

# city of *Grants Pass*



## COMPREHENSIVE PARK & RECREATION MASTER PLAN



### *Creating the Parks of Tomorrow*

Grants Pass is poised to develop and manage its parks, green spaces, recreation facilities and trails in cost-effective and community-supported ways!

The City of Grants Pass has a new plan to guide us in developing our park system. We invited the entire Grants Pass community—from residents to representatives of the many different agencies and organizations—to help us strategically prepare for the future, identifying the parks and recreation opportunities that will best meet our needs.

Our city has grown substantially since the last plan was created in 1984. Community needs and recreation trends have changed dramatically in the last 25 years. The new plan responds to these changes, creating a 20-year vision for parks, green space, trails, recreation amenities and urban forestry. Our vision for the future is optimistic, and the plan has helped us set priorities for projects that will address our top recreation needs at a level of service and cost we can support.

Now it's time to take the next step—  
we need to make our new Master Plan a reality!

We envision a safe, interconnected and sustainable system of vibrant parks, thriving green spaces, and quality recreation opportunities that enhance our community and its economic vitality.

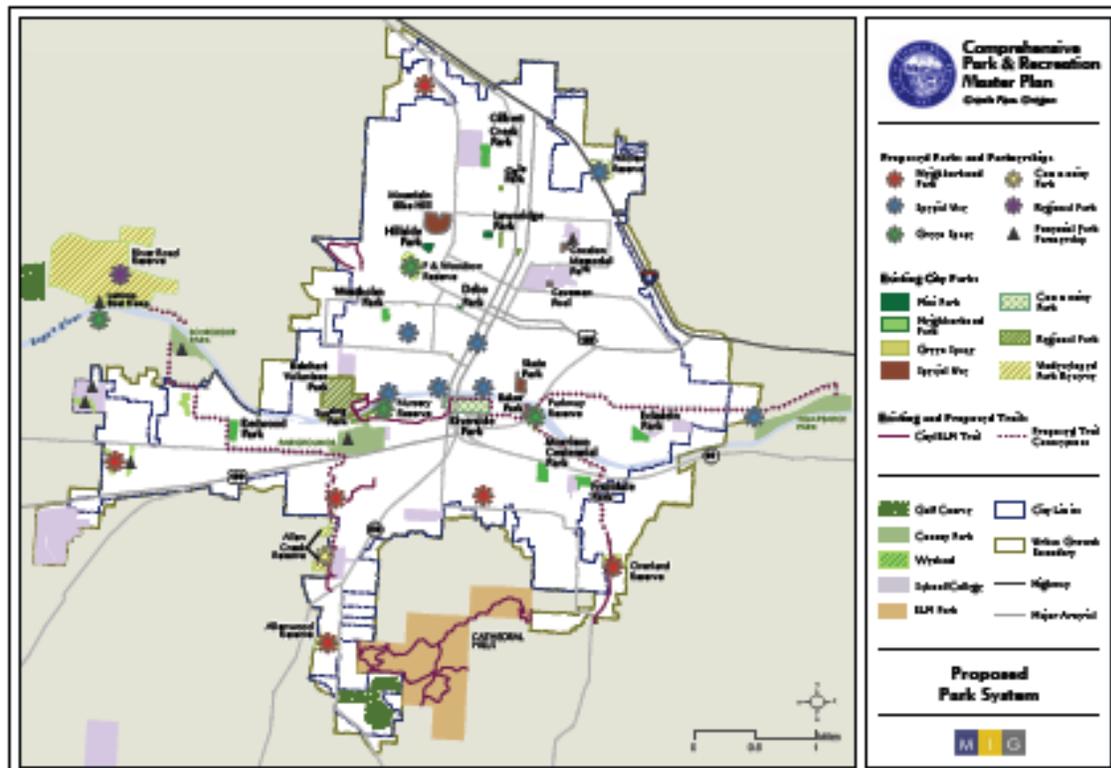
# Grants Pass in 2030:

## *A 20-Year Vision for Parks and Recreation*

The Park & Recreation Master Plan establishes goals, recommendations and an implementation strategy for park improvements and development over the next 20 years.

