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## Chapter 4: Community Needs



## COMMUNITY NEEDS

A critical component of the park and recreation planning process is the community needs assessment (CNA). The purpose of the needs



assessment is to establish in quantifiable terms the need for City parks and recreation facilities. The needs assessment combines community feedback with a technical analysis to determine the level of service at which parks and facilities should be provided. This analysis provides a foundation for the strategies and policies presented in Chapter 5.

This chapter summarizes key findings and conclusions from the Community Needs Assessment Report, which is available under a separate cover. Specifically, this chapter:

- Summarizes key findings from the public involvement process;
- Evaluates park level of service and access to City parks;
- Identifies park standards and needs for park land; and
- Defines facility guidelines and needs.

### A. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS

The planning process included multiple forums for public outreach, so that the Parks Comprehensive Plan would reflect community preferences. Public involvement activities include the following:

- **Community Survey.** A statistically-valid telephone survey was conducted from November 17-26, 2008, to help determine parks and recreation priorities for the City. City residents, ages 16 and older, were selected through a random sample of 300 households. However, nearly 85% of respondents were ages 35 and older. The phone survey provided results with a 95% level of confidence and a precision of at least +/-6%. This means that the survey findings vary no more than 6% from the results that would have been obtained if everyone in the City had been surveyed.
- **Community Questionnaire.** To allow more people to participate in the planning process, the City supplemented the phone survey with an online and paper questionnaire which was available from September 20 to December 1, 2008. Residents and non-residents ages 10 and older were encouraged to respond, so that the results would reflect the preferences of youth, teens, younger and older adults, and seniors.
- A total of 805 people completed the questionnaire. Due to advertisements and outreach at schools, this questionnaire did receive a significant response from youth. Approximately 16% of

questionnaire respondents were youth, ages 10-17. However, nearly 71% of respondents consisted of adults ages 25-64. Also, 33% of respondents resided outside of the City of Grants Pass.

- **Community Intercept Event.** A community intercept event was held in conjunction with the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Take a Walk on the Rogue Celebration on September 21, 2008. Approximately 190 people “voted” for their priorities on interactive display boards. Participants also placed pennies in jars to represent their priorities for investment in parks maintenance, improvements and/or development.
- **Focus Group Meetings.** Forty-four people participated in four focus group meetings held at City Hall on October 6th and 7th, 2008. Three of these groups were open to the public, and a fourth group included parks and recreation staff. Public participants represented a variety of groups and agencies, such as the Siskiyou Audubon Society, the Rotary Club, the Grants Pass School District, the City of Grants Pass, American Legion Baseball, Little League, Relics Softball and Volleyball, Grants Pass Soccer Club, Rogue Valley Walkers, Rogue Valley Flyers, Grants Pass Horseshoe Club, Grants Pass Kennel Club, the Aquatic Wellness Center, the Siskiyou Project and the Urban Tree Committee.
- **Advisory Committee Meetings.** A Parks Advisory Committee was formed to oversee the development of the Comprehensive Park & Recreation Master Plan. Sixteen participants included members from the Parks Advisory Board, the Urban Tree Advisory Committee, the Bikeways/Walkways Committee, City Council (Liaison) and key staff. The Advisory Committee met six times throughout the planning process and reviewed key documents for Plan development. For the Needs Assessment, committee members provided feedback on the strengths of the park system, priorities for Grants Pass parks and recreation, and their vision for the park system.
- **City Council Meetings.** The planning team met with the Grants Pass City Council four times during the planning process to obtain directions for Plan development. City Councilors were involved to ensure that the Parks Comprehensive Plan represented the Grants Pass constituency. For the Needs Assessment, Councilors identified the most pressing community needs, key issues to be addressed in the Plan, and their future vision for park and recreation services.
- **Additional Public Comments.** Several residents contacted the Planning Team during the planning process to provide additional information about their ideas and concerns for the City’s park system. These included information about a soccer field complex, a radio-control airfield, wetlands preservation, trail routing, an



entertainment and festival venue, funding to develop park reserves, a neighborhood park for NE Grants Pass, and a tennis complex.

Nearly 1,350 people provided feedback for the community needs assessment, and others provided comments later in the planning process to help identify priority projects. This represents a sizable interest in City parks and recreation and assures that the feedback accurately represents community preferences and desires.

### ***Key Findings***

Key findings from the public involvement activities are based on the outreach analysis found in the Community Needs Assessment Report. Key findings include:

- Many people use City parks in Grants Pass. Nearly half of survey respondents (49%) had visited parks at least once a month last year. Nearly as many questionnaire respondents (46%) had visited parks in Grants Pass at least once a week or more last year.
- Most residents (73%) are satisfied or very satisfied with City parks and recreation opportunities, based on responses to the questionnaire.
- More than 91% of survey respondents currently are satisfied or very satisfied with the level of park and recreation facility maintenance.
- Residents rely on City parks to provide a variety of benefits. Based on findings in multiple forums, the top-ranked benefits include:
  - Opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors;
  - Opportunities for youth;
  - Environmental protection; and
  - Improvements in our health and quality of life.
- Questionnaire responses suggest that the most frequently used types of parks and facilities in Grants Pass are parks near home (41%), regional parks, such as Reinhart Volunteer Park (17%), and multi-use parks, such as Riverside Park (13%).
- Survey respondents noted a need for more parks, especially:
  - Community parks (82%);
  - Regional parks (64%);
  - Small landscaped or natural areas (53%);
  - Multi-use trail corridors (54%); and
  - Neighborhood parks (52%).
- Fifty-nine percent of questionnaire respondents wanted more natural areas in Grants Pass. The top reasons to acquire and protect green

space include: protect scenic beauty (34%), provide access to nature (31%) and protect wildlife habitat (25%).

