the compression of permanent tax rates.

FEES AND CHARGES

Enterprise revenues (user fees) and earned income generate revenue for the City and are described below:

Facility-Use Charges

Facility charges generate revenue for parks by charging for the use of City facilities (e.g., sport fields, picnic shelters, meeting rooms, community garden plots). These charges may cover direct costs generated by facility use, such as field lighting or trash removal. Rates may also be set higher to subsidize parks maintenance and address the long-term impacts of facility use.

Philomath can increase revenue for park services by expanding rental facilities (picnic shelters, meeting rooms, etc.) or by increasing rental fees and other facility-use charges.

Programming Fees

User fees for recreation programming generate revenue by charging users for some or all of the costs of providing services and materials. Charges for programming are often based on a cost-recovery strategy determined by the City. Some program areas, such as youth and senior programs, may be partially subsidized, while programs for adults may be more suitable for higher fees and charges. Some programming fees also include built-in charges for facility use and maintenance. Since Philomath operates no recreational programs these fees are not applicable at this time.

Entry Fees

Park entry fees, day-use fees, or parking fees are used by some larger jurisdictions to generate revenue for parks. These are not typically recommended for City park sites and can be difficult to enforce. However, entry fees can be charged for some special events, where appropriate. The decision to charge entry fees at community events and festivals is often based on cost recovery goals for this type of recreation opportunity.

Concessions (Earned Income)

Food, beverage, and merchandise vendors or concessionaires that operate restaurants, coffee-kiosks, or other revenue-generating facilities in parks can also generate excess revenues to support the park system. The City can set-up specific arrangements with vendors and concessionaires for these services.

Park Sponsorships

The City may solicit sponsors who are willing to pay for advertising, signage, facility naming rights, etc., generating funds to support operations. In addition, sponsors are often sought to support a particular event or program.

Miscellaneous Rentals

Many cities are evaluating a variety of opportunities to generate revenue in parks. For example, some cities provide opportunities for organizations to rent display space, such as street banners or flags in urban plazas to advertise events. Companies may rent space to provide cellular phone towers in parks, or vendors may rent pads with hookups, where carts can be parked. (This rental space is different from taking a portion of proceeds from vendor sales.)

PUBLIC / PRIVATE COLLABORATION

Volunteers

Many cities are recognizing that volunteers can be a valuable source of labor to help with maintenance, programming, special events, and capital improvements. Volunteers can increase the quality and quantity of public services at a minimal cost, and provide an opportunity for citizens to contribute to the betterment of their community. Studies suggest that for every \$1 invested in volunteers, a city can realize as much as \$10 in benefits. With tight fiscal conditions, more local governments are expanding volunteer programs. Volunteer programs include individuals or groups who agree to take on specific tasks or perform certain services, such as maintenance, restoration, programming, and special event support. Volunteers may provide direct and indirect support to the park system. For example, a volunteer park clean-up crew directly saves on paid maintenance tasks. Volunteer safety patrols (community groups) may indirectly reduce facility damage and vandalism, protecting City assets.

Partnerships (Businesses and Non-Profits)

Partnership agreements allow the City to work with a private business or non-profit entity to help fund, build, and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives the City can offer potential partners are free land to place a facility (usually a park or other piece of public land), certain tax advantages, and access to the facility. For example, some cities have partnered with the YMCA or private health clubs to build multi-purpose recreation centers/aquatic facilities at city parks. These facilities are larger or more comprehensive than the city could have developed alone. In other cases, a business non-profit may be contracted to manage and operate a city-owned facility.

Partnerships with Neighborhood Associations

The City may craft agreements with various neighborhood associations for park operations and maintenance. Neighborhood groups may also volunteer to take on basic maintenance tasks, such as mowing and litter removal.

Grants and Foundations

Private grants and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects, such as unique capital projects or projects that demonstrate extreme need. They sometimes fund specific programs and, therefore, are noted here. However, grants and foundations rarely provide funds for park maintenance.

