

city of

Gresham

comprehensive parks and recreation, trails and natural areas plan



CITY OF GRESHAM
COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND
RECREATION, TRAILS, AND NATURAL
AREAS PLAN

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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INTRODUCTION



1. INTRODUCTION



Changes in the City of Gresham over the last ten years have positioned the Parks and Recreation Division at a crossroads. In one direction, the path toward the future is familiar. The City continues to selectively fund park development, trails, and natural areas to offer residents basic active and passive recreation opportunities where possible. In the other direction, however, the path leads toward an innovative future based on dynamic efforts to strengthen and connect the community. This path leads toward the development of interconnected trail corridors, programs and services, and social gathering places for sport, civic, and cultural events. This community vision takes into account the geographic, social, cultural, and economic context of the City, in order to provide more and better services for parks and recreation. As City leaders and residents look toward the future, they have to ask themselves how to make this preferred future for parks and recreation more affordable, achievable, and marketable in order to rally support for its implementation.

The Community Needs Assessment is a significant part of the effort to update the *Comprehensive Parks and Recreation, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan*. The purpose of the assessment is to establish in quantifiable terms the need for park-related amenities, recreation facilities, and programs in the City of Gresham. 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 inextricably intertwined with the planning context for existing resources and the community's vision for the future.

This document presents the methods, data, and trends used to analyze community needs, along with the findings from the needs analysis. Significantly, it also provides the policy directions for the provision of parks, facilities, and programs that ultimately determine the level of service that is desired.

The needs analysis includes the following:

- An inventory and assessment of the existing park and recreation amenities in the community;
- An evaluation of the community's demand for recreation opportunities, including public preferences for parks and facilities, recreation participation, and applicable trends in the provision of recreation services;

- An analysis parks and facilities using a combination of methods to determine a recommended level of service (LOS); and
- The calculation and application of LOS standards to determine current and future park and recreational amenity needs, when appropriate.

The Community Needs Assessment provides the information necessary to make informed decisions on how many parks and facilities are needed in the City of Gresham now and in the future. The parks and recreation needs identified in this report provide a basis for system-wide recommendations for improvements, including the potential acquisition and development of new park sites, the redevelopment of existing parks, and the potential for partnerships with other service providers. However, meeting this demand will be a challenge. Given the current funding climate, the City must be able to prioritize some needs higher than others and make compromises, so that the broadest spectrum of the community is served, and recreation needs in the most underserved areas are met. In addition, the City will have to consider the role of other providers, such as schools and sport and recreation organizations, in meeting facility and particularly programming needs. Partnerships and collaborative efforts will be needed to unite the community in providing a variety of park and recreation opportunities. In this context, the needs assessment not only considers the current and future demand for recreation opportunities, but also how those needs can best be met.

Following the Community Needs Assessment, the policy directions, standards, and guidelines developed in this report will be incorporated into a Draft Comprehensive Plan. The Plan will include a list of priority capital improvements that will be targeted for implementation over the next five years.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



2. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

In 2007, Portland State University's Population Research Center produced a demographic analysis for the City of Gresham. Most of the demographics cited below have been taken from this report.

POPULATION

The City of Gresham is the fourth largest city in Oregon. Gresham has grown at an average annual rate of 2.6% since 1990, reaching 98,072 residents as of January 1, 2006. Gresham's growth has been fueled by both migration and births. For example, approximately 16,000 more persons moved into Gresham than out of it between 1990 and 2000, adding almost a quarter to the city's population. Since 2000, however, growth due to migration has slowed. In the period since 1990, the number of births in Gresham has grown. The city's population should reach approximately 112,100 by 2020.



AGE

Growth from 1990 to 2005 has been pronounced among children (0 to 19 years old), young adults (20 to 29 years old), and mature adults (45 to 64 years old). Children have made up over 30% of Gresham's population since the 90s, more than the percentage in both Multnomah County and the Portland-Metro area. The share of persons 65 years and above in Gresham is expected to rise by 12% by 2020. Among children, the fastest growing group will be teens age 15 to 19, which is projected to grow by 19% between 2005 and 2020. Children age 10 to 14 will grow nearly as fast, by 18.9%.

ETHNICITY

Gresham has grown more racially and ethnically diverse since 1990, as people of color increased from 8% of the population to more than 25% in 2005. The number of black residents in Gresham has grown significantly since the 90s, and the City's Latino population has more than quadrupled. It is likely that populations of color will continue to grow due to both migration and births. Latino births have grown steadily, from 10% of all births in 1990, to 33% in 2000, to 42% in 2004. Births to white non-Hispanic mothers, by contrast, have steadily fallen.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Gresham's mix of household types has changed little over recent years. In 2000, 51.8% of Gresham's housing units were single-family and 43.5% were multi-family. That year, Gresham had a considerably lower share of single-family units and a considerably larger share of multi-family units than both Multnomah County and the Portland metro area.

Families remain the biggest segment of Gresham's households. According to Census information, a family consists of a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All people in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. In 2003-2005, families represented two-thirds of all households. Since 1990, the percentage of family households has declined in Gresham, as has the share of households with children. Simultaneously, the average size of family households has actually increased.

INCOME

The 2003-2005 median household income in Gresham was \$44,560. After adjusting for inflation, this median income represents a 14% decline from 1999. Gresham's median income has generally been slightly above county and state levels. The Multnomah County median income in 2004 was \$42,334, and the state median income was \$42,568 (U.S. Census Bureau).

VISION AND PRIORITIES



3. VISION AND PRIORITIES

A community's vision for parks and recreation paints a conceptual picture of the preferred park system, based on the types and amount of parks and recreation experiences desired in a community. The feedback obtained during the public involvement process was used to refine the vision and mission from the 1996 Plan to identify community priorities for the future. Several statements of priorities were identified for the *Comprehensive Parks and Recreation, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan* to provide a planning context for the community needs assessment.



PREVIOUS MISSION & VISION

The 1996 *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan* set forth a mission and vision based on wisdom that still holds true today for the Gresham Parks and Recreation Division. In the City of Gresham, protecting and enhancing the natural environment and providing recreational opportunities is the mission of the Parks and Recreation Division. Specifically:

The Mission of the Gresham Parks and Recreation Division is to offer facilities and programs that invite the public's use. Our efforts shall enhance Gresham's quality of life through the significant benefits provided by recreation. We take an active role in delivering park and recreation services in a cost-effective manner. We strive to offer fully accessible services in partnership with others, encouraging volunteer involvement.

VISION FOR A PREFERRED SYSTEM

The 1996 Plan describes the following vision for parks and recreation:

Parks and recreation is an essential service that enhances the quality of life in the Gresham community by fostering personal health, strengthening community, preventing crime, protecting the environment, and contributing to a healthy economy. They City will provide an integrated, neighborhood-based parks and recreation system that:

- Provides *sufficient facilities and programs* to meet the needs of Gresham's growing population.
- Interconnects parks, open space, and trails to *maximize access to programs and facilities*.

- Ensures the *equitable distribution* of recreation resources throughout Gresham's neighborhoods.
- Provides *equal access* to diverse recreational opportunities for all residents, regardless of age, physical and mental ability, culture, and economic ability.
- Builds a *sense of community* through shared recreational experiences and volunteer involvement.
- Involves *residents as active participants and partners* in all aspects of parks and recreation.
- Builds and maintains *partnerships* to optimize funding and facility resources, and to improve recreational opportunities.
- Fosters *community stewardship* of our natural resources, through environmental education, outdoor experiences, and volunteer opportunities.
- *Reduces auto-dependency and enhances recreational opportunities* by providing a connected system of trails and bikeways.
- Provides for effective and economically *sound management of public resources*.
- *Protects the community's investment* by providing quality facility maintenance.
- Provides a *safe environment* in cooperation with community policing efforts and by increasing park activity through recreation programs.
- *Informs the community* about Gresham's parks and recreation opportunities and the benefits provided.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

While the statements noted above still apply, budget shortages have hampered the Division in implementing this park and recreation system. The vision for the park system has not changed significantly, but the focus of the Parks and Recreation Division has been refined. The core business of the Division is:

Cultivating Community through People, Parks and Programs

Based on feedback obtained through the public involvement process, staff and residents are embracing projects that strengthen the community, accomplish City-wide goals, and provide strong environmental and social benefits. The desired park system is one that:

- Establishes and maintains parks, natural areas, recreational facilities for citizen use and enjoyment, helping to *create Oregon's most livable City*.
- Improves *community connectivity* through trail development.
- Provides *quality, enjoyable, and, most of all, safe play opportunities* for residents.
- Provides *nearby access to basic recreation amenities*, including playgrounds, picnic areas, and sport courts at neighborhood and community parks.
- *Develops parks more fully* to support a variety of recreational experiences, creating new opportunities for play, physical development and socialization.
- Acquires and develops additional park land in *underserved and economically disadvantaged areas* to provide a geographically and socially accessible and balanced park system.
- Provide more recreation programs and special events that *foster community gatherings and social interaction*, provide opportunities for life-long learning, promote personal health and community wellness, and enhance community livability.
- Provides *green places of renewal* that connect us to nature and wildlife.
- Provide inclusive, innovative, quality recreation services that *promote community pride and identity*.

These statements provide a foundation for the following assessment of park and facility needs, as well as the strategies and recommendations that will be developed in the next phase of the planning process.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



To create a plan that reflects the recreation preferences, needs, and values of Gresham residents, the planning process included multiple forums for community outreach. Over 1,700 Gresham residents participated in updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan. Representing a broad spectrum of ages, cultural groups, and special interests, community members completed surveys and questionnaires, participated in interviews, and provided feedback through focus groups and advisory committee meetings to indicate what types of parks and recreation facilities are needed in Gresham. All results of the public involvement process were used in the Community Needs Assessment.

OVERVIEW

The public involvement process included the following activities to solicit feedback from community residents. The parentheses indicate the numbers of Gresham residents who participated in each event, and a summary is provided in Table 1.

- *Community Recreation Survey (429)*: The Community Survey was administered by mail in May and June 2007 to obtain information on current recreation participation, needs and priorities. The survey included both adult and youth respondents.
- *Adult Questionnaire (494)*: Administered through the City’s website and via print copies, the Community Questionnaire was designed specifically for adults and collected information on parks and program usage, program and facility needs, priorities, and willingness to support City-supported programs and facilities.
- *Youth Questionnaire (252)*: A separate questionnaire, designed to address the needs and concerns of Gresham’s youth, was also administered via the Internet and print copies. The questionnaire included data on which parks and facilities Gresham’s youth frequent, how they get there, how well the recreational needs of youth are being met, and what facilities and activities they would like to see made available.
- *Sports Groups Questionnaire (11)*: Representatives from eleven sports groups provided data regarding their participation patterns and needs.

TABLE 1 : TOTAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS
Community Recreation Survey	429
Adult Questionnaire	494
Youth Questionnaire	252
Sports Group Questionnaire	11
Community Intercept Events	226
Stakeholder Interviews	23
Focus Groups (Youth, Seniors, Spanish-speakers)	30
Staff Interviews	8
Technical Advisory Committee	15
Community Advisory Committee	11
Planning Advisory Committee	7
Community Presentations	287
TOTAL	1,793

- *Community Intercept Events (226)*: Two intercept events were held at Gresham's Farmer's Market and one was held at the DES monthly meeting. These events allowed many residents to identify park and facility priorities.
- *Stakeholders Interviews (23)*: Gresham community leaders and stakeholders were interviewed about their perception of parks, recreation and open space issues and challenges facing the City.
- *Focus Groups (30)*: Three focus groups were conducted in late May of 2007 with members of key stakeholder groups in Gresham: youth, seniors and Spanish-speakers.
- *Staff Interviews (8)*: Eight City staff and a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee were interviewed to provide insights into the issues and challenges facing the community and the Division.
- *Technical Advisory Committee (15)*: Fifteen committee members met to discuss their vision for Gresham's park system, its strengths and weaknesses, and priorities for improvement.
- *Community Advisory Committee (11)*: Eleven committee members discussed the strengths needs, priorities for improvement and vision for Gresham's parks, recreation and natural areas.
- *Park and Recreation Citizen Advisory Committee (7)*: Committee members discussed the strengths and weaknesses of Gresham's park system, priorities for improvement and their vision for the future.
- *Community Presentations (287)*: Eleven community presentations were made to community groups to get their opinion on parks and recreation needs. About 287 residents attended the presentations.

Other data sources were used in the needs assessment to identify local, regional, and national trends in recreation.

- *2007 Gresham Citizens Survey*: In January 2008, the City conducted a telephone survey with 400 Gresham residents to help City officials and staff identify any trends in residents' perceptions of the quality of life in the City, as well as attitudes towards key issues facing the City.
- *National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA)*: The NSGA is the national association for sporting goods retailers. The NSGA conducts an annual nationwide study in order to determine trends in recreation participation.
- *Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*: The SCORP is a five-year statewide recreation plan

published by Oregon State Parks. The SCORP identifies outdoor recreation issues and opportunities and explores state and local response strategies. It includes valuable data on current trends in recreation participation and demand in Oregon.

The feedback obtained through the community outreach events is used to interpret the demand for parks, facilities, and programs. The complete results of each activity can be found in summary reports available on the Parks and Recreation Division website: www.ci.gresham.or.us/departments/des/parksandrec. Key findings are summarized below.



SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Throughout the public involvement process, Gresham residents recognized the many benefits offered by parks, trails, natural areas, and recreation programs, such as their contribution to community livability, social opportunities, health and wellness, youth development, and the protection of natural resources and open space. This section of the needs assessment notes the key findings from each of the public involvement activities.

COMMUNITY RECREATION SURVEY

ETC Institute conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey for the City of Gresham during May and June of 2007 to establish priorities for the future improvement of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the community. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the Gresham Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The survey was administered by a combination of mail and phone to a random sample of 2,000 households in the Gresham Urban Growth Boundary. A total of 429 surveys were completed. The results have a 95% level of confidence with a margin of error of +/-4.7%. Results from key questions in this survey were compared to a "National Benchmarking Database" of more than 200 communities in over 35 states across the country.

Key Findings

Benefits and Use

- Over 40% of respondents strongly agree that parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services provide the following benefits: preserve natural areas and the environment (45%), improve physical health and fitness (45%) and make Gresham a more desirable place

to live (43%). Physical health and fitness is consistently chosen as the most important benefit in community surveys nation-wide. Parks and recreation offerings should focus on facilities and services that promote health and wellness as a high priority.

- Nearly 85% of respondents indicated that they have used at least one of the parks, trails, and recreation facilities operated by the City of Gresham over the past 12 months. The Springwater Trail, followed by Main City Park, were the two most-visited sites.

City as Primary Provider

- Household residents use indoor and outdoor parks and recreation facilities provided by the City of Gresham more than any other provider. The next highest utilized organizations (the most or second most) by resident households are schools (16%) and State of Oregon Parks (16%).
- 25% of household respondents indicated that they use indoor and outdoor facilities provided by the City of Gresham Parks and Recreation Division either the most or the second most compared to their usage of the thirteen public, non-profit and private organizations available to City of Gresham residents.
- Only 6% of resident households use the YMCA for indoor and outdoor activities and only 1% of resident households use the YMCA the most or second most for indoor and outdoor facilities. These ratings are significantly lower than the national benchmarking average of 19% of households who use YMCA outdoor and indoor facilities.

Parks and Facilities

- Opportunities exist to improve the conditions of the parks and recreation sites.
- Nearly three-fourths of respondents indicated that the conditions of the parks and recreation sites they visited were excellent (18%) or good (56%). This percentage is considerably lower than national benchmarking averages rating the conditions of parks as excellent (30%) or good (53%).
- Regarding barriers that prevent households from using parks and recreation facilities more often, it is noted that 15% of residents indicated that security is insufficient, which is considerably higher than the national benchmark of 7%. Improving perception of safety

is critical in increasing resident's use of parks and recreation facilities.

- Walking and biking trails (67%); small neighborhood parks (64%) and nature trails (59%) were the three types of outdoor parks and recreation facilities noted as most needed by respondents.
- Respondents noted the greatest need for the following types of indoor facilities: indoor swimming pools/leisure pools (39%); indoor fitness and exercise facilities (34%); and indoor running/walking track (30%).
- According to public input, the City of Gresham and other providers in the City are doing poorly at meeting the high priority indoor park and facility needs; 24% of those who have a need for indoor fitness and exercise facilities indicated that 0% of their needs are being met by any facility provider in the City of Gresham. In addition, 35% of those who have a need for indoor swimming pools/leisure pools indicate that 0% of their needs are being met by any facility provider in the City of Gresham.

Recreation Programs

- Currently the City of Gresham Parks and Recreation Division does not actively provide recreation, fitness and cultural programs. The survey asked residents for their needs, unmet needs, and priorities on 21 different types of programs. Special events (44%), adult fitness and wellness programs (41%), and adult continuing education programs (34%) were the three types of recreation, fitness and cultural programs most needed by City of Gresham households.
- Unmet needs are particularly high for special events, adult fitness and wellness programs, nature programs/environmental education and adult programs for those 50 years of age or older.
- Adult fitness and wellness programs are the most important program to households. 25% of households indicate adult fitness and wellness programs as one of their four most important programs, and over 10% of households indicated it as the most important program area, the highest of any program area.
- 73% of household respondents feel that the City of Gresham should offer recreation, fitness, and cultural programs, (only 9% indicate that the City should not offer programs at all). A remaining 18% of household respondents are "not sure". Of those who feel that the City should offer programs, a slight majority feel the programs should be funded by a combination of taxes and fees, while the

remaining feel the programs should be funded 100% from fees from participants.

Priority Improvements

- The survey asked respondents to indicate which of 15 possible actions they would most support to improve the parks and recreation system. The most-supported actions include: develop walking/biking trails and connect existing trails (47%), improve habitat quality in existing natural areas (46%), upgrade existing community parks (45%), upgrade existing neighborhood parks (44%) and improve park maintenance (44%). 55% of respondents were either very supportive or somewhat supportive of all 15 possible actions.
- Respondents were also asked to indicate the four benefits they would be most willing to fund with their tax dollars. Based on the sum of respondent's top four choices, develop walking/biking trails and connect existing trails (28%) is the action respondents would be most willing to fund with their tax dollars. Other actions that respondents would be most willing to fund with their tax dollars are: upgrade existing neighborhood parks (23%), develop a new indoor aquatic facility (22%) and purchase land to preserve natural areas (21%). It should also be noted that purchase land to preserve natural areas was selected most often as respondent's first choice.
- Respondents were asked to allocate \$100 in fictional resources to improve parks and recreation facilities. Respondents allocated \$48 to improvements/maintenance of existing parks and facilities and \$52 was allocated as follows: development of new recreation and parks facilities (\$23) and acquisition of new parkland and natural areas (\$22) and other (\$7).

Satisfaction

- Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the overall value their household receives from the City of Gresham Parks and Recreation Division. More than half indicated they were very satisfied (17%) or somewhat satisfied (36%) with the overall value respondent households receive from the Gresham City Parks and Recreation Division. The national averages are 26% very satisfied and 34% somewhat satisfied for a total of 60% of residents being either very or somewhat satisfied.

ADULT QUESTIONNAIRE

The Adult Questionnaire was distributed by the City of Gresham between May and July 2007. Paper copies of the questionnaire were available at the Downtown and Rockwood libraries, high schools, and at other community locations, including the Gresham Historical Society, Zimmerman House Historical Museum, and at downtown coffee houses. The questionnaire also was available online at the City's website. A total of 494 residents completed the questionnaire.

Key Findings

- Most respondents were either somewhat or very supportive of many possible improvements to the parks and recreation system.
- Main City Park was used by more questionnaire respondents (80.3%) than any other City of Gresham park, trail or facility in the last 12 months.
- Out of 12 benefits of parks and recreation, 27% of respondents chose "Making Gresham a more desirable place to live" as the benefit most important to them.
- The majority (59%) of respondents rated the parks and recreation sites in Gresham that they have visited as in good physical condition. This rating is not as high as generally seen in other agencies.
- Lack of time, distance from residence, insufficient security, and lack of knowledge of what is offered are the top reasons indicated by Gresham residents for not using the City's parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services.
- The facility with the most reported unmet need is an outdoor swimming pool/water park.
- Over 80% of residents responding reported that these recreation facilities are meeting their needs by 50% or less: skate park, off-leash dog park, indoor running/walking track, indoor basketball/volleyball courts, indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming, and indoor swimming pools/leisure pool.
- The recreation program with the most reported unmet need was travel programs.
- Over 80% of residents responding reported that these recreation program needs are 50% met or less: programs for teens; adult art, dance, performing arts; adult programs for 50 years and older; adult sports programs; youth art, dance, performing arts; nature

programs/environmental education; tennis lessons and leagues; and special events.

- Residents were divided on how the City should allocate future spending. Slightly more people favored funding improvements to existing parks and facilities, and development of new parks and facilities, over additional land acquisition.
- The majority of respondents (62%) were at least somewhat satisfied with the Gresham City Parks and Recreation Division. However, this response is lower than generally seen in other agencies where satisfaction rates are typically 80%.

YOUTH QUESTIONNAIRE

The Youth Questionnaire was distributed by the City of Gresham between May and July 2007. Paper copies of the questionnaires were distributed to all Gresham high schools. In addition, paper copies of the questionnaire were available at the downtown and Rockwood libraries, and at other community locations, including the Gresham Historical Society, Zimmerman House Historical Museum, and at downtown coffee houses. The questionnaire also was available online at the City's website. A total of 252 youth completed the questionnaire.

Key Findings

- Nearly 74% of youth reported that they or family members have used the Springwater Trail in the last 12 months. This is the most frequently-used park or facility in the system followed by Main City Park (67%) and Red Sunset Park (63%).
- Most respondents (47%) ride with someone else to get to parks or recreational activities.
- About a quarter of Youth Questionnaire respondents reported that lack of transportation keeps them from visiting parks and recreation sites often.
- Playing sports was the top reason respondents use Gresham parks (34%), followed by meeting friends/hanging out (25%).
- An aquatic facility was most frequently mentioned (30%) as the type of recreation facility that most needed.
- Turf fields (22%), skate park (22%), and swimming pool (20%) were the sports facilities youth respondents thought were most needed.

- The recreation programs youth respondents thought were most needed were extreme sports/outdoor adventure (19%), special events (16%), aquatic programs (15%), and sports (15%).
- The facility with the most reported unmet need is an outdoor swimming pool/water park.
- Over 70% of youth responding reported that these recreation facilities are meeting their needs by 50% or less: skate park, indoor swimming pools/leisure pool, off-leash dog park, outdoor tennis courts, community gardens, disc golf, and indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming.
- Three of the eight facilities with the greatest unmet need were aquatic facilities.

SPORTS GROUP SURVEY

MIG, Inc. and the City of Gresham conducted a targeted questionnaire sent out to organized sport providers to determine the needs of sports groups in Gresham.

Key Findings

- The top needs expressed were more field maintenance and permitted playing enforcement.
- Other needs included irrigation, new fencing, grass infields, and more available practice time.
- Some teams thought City fields are too expensive.
- Enforcement is needed to keep players off muddy fields, because non-permit players ruin fields for permit players.
- Many new amenities are needed, such as restrooms, field lights, more soccer fields, and parking (especially at Pat Pfeiffer Park).

FOCUS GROUPS

A critical part of the public involvement process was gathering input from Gresham's underserved populations. Three groups: seniors, Spanish-speakers, and youth met to discuss their park and recreation issues, needs, and priorities. A total of thirty residents participated in these focus groups.

SENIORS FOCUS GROUP

Advocates and members of Gresham's senior community met on May 31, 2007, at the Gresham Senior Center to discuss park and recreation issues, needs, and priorities. Six participants contributed a variety of thoughts regarding the use of Gresham parks by seniors. These are summarized below.

Key Findings

- Participants noted that a variety of barriers prevent seniors from using City parks and facilities. These include issues such as safety, accessibility, and transportation, as well as park design flaws such as a lack of shade, restrooms, and protection from the wind. Also, many seniors lack adequate transportation to existing parks and facilities, or do not know what parks and recreation resources are available.
- Participants stressed the need to pool resources among potential partner agencies, like the City and the Senior Center, in order to provide better programs for Gresham residents.
- Improved marketing and outreach would keep seniors more involved in recreation, particularly with low-cost programs targeted toward meeting senior needs.
- Seniors would like to see more dog parks, softball fields, a skate park with seating, exercise stations geared for seniors, and trail networks.
- A variety of programming needs were also highlighted by focus group participants: low-cost programming for all ages, evening programming for seniors, leagues for seniors (e.g., senior softball league), dances in the park, and concerts in the park.
- When asked to identify their highest priorities, focus group participants indicated the following: develop partnerships, hire a grant-writing person to work across the public and non-profit sectors, develop activities for youth, improve park amenities to enhance comfort, and improve park design to provide safer facilities.

SPANISH SPEAKERS FOCUS GROUP

Members of Gresham's Spanish-speaking community met on May 31, 2007, at El Programo Hispano, to discuss needs and priorities for Gresham parks and recreation. Thirteen participants contributed a variety of thoughts related to park use, recreation issues, and park and programming needs. Their comments are summarized below.

Key Findings

- Participants felt that maintenance, safety, and security could be improved at all existing park sites.
- In addition, parks could be improved by ensuring that basic amenities, such as water fountains, trash receptacles, and restrooms (with diaper changing stations), are provided at all City parks.
- Focus group participants felt that Gresham needs additional community gathering spaces where festivals, events, and a Hispanic market could be hosted.
- Additional desired facilities, such as soccer fields, playgrounds, water play areas, and picnic shelters, reflect a need for socially-oriented, active and passive-use facilities in parks.
- Finally, marketing and outreach to the Spanish-speaking community can be improved by using bilingual materials and by advertising through Spanish community programs.
- Focus group participants reported frequent use of several of the City's parks: Red Sunset Park, Davis Park, Vance Park, and Main City Park were among the most popular.
- Many participants lived in apartments that lack outdoor recreation space, so parks are critical to family health, wellness, and quality of life. Many participants walk to parks, so proximity of parks was an important factor in use, as was access to public transportation. Participants most frequently used nearby parks and sites that were the most conducive to social gatherings.
- Participants also suggested several potential types of recreation programs that the City could develop. These included: special events (e.g., market with food, dancing, singing, and activities for kids), soccer leagues, activities for children, dancing and singing classes, swimming lessons, exercise classes, activities for babies and preschoolers, and a transportation program.

YOUTH FOCUS GROUP

Youth representatives met on May 31, 2007, at one of Gresham's newest high schools, the Springwater Trail High School, to discuss park and recreation needs and priorities in the community. Eleven participants contributed a variety of thoughts regarding the use of Gresham parks by teens and youth. Key findings are summarized below.

Key Findings

- Youth participants identified a variety of needs in Gresham's park and recreation system, including mostly active-use facilities (skate park, water park, climbing gym, sports facilities), along with some passive recreation opportunities (youth center, trails, picnic areas), and basic recreation amenities.
- Desired programming options included active programs, social gatherings, and special events that would appeal to teens and youth.
- Youth also desired volunteer and employment opportunities within the park system.
- Several park and facility needs were identified by the focus group. These included mostly active-use facilities, along with some passive recreation opportunities and basic recreation amenities.
- Participants also highlighted a variety of programming needs such as dances, movies-in-the parks, concerts or Battle-of-the-Bands, field games, cooking programs.
- Other program ideas youth had were activities/special events targeted to youth (e.g., paintball event, skate or BMX event), concession stand run by high school students, a program for high school kids to act as security guards at parks or special events, job opportunities, and internet access for youth.

COMMUNITY INTERCEPT EVENTS

Three intercept events were held to solicit public opinion about parks and recreation. The events were held at the Farmer's Market in downtown Gresham on May 12, 2007, at a DES monthly meeting on May 23, 2007, and at a second Farmer's Market on June 11, 2007. Two hundred twenty-six residents, representing a wide range of age groups, participated in an interactive voting exercise at these events. Residents were asked to use dot stickers to indicate their preferences on three major parks and recreation issues. They were also asked to record additional comments and memorable experiences in Gresham's parks and natural areas. Finally, residents identified budget priorities for parks, facilities, and programs in Gresham.



Key Findings

- In nearly all questions, residents valued natural areas and social opportunities. According to responses, the most important benefit of parks and recreation is to preserve natural areas and the environment.
- Participants supported the acquisition and development of parks and natural areas. More large, multi-use parks and waterfront parks are needed, along with skate parks and trails. Many favorite memories involved trail use, outdoor/nature experiences, and social opportunities.
- From a list of ten options, residents were asked to select the most important benefit provided by parks and recreation. Preserving natural areas and the environment was chosen by the most respondents (27%) as the most significant benefit. Improving physical health (17%) and reducing crime (16%) were frequently selected as well.
- Residents indicated budget priorities for funding park and recreation improvements by placing three pennies in labeled jars. Most residents (23%) were willing to fund the development of currently owned parks and natural areas. Buying land for new parks and natural areas (20%) and improving maintenance at existing parks and facilities (17%) were the second and third most frequently selected choices. Although Gresham has no recreation programs, few residents (5%) supported City-provided programming in this exercise.
- Residents were asked to choose the type of park that Gresham needs most from a list of seven options. At the first Farmer's Market, participants indicated that large, multi-use parks (27%), parks with river, creek or water frontage (24%), and small neighborhood parks (23%) were needed. However, results at the other two events indicated that participants wanted more large parks and water frontage.
- All respondents (100%) indicated that more parks are needed.
- Residents were asked to identify the most needed type of recreation facility in Gresham. At the first Farmer's Market, 21% of residents strongly favored a skate park. Many respondents were also interested in trails and pathways (13%), off-leash dog parks (12%), and swimming pools (11%). At the second Farmer's Market, trails and pathways received more than twice as many votes as the next most popular facility, skate parks.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Between June 11 and August 23, 2007, MIG, Inc., conducted 23 interviews with key stakeholders and community leaders from the City of Gresham. The interviewees represented a variety of organizations, and most had both a personal and professional relationship with parks and recreation.

