



CITY OF KLAMATH FALLS

Parks Master Plan



February 2019

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the Klamath Falls community members, partners, City staff, Parks Advisory Board and City Councilors, who have given their time, energy, ideas, and guidance to this Master Plan.

Parks Advisory Board

Daniel Blake

Tina Cofas

Michael Garrard

Kristen Hiatt

Todd Kepple

Nancy Thomas

Adam Burwell (Former PAB member)

Karin Hughes (Former PAB member)

City Council

Carol Westfall, Mayor

Phil Studenberg, Ward I

Kendall Bell, Ward II

Matt Dodson, Ward III

Dan Tofell, Ward IV

Todd Andres, Ward V

Bill Adams, Ward V (former Councilmember)

Project Management Team

John Bellon, City of Klamath Falls, Parks Manager

Scott Souders, City of Klamath Falls, City Engineer

Christopher Rhode, City of Klamath Falls, Management Fellow

Molly Cooney-Mesker, MIG

Cindy Mendoza, MIG

Page intentionally blank

CONTENTS

- Executive Summary..... ES-1

- 1. Introduction 1
 - Purpose 2
 - Planning Process 2
 - Community Context 3
 - Existing Park System Overview 3

- 2. Community Needs, Priority & Vision..... 9
 - Community Engagement 9
 - Community Needs and Priorities 10
 - Vision and Goals for the Parks System 12

- 3. Recommendations 13
 - Recommendations by Category 14
 - Key Initiatives and Transformative Projects 20

- 4. Implementation 27
 - Capital and Operations Costs 26
 - Funding Sources 28
 - Action Plan 31

- Tables
 - Table 1: Short-term Priority Project List 33
 - Table 2: Summary of Funding Sources and Potential Applications 32
 - Table A-1: Park Inventory A-3
 - Table C-1: Recommendations and Estimated Costs C-3
 - Table C-2: Cost Assumptions C-6

Figures

Figure 1: Master Plan Process	3
Figure 2: Existing Parks System Map	7
Figure 3: Community Questionnaire Responses to: What are the Most Important Benefits of Klamath Falls Parks System	10
Figure 4: Community Questionnaire Responses to: Why Do You Want to Spend Time in Your Favorite Park?	11
Figure B-1: Park Enhancement Opportunities Map	B-5

Appendices

- A. Park Inventory and Classification Standards
- B. Needs Assessment
- C. Recommendations and Estimated Costs
- D. Prioritization Tool

KLAMATH FALLS PARKS MASTER PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Klamath Falls parks provide gateways to nature, spaces to gather with family and friends, and places to play. The City's parks, trails, and recreation facilities are essential to residents' quality of life and attract visitors to the city. To care for these assets, the 2019 Klamath Falls Parks Master Plan (Master Plan) describes a long-term community-driven vision and a strategy for sustaining and enhancing the City's parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation facilities. This Master Plan focuses on enhancing existing parks and facilities to increase community use and access. Recommendations include:

- System-wide, maintenance, partnerships, and operations strategies, including key initiatives and transformative projects (see Chapter 3)
- Park-specific strategic capital investments (see Chapter 3 and Appendix C)
- An action plan for implementation and funding sources (see Chapter 4)
- Prioritization criteria to guide capital project selection (see Appendix D)

Master Plan Purpose

The Master Plan identifies a vision and investment strategy for all existing City parks and any new recreation opportunities needed in the future.

Master Plan Vision

Parks and trails in Klamath Falls contribute to the vibrancy of our city by connecting community members and visitors to one another, natural resources, recreation opportunities, and our rich heritage.



Enhancing Parks and Recreation in Klamath Falls

Key Initiatives

The Master Plan identifies four key initiatives that will address the community needs and priorities. Some projects associated with these initiatives are implementable in the short-term, while others are long-term investments that will require extensive project planning and development.

- **Invest in Blighted Areas:** Significant investments in neighborhood and community parks and trails should be aligned with the City’s blight abatement initiative. The City of Klamath Falls is focused on increasing community pride, improving property values, and improving livability by addressing residential and commercial blight.
- **Enhance and Connect the Trail System:** Several key trail projects will build on recently completed projects to create a more robust and connected trails system in Klamath Falls. Expanding and connecting trails in Klamath Falls is a high priority for community members.
- **Community Health, Fitness and Youth Development:** The Parks Division should continue working with community partners to identify investments that will advance community health goals. The City’s Parks Division has been an active partner in community health initiatives and can continue to support these efforts through several park programs and projects.
- **Replace Aging Facilities:** The Master Planning process identified several park and recreation facilities that need replacement. Community members recognize that they can get more from the existing system by replacing aging and out-of-date facilities with upgraded amenities.

Transformative Projects

The Master Plan also highlights transformative projects, describing enhancements to three parks that are unique community assets: Kit Carson, Moore Park, and Veterans Park. The recommended enhancements to these parks will make a significant impact to the Klamath Falls park system.

Community Priorities

The Master Planning process involved approximately 1,000 people, across a range of ages and interests. Through a variety of public involvement activities, community members and stakeholders identified priorities and preferences for the park system, including:

- Connecting with nature and being outdoors
- Expanding the trail system
- Supporting youth development, play and fitness
- Enhancing existing parks and facilities
- Aligning with Citywide Initiatives
- Addressing deferred maintenance and replacing aging facilities
- Coordinating with partners



Implementing the Master Plan

The total cost of implementing all desired projects far exceeds the City's anticipated resources over next ten years. Using the Prioritization Criteria presented in Appendix D, City staff and partners can identify priority projects to incorporate into annual work plans, the City's 6-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), partner initiatives, and community collaborations.

Short-Term Action Plan

A variety of the projects and policy initiatives in the Master Plan are already in the City's Capital Investment Program (CIP) and/or are priorities for the community. Chapter 4 presents this short-term action plan. Details and planning level costs for the following projects are included in Chapter 3 and Appendix C.

- Create a systemwide signage program that includes and trails
- Complete improvements to Kit Carson Park.
- Complete the build-out of Klamath Commons.
- Complete improvements at Mills Park.
- Update the SDC methodology.
- Update use agreements and fees.
- Incorporate Master Plan parkland standards into City ordinances, the updated Comprehensive Plan, the SDC methodology update, as well as parkland dedication requirements. (MO.4)
- Develop a job training program for high school students and young adults.
- Continue lighting enhancements and upgrading irrigation.
- Make recommended improvements to Richmond Park.
- Design and develop Baldwin park.
- Make priority improvements in Moore Park, such as wayfinding signage, tennis court improvements and road resurfacing
- Improve walking path at Warford Park.
- Resurface courts (tennis, pickleball, futsal, multiuse, etc.) at Stukel Park.

Accomplishing these short-term projects will help build momentum and support for future projects. Long-term investments in parks and facilities will be accomplished through ongoing collaborations and community partnerships as well as diversifying funding sources for parks and recreation in Klamath Falls.

Page intentionally blank



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Page intentionally blank

1 INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Located in the heart of one of Oregon’s most treasured scenic and outdoor recreation areas, Klamath Falls features a historic and walkable downtown, miles of lake waterfront, and 300 days of sunshine a year. The City of Klamath Falls provides almost 600 acres of parkland that encompasses a wide variety of landscapes and recreational opportunities, ranging from forested trails with panoramic views to public art in downtown plazas. The City’s parks and recreation facilities play an essential role in supporting residents’ high quality of life, attracting visitors, and contributing to the health and vibrancy of the community.

