



CITY OF HILLSBORO
Parks & Recreation

Approved Plan | February 2010

SUBMITTED BY



City of Hillsboro

Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resource Analysis

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the many citizens, staff, and community groups who provided extensive input for the development of this Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update. The project was a true community effort, anticipating that this plan will meet the needs and desires of all residents of our growing city.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Hillsboro initiated the *Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resource Analysis* in January 2008 to update the City's last *Parks Master Plan* and to create a community supported blueprint for providing high quality parks and recreation facilities and services for all residents.



The 2003 plan charted a course that has resulted in substantial improvements to the park system, including the renovation of the Shute Park Aquatic & Recreation Center, the opening of the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center, the development of multiple new parks and facilities, and the accompanying increase in recreation programs and activities. This plan builds on the high quality park system and recreation services that Hillsboro residents and employees enjoy, providing a comprehensive plan for leisure services that respond to community needs now and into the future.

According to the results of the planning process, City of Hillsboro residents clearly value the many benefits provided by parks and recreation. While the City has established top quality services and has built award-winning facilities, there are still a number of community needs for parks and recreation. Meeting all community recreation needs, while not an easy task, is not unrealistic. The goals of this plan are to identify ways to develop existing sites to their greatest potential and best use, to identify remaining opportunities to add park land to the park system, and to look for opportunities to partner with others, including developers, schools, public agencies, and community members, to enhance the City of Hillsboro's parks and recreation system. This Plan will also support the efforts of the department to achieve agency accreditation through CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies). Most importantly, this plan aspires to rally community support for parks and recreation, aiding Hillsboro Parks & Recreation in their efforts to make Hillsboro a model for providing park services, meeting community needs, and creating an innovative, efficient, interconnected, and diverse park system.

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for the Parks & Trails Master Plan was organized into four phases, as depicted in Figure 1 on the next page.

Phase I: Where Are We Now? Phase I reviewed the planning context, the inventory of parks and facilities, and an evaluation of assets. This phase included a brief demographic profile, review of land use and development patterns, and a synopsis of relevant previously completed planning studies. This phase also included introductory workshops with park staff and the Parks & Recreation Commission to identify key issues for the Plan.

FIGURE 1: PLANNING PROCESS

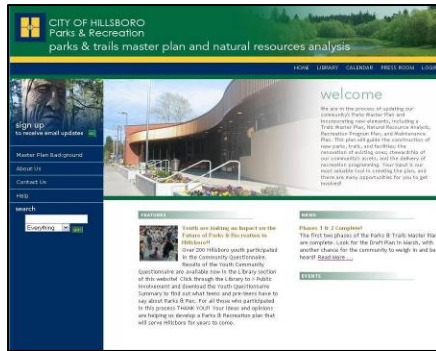


Phase II: Where Do We Want to Be? Phase II involved significant outreach to the community through a series of public involvement efforts. Through these forums, community members identified major park and recreation needs and priorities, as well as a vision for the future. In addition to the qualitative community input, the planning team conducted technical analysis of the park system, facilities and trails; as well as an analysis of recreation programs.

Phase III: How Do We Get There? Based on the findings of the first two phases, the planning team developed policies and recommendations to help the community realize its vision for parks and recreation. These recommendations address parks and facilities, trails, recreation programs, park maintenance, and natural areas.

Phase IV: Adoption: In Phase IV, the *Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resource Analysis* underwent a public review process, where the plan was presented to staff, residents, Parks & Recreation Commission, and the City Council for refinement and adoption.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



To develop a solid foundation for the *Hillsboro Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resource Analysis*, Hillsboro solicited feedback from a broad spectrum of residents regarding their needs, preferences, attitudes, and vision for parks and recreation services. A variety of activities were conducted throughout the planning process to ensure participation from a cross-section of the community, including various age groups, language groups, and diverse special interests. Each of the community engagement opportunities is described below.

- **www.hillsboroparksplan.org** – A website was developed for the project to provide public information and allow members of the public to submit open comments regarding any issue.
- **Community Intercept Event** – One intercept event was held in Hillsboro during the planning process. Project staff hosted a booth at the Hillsboro Tuesday Marketplace on June 24, 2008. The booth included interactive displays, flyers about the project website and the recreation questionnaire, and information about Hillsboro Parks & Recreation programs and activities.
- **Telephone Survey** – A statistically valid telephone survey was administered during July and August 2008 by Leisure Vision, using bilingual interviewers. A total of 508 Hillsboro residents aged 19 and older participated in the survey, providing a margin of error of +/-4.3%.
- **Recreation Questionnaire, Adult** – English and Spanish versions of a recreation questionnaire were available on the project website, designed to provide an opportunity for adults to provide input on priorities and needs. This was available from June 2008 through January 2009 and 130 adults participated.
- **Youth Questionnaire** – Between July and September 2008, youth in the City of Hillsboro were invited to provide input on how and why they use parks and recreation facilities. A questionnaire was available online through the project website and paper copies were distributed by Hillsboro Parks & Recreation youth program coordinators. The web version was presented in both English and Spanish versions. More than 200 youth participated.
- **Focus Groups** – Focus groups were conducted with members of key stakeholder groups in Hillsboro. Planning staff attended regularly scheduled meetings of the Hillsboro Arts & Culture Council (July 2008) and the Latino Outreach Advisory Committee (October 2008) to obtain input. In July 2008, the planning team held a series of three meetings with senior citizens—the first with

Silver Sneakers program participants, the second after the lunch program at the Community/Senior Center, and the third with the Board of the Community Senior Center of Hillsboro. In addition, in October 2008 the planning team convened a focus group with natural resource advocates recruited from Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve staff, volunteers, and other interested members of the public to discuss needs and issues.