Key Findings

- Stakeholders felt that the social benefits offered by parks and recreation are most important to City residents in Gresham. These benefits include building community, improving community identity and neighborhood character, and offering social space for gatherings and interaction.
- Stakeholders suggested that residents also appreciate the personal, economic, and environmental benefits provided by parks, open space, and trails.
- Funding is the biggest challenge affecting many service areas in Gresham, and the City needs better strategies to fund park acquisition, development, maintenance, and operations.
- Safety was also identified as a significant issue. To a lesser extent, issues such as City growth, community identity, and organizational challenges were noted as well.
- Stakeholders were divided in their comments regarding how familiar residents are with Gresham parks, open spaces, and trails. However, interviewees consistently noted that parks are underused, whether it is because of a lack of knowledge of park resources or due to other issues, such as public perceptions, busy schedules, and general community inactivity.
- Stakeholders also had conflicting opinions of what Gresham neighborhoods are under-served by parks and recreation facilities, which shows that a level of service analysis would be greatly beneficial. Several respondents felt that the City has a reasonable amount of park acreage, but that development in terms of amenities and facilities was lacking. Others felt that southeast Gresham, Pleasant Valley, Rockwood, and Persimmon are underserved.
- From responses, it appeared that there is sufficient open space and greenways in the City. While park land should be preserved before the opportunity is lost to do so, stakeholders felt that money would be better spent on improving connectivity (trails) and developing existing sites. Both active facilities (such as skate parks, sports fields,

basketball courts, and a track) and passive facilities (such as picnic shelters, playgrounds, festival and programming space) are needed.

- While recreation programming is desired, many stakeholders felt it was a low priority for the City. Instead, they suggested that schools, partners, and the private sector may be able to better fund recreation programs.
- Stakeholders mentioned several under-served groups who would benefit from programming, including teens, youth, seniors, and Latinos.
- Developing and maintaining parks and facilities are the two highest priorities for increasing recreation opportunities in Gresham. However, the funding challenge was reiterated time and time again as a barrier to implementing park improvements. Strategies for addressing the funding crisis included using volunteers for maintenance, prioritizing projects, and considering all types of funding options (such as bonds, levies, taxes, developer contributions).

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

City staff conducted 11 community presentations from July to September 2007 to gather public opinion on Gresham's parks and recreation needs and priorities. A total of 287 residents attended presentations at the following groups:

- Optimist's
- SW Neighborhood Association
- Eagles
- Rockwood Kiwanis
- Breakfast Lion's Club
- Girl Scouts
- NW Neighborhood Association
- Historic Downtown Kiwanis
- GromShop Skatefest
- E. Wilkes Neighborhood Association
- Kiwanis - Early Risers
- Lion's Supper Club

Key Findings

- Workshop attendees would like the City to provide more recreation programs and facilities. The most frequently mentioned need was for a skate park.
- Attendees would also like the City to solicit volunteers, develop more community gardens, and update existing trails/resurface park pathways.

STAFF INTERVIEWS

Eight individuals, including City staff and Park and Recreation Citizen Advisory Committee members, were interviewed on April 12 and April 26, 2007. Interviewees answered a variety of questions regarding their perceptions of issues and challenges facing the community, park and recreation needs and/or priorities, and potential improvements for the Division's organization.

Key Findings

- The biggest issues and challenges faced by the Parks and Recreation Division include a shortage of funding for staffing and improvements, a lack of community support, crime and safety in parks, and staff overload in addressing the needs of a growing community.
- The major trends that are affecting parks and recreation services provided by the City of Gresham included the inability to sustain current resources with minimal funding, and the need for more parks and facilities, program opportunities, outreach and services for Gresham's growing and diverse community, and more volunteers and partners to support parks and recreation.
- Of several park and recreation facility improvements needed in Gresham, a clear priority was the development of numerous undeveloped or underdeveloped parks.
- Additional parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open spaces are needed in many areas of the City.
- Staff identified many needed park and facility maintenance improvements, such as increased staffing, additional maintenance funding, park design that takes maintenance into account, replacement of aged facilities, and cost-saving measures.
- Staff opinion was divided on the highest priority improvement needed for parks, recreation facilities, natural areas, maintenance or recreation programming. Some staff felt that it is most important to

maintain existing resources, while others wanted more funding to acquire and develop new parks. Several mentioned the need for a major success to build public support.

- In order to address funding shortages, staff felt that the following options should be considered: a bond, an evaluation of SDCs, additional partnerships, and broadening the park district to include nearby communities.
- More staff and better teamwork is needed to improve the Parks and Recreation Division.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Three committee meetings were held in April 2007 to discuss goals for the Master Plan, strengths and weaknesses of the existing park and recreation system, and a vision for the future of Gresham parks and recreation. These included the Community Advisory Committee (11 members), Technical Advisory Committee (15 members), and Park and Recreation Advisory Committee (seven members). All committees had similar discussions and suggestions. Members noted strengths of the park system, such as natural area acquisition and trail connectivity. Committees strongly emphasized the need to encourage widespread, sustained public involvement in Gresham's parks, and the need to serve the entire community. Target groups included youth, diverse community members, and underserved neighborhoods. Key weaknesses noted were lack of development, operations, and maintenance funding, as well as lack of programs and sports fields.

Committee members emphasized a need for collaboration between public, non-profit, and private entities in Gresham as a way to build momentum, develop parks and facilities, and finance proposed improvements. All committee members stressed the lack of marketing and outreach on the part of the Gresham Parks Division as a major weakness. Members suggested that by making the community aware of the benefits of parks and recreation and the Division's existing financial situation, the Division could build substantial community support and, potentially, create funding opportunities. Funding was a major theme of all discussions; members repeatedly emphasized the need to secure stable short- and long-term funding through creative, alternative mechanisms.

RECREATION PROGRAM NEEDS



5. RECREATION PROGRAM NEEDS

While the fourth largest city in Oregon, Gresham offers fewer programming options than desired or expected. Financial constraints have forced the City of Gresham to eliminate its recreation programming. Therefore, other recreation providers play a critical role in meeting sport and recreation needs.



Many City parks and recreation agencies provide recreation programs. According to the most recent survey conducted by the International City/County Management Association, 91% of 310 western cities and counties provide at least one type of recreation program. According to a 1996 benchmarking survey conducted by the Oregon Recreation and Park Association, 51% of the 39 Oregon agencies participating in the study had a community center.

This chapter of the Community Needs Assessment examines the demand for recreation programming, the services provided by others, and the trends affecting recreation participation, in order to determine the need for new or enhanced programming in Gresham.

EXISTING RECREATION PROGRAMS

In 1995, the City of Gresham Parks and Recreation Division completed an evaluation of recreation programming as part of the planning process to develop the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. During the public involvement portion of those 1995/96 planning processes, Gresham residents expressed strong support for recreation programs and felt the City should provide increased and expanded recreation programming to children, youth of all ages, seniors, and residents with disabilities. A majority of residents felt there was need for more City-provided recreation programs, as well as partnerships with schools and other providers to increase programming options.

Since that time, several bond measures and serial levies have failed, which limited the City's ability to offer programming. In FY 2005/06, Gresham's recreation programs were eliminated entirely due to budget cuts. Today, the City of Gresham provides limited recreation opportunities through Adopt-a-Park/Adopt-a-Trail, volunteer opportunities, special events, community gardening, and a summer youth camp.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

The City of Gresham offers some programming through the provision of organized volunteer opportunities in City parks:

- *Adopt-a-Park:* Groups or businesses that are Adopt-a-Park stewards maintain Gresham's parks and communicate with Park staff regarding needed improvements or repairs to park facilities.
- *Adopt-a-Trail:* Gresham's Adopt-a-Trail program is available to community groups and individuals, who maintain, construct and advocate for Gresham's trail system.
- *Naturalist Volunteers:* These volunteers guide community groups through Gresham's parks and natural areas. Naturalist volunteers are trained by the City to teach residents about the flora and fauna that inhabit Gresham's natural and urban landscapes.
- *Youth Mentors:* Adults work with youth through the Urban Rangers program, developing educational activities and guiding students' restoration projects.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community garden plots are available to Gresham residents for an annual fee of \$25.00. Community gardens are located at City Hall, Vance Park and Yamhill Park. Each garden has a volunteer Garden Manager, and 32 spaces are available for gardening. All but one of the garden sites is filled to capacity.

URBAN RANGERS SUMMER CAMP

The Urban Rangers youth day camp is a five-day program in which 12 middle school-aged conduct restoration projects in Gresham's parks and natural areas. Participants learn about the area's natural environment, take educational field trips, and keep a journal of their experiences.

PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY OTHERS

Because the City of Gresham does not provide sport, fitness, or recreation programming, City residents must rely on programs and services provided by others. Several agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses provide a variety of recreation programs directed toward the needs of children, youth, adults and seniors. These programs are offered in several service areas, such as:

- Sports
- Aquatics

- Youth Programs
- Senior Programs
- Nature Education
- Health and Wellness
- Private Fitness, Martial Arts, Dance

Current opportunities offered by other recreation program providers in Gresham are described below. These are summarized in the Recreation Provider's Matrix (Table 2).

SPORTS

Several types of sports programs are offered by providers in Gresham:

- *Various Sport Leagues:* Several soccer, softball, and baseball leagues provide team sports for Gresham youth and adults. These sport leagues are noted in Table 2. According to local providers, approximately 1,000 youth and adults participate in Gresham soccer leagues and camps each year. Approximately 450 youth and adults participate in softball and baseball leagues annually.
- *Police Activity League of Portland (PAL):* PAL operates a year-round football program for children ages 9 to 15. This league serves approximately 70 youth each year. In addition, the organization operates the Youth Center at Pat Pfeifer Park, where some sport and fitness classes are provided.
- *Mt. Hood YMCA:* Located about four miles from Gresham in neighboring Troutdale, the YMCA provides a variety of recreational sports programs and leagues for Gresham residents. Sports include summer camps for baseball, basketball, flag football, golf, paintball, soccer, tennis and volleyball. Fall classes and leagues include volleyball, indoor soccer, flag football, and basketball.
- *Special Olympics Oregon:* Special Olympics provides programs for adaptive recreation and competitive sports for both youth and adults with disabilities.
- *Multnomah Cricket Club:* The cricket club serves the Gresham area, providing opportunities for play for about 25 participants.

AQUATICS

There are three aquatic facilities in Gresham where swimming programs are provided:

- *Gresham High School:* The swimming pool is open to the public for classes and recreational swim times. Gresham High School offers swim instruction for pre-school through school-age students, private swim lessons, and a Swim America progress-at-your-own-rate lesson program. Pool rental is available.
- *Sam Barlow High School:* In addition to swimming instruction (pre-school age to 14 years old) and recreational swim times, the pool is used for team practices. The site also has opportunities for public pool rental.
- *Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center:* The Community College offers pool rental, lifeguard training, First Aid and CPR programs, and swim lessons for adults and children, including parent and infant/toddler classes. Water fitness programs include water aerobics, water tai chi, and classes geared toward people with mild to severe arthritis.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

A variety of opportunities are available for youth:

- *Police Activities League (PAL) Youth Center:* The PAL Youth Center serves youth ages 8 to 17. For a membership fee of \$50, youth can participate in clubs, field trips, life skills classes, fitness classes, and tournaments. The Youth Center also offers drop-in gym times and a teen center.
- *Mt. Hood Community College Summer Camps for Kids:* MHCC is a significant provider of age-appropriate summer camps for kids. Programs are offered in areas, such as outdoor adventure, extreme adventures, rock climbing, jazz/hip hop, creative movement, soccer, sports, etc. These weekly camps provide early drop-off and late-stay options.
- *Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN):* SUN is a school-based program geared toward academic achievement, health and wellness and recreational activities. In partnership with the Gresham-Barlow School District, SUN's Mission is to improve the lives of children, their families and the community by extending the school day and developing schools as "community centers" in neighborhoods.
- *YMCA of Columbia/Willamette:* The Mt. Hood YMCA offers programs for all ages, but targets many classes toward youth,

TABLE 2: CITY OF GRESHAM RECREATION PROVIDERS MATRIX

	DURATION		ACTIVITY									RESIDENTS SERVED									
	YEAR ROUND	SEASONAL	SPORTS	ARTS	AQUATIC	EDUCATION	NATURE EDUCATION	HEALTH/ WELLNESS	SPECIAL EVENTS	VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS	SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES	CITY	REGION	ALL AGES	FAMILIES	PRE SCHOOL	YOUTH	TEENS	ADULTS	SENIORS	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
SPORTS																					
Eastside Coed Soccer League		•	•								•								•		
Hispanic Soccer League		•	•								•								•		
Nova Quest (women's soccer)		•	•								•								•		
NW United Women's Soccer League		•	•								•								•		
Rockwood/Reynolds Soccer		•	•								•						•	•			
Gresham Junior Baseball		•	•								•						•				
Gresham Little League		•	•								•						•				
Gresham Girls ASA Softball			•								•						•				
Reynolds Little League			•								•						•				
Rockwood Junior Baseball		•	•								•						•				
PAL Youth Tackle Football	•		•							•	•						•				
Mt. Hood YMCA	•		•	•					•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Special Olympics Oregon			•							•			•				•	•	•		•
Multnomah Cricket Club		•	•								•								•		
Eastside United Football Club		•	•								•								•		
AQUATICS																					
Gresham High School Swim Pool	•				•									•		•	•	•	•	•	
Barlow High School Swim Pool	•				•				•				•			•	•	•	•	•	
Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center	•				•				•					•							
YOUTH PROGRAMS																					
PAL Youth Center	•		•	•		•		•	•	•			•				•	•			
Mt. Hood Community College Summer Camps		•	•	•					•			•					•				
SUN Program (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods)						•				•			•		•						
YMCA of Columbia/Willamette													•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
SENIOR PROGRAMS																					
East County Senior Center (YWCA)	•			•		•		•	•	•	•		•							•	
Gresham Senior Center				•		•		•	•	•	•	•								•	
NATURE EDUCATION																					
Johnson Creek Watershed Council ¹	•						•		•	•			•	•							•
METRO	•						•		•	•	•	•	•	•							•
Wolfree	•						•			•			•								
HEALTH & WELLNESS																					
Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center	•							•		•										•	
Boys and Girls Clubs of Portland	•		•	•		•		•		•	•		•				•	•			
OTHER OPPORTUNITIES																					
El Programa Hispano	•					•				•			•		•			•			
Gresham Library						•			•	•	•		•	•							
Mt.Hood Community College	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

¹ Other watershed councils include Fairview and Clackamas River.

including sports, acting, etc. YMCA Camp Collins, located off of Oxbow Way in Gresham, draws youth from throughout the Portland area with opportunities for day and overnight camps and activities.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

East County Senior Center and the Gresham Senior Center both offer programs for Gresham's senior residents. Activities include games, field trips, classes and social events.

NATURE EDUCATION

Nature education programs are offered by Portland METRO and several watershed council groups, such as the Johnson Creek Watershed Council. Wolfree, Inc. is a non-profit environmental education program offering year-round field-based ecological and restoration activities for school-aged youth.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Several organizations offer health and wellness programs to Gresham residents. Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center offers classes in senior fitness, health, and home safety classes for school-age children. Additionally the Boys and Girls Clubs of Portland, East County Senior Center, the Gresham Senior Center and the Police Activities League Youth Center all provide health and wellness programs for targeted groups of Gresham-area residents.

FITNESS, MARTIAL ARTS & DANCE CENTERS

There are a number of private providers in Gresham that provide health, fitness, martial arts, and dance programs. These include several gyms and athletic clubs, dance academies, etc.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the specific opportunities notes above, a few other programs in Gresham should be further noted:

- *Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC)*: In addition to the aquatic facility and summer camps noted, Mt. Hood Community College offers additional sport and recreation opportunities. For example, the college is part of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC). It fields competitive teams for baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, volleyball, cross country/track and field. It also has a rock wall, with climbing

programs open to students, staff and the general public. In addition, the college offers planetarium shows, children's theater productions, and a Child Development Center with full day childcare for children ages 1-5, open to students, staff, faculty and the community. MHCC has a Community Education Program, with activities ranging from art to exercise, communication to computers, investing to furniture building, world languages to drivers education – offered at various times and locations throughout the community. A trips and tours component is offered as well.

- *Gresham Library*: The library in Gresham is part of the Multnomah County Library System. It offers several events and classes for children, adults, seniors, families, and non-native English speakers. Examples of programs include children's storytimes, homework helpers, book groups, language exchanges and talk times, read-to-dogs programs, poetry readings, writing workshop, film series, crafts, citizenship classes, tax advice, puppet shows, family reading opportunities, etc.
- *El Programa Hispano-Gresham*: This program provides information and referral to the Hispanic Community, and a comprehensive array of social and mental health services to low-income Latinos who speak little or no English. Services include mental health counseling, drug and alcohol program, legal assistance, short-term assistance, housing assistance, ESL, citizenship classes, student retention program and gang prevention and intervention.

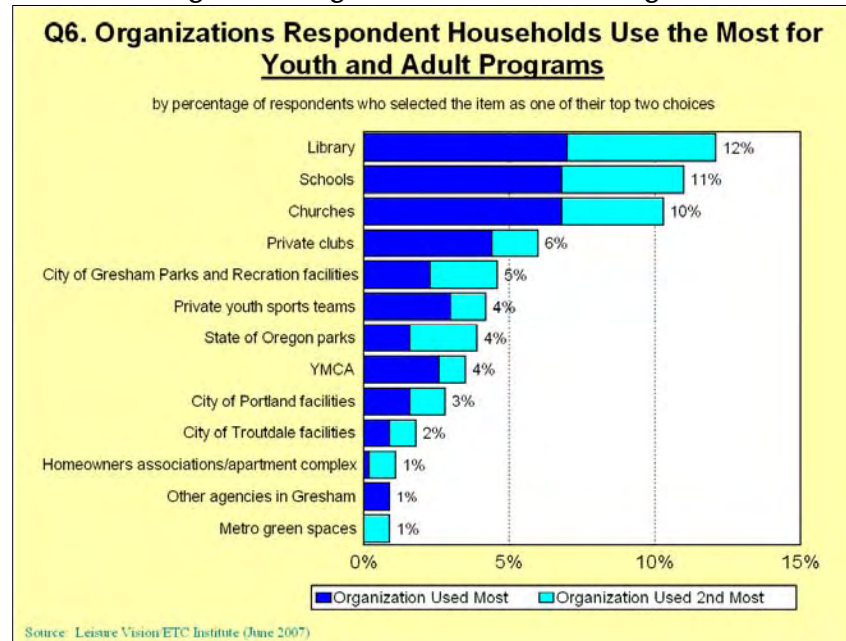
ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM NEEDS

Information on recreation participation, preferred activities, and perceived needs was gathered through the public involvement activities noted in Chapter 4. Results from multiple activities indicated that Gresham residents clearly desire more opportunities to participate in recreation programming.

CRITICAL PROGRAMMING QUESTIONS

Based on the public involvement findings, the following statements summarize findings to critical programming questions in Gresham:

- *Where do residents go to find recreation programming?* Currently, residents rely on programming opportunities that are offered by a variety of providers. Resident have relied most on the following providers for youth and adult programs: the library (12%), schools (11%) and churches (10%) (Figure 1). However, these organizations are clearly limited in the types of recreation opportunities offered.

Figure 1: Organizations Used for Programs

Source: Community Survey

While a few people travel outside of Gresham to take advantage of the programs provided by the City of Portland, the City of Troutdale, and other providers, most residents prefer nearby recreation opportunities.

- *How well are the recreation needs of residents being met by local providers?* Less than 35% of residents who completed the Community Survey indicated their household's needs were well-met in 21 program areas. Table 3, below, depicts the programming areas where residents feel that less than half of their household's needs are being met, according to the Adult Questionnaire. For example, more than 85% of respondents to the adult questionnaire indicated that the available recreation opportunities for travel, teen programs, and performing arts met less than half of their household's needs.
- *Who should provide recreation programming?* Over 70% of the respondents to the Community Survey indicated that the City of Gresham should offer recreation, fitness and cultural programs. However, they were divided in deciding how exactly the City should fund these programs. Most respondents (38%) suggested that City-provided programs should be funded through both fees and taxes, while 35% thought programs should be fully self-supporting.

- *What barriers to participation need to be addressed?* Safety, distance, comfort, cost, and transportation all provide barriers to program participation in Gresham, according to the results from many different public involvement activities. The lack of nearby recreation opportunities often has forced people to look for programming options elsewhere. Significantly, people also aren't aware of what program options are available. Transportation problems include the fact that many facilities are not accessible by foot, bike, auto, and/or bus. Crime was identified as the biggest issue of concern in the 2007 Citizens Survey, and safety has been cited as a concern when residents use City parks, trails, and services.

Table 4 summarizes the primary reasons noted in the Community Survey for not using City parks, trails, recreation facilities and services. The top five responses include:

- *What demographic groups have the greatest recreation needs?* All age groups have additional programming needs. According to the Community Survey, special events for all ages (44%), fitness and wellness programs for adults (41%), and continuing education programs for adults (34%) were identified as the greatest program needs. Many residents indicated that currently there are more services for youth than for adults, meaning that adults are a significantly underserved demographic. However, in various public involvement activities, specific programs needs were identified for children, youth, teens, adults, seniors, cultural groups, and families.
- *How should recreation opportunities be advertised to the community?* As mentioned previously, there is a perceived problem in how well residents have been informed about the recreation opportunities offered by the City and other providers. Interestingly, the most frequently mentioned way that residents learn about Gresham's parks and recreation services is from friends and neighbors (49%), not from program advertisements (See Figure 2). Respondents suggested that the City can improve marketing efforts by targeting specific groups in locations where they socialize. For

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF PROGRAMMING NEEDS

50% NEEDS MET OR LESS	TOTAL
Travel programs	87.67%
Programs for teens	85.71%
Adult art, dance, performing arts	85.63%
Adult programs for 50 years and older	84.21%
Adult sports programs	83.53%
Youth art, dance, performing arts	82.82%
Nature programs/environmental education	82.56%
Tennis lessons and leagues	82.48%
Special events, i.e. concerts, movies, etc.	82.43%
Water fitness programs	79.23%
Adult fitness and wellness programs	79.11%
Programs for people with disabilities	77.91%
Youth fitness and wellness programs	76.97%
Golf lessons and leagues	75.97%
Adult continuing education programs	70.83%
Before and after school programs	70.51%
Youth summer camp programs	69.35%
Birthday parties	68.06%
Preschool programs	62.60%
Youth learn to swim programs	60.38%
Youth sports programs	53.95%

Source: Community Questionnaire

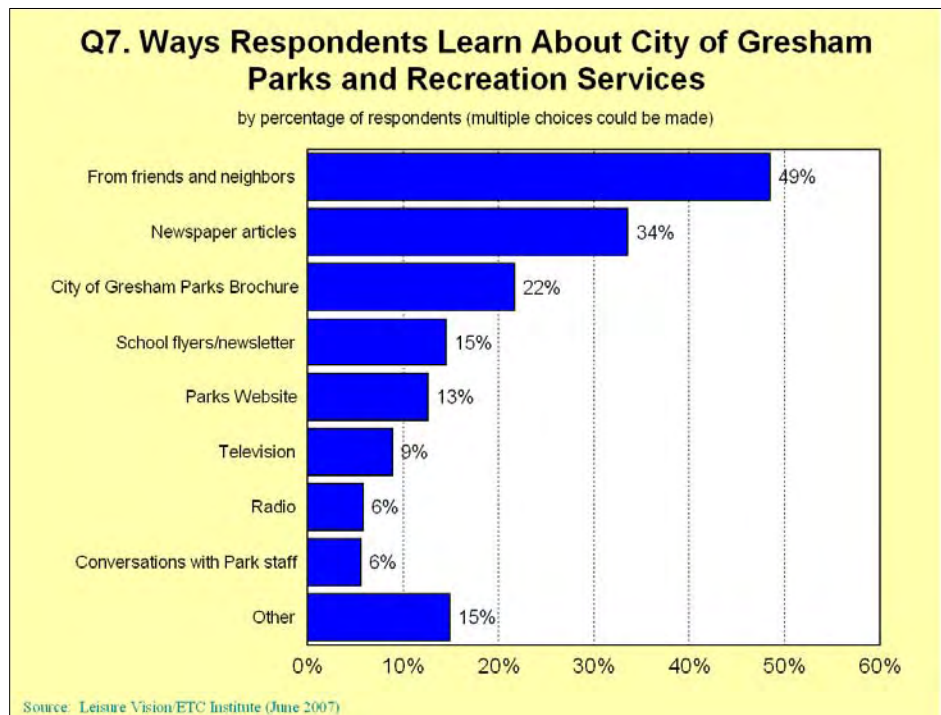
example, the City should consider providing Spanish-language materials at Mexican markets, youth outreach in schools, trail maps at community locations and trailheads, etc. The City can also serve as a clearinghouse for programming information, by collecting provider information to be able to refer others to the appropriate resources.

TABLE 4: REASONS FOR NOT USING PARKS, FACILITIES, & PROGRAMS

TOP 5 RESPONSES	TOTAL
Lack of time	41%
I do not know what is being offered	21%
Too far from our residence	15%
Security is insufficient	15%
Use parks and facilities in other cities	8%

Source: Community Survey

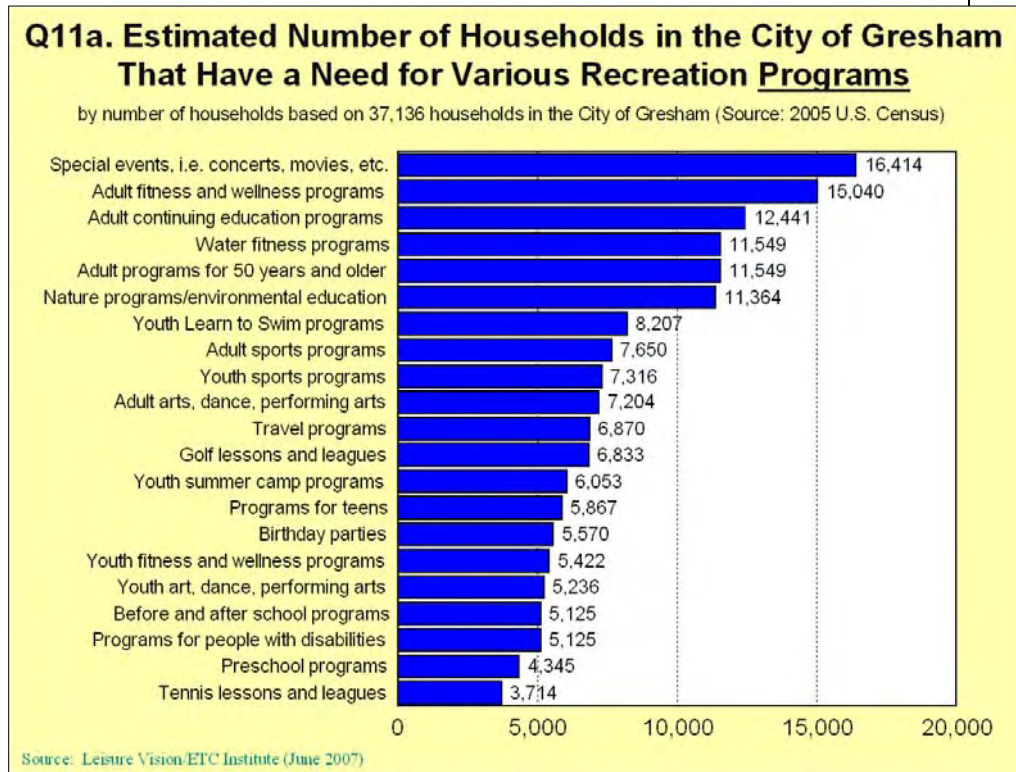
Figure 2: Ways that Residents Learn about Recreation Services



Source: Community Survey

- *How can programming be made affordable?* Low-cost programming is important for to all age groups. According to the results of public involvement activities, the City can offer scholarships, provide volunteer opportunities in exchange for programming credits, offer free special events to groups where the social benefit is high (e.g., teen dances, community events), partner with others to reduce program costs, or encourage sponsorships and donations to subsidize programming.
- *How big is the need for recreation programming?* From a list of 21 recreation programs, Community Survey respondents were asked to indicate the programs that their household has a need for (from a list of 21 choices). Figure 3 shows the estimated number of households in the City of Gresham that have a need for various recreation programs, based on 37,136 households in the City. These projections suggest, for example, that there is a potential audience of over 16,000 households who may be interested in attending a City-

Figure 3: Household Needs for Various Programs

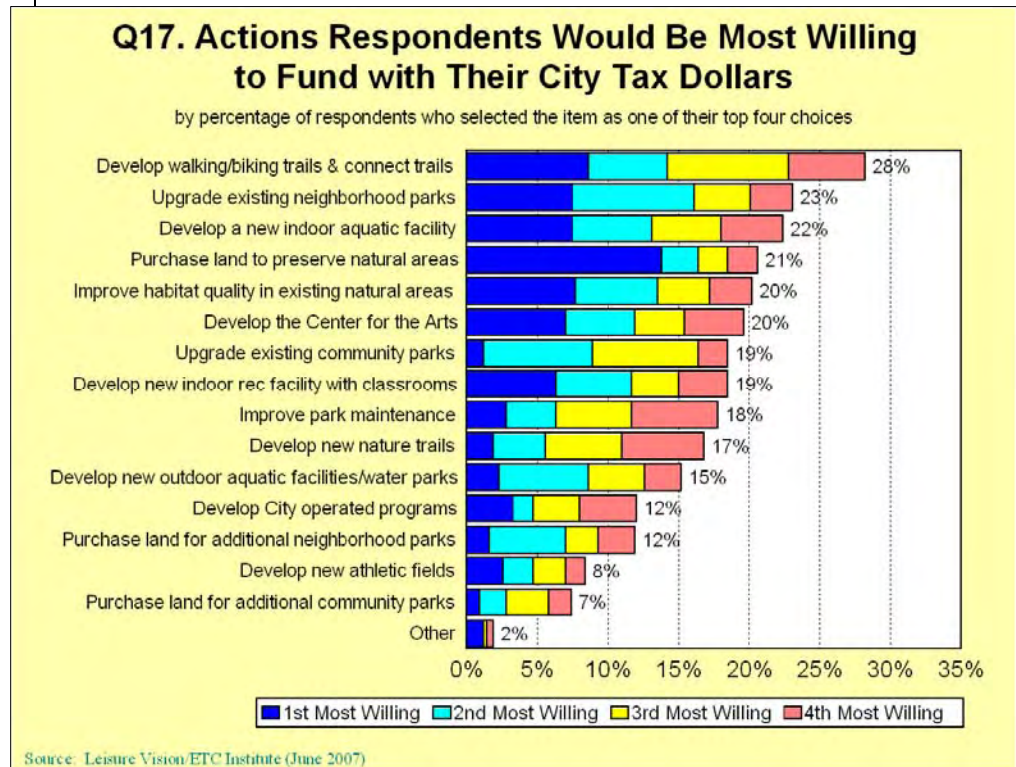


Source: Community Survey

sponsored special event. More than 15,000 households may be inclined to take advantage of City-sponsored programs in adult fitness. Obviously, there are many factors that could influence actual participation; however, the need for additional recreation programming is great.