- Survey respondents think the following types of green space are most needed in Grants Pass: river and creek corridors (30%), large areas (22%), small landscaped areas (20%) and hillside areas (18%).
- Nearly 87% of survey respondents and 88% of questionnaire respondents think it is important or very important to preserve urban trees, both inside and outside of parks.
- Nearly 67% of questionnaire respondents indicated that more trails are needed in Grants Pass.
- Survey respondents desire more trails in Grants Pass to improve opportunities for non-motorized transportation (41%), fitness and jogging (23%), and nature walks/interpretation (17%). Respondents in other venues noted similar preferences for these trail types.
- Focus group participants expressed desires for trails to enhance connectivity in the City—linking people to parks and schools, and connecting Grants Pass to a regional trail system. Multi-purpose trails, loop trails and riverfront trails were specific needs noted by participants.
- In several public involvement forums, participants noted needs for following types of facilities:
  - Trails and pathways
  - Water play features
  - Soccer fields
  - Public river access
  - Off-leash dog areas
  - Children’s play areas
- Survey respondents noted that it is a high priority for the City to develop children’s play areas (71%), river access points (59%), outdoor group facilities (44%), and sports fields (44%).
- According to findings in multiple forums, the top two priorities for park development include:
  - Maintaining and renovating existing parks and facilities; and
  - Developing existing undeveloped park sites (e.g., River Road Reserve and others).
- Nearly all focus group participants supported the development of the River Road Reserve as a regional park, with facilities to support recreation and environmental preservation. The community’s vision for the site included a thematic play area, off-leash dog area, interpretive and fitness trails, disc golf, boat launch, community/demonstration garden, agricultural component, orchard, natural areas, and a pedestrian/bicycle bridge connecting to the south side of the river.

- A soccer field complex was desired at the River Road Reserve or a large community park where fields can be grouped.
- If the City of Grants Pass had an outdoor performance area, questionnaire respondents would like to attend the following events: concerts in parks (67%), movies in parks (50%), performing arts (46%), and multi-cultural programs (31%). Only 12% of respondents were doubtful they would attend any programs at this type of facility.
- Surprisingly, less than 1/3 of survey respondents felt that non-residents should pay more than residents for the use of Grants Pass facilities (e.g., picnic shelters and sport fields). However, more respondents (58%) felt that people who reserve facilities should pay for the extra cost of maintenance.
- Collaboration between providers in Grants Pass will be important in meeting community needs. Specifically, focus group participants want the City to strengthen partnerships with Josephine County both School Districts, the BLM, USFS, and other private providers and non-profit organizations.



### ***Recreation Participation***

During the planning process, recreation participation was measured to cross-check public preferences for recreation opportunities. In the questionnaire, respondents noted the frequency in which they have participated in various recreation activities. They also indicated the types of activities they would most like to do in the future. Findings are noted in Table 4.

Table 4 ranks the most popular recreation activities in Grants Pass, based on the average number of times respondents participated in each activity in one month. Column 4 notes the preferred ranking of activities, if residents had the time and resources to engage in any activities of their choosing. Column 5 notes the latent demand—the difference between what residents want to do and what they are currently doing. A high latent demand often indicates what types of facilities are needed to support desired activities. Key findings include:

- The ten most popular recreation activities (in terms of participation) include: walking for pleasure, exercising /aerobics, bicycling, dog walking/ visiting dog parks, swimming (pool), soccer, wildlife watching, sports events (attending), nature walks and swimming (beach, river). Five of these top ten activities are (or can be) trail-related.

**Table 4: Recreation Participation**

RANK	RESULTS	MONTHLY AVERAGE	PREFERRED RANK	LATENT DEMAND
1	Walking for Pleasure	6.51	4	-3
2	Exercising/Aerobics	6.24	19	-17
3	Bicycling	5.42	1	2
4	Dog walking/Dog parks	4.23	6	-2
5	Swimming (pool)	4.14	17	-12
6	Soccer	4.11	10	-4
7	Wildlife watching	3.96	14	-7
8	Sports Events (attend)	3.83	24	-16
9	Nature walks	3.55	5	4
10	Swimming (beach. river)	3.50	16	-6
11	Jogging/Running	3.43	22	-11
12	Playground (visit/play)	3.21	15	-3
13	Fairs and Festivals	3.15	7	6
14	Cultural/Special Events	2.81	8	6
15	Tennis	2.71	13	2
16	Basketball	2.70	21	-5
17	Hiking/Backpacking	2.61	9	8
18	Rafting/Tubing	2.55	11	7
19	Fishing	2.53	12	7
20	Volunteer activities	2.47	30	-10
21	Concerts (attend)	2.36	2	19
22	Camping	2.34	3	19
23	Picnicking	2.33	18	5
24	Football	2.23	25	-1
25	Disc Golf	1.90	23	2
26	Softball	1.83	27	-1
27	Baseball	1.82	26	1
28	Canoeing/Kayaking	1.77	20	8
29	Other	1.67	34	-5
30	Tours and Travel	1.66	28	2
31	Volleyball	1.33	29	2
32	Skateboarding	1.30	31	1
33	Handball/Racquetball	1.27	32	1
34	Model Airplanes/Cars	1.14	33	1