- **All-Staff Workshop** – The planning team conducted a workshop for all Hillsboro Parks & Recreation staff in February 2008, as part of the annual departmental retreat. This workshop included an all-staff brainstorming and a small group exercise where staff members were tasked with identifying strengths and weaknesses of the City's parks and recreation services.
- **Community Workshops** – The Hillsboro community was invited to two workshops in September 2008. One workshop was held at the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center and the other was at the Park & Recreation Administration building. The workshops were held to provide participation opportunities in two geographic locations.
- **Trail Count** – Project staff and volunteers participated in the 2008 Metro bicycle and pedestrian trail count survey in September 2008, gaining input on the use of trails in Hillsboro. Seven locations were designated for volunteers to count and survey trail users primarily along the Rock Creek Trail. Over 200 residents were counted during the survey.
- **Public Open House** – One public open house was held in June 2009 at the Civic Center. The event was held to present the draft Master Plan and allow for public comments on the Plan.



This plan draws from the crucial insights and perspectives derived from community members, reflecting community values and vision.

BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and recreation provides communities with personal, social, economic, and environmental benefits that contribute to a higher quality of life for community members. The City of Hillsboro has made parks and recreation a priority because of the many benefits these services provide.

In the 2008 *Community Attitude and Interest Survey*, residents in the City of Hillsboro were asked questions about the benefits of recreation,

including which benefits they thought were most important to them and which were most important to the future of the City of Hillsboro. From a list of ten options, the top three choices for both questions are: to improve physical health and fitness, make Hillsboro a more desirable place to live, and improve mental health and reduce stress.

Residents who participated in the Community Intercept event were also asked about the benefits of recreation, with slightly different benefit options. The top choices at the Intercept event were protecting the natural environment and providing opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and nature.

PLANNING CONTEXT

In addition to a strong base of community input, this plan was developed within the context of other Hillsboro planning efforts and initiatives.

Citywide Vision

The *Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan* serves as a guide for long-term planning in Hillsboro. The plan, developed through an extensive public participation process and originally adopted by the City Council in 2000, identifies specific strategies and actions related to park planning and development. The plan was updated in 2005 and continues to be a community-based guide for shaping the future of Hillsboro. This *Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resources Analysis* was designed to support the direction of the Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan. Hillsboro Parks & Recreation can make a significant contribution to the implementation of the 2020 Vision by implementing the strategies designed to improve the City's park and recreation resources within the Vision and Action Plan's six topic areas:



- Strengthening a common sense of community
- Enhancing all neighborhoods and districts
- Preserving the environment
- Fostering economic opportunity
- Expanding support for and access to arts and cultural activities
- Promoting community health and safety

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Mission and Vision

The *Three Year Marketing and Communication Plan* is a strategic document developed by Hillsboro Parks & Recreation staff and the

Parks and Recreation Commission. This document seeks to define the department and determine how to communicate the resulting message. An important part of this effort was the development of a mission statement, core values, and vision to define the purpose and values of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation. The mission, values and vision guide all department services, including the provision of recreation programs and services.

Mission Statement

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation is dedicated to providing diverse, innovative and exceptional recreational and cultural opportunities that enrich the lives of our citizens.

Vision

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation's long-term vision is to be a progressive and well-respected agency providing exceptional and widely accessible facilities and services that meet the needs, and contribute to the health and strength of a diverse community. We will have an acknowledged position as providing a community service that is critical to the prosperity and quality of life in Hillsboro. Furthermore, we will maintain highly skilled and motivated staff that understand and believe in our mission, core values, vision and goals.

Core Values

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation is made up of a dedicated team that believes in and operates by the following core values:

Customer Service and Value – we strive to serve residents through responsiveness, honesty, flexibility, equitability, and access to high quality, innovative parks, facilities and services.

Fostering Community – we believe in being connected to and anchored in the community as we aspire to provide solutions to community challenges and work to create positive opportunities for residents.

Environmental Stewardship – we make every effort to be good stewards of the environment and protect natural resources on behalf of the community, as well as provide residents with ample access to the natural environment.

Encouraging Recreation and Healthy Living – we strive to provide recreational and cultural experiences that encourage healthy living and human development for residents of all ages and abilities.



Responsible Use of Resources – we endeavor to achieve efficiency and cost effectiveness in everything we do, and to utilize public resources in serving the community in the most fiscally responsible way possible. We believe that these core values are key elements in the past and current success of the department, and that they will continue to be critical to our future success in serving the needs of the diverse and growing community.

This *Parks & Trails Master Plan* is designed to further the mission and vision for the department, and to respond to the core values.

Other Planning Efforts

Various City plans and reports are significant in the development of the *Hillsboro Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resource Analysis*, including the Hillsboro 2020 Housing Needs Study and the Hillsboro Comprehensive Plan. These and other key documents are summarized in Appendix A.

2. HILLSBORO IN 2009

The City of Hillsboro is situated in the Tualatin River Valley, between the Tualatin River to the south and Highway 26 to the north. The county seat of Washington County, Hillsboro is part of the larger Portland metropolitan region that is governed by the Metro Regional Council. The City encompasses approximately 23 square miles of land and is mostly bordered by the Metro Urban Growth Boundary. Prime agricultural land surrounds the City and is incorporated within its boundaries in some areas. Several tributaries of the Tualatin River run through Hillsboro, including Dairy Creek, McKay Creek, Rock Creek, Dawson Creek, and Turner Creek.