- *Is increased programming a community priority?* Generally speaking, there is a great community desire for more and/or better recreation opportunities, as well as a great need for specific types of recreation programs. However, there is a great need for well-developed parks and recreation facilities in Gresham, along with natural areas and trails. Community priorities at this time favor developing (currently undeveloped or underdeveloped) parks and facilities, maintaining existing resources, providing additional trails, acquiring new parks and natural areas, and developing these new sites. Only 5% of the people at the Community Intercept Event noted that restoring recreation programs was a funding priority. Out of a list of 15 possible system improvements, only 12% of

Figure 4: Funding Priorities for the Park System



Source: Community Survey

Community Survey respondents chose developing City-operated programs as one of their top four funding priorities (Figure 4), ranking it 12th out of 15 priorities. Despite what appears to be a lack of support for funding City-sponsored programs, other comments contributed throughout public involvement activities suggest that certain types of programs would have tremendous support, even though, for example, general sports programs for youth would not. Programs that would be supported by residents tend to be those that provide opportunities for community gatherings and social interaction, promote community pride and identity, provide enjoyable, safe opportunities for recreation, and make Gresham a more desirable place to live. This desire to be a welcomed, integrated part of the community inspires much of the community's demand for more socially-oriented recreation facilities. Special events and targeted programs, in some cases, could be the best way to promote community use of the facilities that residents desire. Programming can also improve park safety by bringing people into parks (so that these sites don't become targets for vandalism, etc.) and creating a sense of ownership and pride in City parks. For this reason, the provision of certain types of programs goes hand in hand with City goals and identified community priorities for funding park and recreation improvements.

DESIRED PROGRAM AREAS

There are many program areas where additional services are needed to serve City residents. However, even with additional funding, the City of Gresham will be unable to meet all community needs for programming in the short term. One of the goals of this analysis is not only to identify specific program areas where programming is needed, but also to identify priority service areas where City-provided programs will serve the residents with the greatest needs. This will allow the City of Gresham to prioritize recreation programming according to available funding.

Appendix A presents an Importance-Unmet Needs Matrix, which includes an assessment of parks/facilities and programs. The Needs Matrix is a tool for assessing the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation facilities and recreation programs in the City of Gresham. Using the results of the Community Survey, Figure A-2 divides programs needs into four quadrants, based on the size of the unmet need (in terms of numbers of underserved people) and the importance that residents

placed on meeting this need. According to this assessment, the following service areas have been identified as priority needs:

Top Priorities

- Special events;
- Adult fitness and wellness;
- Adult programs for 50 years and older;
- Nature programs/environmental education;
- Adult continuing education; and
- Water fitness.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Adult arts, dances, performing arts; and
- Adult sports.

According to results from the public involvement activities, residents expressed a desire for more or better programming in the following areas. Each of these areas is discussed in more detail on the following pages.

- Special Events;
- Adult Programs;
- Nature Programs;
- Volunteerism; and
- Other Program Areas.

Special Events

In many different public involvement activities, community members expressed a strong desire for more special events. The provision of special events fits in well with the City's goal of creating a more livable community, as well as the response from residents that community livability is one of the top benefits provided by parks and recreation. Similarly, community-oriented special events support the notion of providing more opportunities for people to meet and socialize together, which helps to build stronger neighborhoods and community. When specific social events are tied to socio-cultural and historical context of the Gresham, the events can also foster and promote community identity. For example, participants in three focus groups expressed a desire for events such as dances, markets, and concerts. Movies in the

park, family fun days, sports tournaments, trail-oriented events, ice cream socials, etc., would also support the community's desire to attend more special events. As noted in the Needs Matrix in Appendix A, special events should be the City's top priority for providing programming. Because creating a livable City is an interest of many community groups and businesses, the City should be able to collaborate in the provision of special events. Partnerships, sponsorships, and even community-organized and hosted events at City parks and facilities should be pursued to support special events programming in Gresham.

Adult Programs

Following special events, the next two types of programs for which residents expressed the strongest need were adult fitness and wellness programs (41%) and adult continuing education programs (34%), as noted in the Community Survey. The discussion of existing types of recreation programs in Gresham indicates that youth have far more opportunities than adults to participate in nearby recreation programs. This translates into a far greater demand for adult programming than programs for any other demographic.

There are many different areas where adult programming can be provided. Improving physical health and fitness was one of the top benefits of parks and recreation noted by residents in many different public involvement activities. It is not surprising that adult fitness and wellness programs was identified as the second greatest priority (behind special events) in the Needs Matrix (Appendix A). As the population tends to age nationwide, programs for young seniors and older adults (50+) are also gaining in popularity. These include both active recreation (exercise classes, tennis, dancing, and non-contact sport leagues or drop-in opportunities, such as pickleball, badminton, softball) and passive opportunities (such as classes to promote life-long learning, skill-building, and socialization). Water fitness, because of its low-impact aerobic benefits, is also an area where adult recreation is desired. However, this need will be best met by Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) and Gresham-Barlow School District at their existing aquatic facilities.

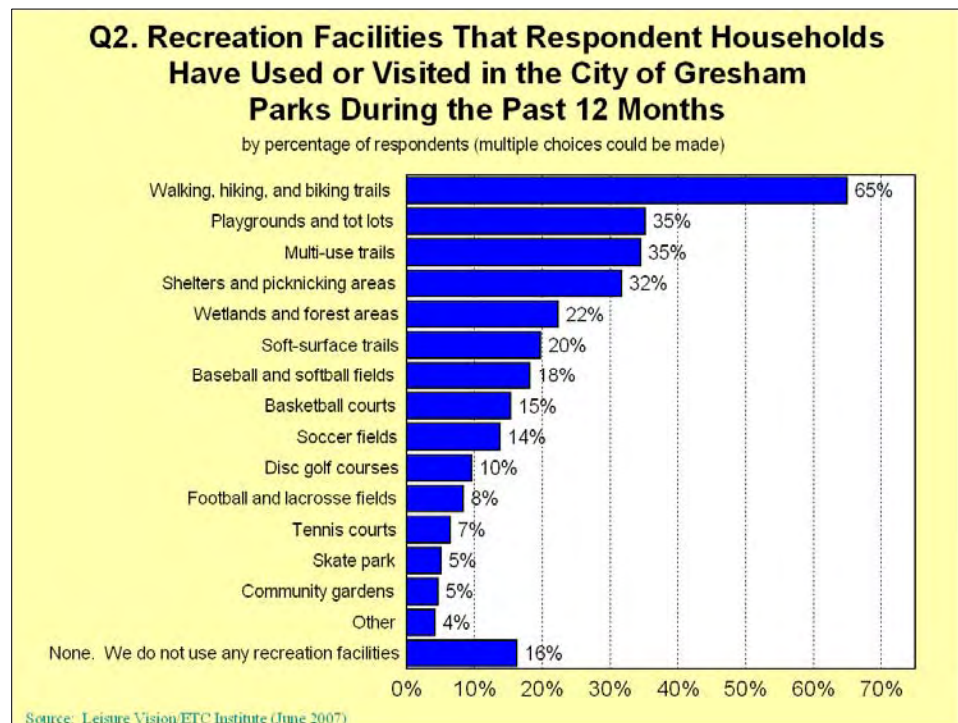
The provision of adult programming will, to some extent, depend on City facilities to determine what can be offered. On the other hand, as the City develops new facilities, opportunities to increase adult programming should be considered. In addition, the City should look to partner with other providers, especially to support the development of

water fitness programs and continuing education. Currently, MHCC has extensive opportunities for continuing education. For this reason, the City should supplement those existing educational activities with more recreation and fitness-oriented classes, as well as those for active older adults.

Nature Programs

Natural areas, greenways, and trails are very important to residents in the City of Gresham. According to respondents in the Community Survey, four of the top six recreation facilities that residents have used in the last six months include trails or natural areas (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Most Frequently Used Recreation Facilities



Source: Community Survey

To improve recreation opportunities, it makes sense to take the programs to the places where people recreate. Outdoor activities, environmental programming, and trail-related opportunities are types of nature programs that should be considered. These programs would support the City's current community gardening opportunities and Urban Rangers programs. Examples of other appropriate nature programs may include:

- Organized trail events (woof woof walks, tour de Gresham, turkey trots, power walk races, family fun runs, family treasure hunts, etc.);
- Trail clubs (senior hiking, bird watching, lunch in the park, stroller walks; mountain biking, etc.);
- Self-directed trail opportunities (nature walks, interpretive trail experiences);
- Volunteer-guided nature programs and hikes (flora and fauna identification, tree talks); and
- Outdoor activities (geocaching, orienteering, challenge courses).

Environmental education can also be a component; however, initial City programs should avoid overlapping with types of programs provided by others.

Volunteerism

Volunteers in parks can provide many benefits for the park system. However, volunteerism itself has been increasingly recognized as a significant program area, as more and more people spend their leisure time engaged in volunteer efforts. The City of Gresham should consider ways to expand its current volunteer programming, by investing staff time in recruiting, organizing, supporting, and recognizing volunteers. Public involvement activities suggest that there are many groups and many different ages of residents who may be interested in supporting City parks and recreation. These include teens/youth, who expressed an interest in volunteering at special events, such as providing youth-run concessions, parking, trash pick-up, and security (in some cases) at concerts and in the parks. These also include seniors, who indicated that they would like to have opportunities to volunteer with groups (such as Gresham Seniors) to provide programming. Volunteerism programming provides a win-win situation for the City and for the volunteers themselves. It also provides a way to increase community support and stewardship of parks, reduce maintenance and programming costs, provide opportunities for no-cost recreation by

trading volunteer hours for recreation credits, and promoting youth skill-building, training, and development.

For example, the City of Salem (population nearly 150,000) has a strong volunteer program, and reports volunteer hours equaling 40 FTEs in 2006-07. If the City of Gresham had a volunteer program of comparable size in relationship to its population, it could equal the contribution of 30 FTE. If this volunteer service was equaled to the cost of one park maintenance FTE (\$71,855), this volunteer service could contribute over \$2.1 million to the City of Gresham annually. Although volunteers would not replace professional staff, this provides a strong rationale for ensuring that Gresham citizens have an opportunity to experience and learn to value the environment.

Listed below are examples of volunteer areas that can be developed:

- Parks maintenance and stewardship: Adopt-A-Park, Adopt-A-Trail, Adopt-A-Stream, Parks Appreciation Days, Volunteers in Parks (VIPs), Sport Field Caretakers (sport organizations who agree to take on field maintenance and set-up for games), Neighborhood Park Caretakers (local residents who pick up trash, maintained landscape beds, and report other maintenance needs), Park Patrols;
- Naturalist volunteers;
- Special event volunteers; and
- Program volunteers (class instructors and/or assistants).

The City should recruit and provide opportunities targeting youth, adults, seniors, and people of various cultural backgrounds who can be liaisons between the Parks and Recreation Division and the community to help provide information on programming and involve a wide variety of people in recreation opportunities.

Other Program Areas

Residents identified several other desired program areas in the feedback they provided at public involvement activities. Although these are significant, these additional activities are not considered priority service areas at this time. When the City begins to expand its recreation programming, it should only do so in areas where needs are the greatest and the greatest benefits can be provided. The City should be cautioned against trying to expand into too many areas too quickly.

For example, residents expressed a need for additional aquatics programs, including youth learn to swim and water-based special events. The City should allow other providers to meet this need. However, the City can explore the addition of water spray/water play facilities at various parks, with family events and mobile summertime recreation programming provided at these sites.

Youth programs, particularly sports and camps, are other areas where existing providers are better suited to meet community needs. However, it is appropriate for the City to consider youth outdoor/nature programming, or family-oriented special event, as noted previously. In general, the City should be cautious in the short term about assuming a primary responsibility for any programs in Less Important or Special Needs of the Needs Matrix. However the City should consider opportunities to meet other identified program needs in these areas if funding becomes available or if another organization agrees to support the provision and all costs of the program, via partnership, by using a facility provided by the City.

PARK LAND NEEDS





6. PARK LAND NEEDS

The assessment of community needs for park land includes an examination of the Gresham park system in terms of park access, existing park acreage, and the number of planned parks in various areas of the City. In the context of a geographic and level of service analysis, park standards are proposed to determine park and facility needs for the future. The standards are based on needs identified for the park system at build-out.

Specifically, this section includes:

- A description of the *methodology* used in the analysis;
- A review of *existing parks* provided by the City of Gresham and other providers;
- A discussion of the recommended *level of service* based on comparisons to other communities;
- An *access analysis*, addressing park service areas and park capacity;
- A assessment of citywide park needs based on an analysis of population density, median income, and poverty levels; and
- A review of park needs for Springwater, Pleasant Valley, and Downtown Gresham, based on plans for these areas.

METHODOLOGY

This analysis addresses the need for additional parks and facilities in Gresham over the next 12 years. The following terms are used in this report:

- *Level of Service (LOS)*: LOS is a measure of the minimum amount of land or number of facilities needed to provide all of the recreation activities desired in a community. LOS is expressed as a ratio of acres or facilities per population.
- *Standards*: Minimum park land standards can be adopted to guide the development of a future park system. The standards proposed in this report are expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 residents.
- *Guidelines*: The need for recreation facilities within parks is discussed as a proposed minimum level of service. These LOS guidelines are expressed in terms of one facility per number of people served. Adopting formal standards for recreation facilities is not proposed.

Standards and guidelines are determined using the population data presented in Chapter 2 of this report.

- *The current population* used in the park analysis is based on January 2006 data and an estimated 98,072 residents.
- *The future population* for the 12-year planning horizon (2020) is based on a forecast of 112,100 at build-out.

The needs assessment methodology is driven by many factors, including the Vision and Priorities outlined in the Chapter 3 of this document. One of the major factors influencing the provision of parks and facilities in Gresham is the desire to provide nearby access to basic recreation amenities, including playgrounds and picnic areas for all residents. Additional factors include desires to strengthen the community, enhance health and fitness, protect natural areas and greenways, improve trail connectivity, and cultivate a livable community. These premises provide a foundation for the two approaches used to determine park and recreation needs.

- *Level of Service (LOS) Analysis:* The LOS analysis determines the need for additional acreage for neighborhood and community parks, natural areas/greenways, and special use areas to meet community desires for open space and specialized facilities. This analysis is based on community demand, as indicated in the public involvement process, along with a comparison to similar cities and park districts.
- *Access Analysis:* The access analysis determines where parks are needed to provide nearby access to basic recreation facilities for all residents in Gresham. The access analysis examines opportunities to obtain access to park service areas without crossing major barriers.

In terms of the park analysis, specific methods used in the level of service and access analysis are described in those sections.

EXISTING RESOURCES

The City of Gresham provides a variety of parks, open space, and trails for its residents. This park land includes areas designed for both passive and active recreation, as well as sites that are currently developed and undeveloped. In addition, there are parks and open spaces provided by others in the City. Map 1, in Appendix C, shows the locations of these existing park resources. The entire park inventory is summarized by provider in Appendix B, including parks and facilities provided by the

City of Gresham, schools, and other providers (City of Portland, Multnomah County, METRO, ODOT, and private providers).

PARK RESOURCES

Table 5 summarizes park acreage by park classification, as provided within the planning area. The City of Gresham Parks and Recreation Division provides nearly 1,200 acres of park land at 54 sites. This includes 240 acres at neighborhood and citywide parks (community parks, special use, and urban plazas). Many of these sites are undeveloped, meaning the City of Gresham currently provides approximately 120 developed acres of park land. The City’s inventory also includes more than 950 acres of natural areas, greenways, and trails.

Other providers in Gresham add 815 more acres of parks. As indicated in the table, this includes 484 acres of outdoor recreation areas and 277 acres of miscellaneous special use sites, including cemeteries and golf courses. Only two developed parks are noted by other providers. These include Vance Park, a 14.5-acre community park that is managed and maintained by the City. It also includes John Deere Field, an 8.8 acre neighborhood park that has two soccer fields and is otherwise undeveloped. School sites are not counted as park land; however, schools do provide facility resources that can affect the provision of park land. The Gresham-Barlow School District, Centennial School District, and Reynolds School District are significant facility providers in the area.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF GRESHAM PARKS

PARK TYPE	CITY OF GRESHAM EXISTING OR PLANNED PARKS	CITY OF GRESHAM ACRES	OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES' ACRES ^B	TOTAL ACRES
Neighborhood Parks	16	77.9	8.8	86.7
Community Parks	7	122.1	14.5	136.6
Special Use Areas	3	40.4	277.1	317.4
Urban Plazas	2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Outdoor Recreation Areas	9	712.5	484.0	1,196.5
Conservation Areas	12	138.4	31.3	169.7
Greenways	2	82.2	0.0	82.2
Trails	3	20.7	N/A	20.7
TOTAL	54	1,194.1	815.7	2,009.8

PARK DEVELOPMENT AND CONDITION

As part of the planning process, a 2007 park evaluation was conducted to assess the condition of Gresham's parks. This evaluation found that, in general, the City's park system is in fair condition. There has been a clear lack of investment in neighborhood and community parks over the past several years. As a result, the City has a large number of undeveloped as well as underutilized sites. Many of these undeveloped sites have been owned by the City for years.

Even for developed parks, not all City recreation facilities are in good condition. Most facilities in neighborhood parks are in fair condition, and community parks on average are in fair to poor condition. Consequently, park condition and facility development play a large role in the use of existing parks. A complete review of the condition of existing City facilities is provided in Appendix D.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

LOS FOR COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES

An analysis of comparable communities was undertaken for the City of Gresham. Table 6 compares Gresham's park LOS by park type to the average LOS for seven comparable communities. These include:

- Eugene, Oregon.
- Salem, Oregon
- Troutdale, Oregon
- Sandy, Oregon
- North Clackamas Park and Recreation District
- Vancouver, Washington

The comparison between the City of Gresham and these park and recreation agencies provides a way to gauge if the existing level of service (LOS) and proposed standards for parks are above or below the norm. Because this is a direct comparison of City resources, parks provided by others within the City of Gresham are not included in this analysis. Details for each community are presented in Appendix E.



TABLE 6: EXISTING COMPARABLE PARK LAND LEVEL OF SERVICE

CLASSIFICATION	GRESHAM, OR	AVERAGE LOS
URBAN PARKS		
Neighborhood Parks	0.79 /1,000	1.53 /1,000
Community Parks	1.24 /1,000	1.78 /1,000
Regional Parks	N/A	2.92 /1,000
Urban Plazas	N/A	0.01 /1,000
Metropolitan Parks	N/A	4.08 /1,000
Special Use Areas	0.41 /1,000	0.72 /1,000
Total LOS for Urban Parkland	2.44 /1,000	5.78 /1,000
NATURAL AREAS		
Natural Areas		6.44 /1,000
Outdoor Recreation Areas	7.27 /1,000	0.00 /1,000
Conservation Areas	1.41 /1,000	0.00 /1,000
Total LOS for Natural Areas	8.68 /1,000	6.44 /1,000
GREENWAYS, TRAILS, LINEAR PARKS		
Greenways	0.84 /1,000	0.00 /1,000
Trails	.21 /1,000	.59 /1,000
Linear Parks	0 /1,000	1.19 /1,000
Total LOS for Greenways, Trails, Linear Parks	1.05 /1,000	.59 /1,000
Total for All Park Types	12.18 /1,000	12.81 /1,000

As shown in the table, the City of Gresham provides less acres per 1,000 than the average of comparable providers for both neighborhood and community parks. Since Gresham's inventory includes a number of undeveloped parks, the City of Gresham's level of service is even lower than suggested. Unlike the comparable communities, the City of Gresham does not provide much in the way of other types of developed parks. For this reason, the LOS for urban parks is approximately 2.5 acres/1,000 for Gresham and over 5.78 acres/1,000 for other comparable communities. On the other hand, Gresham exceeds the LOS of other providers for natural areas, and is similar to others in the provision of trail corridors and greenways.

The Oregon Recreation and Park Association conducted a "Parks, Facilities, Staffing, and Budgeting Benchmarking" survey of parks and recreation organizations in the State of Oregon in 2006. Surveys were mailed to over 116 different parks and recreation organizations throughout the State of Oregon. A total of 39 organizations completed the survey. Despite its low response rate, the ORPA survey provides

valuable data regarding the provision of parks and recreation services. Data for the City of Gresham is included in the results.

The recently released ORPA Parks, Facilities, Staffing and Budgeting survey notes:

- *Percent of acres developed:* Of the 39 respondents, the park system with the greatest amount of development is 98% developed. The city with the lowest percentage has developed only 10% of its parks. The average system in Oregon is at least 58% developed. According to the survey, in 2006 approximately 27% of Gresham's park acreage was developed, putting Gresham at the low end of the spectrum. Based on the current inventory, only 10% of Gresham's inventory is developed, meaning the City has a great need to invest in a considerable amount of park development.
- *Acres of ALL parks per 1,000 residents:* Of the 39 respondents, the park system with the highest acreage per 1,000 population is 113.71 acres per 1,000. The lowest is 0.55 per 1,000 population. The average is 16.17 acres per 1,000 population. According to the survey, Gresham provides 11.9 acres/1,000, which is below average. Based on the City's current inventory, the current total LOS is 12.16 acres/1,000. However, as noted before, most of that acreage is provided in the form of natural areas and greenways, making Gresham way below average for other park types.

RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SERVICE

Table 7 summarizes the recommended level of service for park types in Gresham. The recommended level of service in this report is presented as a park standard that has been calculated based on the access and service area analyses that follow. These standards take into account the community's demand for additional parks and recreation opportunities, as well as the challenge the City of Gresham will face in trying to increase their level of service in so many areas. Meeting the proposed standard is dependent upon available funding and the City's ability to form partnerships to meet these park needs.

Based on the assessment of need, LOS recommendations are based on three strategies:

TABLE 7: PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE AND STANDARDS

PARK TYPE	HISTORIC NRPA STANDARDS	GRESHAM EXISTING STANDARD ^A	GRESHAM EXISTING OR PLANNED PARKS	GRESHAM ACRES	OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES' ACRES ^B	TOTAL ACRES	GRESHAM EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE (ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION)	EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE INCLUDING OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES	PROPOSED STANDARD	ADDITIONAL ACRES NEEDED TO MEET STANDARD	
										CURRENT POPULATION 98,072	PROJECTED POPULATION (BUILDOUT) 112,100
Neighborhood Parks	2.0	1.3	16	77.9	8.8	86.7	0.79	0.88	1.50	60.43	81.47
Community Parks	8.0	2.0	9	122.1	14.5	136.6	1.24	1.39	2.00	59.55	87.61
Special Use Areas			3	40.4	0.0	40.4	0.41	0.41	0.45	3.77	10.09
Urban Plazas		as needed	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.20	19.61	22.42
Outdoor Recreation Areas		10.0	9	712.5	484.0	1,196.5	7.27	12.20	12.00	-19.66	148.68
Conservation Areas			12	138.4	0.0	138.4	1.41	1.41	1.40	-1.08	18.56
Greenways			2	82.2	0.0	82.2	0.84	0.84	0.85	1.16	13.09
Trails			3	20.7	0.0	20.7	0.21	0.21	N/A		
TOTAL	10.0	13.3	56	1,194.1	507.3	1,701.41	12.18	16.94	18.40	123.79	381.91

^A Existing Standards as defined in *City of Gresham Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan* (1996). The 1996 open space standard has been applied to the new outdoor recreation area classification.

^B Includes John Deer Field, Vance Park, and Metro Open Space as categorized in Appendix B. Other park types were not included because of their private or non-recreational use.

- *Increase the level of service for urban parks.* The community's demand for certain types of recreation experiences is strong, as documented in the public involvement findings. Based on the number of currently underserved areas, along with a greater need for recreation opportunities in the future, standards have been created to provide direction for meeting a higher level of service for neighborhood parks, community parks, special use areas, and urban plazas. As indicated in Recreation Facility Needs in Chapter 7 of this document, fully developing existing and proposed sites is also a priority.
- *Maintain the current level of service for natural areas and greenways.* As the population continues to grow, the City of Gresham should at a minimum maintain the current level of service for outdoor recreation areas, conservation areas, and greenways. Based on the guidelines that reflect this strategy, additional facilities will be needed in the future to meet the growing needs of the City. As a minimum guideline for level of service, the City should exceed these guidelines whenever it has the opportunity to do so. However, because of Gresham's many past natural area acquisitions, these parks are a lesser need than urban developed parks, at this time.
- *Support trail development, using appropriate means for obtaining access to trail corridors.* This may or may not involve land acquisition, so it is impossible to determine an acreage standard for trail corridors at this time. Trail development most likely will require a collaborative role where the City of Gresham partners with others to acquire some trail corridors and develop trails along planned and desired routes. Because of these anticipated partnerships, it is difficult to isolate a linear park standard for the Division to achieve.

These standards are also based on priority sites identified in the Springwater Community Plan, Pleasant Valley Concept Plan, and the Downtown Development Strategy, which are discussed separately from other park needs.

NEED FOR DEVELOPED URBAN PARKS

The standards proposed in Table 7 are based on a recommended level of service that takes a somewhat conservative approach to the needs identified in the park land assessment that follows. Based on the analysis alone, Table 8 summarizes the recommended level of service for developed urban parks in Gresham based on planned and proposed

parks. The table identifies the number of sites needed, along with the estimated acreage for these sites by park type. The acreage shown reflects an estimated minimum and maximum park size based on the vision for that community and information conveyed in the conceptual plans. The data quantifies the “increased need” that was noted for urban parks above, which was translated into a recommended LOS standard for those park types.

NEED FOR OTHER PARK TYPES

The standards proposed in Table 7 for outdoor recreation areas, conservation areas, and greenways reflect a rounding of the current level of service for these park types. As the City continues to grow, additional acreage will be needed to maintain this LOS. It is anticipated that acquisition of additional open space areas should reflect identified open space goals for Springwater, Pleasant Valley, and Downtown, as noted later in this report.

TABLE 8: IDENTIFIED NEED FOR DEVELOPED PARKS BY AREA

	CITYWIDE		SPRINGWATER		PLEASANT VALLEY		DOWNTOWN		TOTAL	
	# OF SITES	TOTAL ACRES	# OF SITES	TOTAL ACRES	# OF SITES	TOTAL ACRES	# OF SITES	TOTAL ACRES	# OF SITES	TOTAL ACRES
Neighborhood Parks	10	20-60	1	6-10	8	32-96	1	5-8	20	63-174
Community Parks	2	20-40	2	25-45	1	13-90			5	58-175
Special Use Areas							1	8-10	1	8-10
Urban Plaza			2	4-8	7	7-14	5	5-10	14	14-32
Total Parks	12	40-100	5	35-63	16	52-200	7	18-28	40	143-391



PARK ACCESS ANALYSIS

In a good park system, parks should be situated so that facilities and open space are easily accessible to potential users. For this reason, park access is one of several key criteria in establishing an appropriate level of service for the provision of park land. In the City of Gresham, the need for park access is based on the assumption that basic park amenities should be provided within walking distance of all City residents.

DEFINING SERVICE AREAS

In Appendix C, Maps 2-7 evaluate the service area coverage for existing and proposed neighborhood, community, and special use parks based on the access these sites provide for local recreation opportunities. Several important factors influence park access, relating to how people get to and use parks and recreation facilities. The following factors were considered in determining appropriate service areas for in the access analysis:

- *Transportation Modes:* People travel to and from parks in a variety of ways. The primary modes of travel include walking, bicycling, driving, and using public transportation. In most communities, neighborhood parks are designed to be accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists. Community parks are typically accessible by foot, bicycle, bus transit, and car within a reasonable driving distance.
- *Service Barriers:* For all park users, a variety of physical (infrastructure) and natural barriers limit access to parks. One obvious obstacle for pedestrians is a lack of sidewalks or off-street pathways. A good road network can provide access to parks, but it can also create perceptual or physical barriers to reaching certain sites. Crossing a major street may be an obstacle to a child walking to a park, even if s/he does live nearby. Beside major roadways, there are a variety of other barriers that limit access to parks in Gresham. Landscape barriers, such as buildings, fences, and private property, can block access to a park site. For example, a park surrounded by private property may only have an entry point at one gate, which lengthens the distance a person must travel to use the park facilities.
- *Access Points:* Parks and trails in the City of Gresham have a series of access points that allow residents to use recreation facilities. On the maps, access points are represented by yellow triangles. For parks, access points are located where trails and streets enter or intersect the site and no barriers exist (such as fencing or protected natural areas). Trail access points are located at the beginning and ending of trail segments, along with any point where a trail crosses a street. For parks along major arterial roadways, the park is considered accessible to pedestrians only on the same side of the street as the park. However, the park would be more accessible to automobiles (because the street is not a barrier), or even to some bicyclists if the street has a designated bike lane.
- *Travel Distance:* The distance people are willing to travel to reach a recreational amenity depends on the appeal of the amenity and, as

mentioned previously, the mode of travel chosen for the trip. People are willing to travel further for amenities that are more unique and larger in scale. Recreation participants are also willing to travel further when traveling by car versus traveling by foot or by bike. Generally speaking, the distance people are willing to travel to get to a park or trail can be determined by studying user preferences and abilities. Typical pedestrians are willing to walk between ¼ and ½ mile (5-10 minutes) to reach a park destination. Bicyclists are willing to travel approximately a ½ - ¾ mile to reach a destination, assuming that they don't have to cross major barriers to get to their destination.

- *Service Area Reach:* Table 9 notes the service areas for the basic recreation amenities identified for this analysis. Based on this information, it was determined that basic recreation amenities should be provided within ½ mile of most residents. A 1/2-mile service area reach, minus the areas cut off by travel barriers, was used to determine the access areas noted on Maps 2-7.