At the heart of Klamath Falls are the people who live and work here. Engaged residents, organizations, and businesses care deeply about the health and wellness of their community. In recent years, community members, Klamath County, and the City of Klamath Falls have come together to improve community wellness and livability. Through local efforts, including the Blue Zones Initiative and Klamath County Community Health Improvement Plan, community members, local agencies, and community partners have created nationally-recognized programs and initiatives to improve education, health, and economic opportunities in and around Klamath Falls. Parks and recreation opportunities are central to many of these initiatives.

Why plan for parks?

- To understand what types of parks and recreation opportunities are desired and balance needs with City resources
- To address park deficiencies and enhance public assets and resources
- To build and strengthen community partnerships
- To identify potential funding sources and stay competitive for grants
- To sequence park improvements and make strategic decisions about services
- To raise awareness of the City’s park and recreation assets





Photo: Michael McCullough

Purpose of the Master Plan

The Klamath Falls Parks Master Plan (the Master Plan) provides inspiring yet practical policies and projects that will support the community’s positive momentum. The Master Plan describes a long-term vision and strategies for the City’s parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation facilities. This Master Plan updates the City’s 1998 Master Plan to provide renewed direction based on current and anticipated community needs and priorities over the next 10 years. This Master Plan will guide the development and maintenance of a park system that supports a healthy community and a vibrant local economy.

The Master Plan focuses on investing in and enhancing the City’s existing park sites and facilities to increase community use and access with recommendations for:

- System-wide operational changes and investments
- Park-specific strategic capital investments
- Near-term actions and funding sources

Master Plan at a Glance

This Master Plan includes four chapters and four appendices:

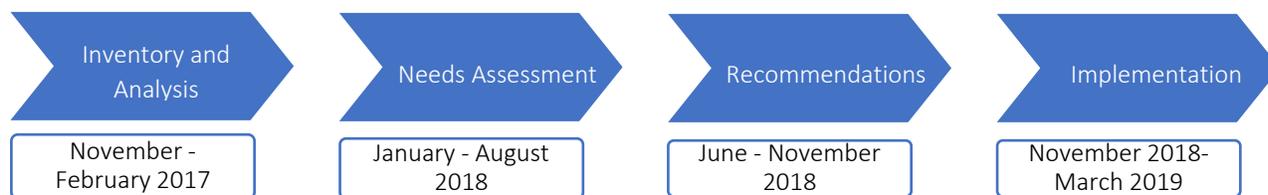
- Chapter 1 introduces the Master Plan and the **park system**.
- Chapter 2 identifies **community needs and priorities** that emerged from the technical analysis and community engagement.
- Chapter 3 includes **recommendations** for systemwide enhancements and operational strategies, as well as recommendations for key initiatives, and transformative projects that address the community needs.

- Chapter 4 provides a summary of **capital investments and maintenance costs, funding sources, and an action plan** for implementing the priority recommendations.
- Appendix A is an inventory of the parks system and description of park classifications.
- Appendix B is Needs Assessment conducted for this Master Plan.
- Appendix C is a comprehensive list of **site-specific recommendations**, including projects, improvements, and maintenance strategies.
- Appendix D presents **prioritization criteria** for sequencing capital projects.

Planning Process

Beginning in November 2017, the City launched a process to update the Klamath Falls Parks Master Plan (Figure 1). This Master Plan is the result of community input and technical analysis. The process started with an analysis of the City of Klamath Falls' parks and recreation facilities and demographic trends, and a review of relevant initiatives. A needs assessment was built from demographic trends, community input, and an evaluation of the community's park needs. Based on the needs assessment and input from the public involvement, the project team developed the Master Plan's vision, goals, and both systemwide and site-specific recommendations.

Figure 1: Master Plan Process



Community Context

The Klamath Falls community has unique characteristics and demographics that affect park and recreation needs. While city parks are intended to serve the city residents, they are a resource for people living throughout the city, as well as the greater Klamath Basin and visitors to the region.

Community Profile

There are about 43,684 residents living in the Klamath Falls Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) as of 2018¹ and 21,113 residents in the city of Klamath Falls.² The City's growth has remained relatively slow over the last 20 years. Between 2000 and 2010, the Klamath Falls UGB population increased 0.3%, from 41,541

¹ Population Research Center College of Urban and Public Affairs Portland State University. Coordinated Population Forecast for Klamath County, its Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB), and Area Outside UGBs 2015-2065. June 2015.

² 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

and 42,567. A similar rate of growth is projected for the next 20 years, with an estimated increase to 45,363 residents in 2035.³

Similar to most areas across Oregon, Klamath County's population is aging. As of 2015, 17% of residents were younger than 14 years old, 63% were between 15 and 64 years old, and 20% were older than 64 years old. Countywide population projections predict the area's population will continue age over the next 20 years and beyond. By 2035, the 64+ population is projected to increase to 29%, with a slight decrease in the number of residents less than 14 years old to 15%.¹

In 2017, Klamath Falls County residents were 91% White, 13.2% Latino, 6.2% American Indian/Alaska Native, 3.1% Black/African American, 2.1% Asian, and 3.5% "some other race." (These are alone or in combination with one or more other races/ethnicities, so the total is more than 100%.)⁴

This Master Plan provides recommendations for meeting the needs of an aging community while also providing enticing experiences for the young residents the City hopes to retain and attract. Ongoing community engagement will be important to developing a park and recreation system that is inclusive of the city's diverse and multigenerational residents.

Community Partnerships

The City has strong and active partnerships with a number of community partners. The area's many educational institutions, including Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Community College, Klamath Falls City Schools, and the Klamath County School District. Recently, local organizations, community members, and the City have initiated planning efforts and health-focused community initiatives, including the Klamath Falls Urban Trail Master Plan, Klamath County Community Health Improvement Plan (2016), and The Blue Zones Initiative. The Parks Master Plan builds upon these efforts with strategies to make parks and recreation more accessible to all Klamath Falls community members.

Existing Parks and Recreation System

City Parks and Facilities

The City has approximately 600 acres of parkland, including regional, community, neighborhood, and pocket parks as well as open spaces and special use sites. (See Appendix A.) About 150 acres of this parkland is developed for recreational uses and 450 acres is natural areas. The City provides two recreation facilities—Ella Redkey Pool and Kiger Stadium—in addition to a variety of recreation amenities and facilities in parks, such as playgrounds, picnic areas, sports courts, and sport fields.

The City of Klamath Falls provides approximately 7 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 city residents.⁵ Considering all parkland acreage, including open spaces and natural areas, the City provides about 29 acres per person.

³ Population Research Center College of Urban and Public Affairs Portland State University. Coordinated Population Forecast for Klamath County, its Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB), and Area Outside UGBs 2015-2065. June 2015.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

⁵ Level of service was calculated using U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for City of Klamath Falls population and a developed acreage estimate of 149 acres.

In recent years, the City has worked with community partners to make several significant investments in the park system. New parks, including Sugarman’s Corner and Klamath Commons (currently in development), have integrated engaging public spaces into the city’s downtown core. Improvements to Kit Carson Park, in partnership with Sky Lakes, Advantage Dental, and the Dr. Tucker family, and to Mills Park, in partnership with Cascade Health Alliance have brought new types of play to Klamath Falls Parks. A new geothermally heated multi-use trail along Lake Ewauna will also provide new access to the City’s waterfront.

Regional Parks

Parks: 1

Acreage: 435

Regional parks are typically larger areas with a mix of active and natural/open space that serve as destinations for the Klamath Falls community and beyond.

Community Parks

Parks: 2

Acreage: 12.4

Community parks are used by citizens living throughout Klamath Falls. They often include a unique feature that is a draw for the wider community. They provide a variety of recreation activities and facilities for organized recreation and can support community-wide events. They cater to the community's recreation, social, and cultural needs and activities.