COMMUNITY GROWTH AND CHANGE

In a generation, Hillsboro has grown from a quiet farming community and county seat of 28,000 into a technology and employment center that is vital to Oregon's economy and is home to nearly 90,000



residents. Billions of dollars have been invested in manufacturing and research facilities in Hillsboro by global technology firms (Solar World, Intel, Genentech, and many others), while a vibrant nursery industry remains another pillar of the economy. With the rapid population growth, Hillsboro has seen the development of significantly more housing, as well as the creation of several new district and neighborhood centers that have resulted in significant changes to Hillsboro's built environment.

The 2008 population for Hillsboro was 89,285. Having nearly tripled in population in a generation, Hillsboro is the fifth largest city in the state and could expect to grow to more than 150,000 people by 2030. Hillsboro's population trend is currently younger than the Portland Metropolitan region as a whole. The City has a higher percentage of young children (under age five) and adults aged 25 to 34 and a lower percentage of adults over the age of 45 than the region as a whole. Hillsboro's income distribution indicates that it is predominantly a middle class city, with concentrations in the middle range of the income spectrum.

Hillsboro also has greater diversity than the Portland Metro region as a whole, with less than 70% of the population identifying as "White" compared to more than 90% in the Metro region. The Latino population is around 20%, with the Asian, African American, and American Indian populations together comprising around 10%.

Hillsboro is expected to continue to experience steady population growth, particularly in the Latino community, as the Portland metro area continues to attract new residents. By definition, growth will require the City to expand services and operations to meet the needs of more residents. Physical growth through annexation, population growth, and demographic changes will all have direct impacts on the delivery of Parks and Recreation services in Hillsboro. The density will continue to increase as lots become smaller. The growing population, coupled with less space per lot, will require more parks to contribute to a higher quality of life. Additionally, demographic changes may require new approaches for recreation programming and park type and size.



The City of Hillsboro is considering expanding its Urban Growth Boundary to meet the anticipated growth needs. Based on four scenarios under consideration in Fall 2008/Winter 2009, these expansions could add more than 10,000 acres, or as many as 71,000 new residents (See Appendix F). The result of this expansion will generate further need for new park sites in residential and employment centers, trail expansions for recreation and transportation needs, and recreation programming expansion.

Due to Senate Bill 122¹, an intergovernmental agreement was reached between the City of Hillsboro and Tualatin Parks and Recreation District that follows the current school district boundary except for portions of 185th that were already inside Hillsboro or Beaverton. The SB122 planning area boundary continues to be the eastern boundary of the Hillsboro Urban Service Boundary and was used for this plan.

PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

As an element of the larger city organizational structure, City of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation falls under the direction of one of three Assistant City Managers. The same Assistant City Manager is also responsible for library, police and fire services.

Since the 2003 Plan, the department has refined its organizational structure and has increased full and part time staffing significantly. During that time, the department has also taken on new responsibilities, such as overseeing Jackson Bottom Wetlands

¹ Senate Bill 122 requires local governments to work together to establish long-term responsibility for service provision including responsibility for parks, recreation and open-spaces. The bill was passed in 1993.

Preserve, maintaining all City facilities (fire stations, the Civic Center, etc.) and organizing the very popular Celebrate Hillsboro event.

The Administration division includes the Director, Assistant Director, and a variety of other staff. This division is responsible for the Parks & Recreation Commission, registration, payroll, and facility rentals. In addition, the facilities manager (responsible for building maintenance and event programming), community resources manager (responsible for marketing, media contact, and public communications) and the volunteer coordinator are housed within this division.

The Arts & Culture division is managed by the Cultural Arts Program Manager and is responsible for the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center. This division also serves as liaison to the Hillsboro Arts & Culture Council and is responsible for programs and events at the Arts Center, as well as other arts and culture-related special events.

The Recreation Services division, managed by the Recreation Services Manager, is responsible for recreation programs, organized sports leagues, and special events. The division also takes on additional responsibilities for citywide special events, such as Celebrate Hillsboro. Additionally, the division operates and manages several of the City's major recreation facilities, including Gordon Faber Recreation Complex/Hillsboro Stadium and SHARC.

The Operations and Development division—led by the Development Manager and under the direction of the Assistant Director—is responsible for park planning, acquisition, design, maintenance, and vehicle and equipment maintenance. During the all-staff retreat, staff identified the grouping of planning, acquisition, design, and maintenance within one division as an asset and indicated this as a major reason for the strong sense of staff teamwork and ownership. This division is also responsible for Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve.

Together, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation staff provide the parks, facilities and recreation services summarized in the remainder of this chapter.

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The park system within the City of Hillsboro consists of diverse parks, natural areas, and recreation facilities that provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities and experiences. The total acreage managed or maintained by the department is 808 acres. These sites support an array of recreation facilities—ranging from youth sports fields to multi-

field sports complexes and a stadium; from watercraft launches to an aquatic and recreation center; and from small playgrounds to large group picnic facilities. Such a variety of parks and facilities create unique play and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors in Hillsboro. An overview of the park inventory is provided below, with detailed inventory data contained in Appendix B.

Developed Parks

The acreage and number of sites included in the approximate acreage for developed park land and nature parks is summarized in Table 2.1. The 411.99 acres are divided among four park classifications: community parks, neighborhood parks, special use facilities, and nature parks. There are an additional 62.58 acres of undeveloped park land over 6 sites. Parks and park land are presented on Map 1. The undeveloped park land provides opportunities for future parks throughout the City.