TABLE 9 : SERVICE AREA REACH FOR BASIC RECREATION AMENITIES

AMENITY	PEDESTRIANS	BICYCLISTS
Playgrounds	¼ mile	1/2 to 3/4 mile
Sports courts	¼ mile	1/2 to 3/4 mile
Picnic area/shelter	¼ mile	1/2 to 3/4 mile

PARK ACCESS

The geographic analysis of access to parks in Gresham is presented in Appendix C, Map 2. This map illustrates the areas of the City within the ½ mile distance along the street and trail network without crossing any of the defined barriers described earlier. In addition to existing, developed parks in City ownership, service areas are defined for undeveloped parks, parks owned by other jurisdictions, and elementary schools, which provide many of the basic recreation amenities of parks.

The majority of the service areas illustrated on the map are for developed parks owned by the City of Gresham. In several cases these parks are adjacent to elementary schools that also provide some level of park facilities. In other areas, elementary schools provide the only park access available.

Based on the analysis, Gresham residents have widely distributed access to basic park facilities. However, there many residential areas that are unserved:

- The area between NE 172nd Avenue and 181st Avenue Halsey and Glisan. This area has a natural park but no access to playground, open turf or other developed park amenities.
- South and east the intersection of 181st and Glisan extending to 192nd and south to Burnside is outside of the service area for Davis Park and inside of major barriers
- An isolated neighborhood northwest of Twelvemile Corner (NE 223rd and Stark)
- Northeast of the intersection of SE 182nd and Division
- South of Division also at SE 182nd. This area is beyond ½ mile from the undeveloped Southwest Community Park.
- A large area bounded by NW Birdsdale Avenue, NW Civic Drive and between the major barriers of Burnside and Division. This area includes both established detached housing and new townhomes.
- The neighborhood between the Gresham Golf course and the intersection of Kane and Division
- South of Division and west of Kane. This area is unserved by Kane Road Park due to the difficulty of crossing this busy street.
- The densely developed area just west of Mount Hood Highway (Hwy 26) mostly between there and Palmsblad Road. Development at Gradin Community Sports Park may serve portions of this area but is cut off by barrier roads in this analysis.
- East of Orient Drive and South of Powell Valley Road there are a number of blocks of housing that are outside of the service area of Kelly Creek Elementary, and cut off from other parks and schools to the north by a creek greenway and Powell Valley Road.
- South of the Springwater Corridor, east of Butler Creek, and north of Binford Lake Parkway and Gresham Butte are unserved by developed parks
- South of Gresham Butte near the intersection of Regner Road and SE Butler Road are potentially at least partially served by the currently undeveloped South Central Community Park. However, the primary access to this future park is located on a barrier street, which eliminates a service area in this analysis. In any case, the southern-most neighborhoods developed along Regner Road will not be served by this park.

Some areas on the map that are not covered by service areas are predominantly non-residential. These areas are not noted in the list of

unserved neighborhoods above. Additionally, this analysis assumes that currently undeveloped parks will be developed to a basic standard so that these sites function as neighborhood or community parks. Although undeveloped sites offer no service to current residents, these areas are not included in the list above because of their potential to provide service upon development.

Summary

This analysis illustrates at least 12 residential areas that are outside of ½ mile or separated by a major barrier from a developed park or facility that serves similar functions.

This analysis raises the following questions that should be addressed in the plan:

How should gaps in access to park facilities be addressed? Several options are possible.

1. Acquire additional parks, particularly neighborhood parks, to serve the identified areas.
At least 12 additional parks will be needed to serve the identified areas and provide access to most of the residences in Gresham. This could be met through the provision of 10 neighborhood and two community parks.
2. Park access should be improved by connecting neighborhoods to parks and school sites via safe routes that encourage walking and biking.
Some areas could be served by existing parks if existing barriers could be overcome. With high quality crossings or additional connections along streets or through trails, many service areas would cover more residences. However some areas would still be outside of the ½ mile service areas. Approximately five additional park sites would still be needed.
3. Limited recreation facilities could be provided at additional public land, such as open space properties and higher level school facilities to expand access.
By adding playgrounds and other basic recreation amenities, where appropriate, to existing park lands and middle and high school sites, Gresham can further reduce the need for new park sites.

CAPACITY ANALYSIS

Adding additional detail to the access analysis, Maps 3 and 4 in Appendix C identify the parks that are at or exceeding their ability to serve the number of residents within their service area. The capacity of a park is based on an assumption that each developed acre of park is capable of serving approximately 500 visitors. Using 2006 population data, Map 3 highlights the park service areas that capture a population beyond the capacity of the associated park. Map 4 projects the population of the park service areas, based on the maximum zoning buildout. The service areas highlighted on Map 4 can be expected to eventually serve more residents than they have capacity for.

This analysis included only City of Gresham Parks, both developed and undeveloped.

Summary

Four existing parks are currently serving populations beyond their capacity. Each park highlighted on Map 4 is discussed below:

- Davis Park is a small site that is attached to an elementary school site that supplements the acreage and increases the capacity at this park. *As population pressures manifest in this area, additional collaboration and integration with school facilities could be explored.*
- Hollybrook Park is in the same situation with additional facilities and acreage at the adjacent school site. The park is currently over capacity (Map 3). *As population pressures manifest in this area, additional collaboration and integration with school facilities could be explored.*
- A nearby elementary school supports Butler Creek Park. With the largest current population within the service area and no other developed parks in the area, Butler Creek Park is serving far more people than its capacity and it has a low level of development. *Additional features at Butler Creek Park and Elementary School should be developed to address a higher-than-average use expectation.*
- Yamhill Neighborhood Park is an extremely small site that primarily serves a Headstart facility. The current population within the service area is very large—nearly the largest of any service area. *The size of this park is typically appropriate for a small service*



population. The nearest park that could provide some additional capacity, Vance Park, needs access improvements to provide an overlap in service.

- Cedar Park is a small neighborhood park in downtown with limited amenities. This park provides limited benefit in terms of access to typical neighborhood park resources.
This area would be better served by an expanded park or access to an additional developed park. The proximity of Main City Park and Gresham High School offers potential for additional service. However, major roads present barriers to access on both sides. The City should consider re-classifying Cedar Park as a special use area.

At maximum buildout, 11 currently developed parks and 2 undeveloped sites will be beyond their capacity. This represents the majority of Gresham's existing park sites. It will also be important to recognize the effect of increasing access to parks on the population within a service area. Where recommendations to remove barriers and extend service areas are implemented, additional population will be directed to those parks, potentially reaching or exceeding their capacity.

The parks that are, or will be beyond capacity raise the following policy questions for the Plan. How should Gresham address park capacity?

1. Purchase additional park land, at existing and new sites, to increase the capacity of the system.
This would include unserved areas as well as locations that will overlap with existing park sites to add capacity within reach of existing and future residents.
2. Design, develop and redevelop parks for more intensive use.
Large community parks will already include facilities designed for high use, but neighborhood parks will require a higher standard of facilities. In addition to more durable surfaces and equipment, additional maintenance dollars will be required to support heavily used park sites.
3. Increases community access to school sites to supplement park land.
In several cases, this will be as simple as further blurring the boundary between the park and school grounds. In other areas, community-oriented facilities could be added to middle and high school campuses to serve growing populations.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

In addition to the park capacity, population within service areas and the access from residential areas, this analysis included a review of several city-wide demographic details that should inform the assessment of community needs. Included in these additional maps, (Map 5, Map 6 and Map 7 in Appendix C) are details of the population density, the median household income and the percent of households below the poverty level. Each analysis is discussed individually below.



POPULATION DENSITY

Appendix C includes a visual representation of population density in Gresham, based on 2006 census estimates, along with the service area outlines of the parks, elementary schools and undeveloped park sites. Map 5: Population Density further informs both the park access and the park capacity discussions by adding in population detail in the areas between and within park service areas. The key observations, and their impact on the rest of this analysis, are explained below:

- Many of the densest areas of Gresham are outside of existing park service areas. In addition to the neighborhood scale gaps identified in the access analysis, many of the edges of existing service areas do not capture the densest part of the area.
Even more park land or access improvements may be necessary to reach the most dense pockets of the City.
- Some of the smallest developed parks serve very dense population centers.
Parks such as Yamhill Neighborhood Park and Cedar Park should be supplemented with improved park access or additional park land.
- Of the undeveloped parks, Columbia View Park, Southwest Community Park and Southeast Neighborhood Park have the most existing density in their service areas.
These three parks should have some priority in development due to the lack of service to their relatively large existing populations.
- The unserved areas in northwest and southeast Gresham have high population densities.
Emphasis should be placed on improving park service in these areas.
- This map also illustrates the non-residential areas that were excluded from the Park Access Analysis.
Needs in non-residential areas should be considered.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Map 6: 2006 Median Household Income illustrates 6 ranges of median income by census block group for the entire City. As a general trend, incomes are lower in the north and higher in the south of Gresham.

Other observations and their implications are presented below:

- The block groups with the lowest median income are concentrated in northwest Gresham (around Yamhill Neighborhood and Rockwood Central Parks) and east Gresham (between Kane Road and Cedar Parks). The east area is on either side of the intersection of Burnside and Hogan Drive.
Low income residents are typically more reliant on public park facilities for their recreation and fitness needs. Convenient access to parks is also a higher priority for families with both parents in the workforce and limited transportation options.
- There is relatively little park coverage in the highest income block groups.
While higher income residents may have better access to privately provided alternatives to public parks and recreation facilities, these citizens often provide a large part of the financial support for this community investment. Maintaining this support includes providing facilities that appeal to and are accessible by residents from all parts of the community.

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

Map 7 illustrates the percent of households that are earning below the federal poverty level, also by census block group. Observations about the geographic analysis are below:

- The highest concentration of households below poverty income is around Yamhill Neighborhood Park, and immediately northwest of there.
- The second large area with a high percentage of poverty level households is on the eastern edge of the City north of East Gresham Park. This area is notable because the median income is in the middle of the range presented in Map 6. This seems to indicate a diverse mix of incomes in this block group.
- In the vicinity of Kane Road Park, median incomes are low, but so are the poverty rates.
- Most of Gresham has between 6% and 20% of the households below poverty level, with the southwest corner being the largest exception at less than 5%.

OTHER COMMUNITIES

The Springwater and Pleasant Valley Communities in southern Gresham are noted separately in this analysis because of their location outside of the current City limits. Both communities have undergone a planning process to define land use as these communities develop. This includes the definition of proposed parks and open space sites.



SPRINGWATER

The 2005 Springwater Community Plan describes an urbanization plan for the Springwater Community that will meet the intent of the December 2002 Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion of bringing high value, family-wage jobs to Gresham. According to the Plan, there are no parks in Springwater. However, the planning area is bisected by the Springwater Trail and includes the privately-owned Persimmon County Club.

Proposed Resources

The conceptual plan for Springwater was updated in February 2007. The 2007 proposed parks and open space plan for Springwater incorporates the following elements:

- *Neighborhood Parks:* One neighborhood park is planned as a Village Center park and flanking park blocks (urban plazas). The park blocks are proposed along the north-south and east-west axes of the Village Center to provide pedestrian access to the Village Center. The Village Center Park is envisioned to include a multi-use plaza with seating, public art, pedestrian walks, permanent restrooms, children's play equipment, and room for non-organized sports such as bocce ball.
- *Community Parks:* The Plan recommends creating two new community parks, located adjacent to natural resources and/or in areas with good vehicular accessibility. The nature-oriented Springwater Community Park will be located along the Johnson Creek Corridor, adjacent to the residential districts. The plans are for this site to provide two youth sports fields, and a regionally significant natural park area, providing interpretive educational opportunities. The athletic facility-oriented East Springwater Park will be located east of US 26, and will provide two to three adult sports fields for employee recreational opportunities as well as for the adjacent neighborhood to the north. This park is intended to be a community-wide resource with organized sports fields for adults

and youth, and therefore be accessible by pedestrians, bikes and cars.

- *Trails:* The recommended trails plan for Springwater creates two loop trails to provide resident and employee access within the area, and also creates connections to existing and planned trails adjacent to Springwater. The Village Center Loop Trail, west of US 26, will follow creek corridors to create a roughly 1-mile trail loop. The Employee Loop Trail, to the east of US 26, will follow the road network or parallel stream corridors.
- *Open Space/Greenways:* The Plan recommends purchasing between 120 and 150 acres of open space and greenways. This includes the acquisition of property along the Johnson Creek and Springwater Trail corridor, and along the McNutt and Brigman Creek corridors for the Village Center Loop Trail. Additional open space acquisition should be used for the acquisition of natural resource areas, based on the strategy identified in a Natural Resources Report.

PLEASANT VALLEY

The Pleasant Valley area was brought into the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in December 1998. The Cities of Gresham and Portland entered into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) in December 1998 for the Pleasant Valley area. Gresham agreed to annex the land east and north of the Mitchell Creek, and Portland agreed to annex the land west of the creek. A 2002 Pleasant Valley Concept Plan was developed. This Plan defined goals, policies, and recommended actions relation to the provision of parks, open space and trails. This provision is based on the policy that "Neighborhood parks, small green spaces, and open spaces shall be provided within a short walk of all homes."

Proposed Resources

The 2002 Conceptual Plan for Pleasant Valley was updated in February 2007. In accordance with the policies set forth in 2002, the 2007 proposed parks and open space plan incorporates many parks and open space areas, including the following elements:

- *Community Park:* The Plan recommends creating one new community park of 13-90 acres in size, located adjacent to the gas pipeline and BPA line east of 72nd Avenue near Giese Road. As defined in the Plan, elements of this community park should include a children's play area, competitive sports facilities, off-street parking, permanent restrooms, public art/fountains, group picnic areas, natural areas, paths, botanical gardens, community centers,

amphitheaters, festival space, swimming pools, and interpretive facilities. Note: The 2003 concept plan also included a second community park. That site was later denoted as a Environmentally Sensitive Resource Area (ESRA).

- *Neighborhood Park/Urban Plazas:* The 2007 plan notes eight neighborhood parks spread throughout the area, and seven park blocks (urban plazas) east and west of the community park. These sites are planned to be 1-13 acres in size and may include a children's play area, sports facilities, picnic areas, public art and community gardens, on-street parking and portable restrooms.
- *Open Space:* The purpose of open space is defined in the Plan as follows: to provide areas of natural quality for protection of natural resources, nature-oriented outdoor recreation, and trail-oriented activities. Open Space should provide opportunities for rest and relaxation, protect valuable natural resources, protect wildlife, and contribute to the environmental health of the community. Open space areas is identified in the Concept Plan in the form of greenways and ESRA's along significant creeks.
- *Trails:* As defined in the Plan, the purpose of trails is to interconnect parks and open spaces to maximize access to programs and facilities; to promote physical fitness and health for a variety of users; to encourage social interaction and community pride; to provide opportunities for rest and relaxation within natural setting through trail-related recreation; to reduce auto-dependency and enhance connections to transit facilities; to link open space amenities with homes, workplaces and other community facilities; and to provide outdoor classroom opportunities for environmental education. A July 2007 map identifies conceptual regional trails near SW 41st Street and SW Rodlun Road.

In the 2002 Pleasant Valley Concept Plan, the following park standards are proposed:

- 1.3 acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents.
- Two acres of community parks per 1,000 residents.
- Ten acres of open space per 1,000 residents are protected.

The City of Gresham should be aware of different expectations for the provision of parks and recreation facilities in various communities within the planning area; however, citywide standards and park design guidelines should take precedence in the provision and funding of parks.



DOWNTOWN REGIONAL CENTER

The Gresham Downtown Plan, completed in April 1995, created a land-use strategy for Downtown Gresham that mixes residential and commercial uses, including employment and public facilities in a pedestrian friendly environment. Three of the guiding principles of the Plan were:

- Include a "town square" public space to serve as a focal point for the downtown area. Design this space to be suitable for community-scale and regional events, such as a farmers market, and outdoor performances, promotional events, and displays. The town square should be convenient to MAX and close to the historic core.
- Provide for gateway treatments at various entrances to the downtown area to define the boundaries of downtown and to provide a greater sense of identity.
- Provide for neighborhood or pocket parks to serve downtown residents. These parks should be roughly 0.5-1 acre in size and be located within easy walking distance of all residential units.

The Gresham Downtown Regional Center Development Strategy was completed in August 2007. This document outlines development strategies and implementation recommendations to achieve an updated vision for Downtown Gresham. Reflecting the community's desire for attractive social spaces, this plan proposes the development of "special places and attractors" based on several vision statements:

- The Center for the Arts and plaza serve as a focal point for the Downtown. The space is suitable for community scale and regional events, such as a farmers market, outdoor performances, promotional events and displays.
- Parks, plazas and other open spaces are easily accessible and provide green places for visitors and residents alike.
- Main City Park is connected to the Downtown from the Main Avenue Historic Core. The park is well planned, and complementary activities occur that enhance both areas.
- Major attractors for residents and tourists, such as the Arts Center, an all season Farmer's Market, Community College and Hotel/Conference Center, serve as anchors for the DGRC and offer significant employment opportunities.

- The Art Walk is a regional attraction. Alongside the path are sculptures and in the summer, particularly in the Arts District, there are outside art shows and craft displays nearby.

The Illustrative Vision Concept in the Plan notes more than 10 separate park spaces, in addition to the Art Walk corridor. Priority park and natural area improvements, along with beautification improvements, are noted in Table 10 below.

**TABLE 10: PRIORITY PARK AND NATURAL AREA IMPROVEMENTS
FOR DOWNTOWN GRESHAM**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	COSTS
Expand open space/trail system	High
Create a Civic Plaza with gardens, seating and special paving	Med-High
Pedestrian promenade (artwalk) and public plaza	Med-High
Park acquisitions and improvements	High
Enhance entryway and landscape, monumentation	Med
Preserve existing trees	Low
Permanent growers and arts market	Med
Develop signs, banners, etc. for each district with common themes	Med

The priority projects identified in this Downtown Development Strategy are incorporated into this needs assessment and in the proposed park standards.

RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS



7. RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

As noted in the park land analysis, several existing park sites in Gresham are undeveloped, and many others are minimally developed or have aging facilities in fair condition. In addition to park land, there is a great need to provide more and better amenities and facilities within parks of all types. This section of the document focuses on determining facility needs, by closely evaluating the supply, demand, and level of service for a variety of recreation facilities. Meeting these proposed guidelines is dependent on the availability of future funding.



METHODOLOGY

The provision of facilities is often undertaken with different goals in mind. For example, most cities provide playgrounds in locations that create nearby recreation opportunities. They provide sports fields in areas that are accessible to the community in order to support programming needs and spontaneous play. In addition, they provide special use facilities in accessible locations to draw people from throughout the City and region for special events and recreation opportunities. As a result, different types of facilities should be provided in different types of parks that support these goals and provide these benefits.

Since many of Gresham's existing parks are underdeveloped and more parks are needed, the analysis of facility needs is first based on the creation of specific design guidelines for parks. These design guidelines indicate what types of facilities should be located in existing and proposed parks of various types. Based on these guidelines, the facility analysis determines what types of facilities are missing in existing parks, and what amenities and facilities will be needed in proposed parks to meet community needs for the future.

The design guideline analysis is supplemented by an access analysis for sport fields, playgrounds and picnic areas, and trails. The need for aquatic facilities and recreation centers is also addressed.

Specifically, this section includes:

- A review of existing facilities, provided by the City of Gresham and other providers;

- A discussion of the *recommended level of service* based on comparisons to other communities, trends in recreation, and suggested guidelines for facility development;
- A *design guideline analysis*, determining the need for amenities and facilities in neighborhood and community parks;
- A *sports field service area analysis*, looking at underserved areas in the City for baseball, softball, soccer, and football fields;
- A *playground/picnic service area analysis*, addressing neighborhoods that do not have nearby access to playgrounds and picnic shelters and tables;
- A *trail access analysis*, identifying access to trailheads in Gresham; and
- A review of *other facility needs* that were noted in the public involvement process.

EXISTING FACILITIES

In addition to providing and maintaining parkland, the City of Gresham is responsible for the development and maintenance of a variety of recreation facilities. However, the City is not the only facility provider in Gresham. School districts and other providers also contribute a significant number of recreation facilities and sport fields. Existing sport and recreation facilities in Gresham are summarized in Table 11 by provider. A more detailed inventory is included in Appendix B.



For the City, most recreation facilities are provided in neighborhood and community parks. For other providers, most facilities are located at Vance Park, which is managed and maintained by the City and considered as a community park. There are also two soccer fields at John Deere Field, which otherwise is largely undeveloped. The Gresham-Barlow School District, Centennial School District, and Reynolds School District are significant providers of recreation facilities. Facilities at schools include playgrounds provided at all public elementary schools, and a variety of sports fields provided at elementary, middle, and high schools in the area. City of Portland and ODOT are important providers of trails in Gresham, such as the Springwater Trail. Not all City recreation facilities are in good condition. A review of the condition of existing City facilities is provided in Appendix D.

TABLE 11: SUMMARY OF GRESHAM RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY TYPE	CITY OF GRESHAM	OTHER PROVIDERS	SCHOOLS	TOTAL
ATHLETIC FIELDS				
Baseball Fields	9	0	31	40
Football Fields	0	0	4	4
Soccer Fields	10	5	27	42
Softball Fields	5	1	25	31
OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES				
Basketball Courts	8	0	48	56
Skate Parks	1	0	0	1
Tennis Courts	0	0	18	18
INDOOR FACILITIES				
Community Centers [^]	0	1	N/A	1
Gymnasiums [^]	0	1	17	18
AQUATIC FACILITIES				
Pools	0	0	6	6
TRAILS (in miles)	8.39	6.4	N/A	10.19
OTHER PARK AMENITIES				
Community Gardens	1	1	1	3
Disc Golf Courses	1	1	0	2
Dog Parks	0	0	0	0
Group Picnic Areas	3	0	0	3
Horseshoe Courts	1 tournament facility	0	0	1
Playgrounds	16	1	14	31

[^] Located at the PAL Center which is owned by the City of Gresham and operated by the Police Activity League.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

LOS FOR COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES

An analysis of comparable communities was undertaken to see where the City of Gresham is above or below the norm for the provision of facilities. Table 12 compares Gresham’s LOS to the average LOS for six comparable communities. (Comparable facility data was not available for Portland and Sandy). Details for each community are presented in Appendix E.



As shown in the table, the City of Gresham is above average when compared to other communities in the provision of baseball and soccer fields and slightly lower in the provision of softball fields. However, it has a significantly lower level of service in the provision of basic recreation amenities, such as playgrounds and outdoor basketball courts. Unlike the comparable communities, the City of Gresham provides no recreation/community centers or swimming pools. Insufficient data was available for comparison of trail LOS.

In comparison, the recently released ORPA Parks, Facilities, Staffing and Budgeting survey notes that 51% of respondents provide community/recreation centers and 44% support an aquatics facility. Playgrounds are provided at an average level of 0.36/1,000, which is significantly higher than Gresham’s 0.16/1,000. Basketball courts are provided at an average level of 0.16/1,000, which is twice what Gresham provides (0.08/1,000). The City of Gresham is also lower than average for the provision of all types of sport fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football, and lacrosse).

TABLE 12: EXISTING COMPARABLE FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE

FACILITY	GRESHAM, OR	AVERAGE LOS FOR COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES
Baseball Fields	1/ 10,897	1/ 14,501
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1/ 12,259	1/ 3,397
Community Centers	N/A	1/ 70,741
Gymnasiums	N/A	1/ 136,431
Playgrounds	1/ 6,130	1/ 2,983
Pool	N/A	1/ 61,915
Soccer Fields	1/ 9,807	1/ 13,562
Softball Fields	1/ 19,614	1/ 18,851
Trails (in miles)	1/ 11,689	1/ 3,101 ^A

^A Eugene only

SPORT AND RECREATION TRENDS

In addition to the public involvement findings presented earlier in the report, additional data on sports and recreation trends can be considered to determine if the demand for particular types of activities is expected to increase, decrease, or remain the same. Some of these trends are noted here.

- According to 2006 participation data collected by the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) the top three recreation activities with the greatest number of participants are exercise walking, swimming, and exercising with equipment.
- Consistent with Gresham public involvement findings, participation in health and fitness activities is strong. NSGA data indicates that six of the top 10 recreation activities nation-wide are fitness activities, including exercise walking (1), exercising with equipment (3), workout at club (7), bicycle riding (8), aerobic exercising (9), and weight lifting (10).
- Nationally, sports participation is changing. While participation in football grew 19.7% in one year, baseball and soccer remained about the same, and softball and basketball participation decreased slightly (-5% and -7.4% respectively). At 15, basketball is still the highest-ranked sport in terms of participation.
- Regionally, participation in sports seems to be increasing. SCORP data indicates that for Regions 2 & 3 in Oregon, which includes Gresham, participation in each of the following sports has increased between 1987 and 2002: football/rugby (152.3%), baseball (131%), soccer (78.3%), outdoor basketball (31.2%), and softball (15.6%).
- SCORP data also indicates that the use of playground equipment has increased 114% for Regions 2 & 3 in Oregon, which includes Gresham, between 1987 and 2002.
- According to providers who responded to the Sports Group Survey, participation in soccer is increasing in the local community. There are also indications that participation in baseball and cricket are increasing.
- According to 2006 NSGA participation data, four of the top 15 activities are trail-related: exercise walking (1), bicycle riding (8), hiking (12), and running/jogging (14).

RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SERVICE

Table 13 summarizes the recommended level of service for various recreation facilities in Gresham. The level of service recommended in this report is a guideline based on the design guideline, access, and service area analyses that follow. It takes into account the community's demand for additional recreation opportunities, as well as the challenge the City of Gresham will face in trying to increase their level of service in so many areas. Meeting the proposed guideline is dependent upon available funding. In other words, based on the assessment of need, LOS recommendations are based on two strategies:

- *Increase the level of service for high-priority facilities.* The community's demand for certain types of recreation facilities is strong. Based on the number of currently underserved areas, along with a greater need for facilities in the future, guidelines have been created to provide direction for meeting a higher level of service.
- *Maintain the current level of service.* As the population continues to grow, the City of Gresham should at a minimum maintain the current level of service. Based on the guidelines that reflect this strategy, additional facilities will be needed in the future to meet the growing needs of the City. However, because these facilities are a lesser priority than other types, the City should focus its funding elsewhere. However, as a minimum guideline for level of service, the City should exceed these guidelines whenever it has the opportunity to do so.

The guidelines presented in this table are based on the facilities provided by the City of Gresham and other providers. In other words, meeting facility needs in Gresham will require collaboration among community providers, including the Parks and Recreation Division, the Schools District, and other public and private providers. However, the current and future need noted here is presented in terms of the facilities that the City of Gresham can provide to meet community needs. Most of these facilities can be added to existing developed parks, currently undeveloped parks, sites as proposed in the Springwater and Pleasant Valley Master Plans, and in some cases, in additional sites proposed in this document. Additional facilities may be provided by others, which will help the community be more in line with comparable communities (as noted in this report for comparison) and other Oregon agencies (as noted in the ORPA survey).

Note: A specific guideline and need has not been defined for trails. Because of high trail use and demand, the City should continue to

implement its Trails Plan, completing missing segments and creating new linkages to existing and planned trails. Based on this plan, the level of service for regional trails and natural area trails will increase. See the trails analysis later in the section for more information.



DESIGN GUIDELINES ANALYSIS

As noted before, many of Gresham's parks are underdeveloped. For example, there are several neighborhood parks that do not have playgrounds. Design guidelines have been developed for each park classification in Gresham, to provide direction regarding the types of amenities and facilities that should be provided in parks, as well as other supporting facilities to consider. Appendix F presents these guidelines for each park type in Gresham, its definition, parks of that classification, and considerations about size and access. It also includes information about resources to provide or avoid:

- The "Minimum Resources" column identifies the basic resources that should be provided in parks of that classification.
- The "May Include Additional Resources" column identifies resources that are also appropriate within parks of that classification if there is space, funding, or community interest.
- The "Does Not Include Conflicting Resources" column identifies resources that are not compatible with a classification's function.

All Gresham neighborhood and community parks are evaluated to determine if they meet the design guidelines in Appendix F. The following parameters were evaluated.

- Does the park meet the size guidelines?
- Does the park have the minimum resources that should be provided, as identified in Table 14? What minimum resources are missing?
- Does the park have any additional resources, as identified in Table 14? What additional resources are provided?
- Are there conflicting resources at the park?

TABLE 13: GRESHAM RECREATION FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE AND STANDARDS

FACILITY	HISTORIC NRPA GUIDELINES	GRESHAM EXISTING STANDARD	EXISTING FACILITIES		UNIT OF MEASURE	TOTAL	GRESHAM EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE	EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE INCLUDING OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES	PROPOSED CITYWIDE GUIDELINE ^B	ADDITIONAL FACILITIES NEEDED	
			GRESHAM	OTHER AGENCIES ^A						98,072	112,100
MAINTAIN EXISTING LOS (MINIMUM RECOMMENDATION)											
Baseball Fields	1/ 5,000	1/ 2,500	9	31	each	40	1/ 10,897	1/ 2,452	1/ 2,450	0	6
Football Fields	1/	1/ 10,000	0	4	each	4		1/ 24,518	1/ 24,500	0	1
Soccer Fields	1/ 10,000	1/ 2,000	10	32	each	42	1/ 9,807	1/ 2,335	1/ 2,350	0	6
Softball Fields	1/ 5,000	1/ 3,000	5	26	each	31	1/ 19,614	1/ 3,164	1/ 3,200	0	4
Pools	1/ 20,000	1/ 20,000	0	6	each	6	N/A	1/ 16,345	1/ 16,000	0	1
Gymnasiums	N/A	N/A	0	18	each	18	N/A	1/ 5,448	1/ 5,500	0	2
INCREASE LOS (TO MEET IDENTIFIED FACILITY NEEDS)											
Community Centers	N/A	1/ 15,000	0	1	each	1	N/A	1/ 98,072	1/ 72,000	0	1
Group Picnic Areas	N/A	1/ 10,000	3	0	each	3	1/ 32,691	1/ 32,691	1/ 14,000	4	5
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1/ 5,000	1/ 1,500	8	48	each	56	1/ 12,259	1/ 1,751	1/ 1,700	2	10
Playground	N/A	1/ 2,500	16	15	each	31	6,130	1/ 3,164	1/ 2,600	7	12
Tennis Courts	1/ 2,000	1/ 4,000	0	18	each	18	N/A	1/ 5,448	1/ 5,000	2	4
Skate Parks	N/A	N/A	1	0	each	1	1/ 98,072	1/ 98,072	1/ 60,000	1	1
Trails	N/A	N/A	8.39	6.4	miles	14.79	1/ 11,689	1/ 6,631	N/A ^C		

^A The guideline is based on a recommended LOS that includes other agencies. The City of Gresham is not expected to achieve this guideline alone.