TAXES AND SURCHARGES

Many cities use tax mechanisms to help fund park and recreation projects and services. Examples are noted below. The City of Philomath could explore these or other potential tax mechanisms as part of the City's overall revenue strategy.

Park Utility Fee

A park utility fee creates dedicated funds to help offset the cost of park maintenance. Most City residents pay water and sewer utility fees. The park utility fee applies to all households and businesses and is collected through the utility billing system. Park utility fees have the potential to be a significant and stable revenue stream for local jurisdictions. For example, assuming the City of Philomath could successfully adopt a relatively small utility fee of \$1.00 per account per month, it would generate approximately \$19,200 annually based on an estimated 1600 utility accounts in Philomath

PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

The State of Oregon allows park and recreation districts to levy taxes on the population within their boundaries. There are three types of districts that may be formed:

Special District

Special districts are special-purpose taxing districts established to provide limited public services to people residing within the taxing district. An economic feasibility study must be completed prior to filing a petition for formation, to propose a permanent rate limit for operating taxes, expressed in dollars per thousand dollars of assessed value. The petition also requires the consent of a percentage of property owners or electors within the proposed district area. If the petition is approved, an election is required for the formation of the special district. Creating a district and establishing permanent property tax authority can be done as a single ballot measure, requiring a majority vote for approval. A district may also adopt other financing sources that may not require a vote.

Economic Improvement Districts

An Economic Improvement District (EID), also known as a Business Improvement District (BID), can be formed in commercial or business areas, but not residential areas, to fund specific services. An EID is funded through a business license surcharge levied against property square footage in commercial and industrial zones. The surcharge cannot be levied against residential square footage. In order to establish an EID, the City must establish a specific purpose or project for EID funding. The business license surcharge may not exceed 1% of all real market assessed value within the district. Property owners may opt out of the surcharge. However, the district cannot be created or renewed if 33% of the total assessed area opts out of the surcharge. An EID has a five year minimum lifespan and can be renewed at the end of this period. In addition, an EID does not affect the creation of an Urban Renewal District. Cities collect surcharge revenue and distribute it to an advisory group comprised of business representatives from within the district. Once collected, EID funding can be used for:

- Planning or management of development or improvement activities;
- Landscaping or other maintenance of public areas;
- Promotion of commercial activity or public events;
- Activities in support of business recruitment and development; and
- Improvements in parking or parking enforcement.

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

Systems development charges (SDCs) are applied to all new residential development and are an important source of funding for the acquisition and development of new parks and natural areas. Since SDCs are paid for by new development, the fees can only fund capacity enhancement projects that are needed as a result of the development. SDCs cannot be used for the preservation and maintenance of existing parks and facilities. The City's must periodically readopt SDC rates per residential dwelling unit as a result of this plan, as the current rates may not reflect the components of this plan to maintain the park standards.

BONDS

Voter approved bonds allow the City of Philomath to sell bonds and secure payment with revenue from increased property taxes. This assessment can be communicated as a rate per thousand of assessed value. In Oregon, the use of bond debt for capital construction and capital improvements excludes anticipated maintenance and repairs, and supplies and equipment that are not intrinsic to the structure. The process for placing a bond on a ballot is similar to a levy; however the city must pay for a bond rating and then conduct a feasibility study. These costs can be included in the bond amount.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (LID)

An LID is a geographic area in which real property is taxed to defray all or part of the cost of a public improvement. The unique aspect of a LID is that its costs are apportioned according to the estimated benefit that will accrue for each property. The three primary principles that guide LIDs are: direct service, obligation to others and equal sharing. With these principles, the LID charges a special assessment to property owners who receive special benefits from an improvement beyond general benefits received by all citizens of the community. In Oregon, LIDs are governed by local ordinances. In order to create an LID, the City of Philomath would need LID participant's approval to issue bonds to pay for improvements. The assessment would be in relation to the property owner's share of the specific improvements. Bonds could then be sold in the amount of the improvement, secured directly by the assessments charged to the property owners, or indirectly by the lien against the assessed property.