Neighborhood Parks

Parks: 6

Acreage: 18.1

Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreation opportunities for nearby residents within walking and bicycling distance of the park (approximately ½ mile). Neighborhood parks include amenities such as playgrounds, outdoor sport courts, open grass areas and seating.

Pocket Parks

Parks: 6

Acreage: 3.2

Pocket parks are small parcels that provide landscaped and/or natural green space within built environments, such as residential or commercial areas. Typically less than 1 acre, these parks may include picnic tables, benches, and other basic site amenities.

Special Use

Parks: 8

Acreage: 83.3

Special use facilities include stand-alone recreation facilities not located within larger parks, such as sport stadiums, trails, boat ramps, swimming pools, and community centers.

Open Spaces

Parks: 4

Acreage: 56.7

Open spaces protect significant natural areas and open space resources while providing community-serving recreation opportunities, such as trails.

Other park providers

Other agencies provide parkland in and near Klamath Falls. The Ward Park District includes seven parks that serve unincorporated Klamath Falls neighborhoods. The County also owns five nearby open spaces and facilities, including the Fair Grounds. Steens Sports Park is county-owned and privately managed. It provides sports fields, a field house, a skate park, playgrounds, and a walking track with exercise stations. (See Figure 2: Existing Parks System Map)

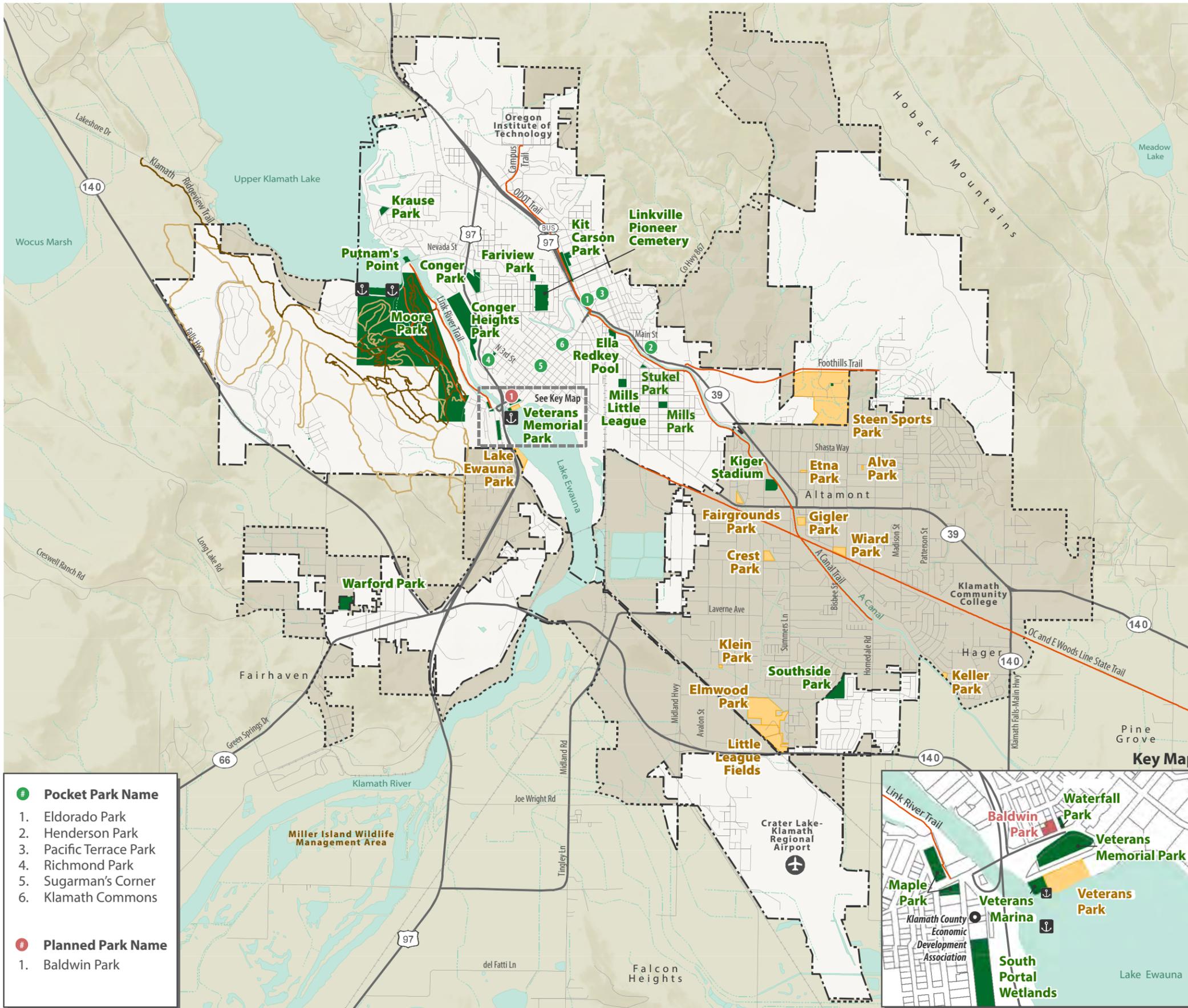
Recreation Programs

The City provides numerous recreation programs at Ella Redkey Pool. The City provides spaces and facilities to non-City recreation providers, such as sports leagues and organizations. The City is committed to supporting recreation programming throughout its parks system. The YMCA and OIT's Park & Play program is an example of this type of collaborative programming that has become a pilot program for the entire nation.



Photo: Lana Hill

Figure 2: Existing Parks System Map



KLAMATH FALLS PARKS MASTER PLAN

Parks and Recreation Facilities (2018)

- Parks and Recreation Facilities**
- Existing Parks and Facilities
 - Planned City Parks
 - Existing Other Parks
 - Pocket Parks Map Number
 - Planned City Parks Map Number
 - Marinas

- Trails**
- Multi-Use Trails
 - Recreation Trails
 - Moore Mountain Trails

- Base Map Features**
- Klamath Falls City Limits
 - Urban Growth Boundary
 - Highways
 - Local Streets
 - Railroad
 - River, Streams, and Canals
 - Water Bodies

- 🟢 Pocket Park Name**
1. Eldorado Park
 2. Henderson Park
 3. Pacific Terrace Park
 4. Richmond Park
 5. Sugarman's Corner
 6. Klamath Commons
- 🔴 Planned Park Name**
1. Baldwin Park



Sources: City of Klamath Falls, 2017 and State of Oregon Spatial Data Library, 2016. Map prepared by MIG, Inc., February 22, 2018.





CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY NEEDS, PRIORITIES & VISION

Page intentionally blank

2 COMMUNITY NEEDS, PRIORITIES & VISION

Community Engagement

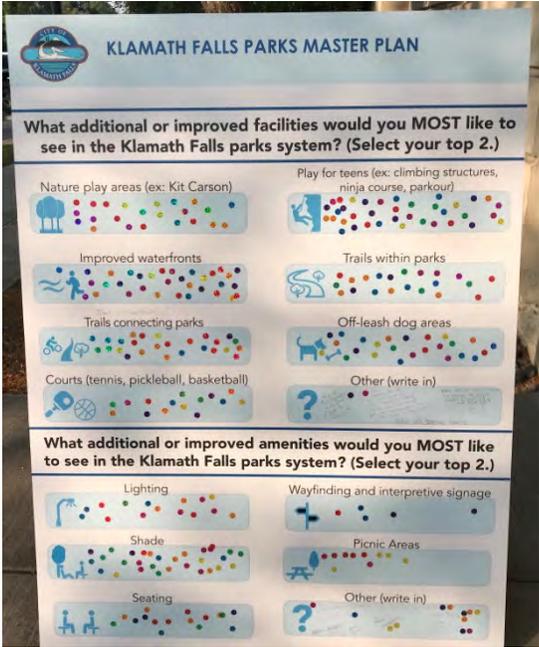
Throughout the Master Planning process, community members and stakeholders provided insights into parks and recreation needs and opportunities in the Klamath Falls parks and recreation system. The Master Plan involved approximately 1,000 people, across a range of ages and interests. Through a variety of public involvement activities, community members identified priority projects and initiatives.