- Two organized sports activities ranked in the top ten: soccer (#6) and attending sports events (#8). These activities have an unusually high ranking compared to other surveyed communities. Tennis and basketball are ranked 15th and 16th, which is fairly typical. In many communities, basketball is often the sport with the most frequent rate of participation, because of the number of pick-up games and availability of both indoor and outdoor courts.
- With unlimited time and resources, questionnaire respondents would like to participate in bicycling, concerts (attend), camping, walking for pleasure, nature walks, dog walking/visiting dog parks, fairs and festival, cultural/special events, hiking/backpacking and soccer.
- According to the ranking of preferred activities, five of the top ten activities are still trail-related: bicycling, walking for pleasure, mature walks, dog walking and hiking/backpacking.
- Latent demand is the disparity between actual participation and desired or preferred participation. Respondents want to spend more time attending concerts, camping, hiking/backpacking, canoeing/kayaking, rafting/tubing, fishing, attending fairs and festivals, attending cultural/special events, picnicking and going on nature walks.
- The ranking of preferred activities suggests that there is a strong demand for concerts, fairs and festivals, and cultural/special events. This finding suggests that people would take advantage of these types of programs if the City had the facilities and resources to offer them more frequently.

## B. PARK NEEDS

Different people prefer different types of park experiences. What appeals to some residents may not meet the needs of others. For this reason, the needs assessment is based on the premise that people desire a variety of recreation activities. However, most residents want basic recreation amenities (playgrounds, sports courts, open lawn) within walking or biking distance of home (½ mile), as noted in the public outreach findings. In addition, most residents want sufficient green space to maintain the natural character and beauty of Grants Pass. With these goals in mind, a complex Geographic Information System (GIS) and LOS analysis was undertaken to determine where gaps in services existed. These assessments were used to calculate LOS standards for park land.

### *Park Level of Service (LOS)*

The City's level of service for park land is a ratio of park acreage to the City's current population. This ratio is expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 residents. The LOS for park land in Grants Pass was compared to five comparable Oregon cities to see whether Grants Pass acreage is

above or below the norm. To be an accurate measure, only City parks were counted in this analysis, both for Grants Pass and for Albany, Medford, Roseburg, Tigard, and West Linn. These communities were chosen because of the similarities in their park systems.

Table 5 presents this LOS comparison. The existing level of service for developed parks and green space in Grants Pass is nearly *5 acres per 1,000 residents*. This does not include undeveloped park acreage. If all acquired park properties were developed as planned, the City would provide approximately *13 acres per 1,000 residents*. This level of service is still lower than the park LOS provided on average in comparable cities. Albany, Medford, Roseburg, Tigard, and West Linn provide on average over *16 acres per 1,000 residents*.

**Table 5: Park Land Level of Service (LOS) for Grants Pass and Comparable Communities**

PARK TYPE	GRANTS PASS EXISTING LOS (ACRES / 1,000) <sup>1</sup>	COMPARABLE CITIES EXISTING LOS (AVERAGE) <sup>2</sup>
Mini Parks	0.10	0.05
Neighborhood Parks	1.07	1.61
Community Parks	0.81	3.32
Regional Parks	1.49	5.72
Special Use Areas	0.77	0.65
Green Space	0.74	4.72
<b>Subtotal Developed Parks</b>	<b>4.98</b>	<b>16.07</b>
Park Reserves	7.99	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.97</b>	

<sup>1</sup> The existing LOS for Grants Pass is calculated using the 2009 park inventory and estimated UGB population (39,126 residents).

<sup>2</sup> The five comparable cities include Albany, Medford, Roseburg, Tigard, and West Linn. Data for individual cities are noted in the Community Needs Assessment Report.

<sup>3</sup> Note: This analysis only includes City parks. Parks provided by others jurisdictions are not counted for Grants Pass or the comparable communities.

Evaluated by park type, the City of Grants Pass has a substantially lower LOS for community parks, regional parks and green space. The City also has a slightly lower level of service for neighborhood parks. However, Grants Pass provides comparable acreage for special use areas.

On the positive side, the City of Grants Pass has positioned itself well to develop additional park properties as needed in the future. If the City developed all of its undeveloped properties as parks or green space, Grants Pass would be more in line with other cities.

### **Park Access**

In addition to LOS, City parks were evaluated in terms of access —how people get to and from parks and recreation facilities. Using the road and pathway network, along with other GIS data, a park analysis identified gaps in the City where people are not well served by parks. This means that residents do not live within walking or biking distance of basic recreation amenities (1/2 mile) or within one mile of green space (trails, pocket parks, or other identified natural areas).