^B Includes local school districts, private providers, and other municipalities in Multnomah County; see Tables B-1, B-2, and B-3 for relevant inventories.

^C Implement Trails Master Plan and Transportation Plan

TABLE 14: REQUIRED DESIGN PARAMETERS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS		COMMUNITY PARKS
Minimum Size: 2 acres		Minimum Size: 10 acres
Minimum Resources		Minimum Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground or play features • At least one picnic table and one bench • ADA-compliant internal pathway system • Perimeter path or sidewalks • Open turf area • Trees • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) • At least one active recreation resource (see “May Include” list) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground or play features • Picnic tables and benches • Enclosed or open shelter with BBQ • ADA-compliant internal pathway system, looped walking path preferred • Sports fields (baseball, cricket, football, rugby, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) • Basketball and/or tennis court • Restrooms • Off-street parking • Open turf area • Trees • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.)
Additional Resources		Additional Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports fields (baseball, football, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) • Sports courts (basketball court, tennis court, volleyball court) • Other small-scale active recreation resources (skate spot, horseshoe pits, bocce court, shuffleboard lane) • Interactive water feature (small-scale) • Community garden • Shelter, shade structure or gazebo • Restroom • Off-street parking • Lighting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other active recreation resources (BMX course or facility, croquet court, disc golf course, fitness stations, handball court, horseshoe pit, skateboard park, shuffleboard lanes, volleyball court, etc.) • Interactive water feature • Swimming pool • Full-service recreation center • Sports complex • Other facilities or resources with communitywide draw • Community garden • Off-leash dog area • Fishing lake • Concessions • Stage/amphitheatre • Upgraded utility service to support special events • Natural areas • Memorials • Lighting • Shrub beds • Maintenance facilities • Multi-use trails • Pedestrian trails
No Conflicting Resources.		No Conflicting Resources.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

According to the design guidelines, neighborhood parks should have a playground, at least once picnic table and bench, an ADA-compliant internal pathway system, perimeter path or sidewalks, as well as an open turf area, trees, additional site furnishings, and at least one active recreation resource. The size guideline calls for this type of park to be a minimum of 2 acres in size.

Table 15 presents an evaluation of existing neighborhood parks in Gresham by the design guidelines. As the table indicates, two neighborhood parks are too small to meet the minimum size guideline. Size is important, because smaller parks lack the capacity to provide sufficient amenities and facilities to meet neighborhood recreation needs for all ages. No maximum size has been proposed for neighborhood parks, and it should be noted that two neighborhood parks are over eight acres in size.

In addition, some neighborhood parks do not provide the minimum resources that should be included at these sites. Four parks lack playgrounds (Cedar Park, Hall Park, Hollybrook Park, and Kirk Park). Three parks lack active recreation resources, two of which (Kane Road Park and Thom Park) appear to have adequate acreage to accommodate at least one active feature. Cedar Park, which meets none of the neighborhood park guidelines, may be too small to accommodate any additional features. Picnic tables were lacking at Hall Park and Hollybrook Park. Yamhill Park provides a community garden, in addition to the recommended features. No neighborhood parks have conflicting resources.

TABLE 15: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK EVALUATION

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	ACRES	MEETS SIZE GUIDELINE	MINIMUM RESOURCES	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	POTENTIAL CONFLICTING USES	MISSING MINIMUM RESOURCES ^A	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Aspen Highlands Park	3.7						
Bella Vista Park	8.1						
Butler Creek Park	4.0						
Cedar Park	0.3					No playground, no recreation resource	
Davis Park	2.6						Skate park
Hall Park	4.0					No playground, no picnic table	Sports fields
Hollybrook Park	2.6					No playground, no picnic table	
Kane Road Park	10.3					No recreation resource	
Kirk Park	7.0					No playground	
Thom Park	5.5					No recreation resource	
Yamhill Park	0.6						Community garden

^A Recreation resources are outdoor basketball courts in all 5 parks that meet minimum resource guidelines.

Summary

- Consider whether there should be a maximum size for neighborhood parks, or a maximum developed area.
- Prioritize the addition of playgrounds at those sites lacking them, except in cases where the playground access analysis shows that a neighborhood is already served by a playground at another site.
- Examine the suitability of sites lacking active recreation resources for the addition of an active resource, even if small-scale.
- Include a Plan recommendation to establish a fund for site furnishings that allocates an annual amount, and use this funding to add a bench or picnic table to those sites that do not have these resources available. Prioritize which parks receive the site furnishings across all park types.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The draft design guidelines for community parks call for the same basic resources that are provided in neighborhood parks, plus additional facilities to provide a concentration of activity and draw people from throughout the community. The size guideline indicates that this type of park should be a minimum of 10 acres in size. Table 16 presents the evaluation of each of community parks.

As the table indicates, four of the five parks classified as community parks meet the minimum size guideline. Although no maximum size has been proposed, Gresham’s community parks are all generally less than 25 acres in size. The largest park is Main City Park at 21.6 acres. Community parks in Gresham include basic recreation resources, such as soccer, baseball/softball fields, and basketball courts. All community parks have basic site furnishings, including picnic tables and benches.

Not all community parks meet the proposed design guidelines, in terms of minimum resources. North Gresham Park lacks a restroom, and Pat Pfeifer lacks permanent restrooms. North Gresham Park and Pat Pfeifer Barrier-Free Park both lack basketball or tennis courts. Three sites, North Gresham, Pat Pfeifer, and Rockwood Central, need picnic shelters. Two parks include additional resources: a horseshoe facility and a disc golf course. No community parks have conflicting resources. The parks have few additional resources. However, Main City Park’s location on the Springwater Trail is a significant amenity.

TABLE 16: COMMUNITY PARK EVALUATION

COMMUNITY PARKS	ACRES	MEETS SIZE GUIDELINE	MINIMUM RESOURCES	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	POTENTIAL CONFLICTING USES	MISSING MINIMUM RESOURCES	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Main City Park	21.6						Horseshoe facility
North Gresham Park	13.4					No basketball/tennis court, no restrooms; no picnic shelter	
Pat Pfeifer Barrier-Free Park	13.3					No basketball/tennis court; no picnic shelter; no permanent restrooms	
Red Sunset Park	14.2						
Rockwood Central Park	9.4					No picnic shelter	Disc golf

Summary

- Add restrooms at North Gresham Park and Pat Pfeifer Park.
- Add picnic shelters at the identified community parks to provide opportunities for group gatherings and socializing, which are highly desired by the community.
- Consider whether tennis or basketball courts are necessary as a required element in community parks, or whether other resources can substitute.
- Consider providing additional resources at community parks to broaden the play and recreation experience. Consider skate spots, off-leash dog areas, interactive water features/spraygrounds, a stage/amphitheater, fitness stations, and other facilities that support the recreation experiences desired by community members.
- Provide looped pathways on future community parks.



SPORTS FIELD ANALYSIS

In Appendix C, Map 8 illustrates sport field service area to determine if most residents in Gresham are within a reasonable travel distance of these basic of park resources. For this analysis, a reasonable travel distance is considered to be ½ mile for bicyclists and 1 mile for transit or automobile travel. Service areas for sport fields are larger than other types of basic recreation amenities, because residents are willing to travel further to participate in team sports. The access analysis also assumes that these service areas are limited by barriers that affect actual travel routes to the parks and schools where sports fields are provided. These barriers affect the shape of the service area as noted on the map. Places within the City that are outside of the shaded areas are considered underserved.

According to design guidelines for parks, sports fields are appropriate in neighborhood parks and should be included in community parks. They also may be part of a sport complex that is classified as a special use facility. All developed community parks and three neighborhood parks in Gresham currently provide sport fields. Sport fields are also located at Vance Park and John Deere Park, as well as many elementary, middle, and high schools. These facilities are noted on a panel below the map.

As the map indicates, sport field coverage is reasonably good in Gresham, based on the 1-mile service area. It is more difficult for youth

on bicycles to get to sport fields, because of the smaller area reach and barriers that prevent easy access to some sites. Based on the 1-mile service area, underserved areas include:

- Areas around several currently undeveloped neighborhood and community parks in south and southeast Gresham. These parks include: Southwest Community Park, Jenne Butte Park, South Central Park, Southeast Community Park.
- Near East Gresham Park and Southeast Neighborhood Park. In addition to the sites noted above, a higher level of service could be provided by adding a sport field at East Gresham Park to provide coverage for a small underserved area north of Powell Valley Elementary School. Also, a field at Southeast Neighborhood Park would eliminate the need for crossing major roads to get to the Southeast Community Park.
- Around the Gradin Community Sports Park. Two grass soccer fields, two artificial turf soccer fields, and four softball fields—in addition to other facilities—are planned for this site.
- The Pleasant Valley and Springwater communities. Master plans for these areas identify proposed sites for the acquisition and development of two community parks: one along the Springwater Trail Corridor and one south of McKinley and West of 182nd. If these sites are developed according to design guidelines, sports fields should be included.
- If the John Deere field becomes unavailable in the future, additional sports fields will be needed for that area.

Summary

How should gaps in sport field service areas be addressed?

- Add sport fields to the undeveloped community parks and to South Central (neighborhood) Park.
- Assess the feasibility of developing a sport field at Jenne Butte Park. If that site is not workable, consider a sport field at a proposed neighborhood park in that vicinity. One option may be the proposed neighborhood park split by 182nd as identified in the Pleasant Valley Master Plan.
- Proceed with development as proposed for the Gradin Community Sports Park.
- Work with the school districts to identify or clarify public access to sport fields. Partnership agreements may be needed with school districts.

- Acquire and develop sport fields at the two proposed community parks in Springwater and Pleasant Valley.



PLAYGROUND/PICNIC ANALYSIS

Another method for determining the need for basic recreation amenities such as playgrounds and picnic areas is to analyze them geographically. In Appendix C, Map 9 illustrates the location of picnic and playground service areas to determine whether access to these facilities is sufficient, based on the areas they serve in relation to the local context. As well as portraying the location of these facilities, the map notes their location by provider (City, Schools, Other) in a bottom panel. Since school sites provide playgrounds, but not picnic areas, these two facilities are discussed separately below.

The access analysis examines whether most residents in Gresham are within a reasonable travel distance of these basic of park resources. For this analysis, a reasonable travel distance is considered to be $\frac{1}{4}$ mile for pedestrians and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile for bicycle, transit, or automobile travel. The access analysis also assumes that these $\frac{1}{4}$ - and $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile service areas are limited by barriers that affect actual travel routes to the parks and schools. These barriers affect the shape of the service area as noted on the map. Places within the City that are outside of the shaded areas are considered underserved.

PLAYGROUNDS

The LOS analysis that compared Gresham's provision of playgrounds to other communities revealed that the City's existing level of service is really low. This was confirmed by comparing Gresham's LOS to new data on Oregon communities that has been collected by ORPA. The design guideline analysis indicated that there is a need for four playgrounds at existing sites, based on the number of existing neighborhood parks where playgrounds are lacking. The geographic analysis identifies greater needs.

The service area analysis shows that there are many areas in Gresham where residents do not have access to playgrounds. These include:

- All the areas around the currently undeveloped neighborhood and community parks owned by the City of Gresham. These parks are located mostly around the perimeter of the City. Developing playgrounds at these sites will meet the need for the following areas:

(described moving from northwest to southeast: Columbia View Park, Southwest Community Park, Jenne Butte Park, South Central Park, Southeast Neighborhood Park, Southeast Community Park, and East Gresham Park.

- Around the Gradin Community Sports Park. Three play structures are included in the master plan for this site.
- In four additional areas in southern Gresham, south of the Springwater Trail. Playgrounds should be developed in proposed neighborhood parks in these areas.
- The neighborhood south of MHCC, and the area in central Gresham between Yamhill Park, North Gresham Park, and Bella Vista Park.
- In two areas that appear to be served by Lynch Meadows Elementary School and Hogan Cedars Elementary School.
- The Pleasant Valley and Springwater communities. Master plans for these areas identify proposed sites for the acquisition and development of two community parks: one along the Springwater Trail Corridor and one south of McKinley and West of 182nd. In addition, the plan for Pleasant Valley notes several additional small-to medium-sized neighborhood parks. When developed, playgrounds should be developed in both community parks, and considered in 3-5 of the neighborhood parks. (It appears that some of these neighborhood parks may remain as open space.)

Note: There are no playgrounds in north-central and northwest Gresham. These are not residential areas, however, and the population density map suggests that a neighborhood park is not needed here.

Summary

How should gaps in playground service areas be addressed?

- Add playgrounds to all undeveloped neighborhood and community parks, and develop the play structures proposed for Gradin Community Sports Park.
- Work with the school districts to identify or clarify public access to school playgrounds (both during and outside of school hours). For school access, a partnership agreement would be needed with the school district.
- Acquire new neighborhood or community park sites in areas without existing park service or alternate public providers, and provide playgrounds at these sites. This includes the proposed community

park sites and priority neighborhood park sites in Pleasant Valley and Springwater.

PICNIC AREAS

Picnic areas and picnic shelters should be distributed throughout the system to support family activities and community gatherings. For the City of Gresham, picnic areas are defined as groupings of one or more picnic tables within a park setting. According to the design guidelines, picnic areas should be provided at all neighborhood parks. Group picnic areas are tables situated in permanent picnic pavilions. Often, barbecue pits or grills are provided. These picnic shelters should be provided at all community parks.

The distribution of picnic areas is more limited than playgrounds, since most schools do not provide picnic facilities. For this reason, there are many areas in Gresham where residents do not have access to picnic areas/shelters. These include:

- All the areas around the currently undeveloped neighborhood and community parks owned by the City of Gresham. These parks are located mostly around the perimeter of the City. Developing picnic areas at these sites will meet site needs for: Columbia Park, Southwest Community Park, Jenne Butte Park, South Central Park, Southeast Neighborhood Park, Southeast Community Park, and East Gresham Park.
- Around the Gradin Community Sports Park. It appears that seven small shelters are planned for this site.
- In four additional areas in southern Gresham, south of the Springwater Trail. Picnic area should be developed in proposed neighborhood parks in these areas.
- The neighborhood south of MHCC, and the area in central Gresham between Yamhill Park, North Gresham Park, and Bella Vista Park.
- The Pleasant Valley and Springwater communities. Master plans for these areas identify proposed sites for the acquisition and development of two community parks and several additional neighborhood parks in Pleasant Valley. When developed, these sites should include picnic areas as recommended in the design guidelines.
- There are no playgrounds in north-central and northwest Gresham. These are not residential areas, however, and the population density map suggests that a neighborhood park is not needed here.

Summary

How should gaps in picnic service areas be addressed?

- Add picnic tables to Hall and Hollybrook Parks.
- Expand existing picnic areas to add covers, or build new picnic shelters at North Gresham, Pat Pfeifer, and Rockwood Central Parks.
- Add picnic areas of 1-4 tables at all undeveloped neighborhood parks.
- Add picnic shelters at all undeveloped community parks, and develop the shelters proposed at the Gradin Community Sports Park.
- Acquire new neighborhood or community park sites in areas without existing park service or alternate public providers, and provide picnic areas/shelters at these sites in accordance with design guidelines. This includes the proposed community park sites and priority neighborhood park sites in Pleasant Valley and Springwater.

TRAIL ANALYSIS

Throughout the country, trails and trail-related activities are among the highest participation recreation activities 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.

Using a bicycle, walking, or skating to get around is called “active transportation,” to denote its health benefits. Creating trail systems for active transportation is being recognized as an important health strategy. Trails that provide alternatives to driving to local destinations foster a higher level of personal activity and reduce environmental effects of car travel.

Recognizing the importance of interconnectivity among trail systems, many transportation authorities are also focusing on regional trail planning to ensure that the many agencies planning trails coordinate on the most important routes for traveling through or into an area.

As noting in the level of service analysis, Gresham is strongest in its provision of trails, for all the reasons noted above. Trail-related



recreation, health and fitness, non-motorized transportation, and regional interconnectivity are important to Gresham residents.

In Appendix C, Map 10 illustrates Existing & Proposed Trail Access, based on ½-mile and 1-mile service areas around access areas on existing and proposed trails. The map indicates that at build-out, the trail system will provide excellent coverage for the City of Gresham. One area in the northwest near Pat Pfeifer Park is unserved. Although no new guideline is proposed for the provision of trails, the City should continue to implement the Trail Plan and Transportation Plan.

Summary

How should trail development be addressed?

- Develop all of the proposed trails indicated on Map 10, and implement the access improvements for existing trails, shown as yellow triangles.
- Implement other recommendations from the Gresham Trails Master Plan and Transportation Plan that are consistent with the goals of this Plan.
- Develop a plan to serve the unserved area in the northwest near Pat Pfeiffer Park. Consider the area served by trails in Pat Pfeiffer Park and Nadaka Open Space, or acquire additional park land to serve this area.
- Assist in the implementation of the Springwater and Pleasant Valley Plans, connecting these local proposed trails (walking/hiking trails) to the regional and citywide system.
- Improve trail accessibility for people with disabilities whenever feasible in outdoor recreation areas, greenways, and conservation areas (when provided).
- Provide loop pathways in community parks and in neighborhood parks where feasible to provide close-to-home trail-related recreation.

OTHER FACILITIES

Feedback obtained during the public involvement activities suggested that there is a community demand for indoor/outdoor aquatic facilities and a multi-purpose indoor recreation center. The need for these facilities is discussed below:

AQUATIC FACILITIES

Swimming is a popular activity nationwide. In most communities, the question is not whether there is interest or a need for swimming; rather, it is whether a city can afford to build and operate a swimming pool. Cities across the county are striking a balance between the attraction, needs, and willingness to financially support a range of resources from multi-purpose aquatic centers to water playgrounds or interactive water features.

The trend in swimming pools is to include shallow water and play elements, where the majority of water recreation takes place. Often, a leisure pool with play elements is included within the same complex as standard tank suitable for competition (usually 25 yd or 25 m and 6 or 8 lanes in width, but sometimes a 50 m pool). Because swimming pools typically do not fully recover the cost of their operation, cities are trying to maximize revenue generation from these resources through the addition of water slides, rope swings, water play elements, party rooms or pavilions, and other features. Swimming pools are also being provided as part of larger, full-service recreation centers.

A cheaper alternative that is becoming popular nation-wide is the development of interactive water features. These features attract high use, especially from children and families. They can be integrated into a wide variety of park settings, including community parks and urban plazas. Once built, interactive water features are relatively inexpensive to operate (compared to a swimming pool) because they typically do not require life guards since there is no standing water. Unlike water parks, entrance fees are typically not charged for interactive water features because there is no access controlled gate. This would make them more accessible to many Gresham residents.

Existing Facilities

The City of Gresham does not provide an aquatic facility. As noted in the program analysis, there are three existing swimming pools provided by others that offer public swimming. These include:



- Gresham High School, in Central Gresham, near the MAX Trail.
- Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center: in eastern Gresham, along Stark Street.
- Sam Barlow High School, at SE 302nd Avenue in Gresham, which is east of Southeast Community Park, beyond the City limits.

Other pools in the area that do not offer public swimming include: Reynolds High School in Troutdale; Reynolds Middle School in Fairview, and Centennial High School in Gresham near SW Community Park.

According to Community Questionnaire respondents, the facility with the most reported unmet need is an outdoor swimming pool/water park. Community Recreation Survey respondents felt that indoor swimming pools/leisure pools were the most important (39%) indoor facility to provide. In addition, 35% of those who have a need for indoor swimming pools/leisure pools indicated that 0% of their needs are being met by any facility provider in the City of Gresham. Swimming pools were also among the top three facilities that Youth Questionnaire respondents thought were most needed. The facility with the most reported unmet need on the Youth Questionnaire was an outdoor swimming pool/water park. Also, three of the eight facilities with the greatest unmet need were aquatic facilities.

Summary

Many other cities in the area provide swimming pools. In Gresham, this need is met by other providers. Pools are provided at two high schools and one community college, but one of these sites is located outside of City limits. Although Gresham residents have a desire for more swimming opportunities, the cost of such a facility needs to be carefully considered.

What role should the City play in the provision of aquatic opportunities in Gresham?

- Collaborate with existing providers to support and expand programming.
- Provide interactive water features where appropriate in community parks, serving as destination facilities in place of swimming pools in some locations. These facilities are considerably less expensive to build and especially to operate, while providing many of the same benefits of a pool.

- As the City's population continues to grow, re-assess in the long-term the community's need for an additional aquatic facility. Consider a feasibility study to determine if the revenue that can be generated by a new facility can offset a large percentage of the expense of operating this facility. Consider joint facility development or partnerships to meet this need. This plan does not recommend that the City pursue the development of an aquatic center at this time.

INDOOR RECREATION CENTERS

Indoor recreation centers are also fairly costly facilities to build, maintain, and operate. However, these facilities provide more benefits to a broader spectrum of the community than aquatic facilities. A recreation center would also support many of the benefits that City residents desire most from parks and recreation, such as opportunities to socialize and to improve health and wellness.

Existing Facilities

The City of Gresham does not provide a community center or indoor recreation center. As noted in the program analysis, there is one recreation center in the City:

- PAL Youth Center: The Police Activity League (PAL) of Greater Portland operates a center, which serves youth ages 8 to 17, with a gymnasium, teen center, and classrooms. These services are provided at a small building owned by the City of Gresham.

Other indoor opportunities include:

- The library in Gresham has classrooms and meeting space, but does not provide space for recreational uses.
- Mt. Hood Community College provides a variety of indoor facilities to support its programs. However, none of the multiple buildings on campus serves as a traditional community center.
- The Mount Hood YMCA is not a "Health and Wellness Center" similar to other Y facilities. The Troutdale program is otherwise known as Eastside Youth Sports.

As the City grows and as the City of Gresham expands programming opportunities, particularly for adult health and fitness, an additional recreation center will be needed. Although the PAL Youth Center serves youth and teens, it does not serve residents of all ages. For this reason, it is recommended that the City assess the feasibility of developing alone or through partnership a multi-purpose recreation center.

Summary

What role should the City play in the provision of an indoor recreation center in Gresham?

- Collaborate with existing providers to support desired programming, including school districts.
- As the City's population continues to grow, re-assess in the long-term the community's need for a new community center. Consider a feasibility study to determine if the revenue that can be generated by a new facility can offset a large percentage of the expense of operating this facility. Consider joint facility development or partnerships to build and support the facility.
- Design the community center as a multi-purpose recreation center for all ages. Incorporate a gymnasium, fitness room, weight room, and other health and wellness opportunities to support increased programming. Also incorporate a large multi-purpose room where social events can be held, along with classroom space, and other social spaces.

SKATE PARKS

The City of Gresham has one skate park at Davis Park. This skate facility is undersized and does not support the variety of activities desired by skaters today. Many communities provide multiple skate parks, including larger skate facilities in community parks and smaller skate spots, or small skating elements, in neighborhood parks. Skate parks were mentioned as a need in multiple Plan public involvement venues. An effort is currently underway to provide a skate park in Main City Park. This Plan supports this effort. In addition, skate parks should be considered at future or redesigned community parks. Skate elements should be considered for all new or renovated neighborhood parks.

DIVERSE RECREATION FACILITIES

As previously noted in this analysis, the City of Gresham provides only the most basic recreation elements in its parks. As the City moves into the future, the development of additional diverse recreation facilities should be considered as part of the design and renovation of City of Gresham parks. These include such elements as spray grounds, dog parks, community gardens, and disc golf facilities. Appendix F provides design guidelines for each park classification provided by the City, and identifies appropriate recreation facilities that could be considered for each park type.

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APPENDIX A: NEEDS MATRIX



APPENDIX A: NEEDS MATRIX

The Importance-Unmet Needs Matrix is a tool for assessing the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation facilities and recreation programs in the City of Gresham. Each of the facilities and programs that were assessed on the survey were placed in one of the following four quadrants:

- *Top Priorities* (higher unmet need and higher importance). Items in this quadrant should be given the highest priority for improvement. Respondents placed a high level of importance on these items, and the unmet need rating is high. Improvements to items in this quadrant will have positive benefits for the highest number of City of Gresham residents.
- *Opportunities for Improvement* (higher unmet need and lower importance). Respondents placed a lower level of importance on these items, but the unmet need rating is relatively high. Items in this quadrant should be given secondary priority for improvement.
- *Special Needs* (lower unmet need and higher importance). This quadrant shows where improvements may be needed to serve the needs of specialized populations. Respondents placed a high level of importance on these items, but the unmet need rating is relatively low.
- *Less Important* (lower unmet need and lower importance). Items in this quadrant should receive the lowest priority for improvement. Respondents placed a lower level of importance on these items, and the unmet need rating is relatively low.

Figure A-2: Needs Matrix – Recreation Programs

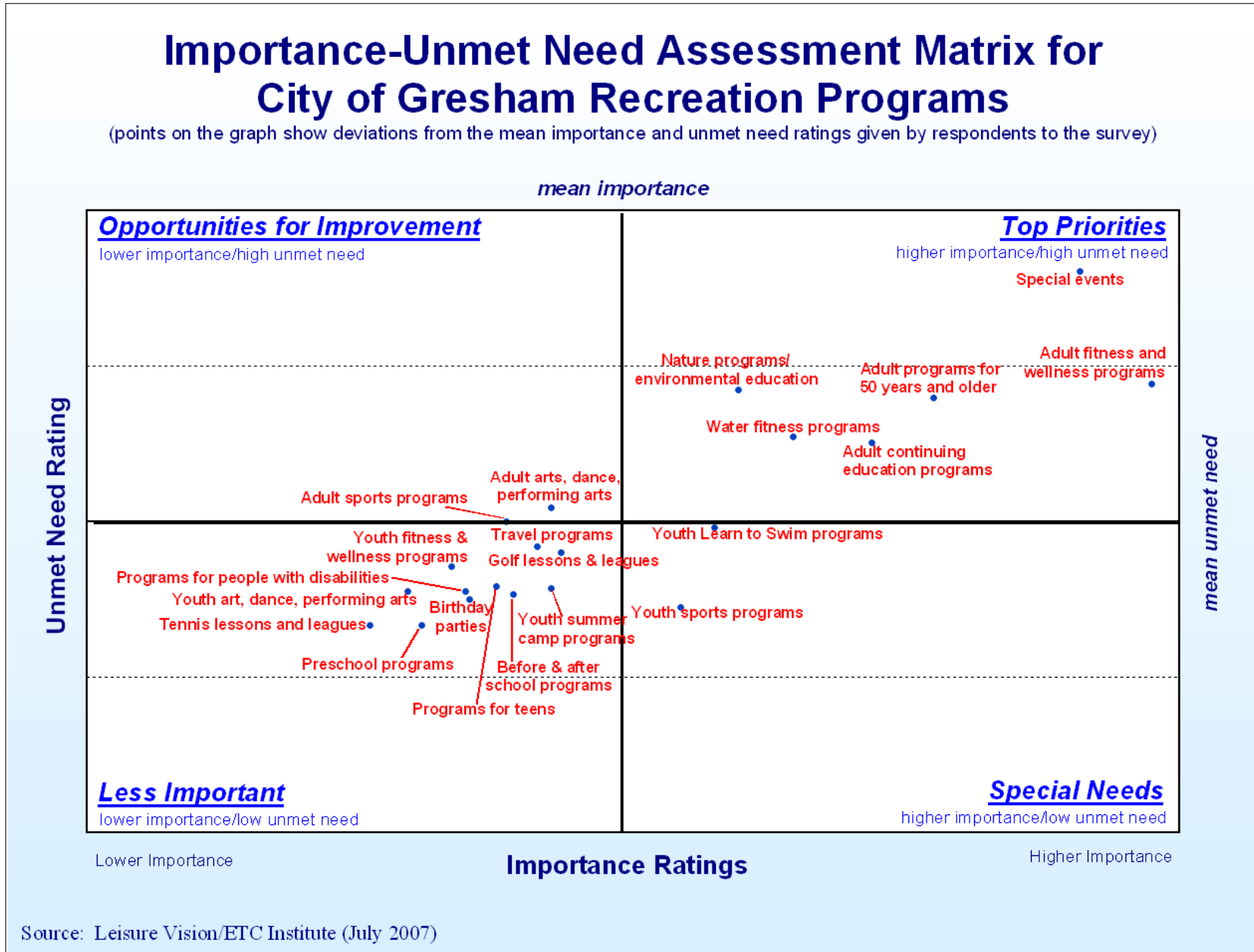
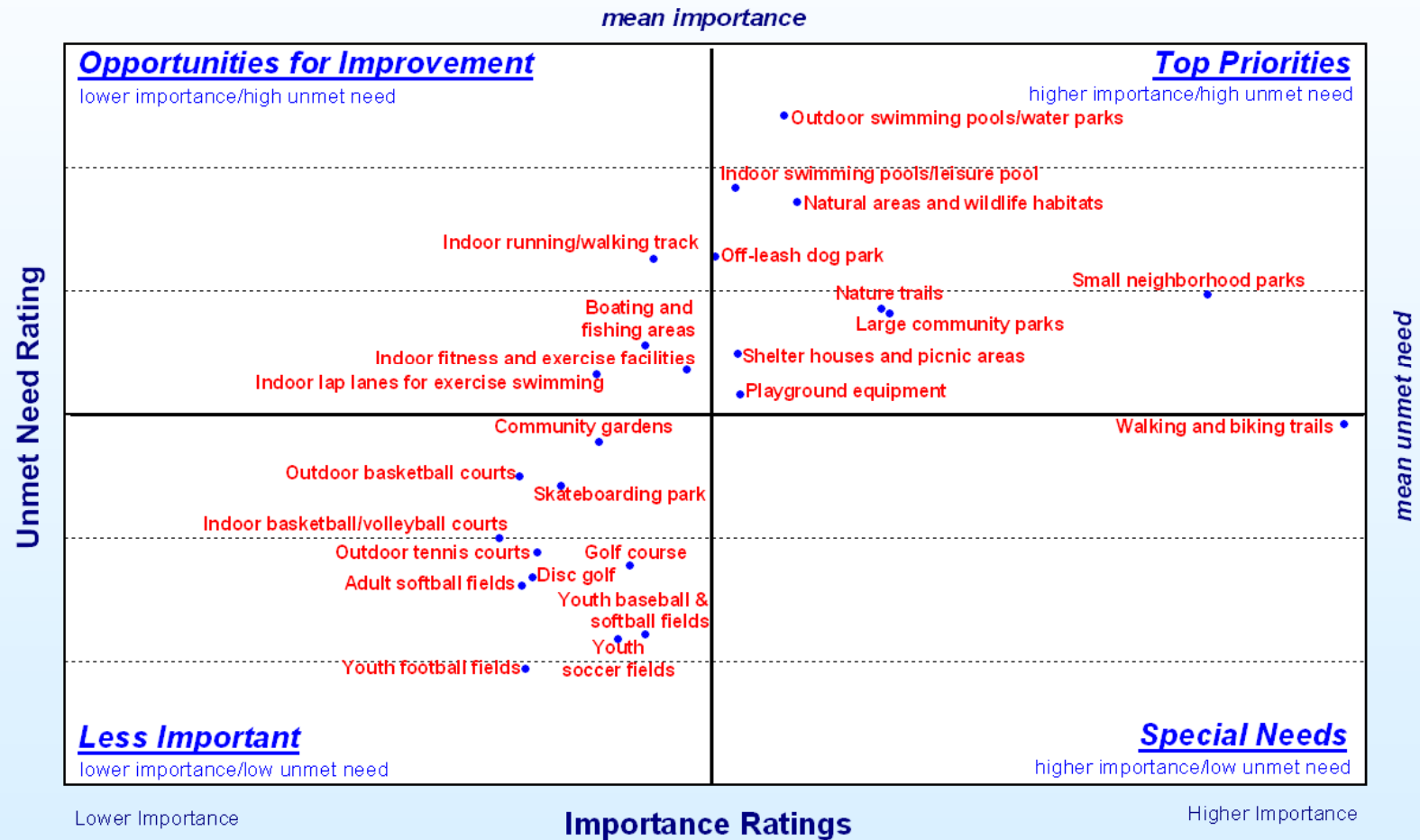