TABLE 2.1: PARK LAND SUMMARY

PARKS BY CLASSIFICATION	# OF SITES	ACREAGE
Community Parks - 53 rd Ave Community Park - Dairy Creek - Rood Bridge Park - Shute Park	4	152.98
Neighborhood Parks - Bagley Park - Bicentennial Park - Central Park - Evergreen Park - Frances Street Park - Glencoe Creek Park - Griffin Oaks - Hamby Park - Magnolia Park - McKinney Park - Reedville Creek Park - Rosebay Park - Shadywood Park - Turner Creek Park - Walnut Street	15	88.72
Special Use Facilities - Fairgrounds Sports Complex - Gordon Faber Recreation Complex - Hondo Dog Park - SHARC (Shute Park Aquatic & Rec. Center) - Tyson Recreation Center - Walters Cultural Arts Center	6	110.91
Nature Parks - Noble Woods - Orchard Park	2	59.39
Total	27	411.99

TABLE 2.2: UNDEVELOPED PARK LAND SUMMARY

UNDEVELOPED PARK LAND	# OF SITES	ACREAGE
Sites - 2370 E Main Street Property - Patterson Street Property - Landfill Property - OHKA - Orenco Neighborhood Property - Willow Creek Park	6	62.58

Greenways and Open Space

In addition to Hillsboro’s developed park land there is approximately 772 acres of greenways and open spaces in the park system. The greenways include both built and natural corridors that provide linkages between parks and opportunities for trail-related outdoor recreation. Open space includes undeveloped areas within subdivisions and non-linear areas that preserve significant natural resources, such as rivers and streams, wetlands, steep hillsides, environmentally sensitive areas, and wildlife habitats. They do not include any user amenities and serve to preserve green space within the City of Hillsboro.

Table 2.3 summarizes Hillsboro’s existing greenways and open space inventory. Map 2 depicts Hillsboro’s open space and greenways.

TABLE 2.3: GREENWAYS AND OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

CLASSIFICATION	# OF SITES	ACREAGE
Greenways	9	241
Open Space	21	83.2
Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve	1	448*
Total	30	324.2

* Not included in acreage totals or calculations. The total acreage of Jackson Bottom is 725 acres (448 acres are managed by Hillsboro Parks & Recreation)

Other Sites

In addition to the park land discussed above, there are three other sites managed and/or maintained by Hillsboro Parks & Recreation for non-recreational use. These sites are listed separately from other types of park land and are not included in the assessment of park needs. Called “Other Sites” on the inventory, these are presented in Table 2.4 on the following page.

TABLE 2.4: OTHER SITES SUMMARY

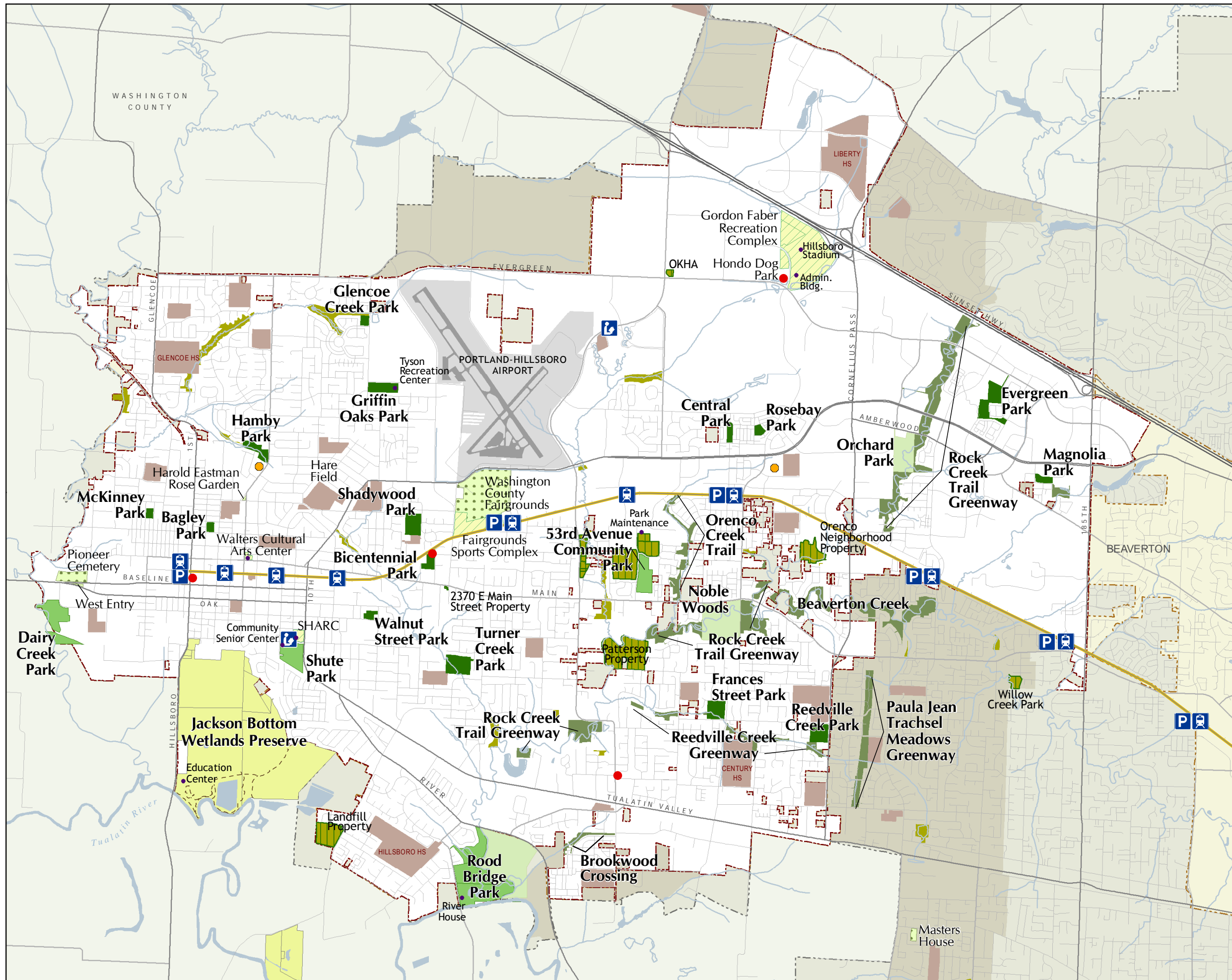
SITE	TYPE	ACREAGE
Harold Eastman Rose Garden	Beautification Area	0.28
Pioneer Cemetery	Cemetery	8.06
West Entry	Beautification Area	0.41
	Total	8.74