### **Access to Basic Recreation Amenities**

Close-to-home opportunities to play on playgrounds, sport courts (basketball and tennis) and open lawn areas are valued by Grants Pass residents, as noted in the public involvement process. Mini parks, neighborhood parks and community parks typically help meet this need. In Grants Pass, Reinhart Volunteer Park (a regional park) helps meet this need for nearby neighbors. Also, Schroder Park was counted in this analysis, because of its proximity and its similar resources.

To evaluate how well existing City parks meet nearby recreation needs, park access was mapped (Map 2). As this map shows, many areas within the current city limits are served by parks that offer basic recreation amenities. However, eight areas are not well-served:

- Northeast Grants Pass
- River/Highway 199 Wedge
- Fruitdale Creek Area
- Harbeck/Grandview Area
- Nebraska Canal Area
- South Grants Pass
- West Grants Pass
- Northwest Grants Pass

To its credit, the Parks and Recreation Division has already purchased several well-positioned properties to meet park needs in three of these areas. Park acquisition or/and park partnerships are needed in the other four areas.

### **Access to Green Space**

Green space and natural areas are important in Grants Pass. These sites provide opportunities to enjoy nature or the outdoors. They serve as a visual buffer between communities, around the City and along corridors. Green spaces and natural areas also protect natural resources, such as wildlife habitat, the Rogue River watershed, the urban tree canopy, and open space in an otherwise built-out or paved-over environment.



To evaluate the distribution of green space and natural areas in Grants Pass, Map 3 illustrates access to applicable sites, including pocket parks, trail corridors, and natural areas. In this analysis, access to County parks, BLM land, and river overlooks were taken into account as well. Although undeveloped park properties currently provide open space, these sites were not included in this analysis because of their potential to be developed as other park types.

As shown on the map, many residents do not have easy access to green space and/or natural areas. Underserved areas include:

- Northeast Grants Pass
- East Grants Pass
- South Grants Pass
- West Grants Pass
- Downtown
- Northwest Grants Pass

### ***Park Standards and Needs***

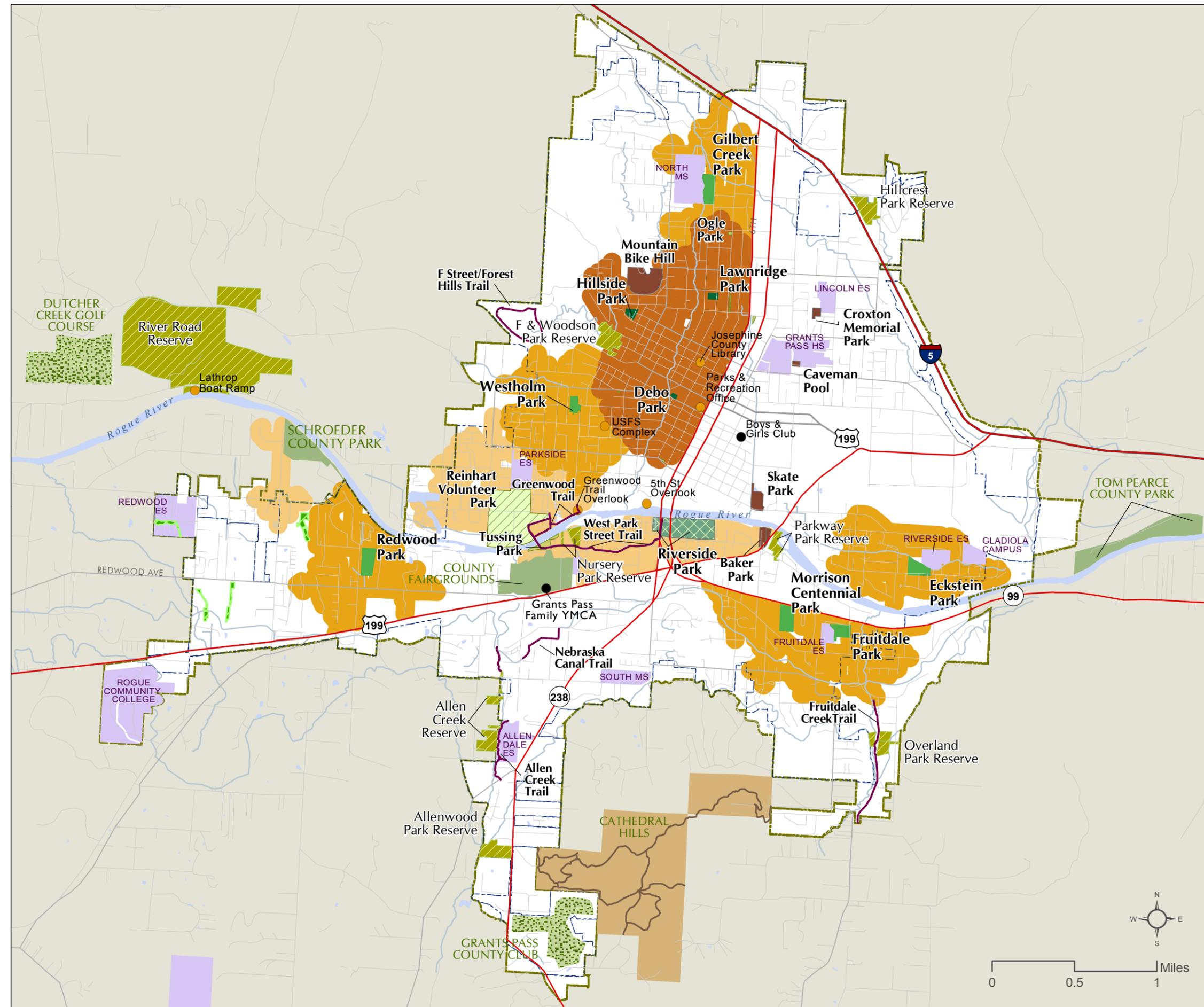
The results of the park access and LOS analyses were supplemented with an assessment of park land by type. Park standards were calculated based on a desired level of service and options for meeting park and facility needs. Table 6 summarizes these park standards and needs. These needs are expressed at the amount of additional developed park acres needed.