Figure A-1: Needs Matrix – Recreation Facilities

Importance-Unmet Need Assessment Matrix for City of Gresham Parks and Recreation Facilities

(points on the graph show deviations from the mean importance and unmet need ratings given by respondents to the survey)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (July 2007)

**APPENDIX B: PARK
AND FACILITY
INVENTORY**



B-1: CITY OF GRESHAM PARK & RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

PARK NAME	TOTAL SITE ACREAGE	ATHLETIC FIELDS ^A					OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES			INDOOR FACILITIES		AQUATIC FACILITIES	OTHER PARK AMENITIES					
		BASEBALL FIELD	FOOTBALL FIELD	SOCCER FIELD	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	SKATE PARK	TENNIS COURT	COMMUNITY CENTER	GYMNASIUM	POOL	COMMUNITY GARDEN	DISC GOLF	GROUP PICNIC AREA	HORSESHOE COURTS ^B	PICNIC AREA	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS																		
Developed	Aspen Highlands Park	3.7				1										1	1	
	Bella Vista Park	8.1				1										1	1	
	Butler Creek Park	4.0				1										1	2	
	Cedar Park	0.3														1		
	Davis Park	2.6				1	1									1	1	
	Hall Park ^C	4.0			2	1												
	Hollybrook Park ^D	2.6	1		1													
	Kane Road Park	10.3														1	1	
	Kirk Park ^D	7.0	1		1											1		
	Thom Park	5.5														1	1	
	Yamhill Park	0.6					1						1			1	1	
Subtotal	48.7	2	0	4	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	9	8	0
Undeveloped	Columbia View Park	7.5																
	East Gresham Park	5.6																
	Jenne Butte Park	6.7																
	South Central Park	2.9																
	Southeast Park	6.5																
Subtotal	29.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neighborhood Park Subtotal	77.9	2	0	4	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	9	8	0
CITY-WIDE PARKS																		
Community Parks																		
Developed	Main City Park	21.6	2		1	1	1							1	1	1	2	1
	North Gresham Park	13.4	2		1											1	1	
	Pat Pfeifer Barrier-Free Park ^E	13.3	3		1											1	1	1
	Red Sunset Park ^C	14.2			2	1	1							2		1	2	1
	Rockwood Central Park ^C	9.4			1	2	1						1			1	2	1
Subtotal	71.9	7	0	6	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	5	8	4	
Undev.	Southeast Community Park	16.1																
	Southwest Community Park	34.1																
Subtotal	50.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Park Subtotal	122.1	7	0	6	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	5	8	4	
Special Use Areas																		
Gradin Community Sports Park	32.3																	
Center for the Arts	2.1																	
Zimmerman House Park	6.0																	
Subtotal	40.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban Plazas																		
Center for the Arts Plaza ^F																		
Civic Neighborhood Plaza ^G																		
Subtotal	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City-Wide Park Subtotal	162.5	7	0	6	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	5	8	4	
TOTAL	240.3	9	0	10	5	8	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	14	16	4

^A Soccer and football fields can generally be used for both sports. Fields are classified based on their primary usage.
^B The horseshoe facility at Main City Park is a tournament facility.
^C Hall Park, Red Sunet Park, Rockwood Central Park: one softball/soccer field overlay
^D Hollybrook Park, Kirk Park: one baseball/soccer field overlay
^E The PAL Youth Center, which includes a gymnasium, is located at Pat Pfeifer Park.
^F Acreage for the Center for the Arts Plaza has been included in the total Center for the Arts site acreage under the special use area classification.
^G Acreage for the Civic Neighborhood Plaza is not yet known.

B-2: CITY OF GRESHAM NATURAL AREAS, GREENWAYS, & TRAILS INVENTORY

PARK NAME	TOTAL SITE ACREAGE	PUBLIC ACCESS	SITE AMENITIES	RESTROOMS/ STRUCTURES	DEVELOPED PARKING	DEVELOPED TRAILS	NOTES
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS							
Grant Butte	41.20	Y	N	N	N	N	
Gresham Butte	320.40	Y	N	N	N	Y	
Hogan Butte	53.60	Y	N	N	N	N	Master Plan is being developed in 2007 for this site
Jenne Butte	120.50	Y	N	N	N	N	Informal water utility access to the site
Johnson Creek	138.46	Y	N	N	N	Y	
Nadaka Open Space	10.10	Y	Y	N	N	Y	
Springwater Open Space	1.70	Y	N	N	N	N	
Telford Site	19.06						
Miscellaneous Open Space	7.50	Y	N	N	N	N	
Subtotal	712.52	8	1	0	0	3	
CONSERVATION AREAS							
Baltz Open Space	9.40						
Butler	3.00						
Fujitsu Ponds	59.10						
Gabbert Hill	0.92						
Grant Butte	32.00						
Gresham Boeing	13.80						
Hunters Highland	0.46						
Lusted Road	0.80						
Fairview Creek	6.00						
Regner Road	9.10						
South Hills	2.30						
Walters Hill	1.50						
Subtotal	138.38	0	0	0	0	0	
GREENWAYS							
Butler Creek Greenway	31.00	Y	N	N	N	Y	Butler Creek Greenway Trail passes through this natural area and connects to the Springwater Trail
Kelly Creek Greenway	51.20	Y	N	N	N	Y	
Subtotal	82.20	2	0	0	0	2	
TRAILS/TRAIL FACILITIES							
Gresham/Fairview Trail	18.58	Y	Y		Y	Y	
Linnemann Station/Springwater Trail	0.50	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Hogan Road Trailhead/Springwater Trail	1.60	Y	Y		Y		
Subtotal	20.68	1	1	0	1	1	
TOTAL	953.78	11	2	0	1	6	

B-3: OTHER PROVIDERS' PARK & RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

PARK NAME	OWNERSHIP	TOTAL SITE ACREAGE	ATHLETIC FIELDS ^A				OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES			INDOOR FACILITIES		AQUATIC FACILITIES			OTHER PARK AMENITIES					
			BASEBALL FIELD	FOOTBALL FIELD	SOCCER FIELD	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	SKATE PARK/AREA	TENNIS COURT	COMMUNITY CENTER	GYMNASIUM	POOL	TRAIL (in miles)	COMMUNITY GARDEN	DISC GOLF	GROUP PICNIC AREA	HORSESHOE COURTS	PICNIC AREA	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS																				
John Deere Field ^B	Private	8.8			2															
Subtotal		8.8	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CITYWIDE PARKS																				
Community Parks																				
Vance Park ^B	Multnomah County	14.5			1	1							1	1			1	1		
Subtotal		14.5	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	
Special Use Areas																				
Golf Courses	Private	251.5																	Y	
Cemeteries	Private	14.6																		
Paesano Park	Private	11.0																	Y	
PAL Youth Center	City ^C	N/A								1	1									
Subtotal		277.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
NATURAL AREAS, GREENWAYS, & TRAILS																				
Outdoor Recreation Areas																				
Metro Open Space	Metro	484.0																		
Subtotal		484.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Conservation Areas																				
Private Open Space	Private	31.3			2															
Subtotal		31.3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Trails/Trail Facilities																				
I-84 Trail (within Gresham)	ODOT	N/A										2.0								
Springwater Trail	City of Portland	N/A										4.4								
Subtotal		N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL		815.7	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	6.45	1	1	0	0	1	1	3

^A Soccer and football fields can generally be used for both sports. Fields are classified based on their primary usage.

^B The City of Gresham uses John Deere Field and Vance Park regularly; these sites function more as shared facilities than as other providers'.

^C City-owned; located in the City of Gresham Pat Pfeifer Park; operated by Police Activity League

B-4: ALL SCHOOL DISTRICT PARK & RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

PARK NAME	ATHLETIC FIELDS ^A				OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES					INDOOR FACILITIES	AQUATIC FACILITIES	OTHER PARK AMENITIES					
	TOTAL ACREAGE	BASEBALL FIELD	FOOTBALL FIELD	SOCCER FIELD	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	SKATE PARK/AREA	TENNIS COURT	TRACK	GYMNASIUM ^B	POOL	COMMUNITY GARDEN	DISC GOLF	GROUP PICNIC AREA	PICNIC AREA	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS
GRESHAM-BARLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT																	
Center for Advanced Learning	1.8																
Barlow High School		1		2	1					1							
Clear Creek Middle School	28.6	1		1	1	6			1	1							
Dexter McCarty Middle School	13.6	1	1		1	8			1	1							
East Gresham Elementary School	12.4					8						1					1
East Orient Elementary School					1												1
Gordon Russell Middle School	28.2					2			1	1							
Gresham-Barlow School Property	12.4																
Gresham High School	27.6	2	1	1	2			8	1	1							
Hall Elementary School	7.9																1
Highland Elementary School	7.4				2												1
Hogan Cedars Elementary School	7.6	2			2												
Hollydale Elementary School	10.0					2											1
Kelly Creek Elementary School	10.9					2											1
North Gresham Elementary School	9.3	2				6											1
Powell Valley Elementary School	10.9	1		1					1								1
West Gresham Elementary School	5.4																1
West Orient Middle School		1			1	4				1							1
Subtotal	193.7	11	2	5	11	38	0	8	5	6	2	1	0	0	0	10	0
CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT																	
Butler Creek Elementary School	37.8			1	1					1							
Centennial Learning Center	2.9																
Centennial Middle School	22.1	2		1	1				1	2							
Centennial High School	33.3	2	1	1	1			4	1	3	1						
Lynch Meadows Elementary School	4.6	1		1	1												
Lynch View Elementary School	10.1	1		1	1												
Lynchwood Elementary School	10.4	1		2	1												
Pleasant Valley Elementary School	15.7			1						1							1
Subtotal	136.9	7	1	8	6	0	0	4	2	7	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
REYNOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT																	
Alder Elementary School	10.5	2		2													
Davis Elementary School	11.7	1		2	1	1											1
Fairview Elementary School	4.8	2		1													
Hartley Elementary School	12.1	1		2		1											1
Hauton B. Lee Middle School	15.8				1	1			1	1							
Multisensory Learning Academy (Charter)	13.3																
Reynolds Middle School	34.9	2			2	2		4	1	1	1						
Reynolds High School	40.0	1		2	2			2	1	1							
Salish Pond Elementary School	16.9			1													
Sweetbrier Elementary School	8.9	1															
Walt Morey Middle School	14.1				1					1							
Wilkes Elementary School	5.4	2		2		1											1
Woodland Elementary School	22.8			1													
Subtotal	211.2	12	0	13	7	6	0	6	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	0
OTHER																	
Alpha High School	0.6																
Life Skills Center/Present Tense	0.2																
Mount Hood Community College	28.1	1	1	1	1	4					2						
Springwater Trail High School	6.5																
Subtotal	35.4	1	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	577.2	31	4	27	25	48	0	18	10	17	6	1	0	0	0	14	0

^A Soccer and football fields can generally be used for both sports. Fields are classified based on their primary usage.

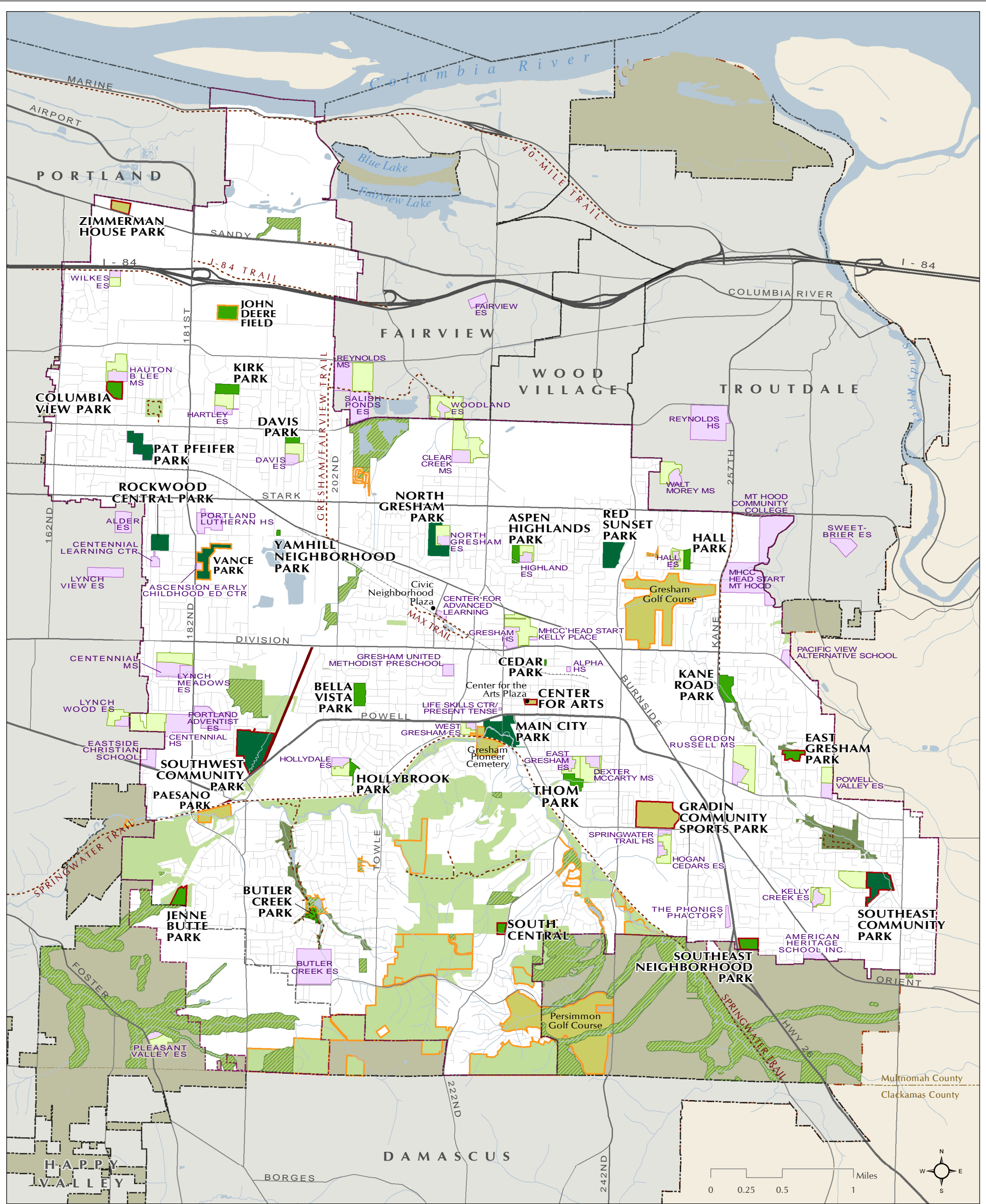
^B It has been assumed that each middle school and high school in Gresham has one gym, except in the case of Centennial School District, whose gym inventory is based on a school facility study.

B-5: CITY OF GRESHAM TRAILS INVENTORY

PARK NAME	EXISTING MILEAGE	PROPOSED MILEAGE	TOTAL MILEAGE	HARD SURFACED	SOFT SURFACED	SITE AMENITIES	SIGNAGE	TRAILHEADS WITH PARKING	NOTES
REGIONAL TRAILS									
Columbia Slough Trail		0.86	0.86						Planned
Gresham/Fairview Trail	1.3	3.6	4.88	Y	N	N	Y	N	Phase I construction in 2007, Phases II and III scheduled
Marine Drive Trail (40-Mile Loop)	1.61	2.27	3.88	Y	N	N	Y	N	
MAX Trail	0.80	1.76	2.56						Planned
Springwater Connector	0.07		0.07						
Subtotal	3.79	8.46	12.25	2	0	0	2	0	
NATURAL AREA TRAILS									
Butler Creek Greenway Trail	1.67	0.46	2.13	N	Y	N	N	N	Some missing links
East Buttes Loop Trail		2.04	2.04						
East Buttes Powerline Corridor Trail		1.20	1.20						
Grant Butte Trail		1.03	1.03	N	N	N	N	N	Planned
Gresham Butte Trails		5.12	5.12						
Gresham Butte Saddle Trail	1.24	1.14	2.38	N	Y	N	N	N	
Hogan Butte Trail	0.36	1.11	1.47						
Jenne Butte Trails		2.18	2.18						
Johnson Creek Trail	0.18	0.18	0.36						
Kelly Creek Greenway Trail	0.66	1.21	1.87	N	Y	Y	N	N	
Nadaka Loop Trail	0.46	0.11	0.57	N	Y	Y	N	N	
Miscellaneous Trails	0.02	6.65	6.67						
Subtotal	4.60	22.42	27.02	0	4	2	0	0	
TOTAL	8.39	30.88	39.27	2.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	

APPENDIX C: MAPS





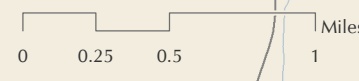
City of Gresham
Department of
Environmental Services
Parks & Recreation Division

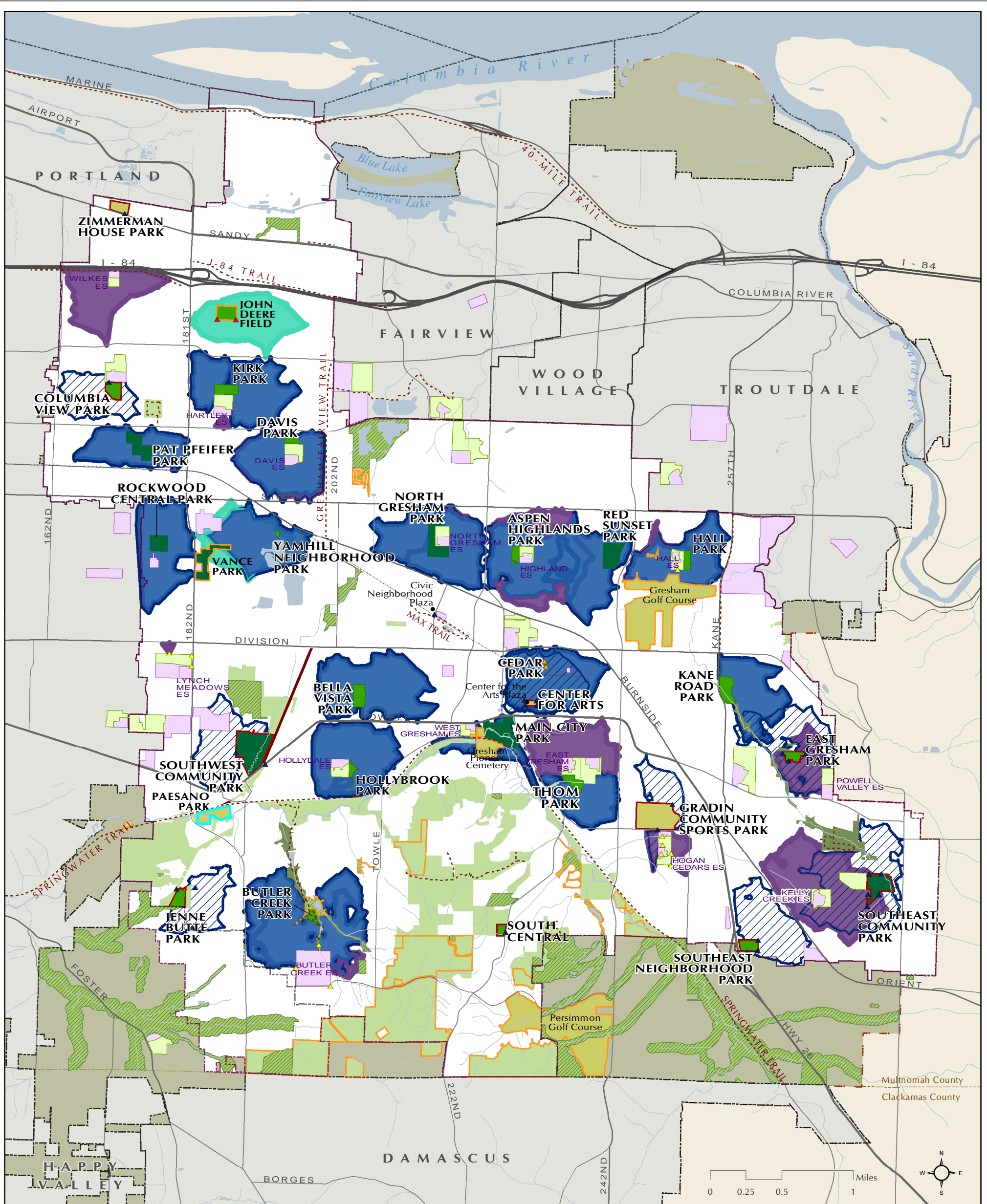
Map 1: Existing Park & Recreation Facilities



April 2008 | Data Source:
City of Gresham GIS

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Community Park | Urban Plaza | Interstate |
| Neighborhood Park | Community Park (Undeveloped) | Major Road |
| Greenway | Neighborhood Park (Undeveloped) | Local Streets |
| Outdoor Recreation Area | Special Use Area (Undeveloped) | Max Rail |
| School Open Space | Other Community Park | Water Body |
| Conservation Area | Other Neighborhood Park | Stream |
| Trail Corridor | Other Outdoor Recreation Area | County Line |
| Existing Trail | Other Conservation Area | City Limits |
| School | Other Special Use Area | Other Cities |
| | | UGB |





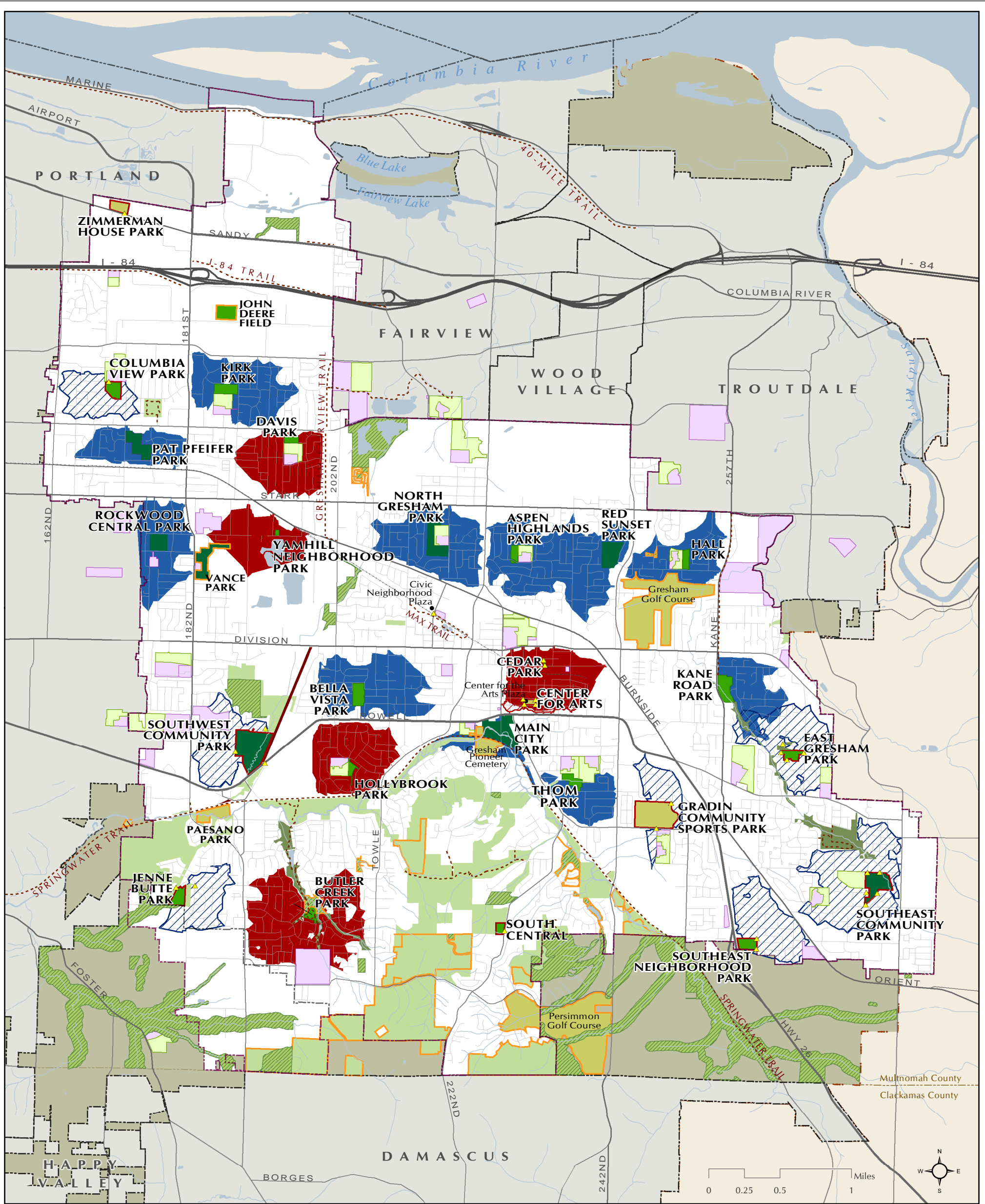
City of Gresham
 Department of
 Environmental Services
 Parks & Recreation Division

Map 2: Park Access Analysis (1/2 Mile Service Area)



April 2008 | Data Source:
 City of Gresham GIS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Community Park | Undeveloped Park Access | Urban Plaza |
| Neighborhood Park | Developed Park Access | School |
| Greenway | Other Provider Park Access | Existing Trail |
| Outdoor Recreation Area | Elementary School Access | Interstate |
| School Open Space | Undeveloped Park Service Area | Major Road |
| Conservation Area | Developed Park Service Area | Local Streets |
| Community Park (Undeveloped) | Other Park Service Area | Max Rail |
| Neighborhood Park (Undeveloped) | Elementary School Service Area | Water Body |
| Special Use Area (Undeveloped) | Other Outdoor Recreation Area | Stream |
| Trail Corridor | Other Conservation Area | County Line |
| Other Community Park | Other Special Use Area | City Limits |
| Other Neighborhood Park | | Other Cities |
| | | UGB |



City of Gresham
 Department of
 Environmental Services
 Parks & Recreation Division

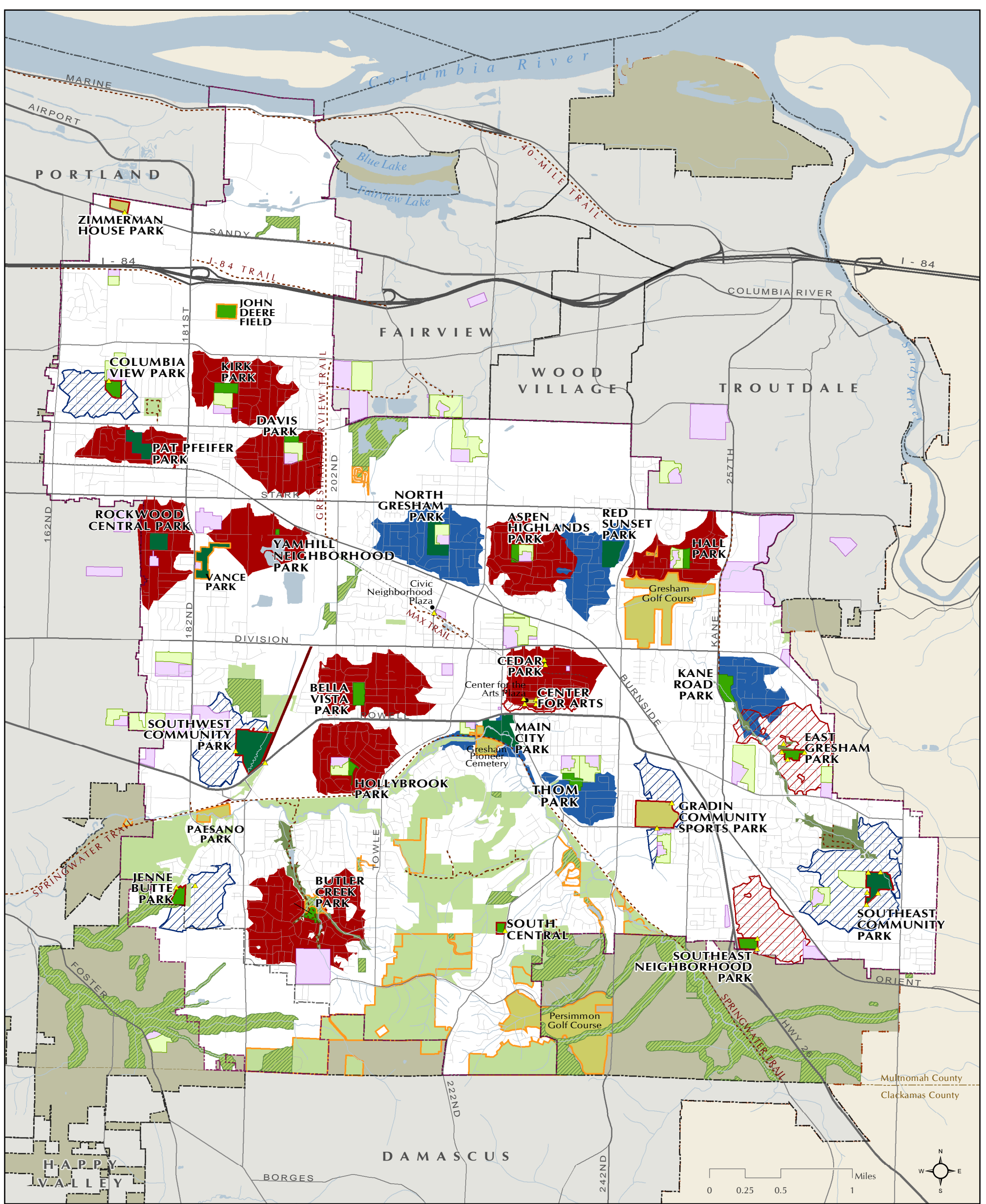
Map 3: Park Capacity Analysis (2006 Population & 1/2 Mile Service Area)