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation was given the responsibility in 2007 of maintaining the grounds of other city buildings facilities—such as the Civic Center. Time and resources spent on these sites are tracked separately from the parks and recreation maintenance budget.



CITY OF HILLSBORO Parks & Recreation

Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resource Analysis



- Facility
- - - Park Trail
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Nature Park
- Greenway
- Open Space
- ▨ Special Use Facility
- Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
- ⋯ Other Site
- ▨ Undeveloped Park
- School
- Community Garden
- Fire Station

- 📖 Library
- 🚗 Transit Center
- 🚆 MAX Stop
- 🛣️ Highway
- 🛣️ Major Arterial
- 🚂 Railroad
- 🌊 Stream
- 🌊 Water Body
- 📐 City Limits
- 📐 Other City
- 📐 Expansion Area
- 📐 Urban Growth Boundary

Map 1: Existing Parks & Facilities



CITY OF HILLSBORO
Parks & Recreation

**Parks & Trails
Master Plan and Natural
Resource Analysis**

Trails

- Existing Multi-Use
- Proposed TSP, Multi-Use Pathway
- Existing TSP, Neighborhood Route
- Proposed TSP, Neighborhood Route
- Existing Regional Trail
- Proposed Regional Trail
- Greenway
- Water Trail

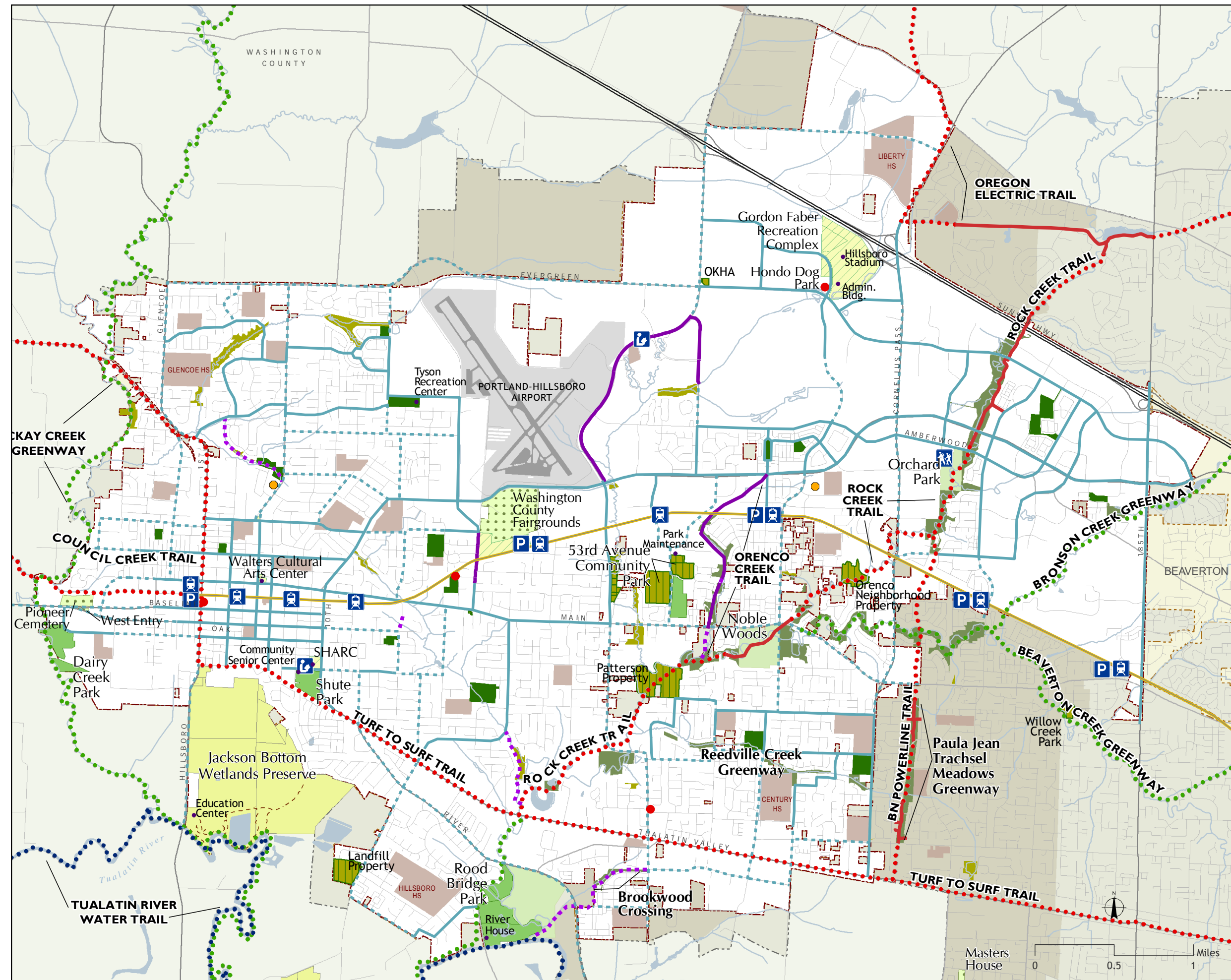
Parks

- Facility
- Greenway
- Park Trail
- Open Space
- Community Park
- Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
- Neighborhood Park
- Other Site
- Nature Park
- Undeveloped Park
- Special Use Facility
- School

Transportation and Geographic Elements

- Trailhead
- Library
- Transit Center
- MAX Stop
- MAX Line
- Stream
- Water Body
- Highway
- Major Arterial
- Local Street
- Railroad
- City Limits
- Expansion Area
- Other City
- Urban Growth Boundary

**Map 2: Existing Regional
Trails and Greenways**



Sites Provided by Others

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation has developed partnerships with Hillsboro School District and Washington County Fairgrounds to provide recreation opportunities. The School District partnership allows the use of gyms and other facilities located at select schools, providing a significant amount of programming space for the department. Two noteworthy sites in the City of Hillsboro are:

- **Hare Field:** This sports field complex is owned by the school district and is used by both the school district and Hillsboro Parks & Recreation. The site contains a football stadium with a track, two baseball fields, and a soccer field.
- **Washington County Fairgrounds:** The Fairgrounds Sports Complex—built and operated by Hillsboro Parks & Recreation—is located on the larger Washington County Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds is home to the Washington County Fair and includes event space and equestrian show rings available for rent.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Hillsboro’s parks offer a wide range of outdoor recreation facilities. Table 2.5 summarizes the outdoor athletic facilities available at city parks in Hillsboro. Appendix B provides a detailed inventory of the park system, and indicates which recreation facilities are available at each park site