This Plan proposes an overall City park standard of 9.9 acres/1,000 residents to meet recreation needs. This standard nearly doubles the existing level of service provided by the City of Grants Pass. However, it is far more conservative and less than the average level of service for comparable cities. It is considerably less than the historic standards adopted in the 1984 Park & Recreation Master Plan.



# Comprehensive Park & Recreation Master Plan

Grants Pass, Oregon



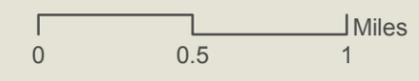
- Park Access Areas**
- Mini Park (1/2 mile)
  - Neighborhood Park (1/2 mile)
  - Community and Regional Park (1/2 mile)
  - Barrier

- Parks & Recreation Department**
- Mini Park
  - Neighborhood Park
  - Green Space
  - Special Use
  - Community Park
  - Regional Park
  - Undeveloped

- Trails**
- City Trail
  - BLM Trail

- Golf Course
- County Park
- Wetland
- School
- BLM Park
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Recreation Center
- Recreation Resource
- Highway
- Major Arterial
- Arterial
- Water

**Map 2: Access to Basic Recreation Amenities**

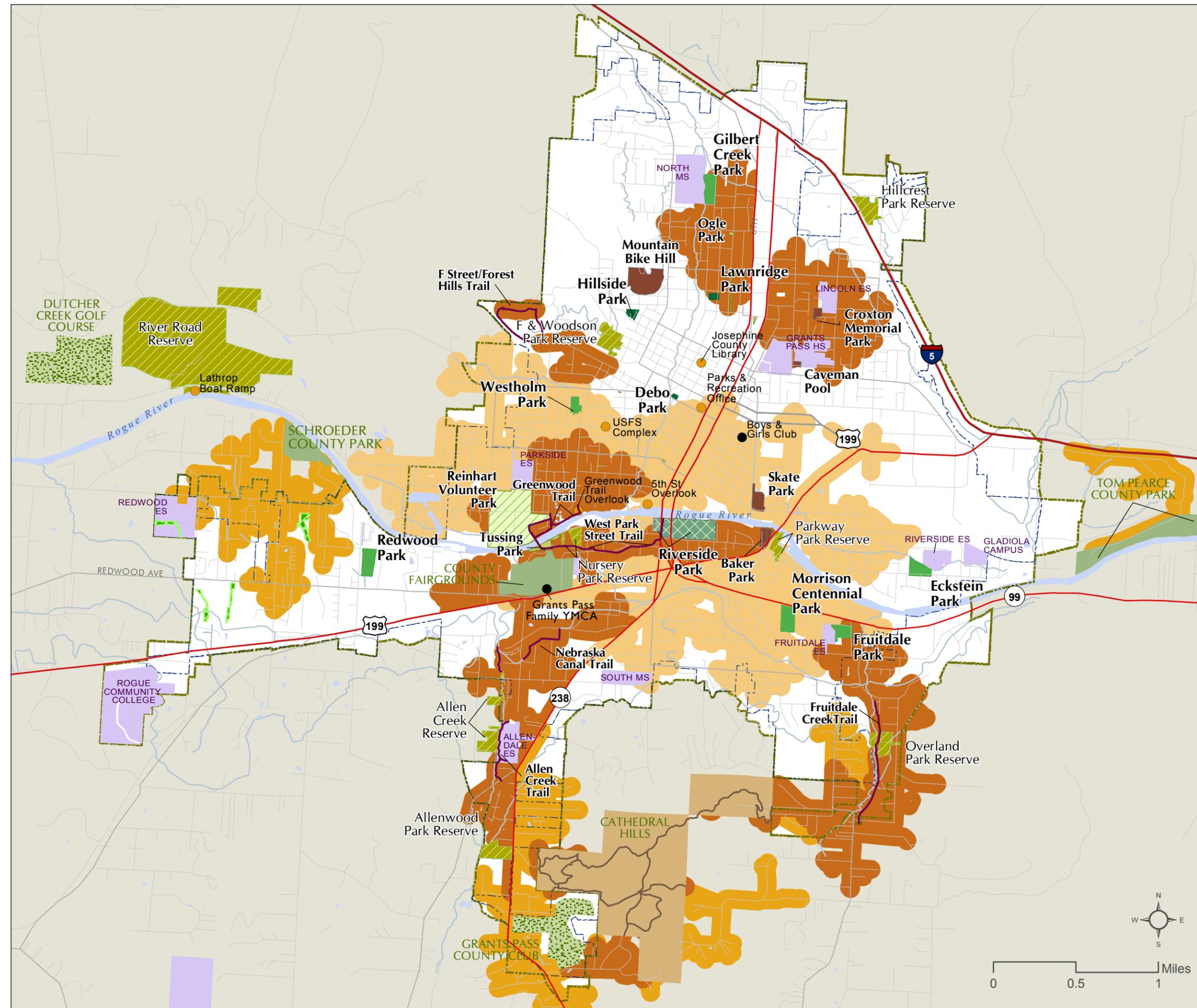






# Comprehensive Park & Recreation Master Plan

Grants Pass, Oregon



### Park Access Areas

- Green Space and Trails (1/2 mile)
- Community and Regional Park (1 mile)
- Other Parks and Green Space (1 mile)
- Barrier

### Parks & Recreation Department

- Mini Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Green Space
- Special Use
- Community Park
- Regional Park
- Undeveloped

### Trails

- City Trail
- BLM Trail

- Golf Course
- County Park
- Wetland
- School
- BLM Park
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Recreation Center
- Recreation Resource
- Highway
- Major Arterial
- Arterial
- Water

## Map 3: Access to Green Space & Natural Areas



January 2010 | Data Source: City of Grants Pass GIS, ESRI street maps, and Oregon Geospatial Clearinghouse





As noted in Table 6, this conservative standard can be elevated through partnerships with other providers to support existing park sites, such as the County Fairgrounds, Schroeder Park, and Cathedral Hills. This does not suggest that the City should take on all maintenance, management, and improvements for partner sites. Instead, the City should consider sharing in the cost of developing appropriate partner sites to meet facility needs now and in the future. An adequate investment of resources into partner sites could raise the park level of service in Grants Pass to 18.65 acres/1,000.

The standards presented in Table 6 are based on the following park needs for park acquisition, development, and partnerships:

**Neighborhood Parks**

- Allenwood Park Reserve
- Overland Park Reserve
- New Site (Nebraska Area)
- New Site (Northwest Grants Pass)
- New Site (Harbeck/Grandview Area)
- New Site (West Grants Pass)

**Community Parks**

- Allen Creek Reserve/Garrison Fields

**Regional Parks**

- River Road Reserve