Community engagement activities included:

- Group interviews with park user groups and partners, stakeholders, and staff
- Two working sessions with the Parks Advisory Board and City Council
- Online questionnaire
- Intercept survey at 3rd Thursday in August
- Community workshop
- High School workshop



Community Workshop, November 6, 2018



3rd Thursday Intercept Survey, August 2018

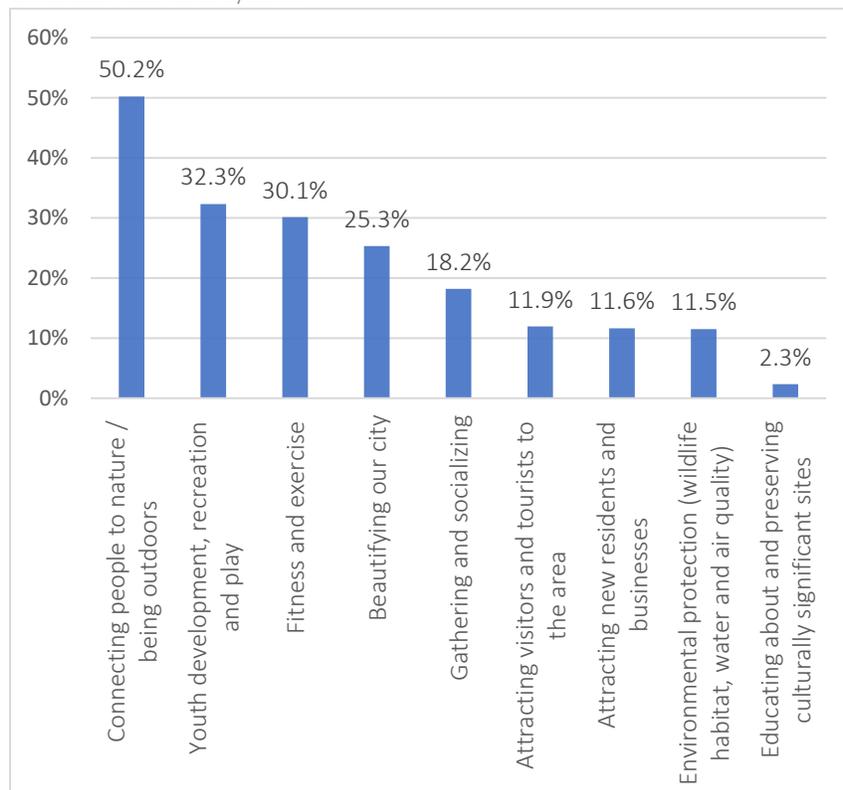
Community Needs and Priorities

Community input revealed priorities and preferences for the park system. Generally, community input was aligned with state and national parks and recreation research and was reinforced by the technical analysis findings (see Appendix B for the Needs Assessment report). The evaluation of the City’s park system considered the types and condition of parks and recreation facilities and identified gaps and opportunities for enhancements. Community priorities, in combination with the technical analysis, identified key areas of opportunity. Key needs and priorities are described in the Needs Assessment presented in Appendix B and summarized below. These community priorities inform the Master Plan recommendations described in Chapter 3.

Connecting with nature and being outdoors was ranked by community participants as the most important benefit of parks and a top reason that people want to spend time in parks. Specifically, access to water is a top community priority.

Expanding the trail system is a top priority for community members. People want to see more connections between existing trails, more and longer trails, and signage and wayfinding along trails.

Figure 3: Community Questionnaire Responses to: What are the Most Important Benefits of Klamath Falls Parks System?



Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Survey Findings (2017)

The **top five facilities** that Oregonians want park agencies to invest in:

1. Restrooms
2. Walking trails and paths
3. Children’s playgrounds and nature play areas
4. Nature and wildlife viewing areas
5. Public access to waterways

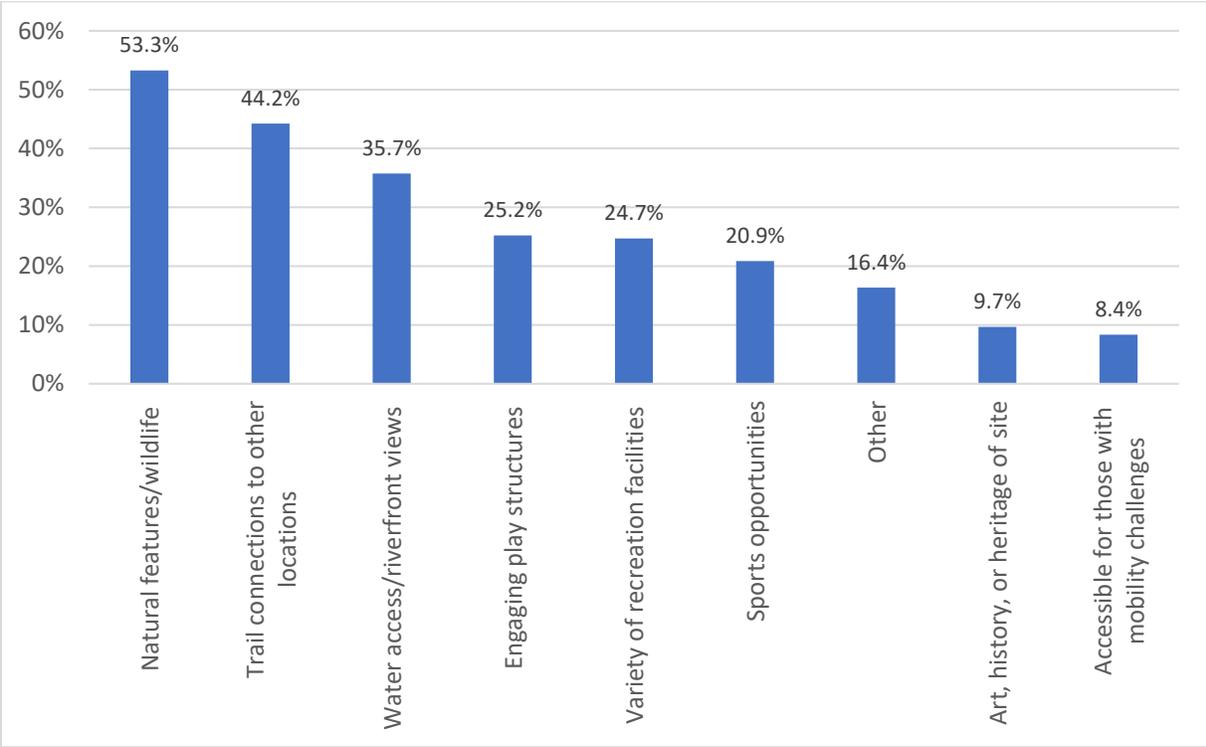
Walking on local trails and paths is the second most popular recreation activity among Oregonians, with 74% of the population participating.