April 2008 | Data Source:
 City of Gresham GIS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Community Park | Developed & Undeveloped Park Access | Urban Plaza |
| Neighborhood Park | Undeveloped Park Within Capacity | School |
| Greenway | Developed Park Withing Capacity | Existing Trail |
| Outdoor Recreation Area | Undeveloped Park Over Capacity | Interstate |
| School Open Space | Developed Park Over Capacity | Major Road |
| Conservation Area | Other Neighborhood Park | Local Streets |
| Community Park (Undeveloped) | Other Outdoor Recreation Area | Max Rail |
| Neighborhood Park (Undeveloped) | Other Conservation Area | Water Body |
| Special Use Area (Undeveloped) | Other Special Use Area | Stream |
| Trail Corridor | | County Line |
| Other Community Park | | City Limits |
| | | Other Cities |
| | | UGB |





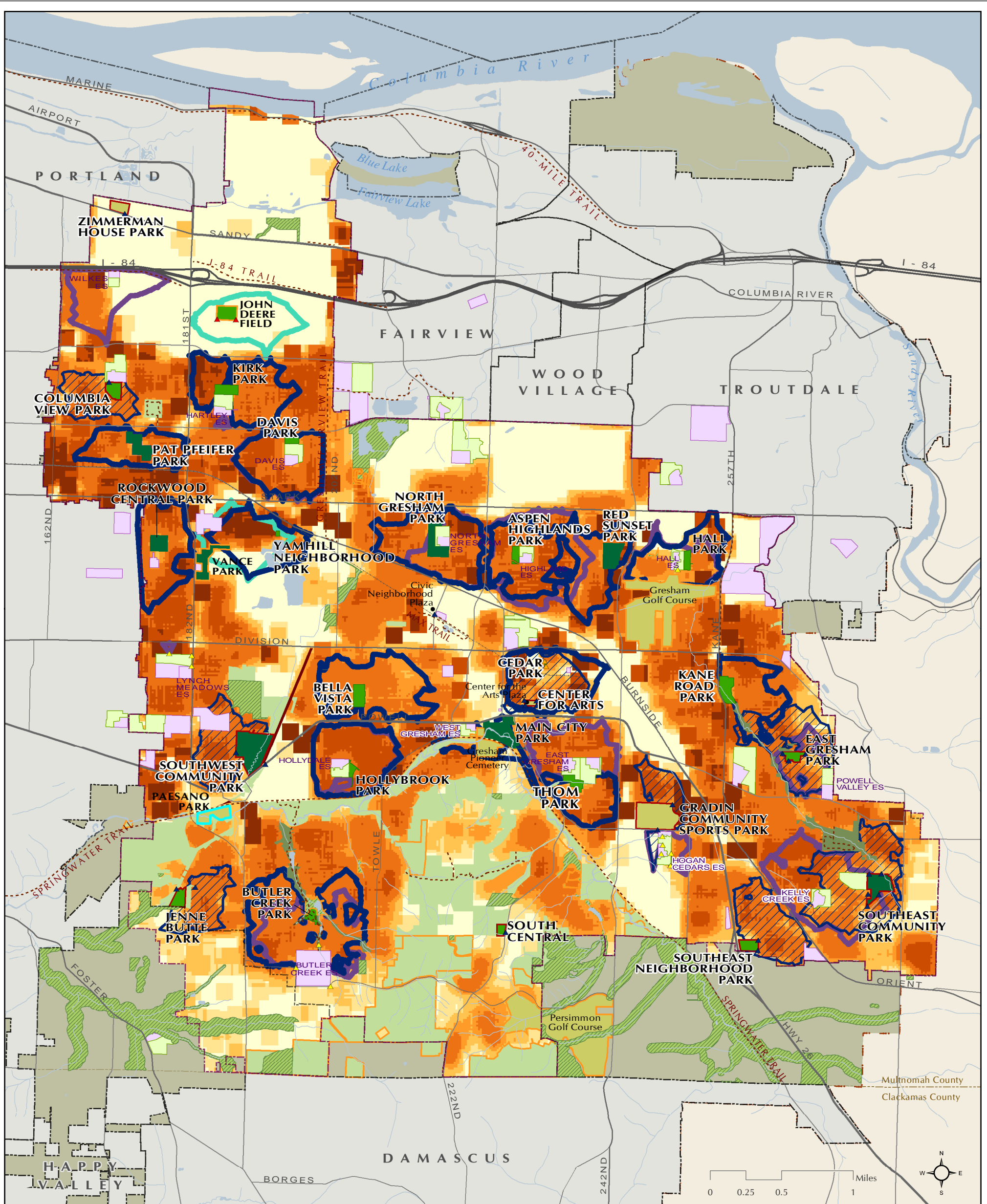
City of Gresham
Department of
Environmental Services
Parks & Recreation Division

Map 4: Park Capacity Analysis (Maximum Buildout Population & 1/2 Mile Service Area)



April 2008 | Data Source:
City of Gresham GIS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Community Park | Developed & Undeveloped Park Access | Urban Plaza |
| Neighborhood Park | Undeveloped Park Within Capacity | School |
| Greenway | Developed Park Withing Capacity | Existing Trail |
| Outdoor Recreation Area | Undeveloped Park Over Capacity | Interstate |
| School Open Space | Developed Park Over Capacity | Major Road |
| Conservation Area | Other Neighborhood Park | Local Streets |
| Community Park (Undeveloped) | Other Outdoor Recreation Area | Max Rail |
| Neighborhood Park (Undeveloped) | Other Conservation Area | Water Body |
| Special Use Area (Undeveloped) | Other Special Use Area | Stream |
| Trail Corridor | | County Line |
| Other Community Park | | City Limits |
| | | Other Cities |
| | | UGB |



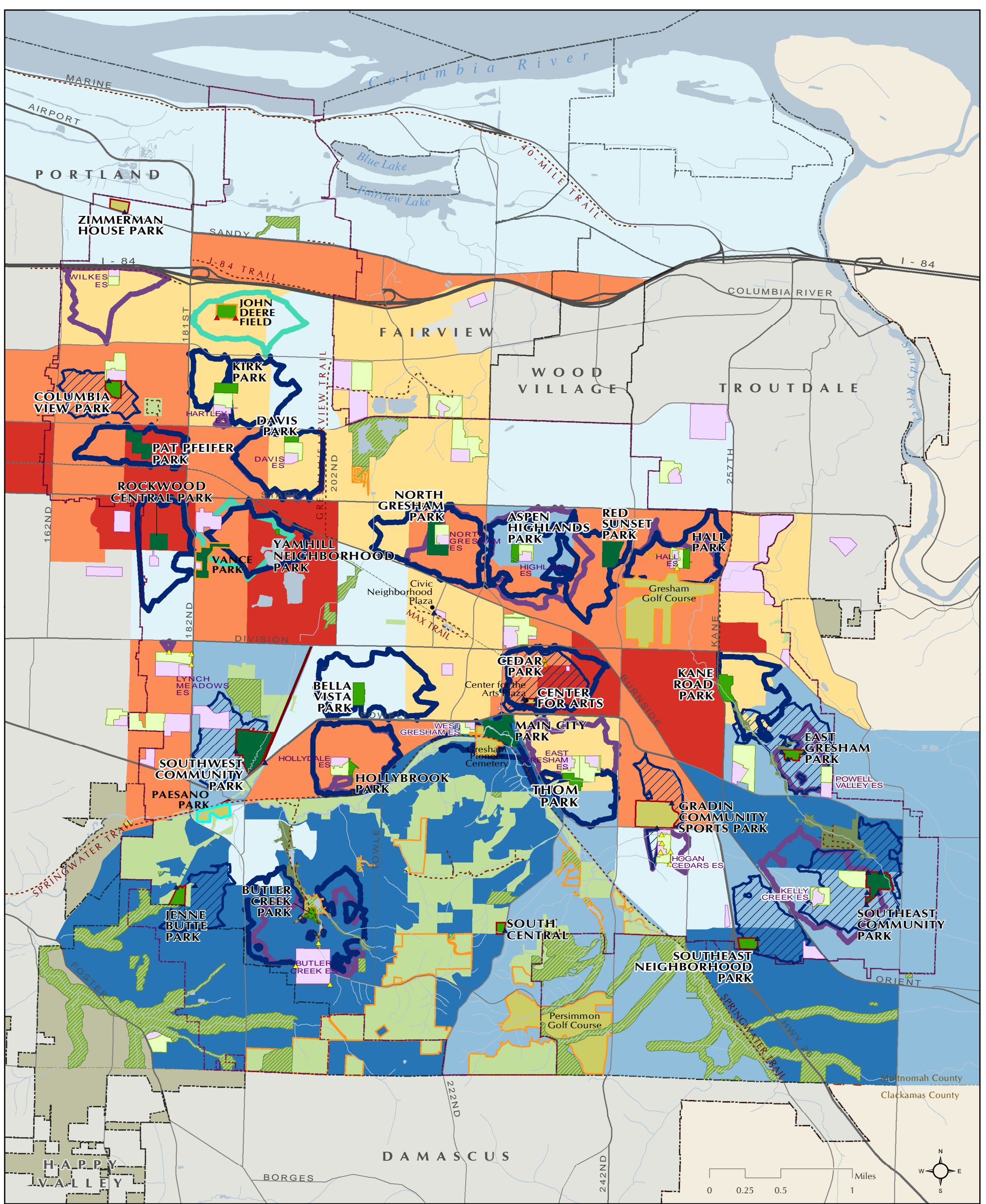
City of Gresham
 Department of
 Environmental Services
 Parks & Recreation Division

Map 5: Population Density (2006 Population & 1/2 Mile Service Area)



April 2008 | Data Source:
 City of Gresham GIS

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Park Neighborhood Park Greenway Outdoor Recreation Area School Open Space Conservation Area Community Park (Undeveloped) Neighborhood Park (Undeveloped) Special Use Area (Undeveloped) Existing Trail Trail Corridor Other Community Park Other Neighborhood Park | <p>People per Acre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 1 to 5 6 to 25 26 to 50 51 to 100 101 to 200 201 to 1,353 Urban Plaza School Other Outdoor Recreation Area Other Conservation Area Other Special Use Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undeveloped Park Service Area Developed Park Service Area Other Park Service Area Elementary School Service Area Interstate Major Road Local Streets Max Rail Water Body Stream County Line City Limits Other Cities UGB |
|---|---|--|



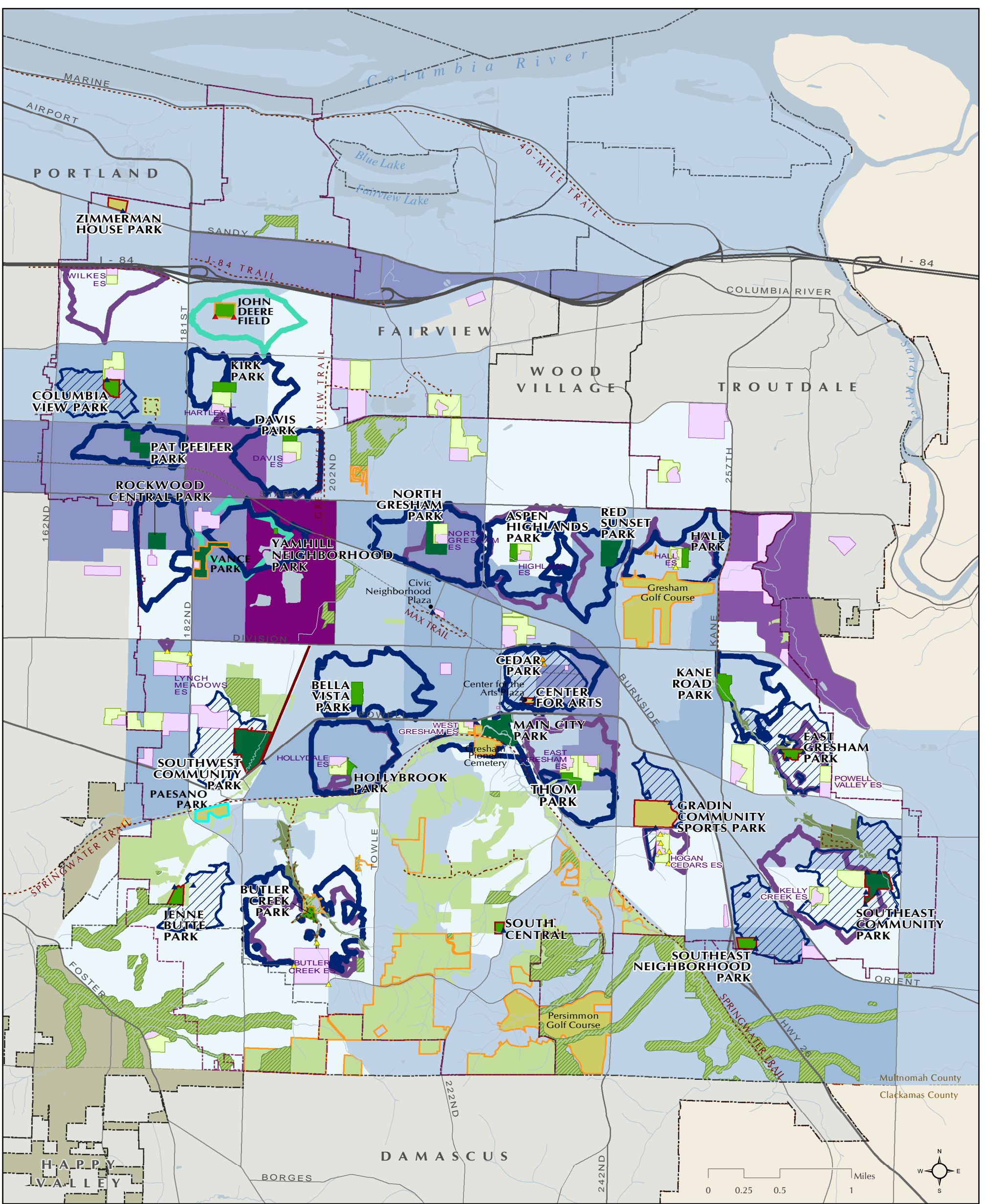
City of Gresham
 Department of
 Environmental Services
 Parks & Recreation Division

Map 6: 2006 Median Household Income (1/2 Mile Park Service Area)



April 2008 | Data Source:
 City of Gresham GIS

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Park Neighborhood Park Greenway Outdoor Recreation Area School Open Space Conservation Area Community Park (Undeveloped) Neighborhood Park (Undeveloped) Special Use Area (Undeveloped) Existing Trail Trail Corridor Other Community Park Other Neighborhood Park | <p>Median Household Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$22,045 to \$35,000 \$35,001 to \$45,000 \$45,001 to \$55,000 \$55,001 to \$65,000 \$65,001 to \$75,000 \$75,001 to \$95,000 Urban Plaza School Other Outdoor Recreation Area Other Conservation Area Other Special Use Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undeveloped Park Service Area Developed Park Service Area Other Park Service Area Elementary School Service Area Interstate Major Road Local Streets Max Rail Water Body Stream County Line City Limits Other Cities UGB |
|---|--|--|

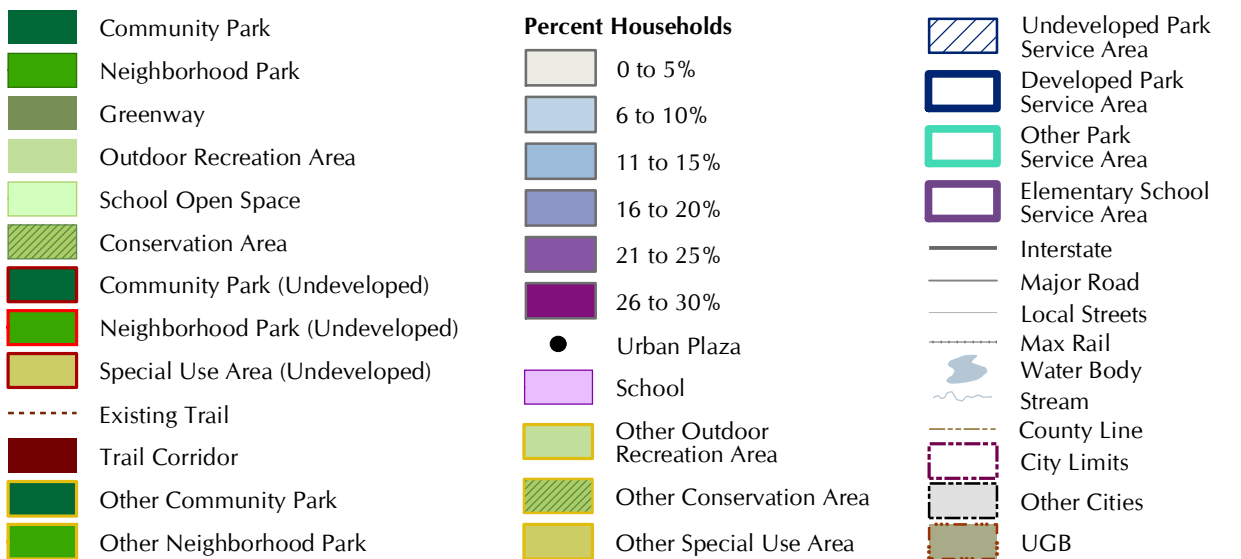


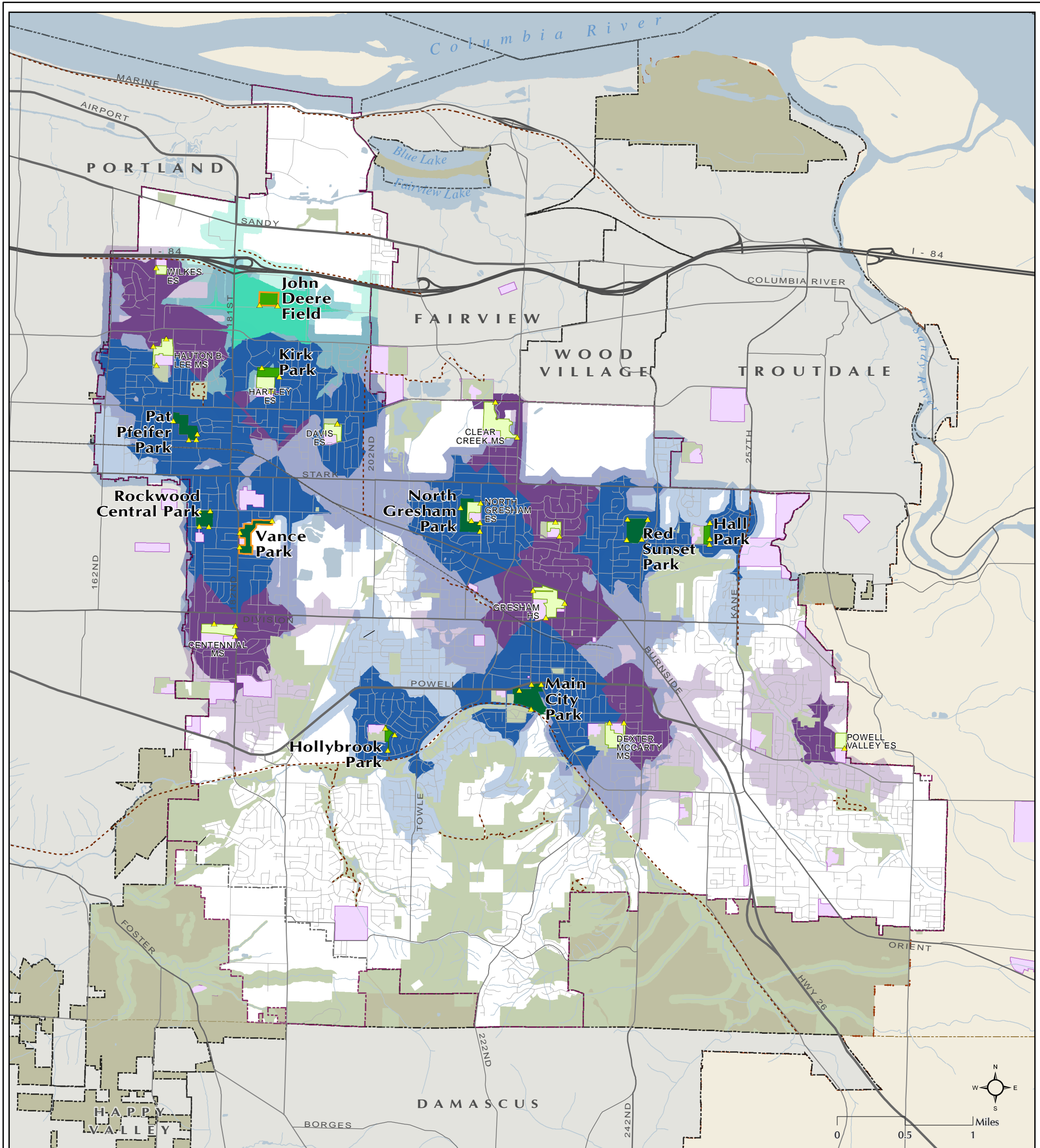
City of Gresham
Department of
Environmental Services
Parks & Recreation Division

Map 7: 2006 Percent of Households Below Poverty Level (1/2 Mile Service Area)



April 2008 | Data Source:
City of Gresham GIS





City Facilities

Hall Park 2 Soccer Field 1 Softball Field	Kirk Park 1 Soccer Field	North Gresham Park 2 Baseball Field 1 Soccer Field	Red Sunset Park 2 Soccer Field 1 Softball Field
Hollybrook Park 1 Baseball Field 1 Soccer Field	Main City Park 2 Baseball Fields 1 Softball Field 1 Soccer Field	Pat Pfeifer Park 3 Baseball Fields 1 Soccer Field	Rockwood Central Park 2 Softball Fields 1 Soccer Field

Other Facilities

John Deere Park 2 Soccer Fields	Vance Park 1 Soccer Field 1 Baseball Field
---	---

School Facilities

Centennial MS 2 Baseball 1 Softball 1 Soccer	Davis ES 1 Baseball 1 Softball 2 Soccer	Gresham HS 2 Baseball 2 Softball 1 Soccer 1 Football	Hauton B Lee MS 1 Softball	North Gresham ES 2 Baseball
Clear Creek MS 1 Baseball 1 Softball 1 Soccer	Dexter McCarthy MS 1 Baseball 1 Softball 1 Football	Hartley ES 1 Baseball 2 Soccer	Highland ES 2 Softball	Powell Valley ES 1 Baseball 1 Soccer
			Gresham HS 2 Baseball 2 Softball 1 Soccer 1 Football	Wilkes ES 2 Baseball 2 Soccer



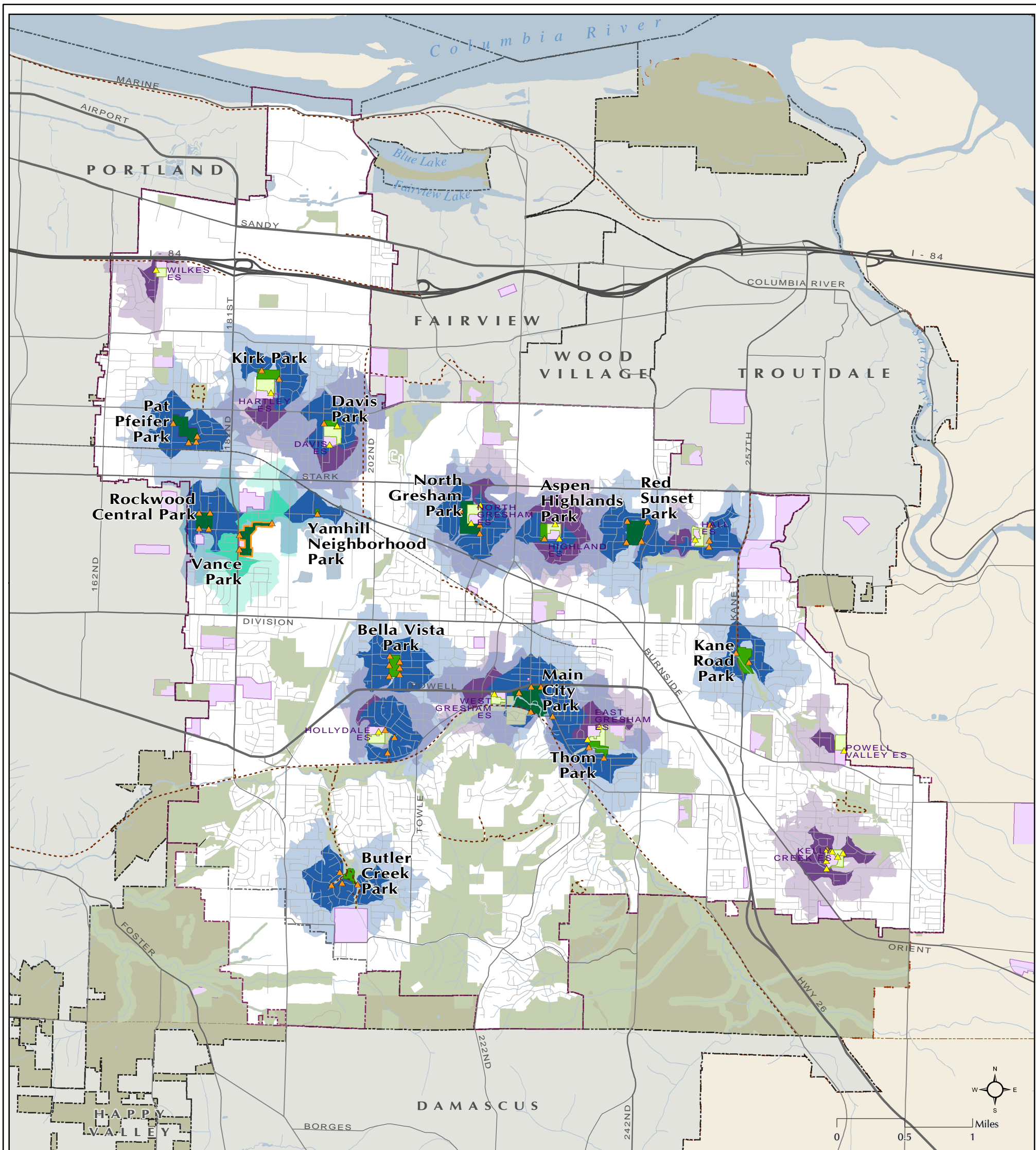
City of Gresham
Department of
Environmental Services
Parks & Recreation Division

Map 8: Sports Field Service Areas



April 2008 | Data Source:
City of Gresham GIS

Community Park	Sport Field Access	County Line	1/2 Mile Service Area Other Facility
Other Community Park	Other Park/ Open Space	City Limits	Gresham Facility
Neighborhood Park	School	Other Cities	School Facility
Other Neighborhood Park	Existing Trail	UGB	1 Mile Service Area Other Facility
School Open Space	Water Body	Interstate	Gresham Facility
	Stream	Major Road	School Facility
		Local Streets	
		Max Rail	



City Facilities

Aspen Highlands Park 1 Picnic Area 1 Playground	Davis Park 1 Picnic Area 1 Playground	Main City Park 2 Picnic Areas 2 Playgrounds	Thom Park 1 Picnic Area 1 Playground	Yamhill Neighborhood Park 1 Picnic Area 1 Playground
Bella Vista Park 1 Picnic Area 1 Playground	Kane Road Park 1 Picnic Area 1 Playground	North Gresham Park 1 Picnic Area 1 Playground	Red Sunset Park 2 Picnic Areas 2 Playgrounds	
Butler Creek Park 2 Picnic Areas 2 Playgrounds	Kirk Park 1 Playground	Pat Pfeifer Park 1 Picnic Area 1 Playground	Rockwood Central Park 2 Picnic Areas 2 Playgrounds	

Other Facilities

Vance Neighborhood Park 1 Picnic Area 1 Playground

School Playgrounds

Davis ES	Kelly Creek ES
East Gresham ES	North Gresham ES
Hall ES	Powell Valley ES
Hartley ES	West Gresham ES
Highland ES	Wilkes ES
Hollydale ES	