**Special Use Areas**

- Hillcrest Reserve or New Site (Dog Park)
- New Site (Downtown Plaza)
- River Overlooks
- USFS Complex

**Green Space**

- Parkway Park Reserve
- Nursery Park Reserve
- F and Woodson Park Reserve
- West Tom Pearce Trailhead
- West Rogue River Bridge/Trailhead
- Rogue River Greenway Regional Trail
- River City Trail

**Table 6: Park Level of Service, Proposed Standards, and Needs for Developed Park Acreage**

PARK TYPE	1984 PLAN STANDARDS <sup>A</sup>	AVERAGE LOS FOR COMPARABLE CITIES <sup>B</sup>	CITY OF GRANTS PASS EXISTING LOS	CITY OF GRANTS PASS # OF EXISTING PARKS	CITY OF GRANTS PASS # OF EXISTING ACRES	PROPOSED LEVEL OF SERVICE	ADDITIONAL DEVELOPED ACRES NEEDED <sup>C</sup>	
							CURRENT POPULATION (2009)	PROJECTED POPULATION (2029)
Mini Parks	n/a	0.05	0.1	3	3.8	0.05	--	--
Neighborhood Parks	2.5	1.61	1.07	6	41.7	1.50	16.98	46.96
Community Parks	2.5	3.32	0.81	1	31.7	1.10	11.39	33.38
Regional Parks	20.0	5.72	1.49	1	58.2	5.15	143.31	246.25
Special Use Areas	n/a	0.65	0.77	5	30.4	0.75	-1.04	13.96
Green Space	n/a	4.72	0.74	8	29.0	1.35	23.83	50.81
<b>City Subtotal</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>16.07</b>	<b>4.98</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>194.8</b>	<b>9.90</b>	<b>194.5</b>	<b>391.4</b>
Partnerships <sup>D</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.75	342.35	517.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>16.07</b>	<b>4.98</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>194.76</b>	<b>18.65</b>	<b>536.82</b>	<b>908.60</b>

<sup>A</sup> The 1984 Plan also refers to a standard of 5.0 acres/1,000 for Metropolitan Parks, which is not included here.

<sup>B</sup> Comparable agencies include the Oregon Cities of Albany, Medford, Roseburg, Tigard, and West Linn.

<sup>C</sup> Some of this land has already been acquired or can be obtained through lease agreements with potential partners. This number represents the acreage that will require development for park use.

<sup>D</sup> This category refers to existing parks that the City could support through formal partnership agreements to help meet community needs. This does not suggest that the City should take over management or maintenance of partner sites.

### Partnerships

- Fairgrounds
- Schroeder Park
- Lathrop Boat Ramp
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Redwood Elementary School
- Wetlands (Redwood Elementary)
- Wetlands (Yucca Lane)
- Wetlands (Eastwood Lane)
- Wetlands (Ravenwood Drive)
- Wetlands (Cashmere Drive)
- Cathedral Hills

To meet this standard, the City will need to develop approximately 390 acres as parks and green space over the next 20 years. In addition, it will require partnerships for nearly 520 acres of park land provided by others, including the 422-acre Cathedral Hills Park, managed by the Bureau of Land Management as green space. By investing in these properties and partnerships, Grants Pass will provide a comparable level of service for park land.