Oregonians say these actions will lead to **the greatest increase in their physical activity**:

1. Walking trails or paths
2. More parks closer to home
3. Improved walking routes to parks
4. Bicycle trails or paths
5. Fitness classes
6. Outdoor exercise equipment

Supporting youth development, play and fitness are also high priority benefits desired. Community members are particularly interested in seeing more play opportunities for teens.

Figure 4: Community Questionnaire Responses to: Why Do You Want to Spend Time in Your Favorite Park?



Enhancing existing parks and facilities is more important to community members than the development of new parks. Many of the specific amenities that community members are interested in—such as courts, dog parks, play areas, and signage—can be added to existing parks.

Aligning with Citywide Initiatives is needed to support and leverage the momentum of community efforts that are aligned with parks. These initiatives include, but are not limited to, the City’s blight removal and other economic development initiatives as well as community health collaborations such as The Blue Zones initiative.

Addressing deferred maintenance and replacing aging facilities is a priority to protect community assets and maximize usability of the City’s parks and recreation system. Master plan participants indicated that they care about the maintenance, condition, and variety of opportunities in existing parks and want to ensure that the City’s existing assets are put to best use. Regular maintenance often extends the life of recreation amenities and facilities, providing a long-term cost benefit.

Coordinating with partners is important for enhancing and diversifying park and recreation opportunities in Klamath Falls Community. Partners have been essential in several recent projects, including new parks at Sugarman’s Corner and Klamath Commons and Kit Carson and major enhancements at Kit Carson and Mills Parks.

Vision & Goals

The community's priorities and needs are reflected in a vision and goals for the future of Klamath Falls Parks. The vision statement expresses the desired future of Klamath Falls parks and recreation system, founded on community interests, ideas, and aspirations.

Five broad goals will help to build direct action towards the future vision. These goals are based on the ideas and interests of the community. The recommendations in Chapter 3 provide guidance to support the City and community in achieving the goals.

Vision

Parks and trails in Klamath Falls contribute to the vibrancy of our city by connecting community members and visitors to one another, natural resources, recreation opportunities, and our rich heritage.

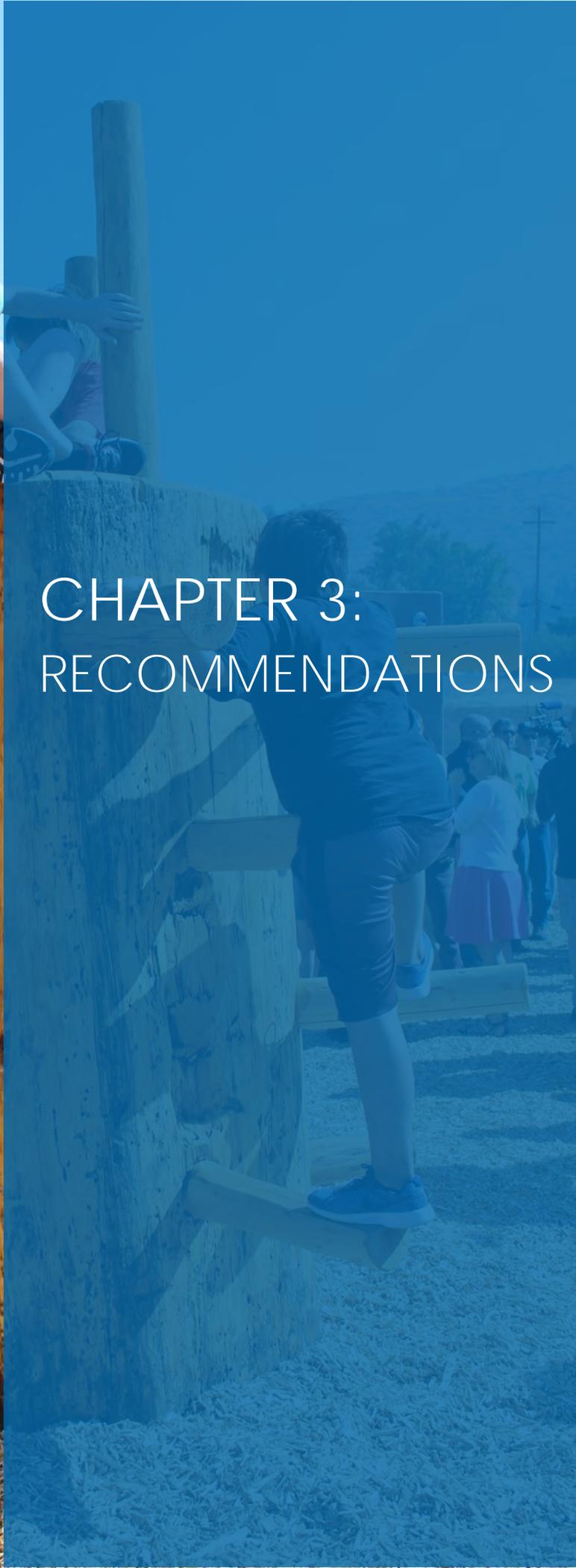
Goal 1 Create a walkable, bikeable, and interconnected City by providing a network of regional and local trails.

Goal 2 Conserve, restore and connect to natural areas that support wildlife, promote ecological functions, and provide access to nature and the outdoors.

Goal 3 Promote Klamath Fall's unique identity, economic vitality, and tourism through parks, natural resources, historic preservation, and placemaking.

Goal 4 Provide opportunities for gathering and play for all ages through engaging facilities and amenities.

Goal 5 Collaborate with community partners to expand the reach of existing parks and create new park and recreation opportunities.



CHAPTER 3: RECOMMENDATIONS

Page intentionally blank

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter presents recommended strategies and projects that will address needs and opportunities identified through the planning process and advance the community’s vision for parks. To supplement the recommendations described in this chapter, **Appendix C provides a comprehensive list of site-specific recommendations** for all city parks and recreation facilities. The site-specific recommendations describe the ways in which systemwide enhancements are applied to specific park sites.

The chapter is divided into three parts:

- **Systemwide enhancements and operational strategies.** These recommendations relate to systemwide improvements and enhancements, including direction for management and operations.
- **Key initiatives.** Key initiatives describe assemblages of projects and programs that align with specific citywide efforts and priorities.
- **Transformative projects.** Three key park sites are highlighted because major enhancements at these have the potential to make a significant and transformative impact.

Key Initiatives

- Investing in blighted areas
- Enhancing and connecting the trail system
- Supporting community health, fitness and youth development
- Replacing aging facilities

Transformative Projects

- Completing Kit Carson Park
- Enhancing Moore Park
- Transforming Veterans Park into a gateway into Klamath Falls

System-wide and Operational Recommendations

System-wide recommendations provide overarching direction for the development, programming, and management of Klamath Falls’ park and recreation system. The implementation of these recommendations will advance the community’s goals for parks and recreation in Klamath Falls.