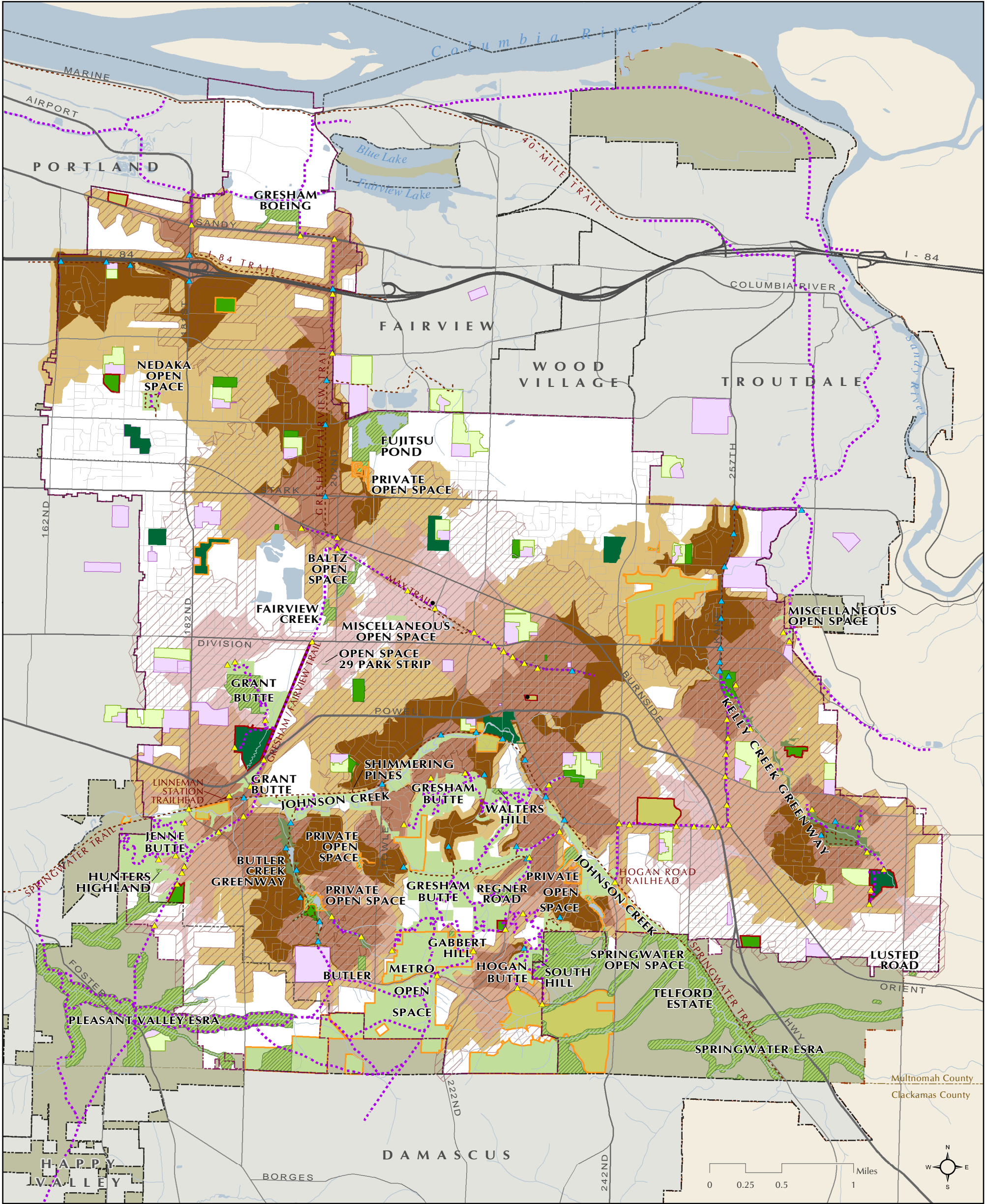
City of Gresham
Department of
Environmental Services
Parks & Recreation Division

**Map 9:
Picnic & Playground
Service Areas**



April 2008 | Data Source:
City of Gresham GIS

Community Park	Park Access	County Line	1/4 Mile Service Area
Other Community Park	School Access	City Limits	Other Facility
Neighborhood Park	School	Other Cities	Gresham Facility
School Open Space	Existing Trail	UGB	School Facility
Other Park/Open Space	Water Body	Interstate	1/2 Mile Service Area
	Stream	Major Road	Other Facility
		Local Streets	Gresham Facility
		Max Rail	School Facility



City of Gresham
 Department of
 Environmental Services
 Parks & Recreation Division

Map 10: Existing & Proposed Trail Access (1/2 & 1 Mile Service Areas)

M I G April 2008 | Data Source:
 City of Gresham GIS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Community Park | Urban Plaza | Interstate |
| Neighborhood Park | Existing Access Point | Major Road |
| Greenway | Proposed Access Point | Local Streets |
| Outdoor Recreation Area | Proposed Trail | Max Rail |
| School Open Space | Existing Trail | Water Body |
| Conservation Area | Trail Corridor | Stream |
| Community Park (Undeveloped) | 1/2 Mile Service Area Existing Trail | School |
| Special Use Area (Undeveloped) | 1/2 Mile Service Area Proposed Trail | County Line |
| Neighborhood Park (Undeveloped) | 1 Mile Service Area Existing Trail | City Limits |
| Other Community Park | 1 Mile Service Area Proposed Trail | Other Cities |
| Other Neighborhood Park | | UGB |
| Other Outdoor Recreation Area | | |
| Other Special Use Area | | |
| Other Conservation Area | | |

APPENDIX D: PARK EVALUATIONS





APPENDIX D: PARK EVALUATIONS

A review of the Gresham park system was conducted in February 2007. The condition of sites was assessed during a park tour, which focused on developed park sites owned and managed by the City of Gresham Parks and Recreation Division. The purpose of the tour was to rate the condition of facilities, and identify specific issues and system-wide concerns facing the park system. This report includes an overview of existing conditions by park type and amenity, and a summary table of condition ratings for developed parks.

The results of the 2007 evaluation are presented in Table D-1. Developed neighborhood and community parks are listed alphabetically by park type. The assessment used a numerical rating system based on a three-point scale to rate each amenity:

3. Amenity is in **good** condition
2. Amenity is in **fair** condition
1. Amenity is in **poor** condition

An average rating is included for each park site. In addition, average ratings for each amenity and each park type are presented as well. Gresham's other park types were not rated according to this system, but a brief overview of conditions in other park types is described below.

OVERVIEW OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

In general, the City of Gresham's park system is in fair condition. However, there has been a clear lack of investment in neighborhood and community parks over the past several years. With the exception of Yamhill Park, which is only 0.6 acres and primarily serves as a Headstart location, the last significant park developed as a whole was Red Sunset Park in the 1990s. Since then, the City has relied on piecemeal improvements to existing parks as the Division's budget and fundraising capability allows. The City has a large number of undeveloped as well as underutilized sites. Many of these undeveloped sites have been owned by the City for years.

One strong asset is the Division's devoted maintenance staff, including several who have been employed by the City for many years. Although faced with continued reductions over the years, the maintenance staff is very committed, and their commitment is reflected in their work. However, many of the City's parks are aging, and many lack the full range and quality of amenities that are standard for a city of Gresham's size. Accessibility for people with disabilities is also a significant issue.

One positive development is the City's successes in obtaining grants, including CDBG funding for eligible parks and Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation grants, to upgrade or develop some amenities, including aging playgrounds, in several developed parks. These have been augmented by careful budgeting of Division General Funds.

Another strong positive aspect of Gresham's park and recreation system is its regional trails. The Springwater Trail, Gresham Fairview Trail, MAX Trail, and Marine Drive Trail have been noted statewide, and Gresham has a reputation for its quality trail system. In addition, Gresham's outdoor recreation areas and greenways incorporate nature into the City, and have strong potential for greater recreational use. Conservation areas also preserve environmental quality and provide open space. Refining and highlighting this system of natural areas and trails could help the City continue to attract businesses and residents, and meet recreation needs.

Barriers to park access are a major issue in Gresham. In addition to natural barriers such as the buttes and Johnson Creek, many of the wide arterial streets also are significant barriers to community access for pedestrians and bicyclists.

CONDITIONS BY PARK TYPE

The condition of Gresham's parks varies widely. Many of the City's developed parks have only the most basic amenities. Most natural area park types receive minimal maintenance. The conditions of Gresham's parks, as evaluated during the park tour are summarized below.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

In general, the City's neighborhood parks are in fair condition. In an evaluation of existing conditions, the City's neighborhood parks averaged scores ranging from 1.71 to 3 on a three point scale, where one is poor and three is good. Aspen Highlands, Kane Road Park, and

Vance Park (a Multnomah County property that is maintained by the City) received the poorest scores, and are in need of a major update.

Landscaping and sports fields received the lowest condition ratings amongst neighborhood parks. Vance Park has a restroom that is in poor condition. However, permanent restrooms are generally not provided in neighborhood parks. Play equipment received one of the highest ratings, due to an on-going effort to upgrade equipment to meet safety and accessibility standards. However, there are a number of parks that still need play equipment upgrades, and some do not have play equipment. Five neighborhood parks are undeveloped.

COMMUNITY PARKS

On the whole, the City's developed community parks are in fair to poor condition. Site averages range from 1.56 to 2.57 on a three point scale. Gresham's Red Sunset and Main City Parks, long the highlight of the City's park system, are showing their age. While Red Sunset could be revitalized with maintenance improvements and replacement of some amenities, Main City Park needs a significant overhaul. A new site master plan has been developed, and should be implemented to restore this resource. Main City Park is important to community identity as well as for the recreation opportunities it provides.

Two parks, Rockwood Central and North Gresham, were reclassified in this Plan from neighborhood parks to community parks, due to size and use patterns. However, both parks do not have the minimum elements needed in community parks. In addition, Pat Pfeiffer Park, a former Multnomah County Park that the City has been revitalizing with grant funds, also still lacks amenities.

Due to limited maintenance, the condition of landscaping and turf received the lowest condition scores. Two community parks are undeveloped.

SPECIAL USE AREAS AND URBAN PLAZAS

Most special use areas and urban plazas are currently undeveloped. The Zimmerman House Park is a significant historic site. A new master plan exists, but has not been implemented and the site has received minimal maintenance. The Gradin Community Sports Park is undeveloped, and has a recently completed master plan. The Center for the Arts Plaza and Civic Neighborhood Plaza are undeveloped.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS

The City's outdoor recreation areas are a source of community pride, but access points to many areas is difficult to locate. Most have only informal trails and no supportive resources, such as bike racks, benches, or interpretive signage. Gresham Butte has a recently developed formal trail, and a new master plan in underway for Hogan Butte. No trails are accessible to people with disabilities. Maintenance and restoration efforts are limited in outdoor recreation areas. Specific guidelines should be developed to enhance maintenance of these areas.

CONSERVATION AREAS

The City of Gresham currently owns 12 conservation areas, almost all of which are held by the City's Water Division. Most of these conservation areas are located around reservoirs, and most are not accessible to the general public. Most have no recreation amenities, although some could be considered for recreation use. These areas are maintained by the Water Division.

GREENWAYS

The City of Gresham has two greenways. Butler Creek Greenway also functions as a neighborhood park. The neighborhood park portion has limited visibility from the surrounding streets. Invasive species are prevalent, but some restoration has been done by Watershed Management. The park is in need of accessibility improvements, and interpretive elements. Kelly Creek Greenway has a natural character and some restoration work has been done. Interpretive signage is needed. The greenway has a relatively level terrain, and trails could be accessible to people with disabilities. However, the trails are not currently accessible. Specific guidelines should be developed to enhance maintenance of greenways.

TRAILS

The City currently owns one trail corridor, the Gresham/Fairview Trail, which opened in 2007 after the park evaluation was completed. It also provides two trailheads associated with the Springwater Trail, Linneman Station and Hogan Road Trailheads. Gresham's trails are a significant and well-loved City feature.

Linneman Station is a reconstruction of a historic station that was to be preserved, until it burnt down in 1995. Drawings existed of the old

building, and the building was recreated. It contains restrooms opening to the exterior, a 600 sf community room, small railroad museum, and an outdoor area with picnic tables, bike racks, benches, trash cans and a water fountain. There are 14 parking spaces and 2 ADA spaces. The building appears underutilized, but would be an excellent resource for community rentals. The mostly native landscaping and storm detention pond demonstrates sustainability. The turf is not irrigated, and is not in good condition.

Hogan Trailhead is located at the City's Operations Center, and provides a trailhead for Springwater Trail. Parking is provided within the Operations Center lot. Few other amenities are provided. There is a picnic shelter on the Springwater, which may be removed because of misuse. There is also a Porta Potty (not accessible), but no permanent restroom.

OTHER ISSUES

SIGNAGE

Most of the City's parks have consistent signage. However, not all park frontages are signed, creating problems in parks with multiple access points and in parks that border private property or other non-park uses.

PARK AMENITIES

Many of the City's park amenities, including playgrounds, restrooms, picnic tables, shelters, benches, and water fountains, are old and need replacement. The City's maintenance staff has made an effort to replace some of these amenities, specifically play equipment, by allocating a portion of its budget to annual replacement. However, these efforts have not provided a long term solution to the overall condition of Gresham's park amenities.

SAFETY

There are also issues of safety and vandalism in some of Gresham's parks. These issues may be the result of design decisions; many of Gresham's existing sites lack good visibility. Safety issues may also be a function of existing park policies; because Gresham's parks close at dusk, park sites are not necessarily sufficiently populated to deter uses that are perceived as undesirable, especially in the winter. The City should consider changing this policy to increase users and deter undesirable use. Deferred maintenance may also affect residents' sense of safety in Gresham parks.

ACCESSIBILITY

A thorough ADA assessment was not conducted as part of the park evaluation. However, several observations were made regarding general accessibility issues. For example, many of the City's existing parks do not provide an accessible path of travel. Many of the City's parking areas are not ADA accessible. Picnic areas in the City's parks generally need accessibility improvements, as do many of the City's benches. The City's multi-use trails are accessible, but not natural area trails are currently accessible.

SPORTS FIELDS, TURF AND LANDSCAPING

Due to limited maintenance, these are in fair to poor condition. The City could benefit from enhanced planning and maintenance guidelines with the aim of reducing maintenance.

URBAN FORESTRY AND NATURAL AREA MAINTENANCE

With Gresham's extensive inventory of natural areas, an urban forestry specialist is needed to manage its urban canopy. In addition, since maintenance and management of natural areas differs from that of developed park sites, specific management strategies should be implemented to manage all natural area park types.

D-1: CITY OF GRESHAM AVERAGE PARK & RECREATION FACILITY CONDITION RATINGS

PARK NAME ^A	ATHLETIC FIELDS	OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES PAVED COURTS	PATHS/ TRAILS	SIGNAGE	LANDSCAPING	OTHER PARK AMENITIES				SITE AVERAGE	ITEMS RATED	
	SPORTS FIELDS					TURF	PLAY EQUIPMENT	SITE AMENITIES	RESTROOMS/ STRUCTURES			PARKING
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS												
Aspen Highlands Park	N/A	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	N/A	N/A	1.83	6
Bella Vista Park ^B	N/A	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	N/A	N/A	2.00	6
Butler Creek Park ^B	N/A	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	N/A	N/A	2.33	6
Cedar Park	N/A	N/A	3	3	3	3	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	3.00	5
Columbia View Park ^B	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.33	3
Davis Park	N/A	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	N/A	N/A	2.50	6
Hall Park	2	N/A	1	3	2	2	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	2.00	5
Hollybrook Park	2	N/A	2	2	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.00	4
Kane Road Park	N/A	N/A	1	2	2	2	1	2	N/A	2	1.71	7
Kirk Park ^B	2	N/A	3	3	2	2	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	2.40	5
Thom Park	N/A	N/A	2	3	2	1	2	2	N/A	N/A	2.00	6
Vance Park ^B	1	2	1	3	1	1	3	2	1	N/A	1.71	7
Yamhill Park	N/A	2	3	3	2	N/A	3	3	N/A (or 3)	3	2.83	6
Neighborhood Park Average	1.75	2.00	2.08	2.85	1.92	2.00	2.25	2.00	1.00	2.50	2.20	72
COMMUNITY PARKS												
Main City Park	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	2	3	1	2.00	8
North Gresham Park ^B	2	N/A	1	3	1	2	2	2	N/A	N/A	1.83	6
Pat Pfeifer Park	3	N/A	2	3	2	2	3	3	N/A	3	2.57	7
Red Sunset Park	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	1.88	8
Rockwood Central Park ^B	2	2	1.5	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	1.56	8
Community Park Average	2.20	2.00	1.70	2.80	1.40	1.60	2.00	2.20	2.00	2.00	1.97	37
OVERALL AVERAGE	2.00	2.00	1.97	2.83	1.78	1.88	2.15	2.06	1.75	2.17	2.14	6.06

^A Undeveloped parks have not been included.

^B Signs not present on all frontages.

**APPENDIX E: LEVEL OF
SERVICE FOR
COMPARABLE CITIES**



E - 1: PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR COMPARABLE CITIES

CLASSIFICATION	GRESHAM, OR	EUGENE, OR	SALEM, OR	VANCOUVER, WA	N. CLACKAMAS PRD	THPRD ^A	TROUTDALE, OR	SANDY, OR	COMPARABLES AVERAGE
URBAN PARKS									
Neighborhood Parks	0.79 /1,000	1.30 /1,000	1.73 /1,000	1.4 /1,000	0.33 /1,000	0.90 /1,000		3.49 /1,000	1.53 /1,000
Community Parks	1.24 /1,000	1.37 /1,000	1.68 /1,000	2.1 /1,000	0.57 /1,000	2.20 ^B /1,000		2.73 /1,000	1.78 /1,000
Regional Parks			2.41 ^C /1,000	5.7 /1,000				0.65 /1,000	2.92 /1,000
Urban Plazas		0.01 /1,000							0.01 /1,000
Metropolitan Parks		4.08 /1,000							4.08 /1,000
Special Use Areas	0.41 /1,000	0.81 /1,000	0.13 /1,000	1.76 /1,000	0.18 /1,000				0.72 /1,000
Total LOS for Urban Parkland	2.44 /1,000	7.57 /1,000	5.95 /1,000	10.96 /1,000	1.08 /1,000	3.10 /1,000	4.90 /1,000	6.87 /1,000	5.78 /1,000
NATURAL AREAS									
Natural Areas		9.27 /1,000	6.69 /1,000	2.69 /1,000	2.21 /1,000	1.20 /1,000	6.70 ^E /1,000	16.32 ^F /1,000	6.44 /1,000
Outdoor Recreation Areas	7.27 /1,000								0.00 /1,000
Conservation Areas	1.41 /1,000								0.00 /1,000
Total LOS for Natural Areas	8.68 /1,000	9.27 /1,000	6.69 /1,000	2.69 /1,000	2.21 /1,000	1.20 /1,000	6.70 /1,000	16.32 /1,000	6.44 /1,000
GREENWAYS, TRAILS, LINEAR PARKS									
Greenways/Trails	1.05 /1,000			0.59 /1,000					0.59 /1,000
Linear Parks		1.25 /1,000	0.11 /1,000			2.20 /1,000			1.19 /1,000
Total LOS for Greenways, Trails, Linear Parks	1.05 /1,000	1.25 /1,000	0.11 /1,000	0.59 /1,000	0.00 /1,000	2.20 /1,000	0.00 /1,000	0.00 /1,000	0.59 /1,000
Total for All Park Types	12.17 /1,000	18.09 /1,000	12.75 /1,000	14.24 /1,000	3.29 /1,000	6.50 /1,000	11.60 /1,000	23.19 /1,000	12.81 /1,000

^A Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District (THPRD)

^B THPRD community parks are combined with special use facilities

^C Salem's classification is called "Large Urban Parks"

^D Combined city-owned and city-maintained natural areas

^E Portland's classification is called "Habitat Parks"

^F Sandy River Park, an undeveloped passive park, is counted here as a natural area

E-2: FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR COMPARABLE CITIES

FACILITY	N. CLACKAMAS					THPRD	TROUTDALE, OR	AVERAGE COMPARABLE LOS
	GRESHAM, OR	EUGENE, OR	SALEM, OR	VANCOUVER, WA	PRD ^C			
Baseball Fields ^A	1/ 10,897	1/ 5,731	1/ 45,641	1/ 11,369		1/ 2,326	1/ 7,440	1/ 14,501
Outdoor Basketball Courts ^B	1/ 12,259	1/ 4,200	1/ 3,510.9				1/ 2,480	1/ 3,397
Community Centers		1/ 53,490	1/ 136,924	1/ 95,409		1/ 53,000	1/ 14,880	1/ 70,741
Gymnasiums				1/ 136,431				1/ 136,431
Playgrounds	1/ 6,130	1/ 4,275.70	1/ 3,184.3		1/ 8,266.6		1/ 1,488	1/ 2,983
Pool		1/ 53,490	1/ 68,462	1/ 95,409	1/ 90,933	1/ 30,300		1/ 61,915
Soccer Fields	1/ 9,807	1/ 10,698	1/ 15,214	1/ 24,076		1/ 2,940	1/ 14,880	1/ 13,562
Softball Fields	1/ 19,614		1/ 22,821				1/ 14,880	1/ 18,851
Trails (in miles) ^D	1/ 11,689	1/ 3,101						1/ 3,101

^A Eugene and VCPRD counts baseball/softball fields together

^B Troutdale basketball courts are half-courts. Eugene has 17 full courts and 21 half courts

^C N. Clackamas lumped all sports fields together

^D Gresham trail miles represented are only regional and natural area trails, but not internal park trails

**APPENDIX F: PARK
LAND DESIGN
GUIDELINES**



TABLE F-1: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood parks are designed primarily for informal, non-organized recreation. Located within walking and bicycling distance of most users, these parks serve residents within a ½-1 mile radius.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents of all ages • Contributes to neighborhood identity • Provides green space within neighborhoods • Provides a space for family and small group gatherings • Contributes to health and wellness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-acre minimum • Street frontage on at least two sides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspen Highlands Park • Bella Vista Park • Butler Creek Park • Cedar Park • Davis Park • Hall Park • Hollybrook Park • Kane Road Park • Kirk Park • Thom Park • Yamhill Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground or play features • At least one picnic table and one bench • ADA-compliant internal pathway system • Perimeter path or sidewalks • Open turf area • Trees • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) • At least one active recreation resource (see “May Include” list) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports fields (baseball, football, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) • Sports courts (basketball court, tennis court, volleyball court) • Other small-scale active recreation resources (skate spot, horseshoe pits, bocce court, shuffleboard lane) • Interactive water feature (small-scale) • Community garden • Shelter, shade structure or gazebo • Restroom • Off-street parking • Lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination facilities or resources with communitywide draw • Memorials (except for memorial trees or benches) • Sports complexes • Full-service recreation centers • Swimming pools (indoor or outdoor) • Floral plantings (annuals, perennials, display gardens)

TABLE F-2: CITY-WIDE PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES							
CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Community Parks	Larger park that provides active and passive recreational opportunities for all city residents. Accommodates large group activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a variety of accessible recreation opportunities for all age groups • Provides opportunities for social and cultural activities • Contributes to community identity • Serves recreation needs of families • Contributes to health and wellness • Connects residents to nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-acre minimum • Access from an arterial street • Bus and transit access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main City Park • North Gresham Park • Pat Pfeifer Barrier-Free Park • Red Sunset Park • Rockwood Central Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground or play features • Picnic tables and benches • Enclosed or open shelter with BBQ • ADA-compliant internal pathway system, including looped walking path preferred • Sports fields (baseball, cricket, football, rugby, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) • Basketball and/or tennis court • Restrooms • Off-street parking • Open turf area • Trees • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other active recreation resources (BMX course or facility, croquet court, disc golf course, fitness stations, handball court, horseshoe pit, skateboard park, shuffleboard lanes, volleyball court, etc.) • Interactive water feature • Swimming pool • Full-service recreation center • Sports complex • Other facilities or resources with communitywide draw • Community garden • Off-leash dog area • Fishing lake • Concessions • Stage/amphitheatre • Upgraded utility service to support special events • Natural areas • Memorials • Lighting • Shrub beds • Maintenance facilities • Multi-use trails • Pedestrian trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional-scale facilities (arboretum, botanical garden, zoo, regional sports complex) • Floral plantings, except at entry signs

TABLE F-3: CITY-WIDE PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES (CONTINUED)

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Special Use Areas	Special use areas are freestanding specialized use facilities such as community centers, aquatic centers, sports complexes, historic sites, or skate parks. Since special use areas vary widely in function there are no minimum sizes, but special use areas must be large enough to accommodate the intended use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides regional or citywide opportunities for recreation, social and cultural activities • Serves recreation needs of families • May provide other benefits depending on its purpose • Contributes to community identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access from an arterial street • Bus and transit access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradin Community Sports Park • Center for the Arts • Zimmerman House Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional-scale facilities or resources with a citywide or regional draw • ADA-compliant internal pathway system • Restrooms • Parking • Infrastructure to support large community events • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game sports fields – complexes or stadiums (baseball, cricket, football, rugby, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) • Specialized active recreation facilities (indoor tennis center, climbing wall, ice rink) • Sports courts (basketball court, tennis court, volleyball court) • Other active recreation resources (BMX course or facility, croquet court, disc golf course, fitness stations, handball court, horseshoe pit, shuffleboard lanes, skateboard park, volleyball court, etc.) • Commercial ventures or features • Concessions • Large-scale interactive water feature • Water park or swimming pool complex • Historical or interpretive facilities • Botanical garden or arboretum • Other facilities or resources with communitywide draw • Community garden • Off-leash dog area • Fishing lake • Stage/amphitheatre • Upgraded utility service to support special events • Natural areas • Memorials, trees • Lighting • Shrub beds • Floral plantings • Maintenance facilities • Multi-use trails, pedestrian trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicting resources depend on the purpose of the special use facility

TABLE F-3: CITY-WIDE PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES (CONTINUED)

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Urban Plazas	Urban plazas are usually smaller than one acre and are typically located in higher density urban areas, along transit corridors, or in town centers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the day to day recreational needs of nearby residents and employees, as well as shoppers, transit-users, and recreationalists • Provides space for community events • Helps balance high density development • Provides opportunities for public gathering and social activities • Contributes to community identity • Provides opportunities to experience public art and memorialize people and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size is easily traversed on foot - About one acre maximum size • Should be within or adjacent to a business district or high density housing area • Maintains the street network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for the Arts Plaza • Civic Neighborhood Plaza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paved area of sufficient size to accommodate anticipated use • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) • Lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf area • Playground or play features • Interactive water feature • Small-scale sporting facilities compatible with an urban site (bocce, basketball, croquet) • Shelter, shade structure or gazebo • Stage/amphitheatre • Upgraded utility service for special events • Concessions or vendor space • Commercial lease space (restaurant, bookstore, coffee shop, etc.) • Restrooms • Memorials • Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-street parking • Sports complexes • Full-service recreation centers • Swimming pools (indoor or outdoor)

TABLE F-4: NATURAL AREAS, GREENWAYS AND TRAILS DESIGN GUIDELINES							
CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Outdoor Recreation Area	Outdoor recreation areas are permanent, undeveloped green spaces which are managed for both their natural value as well as for recreational use. These areas may include wetlands, wildlife habitat, or stream corridors. Outdoor recreation areas may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as unique and/or endangered plant species. These areas serve the entire city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opportunities for experiencing nature close to home Provides opportunities for nature-based recreation, such as bird-watching and environmental education Protects valuable natural resources and wildlife Contributes to the environmental health of the community including improving water and air quality Promotes health and wellness Contributes to community identity and quality of life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One acre minimum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Butte Gresham Butte Hogan Butte Jenne Butte Johnson Creek Nedaka Open Space Springwater Open Space Telford Site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural areas Park identification sign Interpretive signage Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking Restrooms Trail or pathway system Trailhead or entry Viewpoints or viewing blinds Interpretive center or educational facilities or classrooms (indoor or outdoor) Shelter, shade structure or gazebo Amenities provided should be limited to the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate, while retaining its resource value and natural character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turf areas Ornamental plantings Active use facilities (sports fields, paved courts, etc.)
Conservation Areas	Conservation areas or ESRA (Environmentally Sensitive Resource Areas) are permanent, undeveloped green spaces that maintain or improve ecological processes necessary for water quality, floodplain function, and fish/wildlife habitat. Public access may not be permitted. Conservation areas often include resources like reservoirs or sensitive wildlife habitat, and can vary widely in size. These areas are neighborhood-serving.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects valuable natural resources and wildlife Contributes to the environmental health of the community, including improving water and air quality Contributes to community identity and quality of life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One acre minimum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltz Open Space Butler Fujitsu Ponds Gabbert Hill Grant Butte Gresham Boeing Hunters Highland Lusted Road Fairview Creek Regner Road South Hills Walters Hill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking Restrooms Trail or pathway system Trailhead or entry Viewpoints or viewing blinds Interpretive center or educational facilities or classrooms (indoor or outdoor) Shelter, shade structure or gazebo Amenities provided should be limited to the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate, while retaining its resource value and natural character Park identification sign Interpretive signage Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turf areas Ornamental plantings Active use facilities (sports fields, paved courts, etc.)

TABLE F-4: NATURAL AREAS, GREENWAYS AND TRAILS DESIGN GUIDELINES (CONTINUED)							
CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Greenways	Greenways are typically elongated corridors that follow linear features such as abandoned railroad rights-of-way, canals, power lines, or waterways. These areas are neighborhood-serving.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connects parks and other community destinations • Protects valuable natural resources and wildlife • Contributes to the environmental health of the community including improving water and air quality • Contributes to community identity and quality of life • Encourages active transportation, such as walking and biking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size is dependent on corridor length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butler Creek Greenway • Kelly Creek Greenway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Restrooms • Trail or pathway system • Trailhead or entry • Viewpoints or viewing blinds • Interpretive center or educational facilities or classrooms (indoor or outdoor) • Shelter, shade structure or gazebo • Amenities provided should be limited to the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate, while retaining its resource value and natural character • Park identification sign • Interpretive signage • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf areas • Ornamental plantings • Active use facilities (sports fields, paved courts, etc.)
Trail/Trail Facilities	Trails are linear corridors with hard-surfaced or soft-surfaced trails. As with greenways, trails often follow abandoned railroad rights-of-way, power lines, or waterways. These areas serve the entire city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connects parks and other community destinations • May protect valuable natural resources and wildlife • Contributes to community identity and quality of life • Encourages active transportation such as walking and biking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size is dependent on corridor length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gresham/Fairview Trail • Linneman Station/Gresham/Fairview Trail • Hogan Road Trailhead/Springwater Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) • Trail or pathway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter, shade structure or gazebo • Restrooms • Off-street parking • Trailhead or entry • Lighting • Natural areas • Memorials, trees, or benches • Trees • Shrub beds • Interpretive signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any resource that conflicts with the trail use