### Park Acquisition

Since the last Plan, the City of Grants Pass has undertaken a very successful acquisition strategy to purchase key properties in critical locations and underserved areas. These properties are well-positioned to meet future needs. Consequently, of the 390 acres of new parks to be developed, *approximately 100 acres need to be acquired* in the next 20 years. These needs are based on acquisitions of:

- Neighborhood Parks (27.5 acres)
- Community Parks (15.0 acres)
- Special Use Areas (4.32 acres)
- Green Space/Trails (28.12 acres)

This acreage need is based on three factors: 1) a need for park land in growing or unserved areas of the community; 2) the need for trail corridors to support improved recreation and non-motorized transportation; and 3) the need for a community park to meet the facility needs identified later in this chapter.



### ***The Role of Parks Provided by Others***

Parks provided by other jurisdictions were taken into account in determining park needs for acquisition and development. If an existing County, Federal, or school property was located in an unserved area, opportunities for partnership were considered before site acquisition. These options were discussed with the City Council, the Parks Advisory Board, and the Master Plan Advisory Committee. Based on their feedback, conservative standards for City parks were proposed.

While other agencies provide substantial acreage in some areas of Grants Pass, some areas of the city are still unserved. For example, Schroeder Park and Tom Pierce provide important park resources. But this acreage does not satisfy community needs for a City plaza downtown or new parks in specific neighborhoods. Additional park acquisition is still warranted.

### **C. FACILITY NEEDS**

The facility needs assessment takes into account current recreation participation and use, trends that help predict future use, guidelines for future park development, and a proposed level of service to establish need. Many facility needs identified in this Plan can be met through new park development. Others may require partnerships to help provide desired opportunities for the community.

Several different strategies were used to measure facility level of service (LOS). Some facilities were evaluated in terms of a numerical ratio (one facility per number of people served). The service level for other facilities is based on the number of facilities that will be added when new and existing parks are fully developed.



### ***Sport Field Assessment***

To evaluate the sufficiency of sport fields in Grants Pass, the City's LOS was compared to the average LOS of five cities (Albany, Medford, Roseburg, Tigard, and West Linn). Table 7 shows this comparison, based on the City inventory alone and based on all public fields in Grants Pass.

The LOS comparison highlights a deficiency in soccer fields citywide. By itself, the City of Grants Pass provides far fewer soccer fields than comparable cities. Even if the soccer fields managed by all providers in Grants Pass are counted (including all school fields), the soccer field LOS is still lower than average. Plus, the sport fields provided by the School District are not necessarily maintained to City standards or open for public use. This increases the perceived need and demand for soccer

fields. While multi-use fields can be applied to help meet field needs, these facilities are not available year-round for soccer programming.

**Table 7: Existing Sport Field LOS in Grants Pass and Comparable Cities<sup>1</sup>**

FACILITY TYPE	CITY LOS (City-Owned Facilities Alone)	TOTAL GRANTS PASS LOS (with Schools and Other Providers)	AVERAGE LOS FOR COMPARABLE CITIES
Baseball/Softball Fields	1/3,260	1/1,863	1/3,680
Soccer Fields	1/7,825	1/2,173	1/1,680
Multi-Use Fields <sup>1</sup>	1/7,825	1/1,956	n/a
Other Fields <sup>2</sup>	0	NC	1/12,967

<sup>1</sup> Level of service (LOS) is measured in terms of one facility per number of residents served.

<sup>2</sup> Grants Pass School District 7 counts multi-use fields in terms of square footage. For this analysis, this playable open space was divided into field space as per standard field definitions.

<sup>3</sup> Three comparable communities have developed football fields. Other fields were not counted in Grants Pass.

### Sport and Recreation Facility Needs



The supply and demand for sports fields and other types of recreation facilities were measured in the community needs assessment to calculate facility needs. Since many providers contribute to recreation opportunities within the city, the “supply” takes into account City facilities, as well as those provided by the two School Districts, the County, and other providers. “Demand” is based on participation levels in specific activities, trends in recreation (to note anticipated changes in future participation), and of the expressed need for many different types of recreation facilities, as noted in public involvement activities.

Table 8 summarizes the results of this analysis. The table notes:

- **Number of Existing Facilities:** This inventory total notes the number of facilities in Grants Pass, including those provided by the City, two School Districts, Josephine County and other agencies. All facilities are counted equally, even though some are not maintained to City standards.
- **Existing LOS:** The existing level of service is the ratio of one facility per number of people served. For example, one field for every 1,000 residents indicates a higher service level than one field for every 3,000 residents.