TABLE 2.5: OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES SUMMARY

TYPE	# OF SITES
Paved Courts: Basketball	15
Paved Courts: Tennis	12
Soccer Fields	9
Baseball Fields	6
Softball Fields	11
Other Sport Fields *	3

* This includes football, lacrosse, and cricket fields.

In addition to facilities listed in Table 2.5, there are other outdoor recreation facilities within the park system.

- **Playgrounds** – All community and neighborhood parks include at least one playground, as do the two sports complexes.
- **Small watercraft launch** – This is located at Rood Bridge Park.
- **Off-leash dog area** – Hondo Dog Park has separate large and small dog areas. There are no other off-leash areas within the system.
- **Skate Park** – Hillsboro’s skate park is located at Reedville Creek Park.

- **Disc golf course** – Orchard Park includes a 9-hole disc golf course.
- **Horseshoe pits** – Shute Park includes horseshoe pits, located near the picnic areas.
- **Outdoor performance space** – Shute Park has a large outdoor stage with power for a sound system, used for community events and the summer concert series.
- **Community gardens** – The gardens are located on the grounds of Calvary Lutheran Church near Hamby Park and Sunrise Baptist Church. The gardens at Sunrise opened May 2009. The Parks & Recreation volunteer coordinator is responsible for assigning plots.
- **Spraygrounds** – Magnolia Park includes an outdoor sprayground. In addition, there is an interactive fountain at City Hall.

Restrooms are also available at many park sites in Hillsboro. Off-street parking is provided at all community parks and nature parks. Many neighborhood parks also have off-street parking.

Picnic Facilities

Picnic facilities are available in many Hillsboro parks. Table 2.6 indicates which parks have picnic facilities, and whether or not they are reserveable.

TABLE 2.6: PICNIC FACILITIES SUMMARY

FACILITY	# OF SHELTERS	RESERVABLE
Bagley Park	1	Yes
Bicentennial Park	1	No
Central Park	1	No
Glencoe Creek Park	1	No
Gordon Faber Recreation Complex	1	Yes
Griffin Oaks Park	1	Yes
Hamby Park	1	No
Magnolia	1	Yes
McKinney Park	1	No
Reedville Creek Park	1	Yes
Rood Bridge Park	3	Yes
Shadywood Park	1	Yes
Shute Park	Multiple uncovered group sites	Yes
Walnut Street Park	1	No

Indoor Facilities

Within the Hillsboro park system, there are a number of indoor facilities. Table 2.7 details the facility, its location, and the spaces available. Facility locations are also depicted on Map 1.