System-wide Improvements

- S.1.** Develop a system-wide signage program that includes design specifications for parks and trails. Provide park identification and wayfinding signage throughout the park and trails system, including directional and distance signage along trails to note the distance to key destinations. The signage program should also include interpretive signage depicting the cultural and natural history of the areas in collaboration with local community partners where appropriate.
- S.2.** Apply principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) to the City's parks and trails to create spaces where all community members feel safe and welcome. Incorporate CPTED guidelines when designing new park amenities, trails, or making a capital reinvestment for replacement.
- S.3.** Develop a park system that provides recreation opportunities for people of all abilities.
 - Design new parks and replace existing features with consideration for principles of universal design, including accessible equipment, surfacing, and grading as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - As play features are added to existing parks, reference 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, to install equipment to meet accessibility standards.
 - Complete an ADA Assessment and Transition Plan to identify barriers to accessibility and prioritize barrier removal to improve access to parks and facilities.
- S.4.** Use sustainable, lower-maintenance landscaping plant palettes and materials in all parks. As landscaping is upgraded, consider drought tolerant and native species in areas where this doesn't conflict with recreation uses.
- S.5.** Provide permanent restrooms in regional and community parks. Consider permanent or temporary restrooms in sites that are heavily programmed or attract residents from beyond the immediate neighborhood or vicinity. Consider bathroom designs that address safety and maintenance concerns.
- S.6.** Add more shade through tree plantings, shelters and shade sails, at high-use sites, especially over playgrounds and sitting areas. The following sites have been identified for increased shade:
 - Sugarman's Corner
 - Ella Redkey Pool
- S.7.** Diversify park facilities, amenities and activities to activate parks to serve park users across a range of ages, abilities, and cultures in parks.
- S.8.** Expand and upgrade LED lighting to increase energy efficiency and safety as grants and other funding becomes available.
- S.9.** Upgrade irrigation systems at parks.



Maintenance

- M.1.** Coordinate with partners to develop a job training program for high school students and young adults. This could include internships or entry-level positions in recreation and maintenance services. For example, consider tasks that support the parks maintenance team, such as landscape maintenance, routine janitorial care and litter pickup, trail development.
- M.2.** Continue working with partners to maintain and develop trails.
- M.3.** Schedule necessary downtime for heavily-used facilities, such as Ella Redkey Pool, to ensure there is adequate time for larger maintenance operations.
- M. 4.** Track maintenance costs to better understand future impacts on resources. These costs should include a range of routine and ongoing maintenance responsibilities including mowing, trash/recycling pick-up, turf and irrigation repair. Track by park and/or park type to understand different levels of maintenance required in different types of parks. Update the Recommendations and Estimated Costs (Appendix C) with findings.
- M.5.** Establish a tree monitoring and replacement program. Some park sites have mature trees that contribute greatly to the park's character. Tree replacement plans guide the planting and establishment of young trees before older trees fail.
- M.6.** Perform regular thinning and fuel reduction maintenance on open spaces and landscaped areas to reduce the risk of forest fires through.
- M.7.** Replace and repair vehicles and maintenance equipment on a regular basis to avoid deferred maintenance and maximize maintenance efficiencies.



Partnerships

- P.1.** Regularly update the list of “shovel-ready” parks and trail projects to facilitate matching partners and donors with priority community projects.
- P.2.** Continue to coordinate with local community partners to support community health goals.
- P.3.** Continue working with partners to encourage community events and activities in parks that serve community members and attract visitors. Examples of existing and potential programs include:
- Park and Play is a collaboration between YMCA and Oregon Institute of Technology and the City to provide recreation opportunities for youth in city parks.
 - Partner with local fitness providers (yoga, martial arts) to hold classes or pop-up workshops in city parks.
- P.4.** Bolster youth involvement in parks and recreation.
- Partner with the City and County School Districts for ongoing youth engagement in park planning and initiatives.
 - Encourage partners to provide youth activities in parks.



Photo: Kristina Buckley

Operations

O.1 Implement security cameras in parks to deter vandalism and crime, while promoting park safety.

O.2. Explore hiring new staff, sharing staff across departments, or increasing the capacity of existing staff to take on the following roles and responsibilities:

- Increasing site maintenance and stewardship at high-use sites and at new facilities as developed
- Coordinating with existing partners, matching partners with project needs, and developing new partner relationships when needed
- Recruiting, organizing and managing volunteers and volunteer projects
- Tracking, writing and managing grants
- Continuing the Parks Division’s connections and collaborations with community partners
- Coordinating with social service partners to meet needs of lower income and homeless community members using parks and facilities

O.3. Diversify funding sources for parks, trails, and facilities development. Expand existing sources and find new ones to support capital development, as well as operations and maintenance.

- Continue exploring funding partnerships, including a regional park and recreation district, where these efforts are consistent with City goals for parks and recreation.
- Update the City’s SDC methodology, considering both residential and non-residential fees to support capacity-enhancement projects.

- Regularly review and amend the parks fee structure to account for costs to the city and greater economic trends.
- Submit applications for grants, donations and sponsorships to support priority projects
- Coordinate with the Oregon State Marine Board to replace and/or repair boat launches and docks

O.4. Maintain the existing level of service for developed parkland as the community grows.

- Use the developed parkland standard of 7 acres/1,000 residents to guide City ordinances, the updated Comprehensive Plan, the SDC methodology update, as well as parkland dedication requirements.
- Strive to ensure that residents have access to developed parkland within a ½ mile where feasible. This is based on a national industry standard of providing parkland within a 10-minute walk for residents.
- Strive to protect natural resources by incorporating natural lands within parkland acquisitions in addition to developed parkland.
- Coordinate with the County in the provision of the desired level of parkland service in new development areas within the UGB.

O.5. Identify long-term strategies for underutilized parks and facilities that require, but are not cost-effective for, extensive renovation or development. Establish a threshold for investments recognizing that these may not be long-term City assets. Examples include:

- Kiger Stadium: Seek an organization that can maintain the facility and renovate it as a historic community asset
- Mills Little League: Engage neighbors and stakeholders to discuss and evaluate the potential for either developing partnership projects at this site or transitioning the site to a non-park use.
- Linkville Cemetery: Partner with local historical and veterans' organizations to enhance awareness and upkeep of the cemetery and explore alternative management and maintenance models.

O.6. Develop joint use agreements between the City and schools in Klamath Falls to clarify shared roles, responsibilities, and fees (if any) for parks used for school activities and indoor and outdoor school facilities made available for public recreation use.

O.7. Ensure that renovated and newly developed parks are designed, built and maintained based on revised classification standards, established through this Master Plan update process. (See Appendix A.) This approach will help ensure that the City is providing a variety of park experiences to the community. These guidelines will provide direction for the acquisition, development, and renovation of each park type, including regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, pocket parks, open spaces, special use facilities.

Key Initiatives

Key initiatives reflect a variety of recommendations that together respond to the community priorities and needs. Some projects associated with these initiatives are implementable in the short-term, while others are long-term investments that will require extensive project planning and development.



Photo: Herald and News

Invest in Blighted Areas

The City of Klamath Falls is focused on increasing community pride, improving property values and improving livability by addressing residential and commercial blight. Blight abatement strategies include City-sponsored community clean-up days, working with property owners to address issues, and investing in infrastructure, such as parks, to catalyze neighborhood improvements. While the initiative is city-wide, the City is focusing efforts in specific corridors or areas to maximize impact.

For the last two years (2016-2018), efforts have been focused on a 2-block radius around Mills Park and the area surrounding the Oregon Avenue bike lane. During this time, the City, in partnership with Cascade Health Alliance, built a new playground at Mills Park and developed a two-way bike lane on Oregon Avenue. This focus corridor approach to capital investments has been considered successful. In 2019, the City will initiate blight removal initiatives in the Presidential Streets, a historic neighborhood above downtown. In the future, the City will continue to identify focus corridors for blight removal.

Recommendations for investing in blighted areas

Significant investments in neighborhood and community parks and trails should be aligned with the City’s blight abatement initiative.

- Establish a funding allocation for future park projects in blight areas to be designated by the City in the future.



Photo: Herald and News

Enhance and Connect the Trail System

Expanding and connecting trails in Klamath Falls is a high priority for community members. Recently, the City, community partners, and other land management agencies in the area have made significant investments in planning and developing multi-use paths, bike infrastructure, and soft-surface trails. Recent initiatives and projects include the Klamath Falls Urban Trail Master Plan, Moore Park Trails Master Plan, the Oregon Avenue bike lane, and the Lake Ewauna Trail. The community wants a trail system that is cohesive and well connected. Additionally, connecting regional trails to local trails and destinations provides tourism opportunities.