DONATIONS

Donations of labor, land, materials, or cash by service agencies, private groups, or individuals is a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects. Service agencies often fund small projects such as picnic shelters or playground improvements, or they may be involved in larger aspects of park development.

GRANTS

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

These grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development are available for a wide variety of projects. CDBG funds have limitations and are generally required to benefit low and moderate income residents. Grants can cover up to 100% of project costs.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

This is a federal grant program that receives its money from offshore oil leases. The money is distributed through the National Park Service and is administered locally by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The funds can be used for acquisition and development of outdoor facilities and require a 50% match.

Local Government Grants

This Oregon program uses Lottery dollars to fund land acquisition and development and rehabilitation of park areas and facilities. A 50% match is required for larger agencies and a 20% match for small agencies (cities/districts with a population of less than 5,000 and counties with a population of less than 30,000). The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff reviews and approves small projects of \$50,000 or less. Large projects exceeding this amount, but less than \$500,000, are reviewed and approved by the Local Government Advisory Committee. The funds for this program are available on an annual basis.

Oregon Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program

The Oregon Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program provides funding to schools and local governments for projects that increase the ability and opportunity for children to walk and bicycle to school. Program funding is also available for development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution within two miles of the school. The SRTS application requires local governments applying for grant funding to coordinate the application process with local school districts. For infrastructure related project funding, the project must be within two miles of an affected school.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency led by a policy oversight board. Together, they promote and fund voluntary actions that strive to enhance Oregon's watersheds. The Board fosters the collaboration of citizens, agencies, and local interests. OWEB's programs support Oregon's efforts to restore salmon runs, improve water quality, and strengthen ecosystems that are critical to healthy watersheds and sustainable communities. OWEB administers a grant program that awards more than \$20 million annually to support voluntary efforts by Oregonians seeking to create and maintain healthy watersheds.

Recreation Trails Program

This is a grant program funded through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Projects eligible under this program include: 1) maintenance and restoration of existing trails; 2) development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities; 3) construction of new recreation trails; and 4) acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property. Grants are distributed on an annual basis and require a 20% match.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Grant Program

This program provides funding for the design and construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The program lists pedestrian/bicycle bridges as an example of project type, eligible for project funding. Project proposals must meet ODOT guidelines. ODOT staff then determines whether the project should be advanced for final review by the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Grant opportunities are available on an annual basis and require a 5% match from the City.

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, this grant is administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the National Park Service in communities across America.

Transportation Enhancement Program

This program provides federal highway funds for projects that strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, or environmental value of the transportation system. The intent of the program is to fund special or additional activities not normally required on a highway or transportation project. Funds are available for twelve "transportation enhancement activities", including pedestrian and bicycle projects. Transportation Enhancement or "TE" projects are selected through a competitive process. The funds are provided through reimbursement, not grants. Participation requires matching funds from the project sponsor, at a minimum of 10.27%. Applications are accepted only from public agencies. All projects must have a direct relationship to surface transportation.

Urban Forestry Grants

There are several grant programs that provide money for urban forestry projects. One is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration and provides grants to purchase and plant trees. This program sometimes funds urban street tree planting programs.

TRUSTS, ESTATES AND EXCHANGES

Land Trusts

Private land trusts such as the Trust for Public Land and the Nature Conservancy employ various methods, including conservation easements, to work with willing owners to conserve important resource land. Land trusts assist public agencies in various ways. For example, land trusts may acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by the public agency.

National Tree Trust

National Tree Trust provides trees through two programs: America's Treeways and Community Tree Planting. These programs require that volunteers plant trees on public lands. In addition, America's Treeways requires that a minimum of 100 seedlings be planted along public highways.

Lifetime Estates

This is an agreement between a landowner and the city that gives the owner the right to live on the site after it is sold to the city.

Exchange of Property

An exchange of property between a private landowner and the city can occur to provide park space. For example, the city could exchange a less useful site it owns for a potential park site that is currently under private ownership.