TABLE 2.7: INDOOR FACILITIES SUMMARY

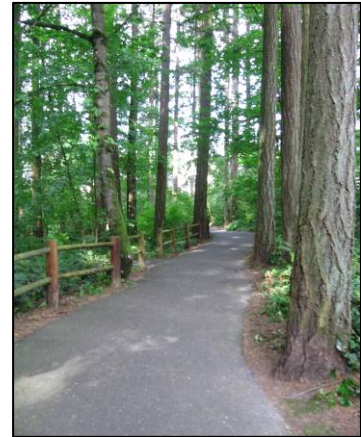
FACILITY	LOCATION	AMENITIES
Community/ Senior Center	Shute Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose room (200 person capacity) • Meeting rooms (2 – 25 and 50 person capacity) • Commercial kitchen • Small conference room
Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center	527 East Main St.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance/event space with 1300 sq. ft. lobby and box office • Classrooms (5) • Gallery • Kitchen (catering) • Outdoor courtyard space
River House	Rood Bridge Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Room (75 person capacity) • Large classroom with sink • Catering kitchen • 1932 sq ft.
SHARC	953 SE Maple Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 yd x 25 m L-shaped pool with slide • Indoor warm water pool with spray feature • Outdoor 50 yd pool (seasonal) • Sauna and spa • Aerobic/dance room • Cardio and weight rooms • Spinning room • Multipurpose rooms (2) • Locker rooms • 3 family changing rooms • Child care room
Tyson Recreation Center	Griffin Oaks Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms (2) • 4,500 sq ft (main bldg) • 2,240 sq ft (multi-purpose room)
Jackson Bottom Wetlands Education Center	Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibits • Nature store • Classroom (80 person capacity) • Covered outdoor deck (150 person capacity) • 12,000 sq ft

In addition to the indoor facilities listed in Table 2.7, the Administration Building located adjacent to Gordon Faber Recreation Complex includes a large conference room and a meeting room. While not frequently used for public events, the Administration Building does offer additional indoor meeting space.

Existing Trails

At present, the City of Hillsboro has a Transportation System Plan, but does not have a specific trails master plan. There are areas of the City with developed multi-use pathways and many of the City's parks contain internal sidewalks/walkways and/or unpaved trails. Additionally, Hillsboro has some existing multi-use paths connecting non-motorized travelers with the regional on-street bicycle network.

Metro is currently working with several local jurisdictions to develop a regional trails network. The 950 miles of existing and proposed trails will cross jurisdictional lines of towns, cities, and states to connect between parks, natural areas, and other trails. Hillsboro has linkages to two regional trails identified by Metro with existing segments: Rock Creek and BN Powerline Trails. Map 2 depicts the location of existing trails.



- **Rock Creek Trail** – This trail alignment is currently under review by the Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails. The trail alignment follows Rock Creek from the Tualatin River and works its way northeast through Hillsboro until it terminates at the proposed Oregon Electric Trail along the City's northeast boundary. The developed portion of the trail begins at Sunset Highway (Hwy. 26) and meanders south for 1.5 miles until the trail ends at Orchard Park. The trailhead for the park is located off the parking lot at Orchard Park.
- **BN Powerline Trail** – Most of the trail is undeveloped and outside of Hillsboro's city limits. The trail alignment starts just south of Orchard Park at the Rock Creek Trail, and heads south crossing the Bronson Creek Greenway, and the Turf to Surf Trail. A portion of the trail is complete on the north and south portions of the Paula Jean Trachsel Meadows Greenway is just outside the southeastern limits of the City. The trail ends when at the Tualatin River Water Trail near the Town of Scholls.²

Origins, Destinations, & Connectivity

Planning for a city-wide trails system requires a review of origins (the places where people start their travel) and destinations (the place where people end their travel) in order to understand the connectivity (a measure used to assess pathway networks) of the trails system. Connectivity for the purposes of this report refers to the relationship of trail routes and access to parks and recreation resources, civic facilities, and transit. Linkage opportunities are further discussed in Chapter 4.

² Metro Regional Trails and Greenways map, January 17th, 2008

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Recreation Services and Arts & Culture are the two major divisions in the department that provide recreation programming. The Senior Center Manager reports directly to the Assistant Director and coordinates with the non-profit Senior Center Board. Employees within other department divisions also support programming, such as the Volunteer Services Coordinator.

Hillsboro's recreation programs and activities serve thousands of Hillsboro residents and visitors each year. In Fiscal Year 2007-08, more than 14,000 participated in programs, more than 250,000 visited SHARC, and approximately 91,000 attended events at Gordon Faber Recreation Complex.

Major Program Areas



As organized in the Activity Guide published by the department three times a year, the major recreation program areas facilitated through the department include the following:

- **Special Events** are one-time activities or special limited duration activities. Seasonal activities, such as holiday themes, are offered as special events (e.g., Valentine's Day dinners, Easter egg hunts).
- **Preschool and Parent/Child Activities** include arts, fitness, and special interest classes that support early childhood development. Many of these programs require the participation of a parent or adult for each child.
- **Youth Classes** address special interests, such as arts, sports, dance and music classes, and lessons for children ages 4-17.
- **Youth Sports Leagues** include football, wrestling, soccer, competitive swim, lacrosse, baseball, softball, and basketball.
- **Adult Programs** encompass arts and crafts, fitness, sports, wellness, exercise classes, and workshops.
- **Adult Sports Leagues** include men's basketball, men's and women's softball, coed softball, men's soccer, men's flag football, and coed volleyball.
- **Senior Programs** are geared toward participants 62 years and over. These programs range from low impact land and water based fitness classes to social opportunities and personal care assistance services. Programming is provided at either the Community/Senior Center facility or the Shute Park Aquatic & Recreation Center (SHARC).

- **SHARC programs** include aquatics programs, drop-in swims, water and land exercise classes, self-directed fitness programs in the workout facilities, as well as structured fitness classes for all ability levels, and youth art classes.
- **Volunteer Opportunities** are offered in a variety of areas and require varying levels of commitment (one-time versus ongoing). Volunteers can assist with park beautification projects, recreation programs, special events, or at specific facilities (SHARC).
- **Cultural Arts Events** present music, photography, fine art exhibitions, literary readings, and drama through programming and events at the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center.
- **Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve** offers a number of environmental education programs for all ages in the community. The programs are facilitated at the Education Center and in schools. Programs include birdwatching, interpretive hikes, and art and poetry workshops. Jackson Bottom offers a wide range of workshops, in-services and customized school involvement programs for schools and educators from throughout the Northwest.