Recommendations for enhancing and connecting the trail system

There are several key trail projects that will build on recent projects to create a more robust and connected trails system in Klamath Falls. Some of these projects will likely be short-term while others are ongoing or long-term projects. These projects will be implemented through the City's various partnerships. Recommended projects include:

- Develop an integrated wayfinding system that will help users navigate the park system and move between trails owned and managed by different entities. (See recommendation S.1.)
- Enhance the Lake Ewauna Trail with landscaping, lighting, interpretive signage, and amenities including benches and waste cans.
- Extend the Lake Ewauna Trail to connect to the OC&E trail and around the lake to the Wingwatchers Trail. (See Appendix C.)
- Support the implementation of the Moore Parks Trail Master Plan, including the addition of wayfinding signage.



Photo: Sky Lakes Medical Center

Community Health, Fitness and Youth Development

City of Klamath Falls and Klamath County are focused on improving the health of community members. Community initiatives, including the Klamath County Community Health Improvement Plan and The Blue Zones Initiative, are in place to increase community access to health care, jobs, healthy food, social connections, and fitness opportunities. The City’s Parks Division has been an active partner in these initiatives and can continue to support these efforts through several parks programs and projects.

Recommendations for supporting community health, fitness and youth development

The Parks Division should continue working with community partners to identify investments that will advance community health goals.

- Expand the job training program beyond opportunities at the pool to provide employment opportunities for high schoolers and young adults throughout the park system. The program should be managed by the Parks Supervisor. Job responsibilities could include tasks such as landscape maintenance. (See recommendation M.1.)
- Continue working with Sky Lakes Medical Center to complete Klamath Commons and bring new recreation and gathering opportunities to Downtown Klamath Falls.
- Identify partnerships with local recreation providers, such as YMCA and private studios, to bring programs and classes into the City’s parks. (See recommendation P.4.)
- There are a range of recommended capital projects that support this initiative including:
 - Develop and improve trails
 - Update and add inclusive and engaging play opportunities
 - Install workout equipment



Photo: Herald and News

Replace Aging Facilities

This Master Plan focuses on investing in and enhancing the City's park system. Community members recognize that they can get more from the existing system by replacing aging and out-of-date facilities with upgraded amenities that meet current standards and the community's needs and expectations. There are a number of amenities and facilities throughout the park system that are in need of updates and replacements.

Recommendation for Replacing Existing Facilities

Through the Master Planning process, the following facilities were identified as priorities for replacement:

- Resurface courts (tennis, pickleball, futsal, multiuse, etc.) at Moore Park.
- Consider alternate opportunities and uses for the areas currently occupied by the Gingerbread House in Moore Park.
- Replace the restroom designed for safety and inclusivity in Veterans Park in coordination with other improvements.
- Replace the docks and improve the boat launch in Veterans Park (in coordination with the Oregon State Marine Board).

Transformative Projects

Kit Carson, Moore Park, and Veterans Park are unique community assets with a variety of needs and opportunities. The recommended enhancements to these parks will make a significant impact to the Klamath Falls park system and are identified as transformative projects for this reason.



Complete Kit Carson Park

Kit Carson park is in the process of being renovated through a partnership between the City, Sky Lakes, Advantage Dental, and the Dr. Tucker family. A nature play area has been well-received and highly utilized by the community. The park is envisioned as an urban forest that will provide wildlife habitat and other ecosystem services with the planting of broadleaved shade and conifer trees. There is a high level of enthusiasm among community members for the completion of Kit Carson Park.

Recommendations for Completing Kit Carson Park

Leverage the investment to date by continuing to expand on this park as a community asset. The new play area at Kit Carson has transformed the park into a community asset. The park should continue to be developed to support the increased use in a way that is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

- Add nature play elements for teens and 2-5 year-olds.
- Add workout equipment near play area or along loop trail.
- Add an enclosed off-leash dog area.
- Explore further improvements along the loop trail.
- Expand trail/sidewalk connectivity north-south through park.
- Construct Painter Street parking lot.



Enhance Moore Park

This extensive regional park extends from Moore Mountain down to the shores of Upper Klamath Lake. Moore Park is a regional destination for biking, hiking, jogging, and nature viewing. The park provides the community with valued facilities and spaces for sports, gatherings, and experiencing nature.

Recommendations for enhancing Moore Park

The City should continue to make a variety of investments in Moore Park as a regional destination for outdoor recreation and trail activities. Recommended investments include:

- Resurface courts (tennis, pickleball, futsal, multiuse, etc.)
- Consider alternate opportunities and uses for the areas currently occupied by the Gingerbread House in Moore Park.
- Upgrade maintenance shop
- Update play area to include shade (re-plant trees), nature play elements and a destination play area that reflects park's history.
- Support partners in trail and trailhead development and develop a bike skills course per the Moore Park Trails Plan.
- Road repairs
- Continue working with the Oregon Dept of Forestry to reduce fuel in Moore Park Open Spaces
- Designate and clearly layout and sign distinct rentable picnic areas.
- Consider upgrading BBQ's and adding a sink
- Improve trails
- Expand disc golf
- Upgrade irrigation
- Improve signage on trails and especially at trailheads and interpretive signage throughout park
- Implement the Moore Park Forest Management Plan



Transform Veterans Park into a Community Gateway

Veterans Park is a gateway to Klamath Falls and is highly visible from Highway 97. The community and City staff identified a variety of issues and opportunities at this site. It is at the mouth of the Link River on Lake Ewauna. It is also the head of the new Lake Ewauna Trail. The Ewauna Row Club Crew House is located at the park. The docks and boat launch are in need of repair and the City is coordinating with the Oregon State Marine Board and community partners on approaches for replacing the docks and boat ramp.

Recommendations for transforming Veterans Park

The City should make a variety of investments in Veterans Park to develop it as a community park that communicates Klamath Falls’ identity and showcases its unique landscape.

- Create a park master plan that develops this park as a gateway to the City that connects the community to the water and trails:
 - Consider improvement opportunities for an outdoor event space
 - Consider adding nature play elements
 - Replace restrooms designed around safety and inclusivity
 - Incorporate interpretive signage
- Replace docks and boat ramp.
- Upgrade the irrigation system.
- Add security cameras.
- Work with partners to increase programming year-round.
- Replace the locomotive shelter roof.

Page intentionally blank



CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION

Page intentionally blank

4 IMPLEMENTATION

Introduction

The Klamath Falls park system envisioned by the community will be achieved through a combination of small and large, short- and long-term projects and initiatives, as described in Chapter 3 and listed by park site in Appendix C. The variety of recommended projects reflects the interest and enthusiasm from community members, partners, and City staff in seeing Klamath Falls parks improved for increased use and sustained for future generations. However, there are more projects described in Appendix C than the City can implement in the next ten years. This chapter describes how to use this Master Plan to determine which projects to prioritize.

Specifically, this chapter:

- Summarizes cost estimates for all projects included in the Master Plan, in comparison to current City expenditures and funding resources;
- Introduces a prioritization process to determine which projects to carry into annual workplans and budgeting;
- Presents a short-term action plan for consideration;
- Identifies potential funding sources to support implementation.