**Table 8: Grants Pass Facility Demand, LOS, and Need**

	FACILITY TYPE	EXISTING FACILITIES <sup>1</sup>	EXISTING LOS <sup>2</sup>	CURRENT DEMAND	ANTICIPATED PARTICIPATION	DESIRED LOS	PROPOSED LOS <sup>2</sup>	ADDITIONAL FACILITIES NEEDED	
FIELDS	Baseball/Softball	21	1/1,863	Med	Decreasing	Decrease	1/2,600	2	
	Soccer	18	1/2,173	High	Increasing	Increase	1/1,800	15	
	Multi-Use	19	1/1,956	Low	Staying the Same	Decrease	1/2,800	0	
COURTS	Basketball	26	1/1,505	Med	Staying the Same	Design Guidelines	1/1,750	8	
	Tennis	20	1/1,956	High	Increasing	Design Guidelines	1/1,950	10	
	Volleyball	5	1/7,825	Med	Increasing	Design Guidelines	1/8,000	2	
	Horseshoes	16	1/2,445	Low	Decreasing	Design Guidelines	1/3,000	4	
	Boat Ramp	3	1/13,042	High	Increasing	Design Guidelines	1/15,000	1	
	Disc Golf	2	1/19,563	Med	Staying the Same	Maintain	1/20,000	1	
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Fishing Pond	1	1/39,126	Med	Increasing	Maintain	1/39,100	1	
	Off-leash Dog Area	1	1/39,126	High	Increasing	Increase	1/15,000	3	
	Picnic Shelter	19	1/2,059	High	Increasing	Increase	1/2,000	11	
	Playground	21	1/1,863	Med	Increasing	Design Guidelines	1/1,875	11	
	Performance Space	1	1/39,126	High	Increasing	Increase	1/20,000	2	
	Skate Park	1	1/39,126	Low	Increasing	Maintain	1/20,000	2	
	Swimming Pool	3	1/13,042	High	Increasing	Maintain	1/15,000	1	
	Water Play Area	1	1/39,126	High	Increasing	Increase	1/20,000	2	
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<sup>1</sup>This includes the total number of facilities in Grants Pass, including those provided by the City, two School Districts, Josephine County and other agencies.

<sup>2</sup> Existing LOS is calculated using the City's 2009 population estimate of 39,126. Proposed LOS is based on the City's projected 2029 population of 59,114.

- **Current Recreation Demand:** Based on feedback obtained through public outreach, the community's demand for specific recreation facilities is measured as high, medium or low. This local demand is based on current participation levels in specific activities, along with residents' expressed need for specific types of recreation opportunities.
- **Anticipated Participation Level:** This column indicates whether participation in related activities is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same, based on data obtained in the Community Questionnaire, Oregon's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA).
- **Desired Level of Service:** This column notes the need to increase, decrease, or maintain the existing level of service to meet community demand for current and future use. It also notes instances where the provision of these facilities is based on the park development, as determined by design and development guidelines.
- **Increase:** Increasing the level of service signals a need to provide more facilities per 1,000 residents than is currently available. New facilities should be added where appropriate to meet pressing community demands and increasing participation levels.
- **Decrease:** Decreasing the level of service means providing fewer facilities per 1,000 residents. In some cases, this means that no new facilities are needed to serve the City's population though the planning horizon. However, since the City's population is expected to grow in the next 20 years, new facilities may still be needed in some cases as the LOS decreases.
- **Maintain:** Maintaining the existing level of service means providing the same number of facilities per 1,000 residents as is available for residents now. This means if the city grows, more facilities will be needed.
- **Design and Development Guidelines:** The development of certain types of facilities is based on anticipated park development. For example, neighborhood parks should include children's playgrounds, according to the design and development guidelines presented in Appendix B. This means that six new playgrounds will be needed in proposed neighborhood parks, and three are needed in existing parks that don't currently have one.

- **Proposed LOS:** This recommended service level is expressed as a ratio of one facility per number of residents served. This number is calculated (and rounded) based on a desired service level.
- **Additional Facilities Needed:** This column notes the number of additional facilities that should be developed to achieve the service level desired by the community. These facilities may be developed by the City alone or in partnership with other providers.

### *Trail Needs*

Trail use in Grants Pass is increasing for both recreation and non-motorized transportation. As indicated by many residents throughout the planning process, a network of pathways, trails, and sidewalks is desired to link parks to key destinations, such as schools and neighborhoods. In addition, trails and pathways are desired within parks to provide more recreation opportunities.

Pathways and trails can be soft-surfaced (permeable) or hard-surfaced (with varying degrees of permeability). Soft surfaces do not provide accessibility for people with disabilities, but are preferable for some recreation activities, such as running and horseback riding. Most hardened surfaces are ADA accessible and preferable for older people and people who have mobility issues. Both trail types are needed.

Trail needs in this Plan are based on a two-fold vision that includes:

- An interconnected system of multi-purpose trails linking City parks to each other, to parks provided by other agencies (such as Cathedral Hills, Schroeder Park, and Tom Pearce Park) and to proposed regional trails.
- Additional soft-surfaced and hard-surfaced trails within parks to provide opportunities for exercise, play, and nature interpretation.

This trail system should take into account previous planning directions and community feedback when actual trail routes are determined. For this reason, no numerical trail guideline is proposed in this Plan. However, trail recommendations should reflect the high demand for trails, the increasing use of trails, and a desire for more trails in the community. In addition, trail design within parks is noted in park design and development guidelines (presented in Appendix B). These guidelines specify the type of trail development appropriate for parks to help meet a strong desire for trail opportunities.