Currently, there are 195 acres of developed parks in Grants Pass, and an additional 312 acres of undeveloped reserves. By 2030, the City will need nearly 585 acres of parks, recreation facilities and trails to achieve the community's vision and to serve approximately 59,000 people who are projected to live in Grants Pass at that time. Developing the existing park reserves will meet 80% of these needs. Specifically, the Plan recommends the following:

- 7 new neighborhood parks in underserved areas;
- 1 new community park to meet a variety of sport and recreational needs;
- 1 new regional park that reflects the City's agricultural and natural heritage;
- 4 new special use parks, e.g., river overlooks, a dog park and a downtown plaza;
- Trails, trailheads and a bike/pedestrian bridge in community supported areas;
- Greenspace to protect the City's trees, river and scenic beauty; and
- Partnerships with Josephine County, BLM and School Districts to improve access to recreation amenities and wetlands.



# Community Priorities:

## *What do we do first?*

The planning process was extended so the community could help identify priority projects to complete first when funding was available. These included the following:



#### **PARK ENHANCEMENT**

Improvements to Fruitdale Park, Gilbert Creek Park, Redwood Park, Riverside Park and Tussing Park will add facilities and provide more recreation opportunities in these areas.



#### **COMMUNITY PARK**

The Allen Creek Reserve could be developed as a new community park to serve residents citywide with facilities such as a unique play area, soccer fields, tennis courts, skate spot, water play area, exercise playground, and trails.



#### **NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**

A new park in Northeast Grants Pass would help meet needs for several neighborhoods by providing a playground, basketball court, loop trail, picnic tables, open grass play area, and other amenities.



#### **QUALITY MAINTENANCE**

The City should provide higher levels of service for its most popular parks, and quality maintenance for all sites. Cost-saving, sustainable practices will help sustain park and facilities for future generations.

#### **TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS**

Pathways that connect new parks and existing parks can provide opportunities for walking, bicycling, jogging, nature interpretation and wildlife watching. A trailhead to improve access to Tom Pearce Park and the extension of trails in southern Grants Pass was identified by residents as priorities.



#### **REGIONAL PARK**

The City will consider the River Road Reserve or another comparable property to develop a new regional park. Through a partnership with the Josephine County Food Bank, the site could be developed as a farm park, reflecting the community's agricultural heritage. In addition, the park could provide a variety of amenities, such as open playfields, thematic play area, water access, trails, and interpretive facilities.



#### **PARTNERSHIPS/VOLUNTEERISM**

Projects with strong partner support and outside funding, such as a proposed Food Bank farm, are supported by the community. Volunteer-led projects will also move ahead more quickly.





### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The planning process included extensive public outreach to identify community preferences for the park system. Over 1,400 people participated.

#### Public involvement included:

- Representative phone survey
- Web and paper questionnaires
- Large public workshops
- Small focus group meetings
- Community event at Rainhart Volunteer Park
- Advisory Committee Meetings
- Public hearings
- Council Workshops
- Public letters and phone calls

**Feedback:** Residents love their park system. Top recreation activities include walking, exercising, bicycling, dog walking, swimming, playing soccer and watching wildlife. Participation in trail-related activities is strong. Neighborhood parks are frequently used, but the greatest need is for larger, community and regional parks that provide more recreation opportunities.



## Benefits of the Park System

We value the role our parks play in creating a sense of hometown, and we appreciate the opportunities we have to play, walk, bicycle, swim, fish, picnic and relax. Grants Pass parks provide many valuable benefits:

- Contribute to health and wellness
- Provide community gathering places
- Support youth development
- Connect community members and neighborhoods together
- Protect our trees, river, and wildlife areas
- Promote community collaboration and volunteerism
- Build a sense of community pride
- Support our seniors and long-term residents
- Attract visitors and support our local businesses
- Create a safe, enjoyable place to live, work, and play

### LEARN MORE!

To review a copy of the Plan, go to:  
<http://www.grantspass.oregon.gov/>  
Under Parks & Community Services, check the side bar for a link to the Plan.

For more information, call:  
City of Grants Pass | 541-474-6360