Photo: Trail Crew, Klamath Trail Alliance

Costs and Existing Resources

The Master Plan includes about \$46 million in capital projects (Appendix C). In addition, approximately \$1,310,000 in annual maintenance funds would be needed to take care of the City's park sites *if all* recommendations in the Master Plan were implemented. Also, many cities set aside an annual allowance for capital replacement and reinvestment so that the City will have funds to repair or replace amenities and facilities at the end of their lifecycle. This amount is based on the value of infrastructure in parks. The annual capital replacement and reinvestment allowance could total more than \$800,000 per year if all recommended projects were developed. This level of investment is not realistic for the City to achieve in the next ten years.

The City Adopted 2018-19 Budget and 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) shows that projected expenditures for park improvements, maintenance, and operations are far less than the cost estimates presented in this Master Plan. As of the 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the average annual allocation for parks infrastructure over the next five years was approximately \$225,000 per year (not including funds for the pool and maintenance equipment). The 2018-19 City Budget allocated approximately \$1,010,000 for parks materials, services and personnel (not including the pool). The City allocates approximately \$145,000 for pool materials and services and \$227,000 for pool personnel costs, which are unique to the pool because it is the only facility where the City hires programming staff. The five-year average for capital investments at Ella Redkey Pool is \$50,000 per year. The Master Plan cost estimates do not include operations so these costs will need to be considered in addition to estimates included in Appendix C.

To advance the community's vision for parks and recreation in Klamath Falls, the City will need to prioritize projects, investigate several different revenue streams, and increase capital funds as well as funds for operations, maintenance, and management.



Project Prioritization

The City will need to prioritize its park investment and sequence projects to match community priorities and needs. The Project Prioritization Criteria presented in Appendix D will help City staff sequence short-, medium- and long-term projects over the next 10+ years. A prioritized project list can be updated annually to reflect changing priorities and resources, and inform the City’s workplan, annual budgeting, and 6-year CIP.

Short-Term Action Plan

Some of the projects and policy initiatives discussed in the Master Plan should be implemented in the short-term. These projects, highlighted in Table 1, are already in the City’s CIP and/or are priorities for the community. The planning level costs for these projects are included in Appendix C.

Table 1: Short-term Priority Project List

Short-term Priority Projects
Create a systemwide signage program that includes and trails (S.1)
Complete improvements to Kit Carson Park.
Complete the build-out of Klamath Commons.
Complete improvements at Mills Park.
Update the SDC methodology. (MO.3)
Update use agreements and fees. (MO.3)
Incorporate Master Plan parkland standards into City ordinances, the updated Comprehensive Plan, the SDC methodology update, as well as parkland dedication requirements. (MO.4)
Develop a job training program for high school students and young adults. (M.1)
Continue lighting enhancements and upgrading irrigation.
Make recommended improvements to Richmond Park.
Design and develop Baldwin park.
Make priority improvements in Moore Park, such as wayfinding signage, tennis court improvements and road resurfacing.
Improve walking path at Warford Park.
Resurface courts (tennis, pickleball, futsal, multiuse, etc.) at Stukel Park.



Potential Funding Sources

There are a variety of funding sources available for park and recreation services and capital improvements in Oregon, many of which are already used by the City of Klamath Falls. Funding is typically divided into two categories, depending on the types of projects or services it supports:

- **Capital funding** supports new construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement projects for existing parks and facilities.
- **Materials and Services funding** supports ongoing services, such as maintenance, facility operations, recreation programming, events, marketing, and management.

Klamath Falls should strive to maximize its existing sources of funding and identify new sources to implement Master Plan recommendations. Over the next ten years, the City should consider a variety of sources such as urban renewal funding, revised park fees for specialized facility use, revised system development charges, opportunities for voter-approved taxing measures, grants, donations and other funding sources. Each of these sources may have limitations in their application, as noted in Table 3 and described on the next page.

Table 2: Summary of Funding Sources and Potential Applications

Funding Source	Currently used by Klamath Falls	May be used for operations	May be used for capital improvements	Restrictions on use
Park, Facility, and Program Fees	Y	•	•	
Property Taxes	Y	•	•	

Funding Source	Currently used by Klamath Falls	May be used for operations	May be used for capital improvements	Restrictions on use
Parks System Development Charges	Y		•	Capacity enhancement projects
General Obligation Bond	N		•	
Operating Levy	N			
Transient Room Tax	Y*			
Water Utility Fee for park maintenance	Y	•	•	
Parks, Recreation and Natural Area Grants	Y			Specified by grant
Transportation and Economic Development Grants	Y			Specified by grant
Philanthropic Grants and Donations	Y	•	•	May be specified by grant/donor

*Transient Room Tax is administered by the County

Park, Facility and Program Fees

Recreation programming fees and facility rental fees provide a limited source of operating funds. The City of Klamath Falls only provides recreational programming at Ella Redkey Pool. However, the City provides facility rentals for organizations and individuals. The City is in the process of updating its use agreements for fields and recreation facilities. The City may consider adding a surcharge to a facility reservation fee to collect funds for later capital reinvestment.

Parks System Development Charges

Systems Development Charges (SDC’s), are intended to equitably spread the cost of essential capital improvements to new development and pay for infrastructure expansion required to serve the additional demand. Oregon State Law allows local jurisdictions to charge SDCs for parks and recreation facilities. Klamath Falls has Parks SDCs in place for residential development. Many jurisdictions, however, are considering updates to their SDC methodology to charge fees for non-residential development. Commercial/industrial SDC’s address the increased park needs associated with new business development (employees and business consumers).

General Obligation Bond (Bond Measure)

General Obligation Bonds are voter-approved bonds with funds associated with a tax assessment on real and personal property. The proceeds can be used for capital improvements but not maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time.

Operating Levy

Levies are voter-approved assessments on real property that extend for up to a 5-year term and can be used for maintenance and operations.

Transient Room Tax

Transient room taxes are lodging taxes (hotel, motel, bed and breakfasts) that may be used to support the City's general revenues. Since some parks and projects are tourism and visitor-related, some cities charge these fees to reinvest in sites that attract tourists and visitors.

Utility Fee for Parks

A park utility fee creates dedicated funds to help offset the cost of park maintenance. Most City residents pay water and sewer utility fees. Park utility fees apply the same concepts to city parks, and a fee can be assessed to all businesses and households. The monthly fee is paid with the water utility bill.

Parks, Recreation and Natural Area Grants

Grant funding for parks, recreation, and natural areas can support a range of system improvements. Some of the most common funding sources include:

- Oregon's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant that provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities, including non-motorized recreational trail uses.
- The Local Government Grant Program helps local government agencies fund outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities and acquire property for park purposes.
- The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife also offers grants for land conservation and habitat improvements.

Transportation and Economic Development Funding

Transportation improvements can improve connectivity to parks and provide recreation benefits. Oregon's Statewide Transportation Improvement (STIP) provides transportation improvement funding for projects identified in the local transportation plan. Travel Oregon's Competitive Grant program also provides funding support for projects that are linked to tourism and demonstrate a direct tie to the mission of Travel Oregon.

Philanthropic Park Support and Donations

Non-profits and advocacy organizations can provide a powerful resource to raise funding and support for parks and recreation. The City currently has strong partners that, through grants and donations, support the City's parks system. Many other funding sources offer grant funding to support local communities through non-profits. Other private entities such as the Ford Family Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust provide funding to support initiatives that improve local communities.

Moving Forward

This Master Plan is the culmination of more than a year of work by City of Klamath Falls staff, the Parks Advisory Board, City Council, and other community leaders to identify how best to invest in Klamath Falls parks and recreation system. The recommendations in this Master Plan represent a long-term investment in the parks and facilities valued by the community. The recommendations support the community's vision for the future of Klamath Falls Parks. Key projects will be accomplished through ongoing collaborations and community partnerships, as well as by diversifying funding sources for parks and recreation.