In partnership with other agencies, including Hillsboro School District, the department offers afterschool and summer youth programming.

- **BLAST** (Bringing Leadership, Arts and Sports Together) is a program offered during the school year at Eastwood, Henry, McKinney, Minter Bridge, Peter Boscow, and Witch Hazel Elementary Schools.
- **The Zone** is a program administered at Brown, Evergreen, Poynter, and Thomas Middle Schools for afterschool academic help, intramural sports, and enrichment activities.
- **The Outpost** is part of “Project Summer - Everybody Eats”. This program is administered through Hillsboro Parks & Recreation and provides free lunch and structured recreation activities to youth ages 1-18 for nine weeks during the summer. It is funded in part by the USDA Summer Food Program.

Program Formats

Parks & Recreation programs are offered in a variety of formats. These include special classes and lessons, theme or activity camps (2,3 or 5 day), summer day camps, seasonal sport leagues, sport meets or clinics, teen trips, special events and races, parent-child play workshops, drop-in and open programs, birthday parties, private instruction, and volunteer opportunities.

Programming is offered at a variety of times, with options available for drop-in activities, as well as on-going class formats. There are a variety of cost options, including some free programming.

Registration and Fees

There are four options for registering for programs. These include on-line, in person, phone-in and mail-in. RecXpress Online registration is available at www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/ParksRec. Walk-in registration is available at the following four locations: SHARC, Tyson Recreation Center, Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center, or the Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Office. Phone-in and mail-in registration is available during business hours at the Parks & Recreation Office. There is an email list for notification of new program guides and other events.

Classes and activities are priced with resident (within Hillsboro city limits) and non-resident fees. Minimum participation levels are set for all classes with class cancellation options due to low enrollment.

Marketing

Hillsboro advertises its programs through the Activity Guide, City website, flyers, brochures, and press releases. The department also hosts booths at community events, attends community meetings, and provides speakers. In addition, Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center conducts its own marketing activities.



With the creation of a Community Resource Manager position in early 2007, the department has placed greater emphasis on marketing and communications. The department's *Three Year Marketing & Communications Plan*, completed in October 2007, details strategies to increase awareness of and participation in Hillsboro's parks and recreation offerings, including improved collateral materials and consistent messaging. Since the development of the *Marketing & Communications Plan*, the department has launched an email newsletter, created new brochures (e.g., weddings and volunteer brochures), and implemented other outreach strategies that integrate marketing and outreach department-wide. Facility-specific marketing plans are in development. A specific identity has been created for the department that provides standards for the use of logos and colors, as well as nomenclature and messages.

The *Marketing & Communications Plan* and *Identity Standards and Style Guide* are exemplary and set Hillsboro apart from most other parks and recreation agencies because of the targeted manner in which it approaches communications and marketing.

Partnerships

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation has many established partnerships in the provision of recreation programs. Major partners include Hillsboro School District, Campfire USA, and Healthways SilverSneakers. These are only a few of many successful partnerships that the department has fostered to expand opportunities for local residents.

Other Providers

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation is the major recreation provider for Hillsboro residents by many measures. However, there are other providers in Hillsboro and in nearby communities. These include nearby Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District, a variety of private membership fitness clubs, privately-owned golf courses, and private special interest recreation providers (martial arts, yoga, etc.). Some private providers partner with Hillsboro Parks & Recreation in the provision of entry level programs, such as McKay Creek and Meriwether Golf Courses.

Participation

Participation data is useful in decision-making and as a performance measure. Hillsboro Parks & Recreation tracks participation in its programs and activities, as well as visitors to major facilities. Hillsboro's methods of tracking participation appear to be consistent among all program areas and facilities, so that the data collected are comparable.

Recreation participation can be measured in several ways. Registration, attendee or visitation counts are used to identify the total number of registrants or visitors. This type of data does not distinguish between recurring users and one-time users. Participant hours are derived by multiplying the number of participants by the number of classes by the duration of the class in hours. In Hillsboro, participation data is generated in several ways:

- Program registration data is generated based on actual class or program enrollment (e.g., Recreation Programs, After School Programs, Aquatics Programs).
- Visitation data is generated at staffed facilities (e.g., SHARC: Drop-in Aquatics, Swim Team, Kid Fit, Fitness Areas, Group Exercise, SilverSneakers).
- Visitor data is estimated for certain facilities (e.g., GFRC, The Arts Center).

Programs and classes have minimum participation targets, and results are measured to evaluate performance. This information is then used

in conjunction with other measures to help determine demand for existing and new programming. Table 2.8 presents the reported annual participation for a variety of Hillsboro's program types using a combination of the reporting methods described above.

TABLE 2.8: PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FOR REPORTED ANNUAL PARTICIPANTS - FY 2007/08

PROGRAM	REPORTED ANNUAL NUMBERS
Recreation Programs	26,572 registrations
After School Programs	5,168 youth registrations
SHARC Aquatics	4,831 visits
SHARC Swim Programs	49,763 visits
SHARC Hillsboro Swim Team	19,582 visits
SHARC Kid Fit	4,273 visits
SHARC Fitness Center	64,176 visits
SHARC Group Exercise	16,800 visits
SHARC SilverSneakers	12,639 visits
Gordon Faber Recreation Center	91,000 (estimated)
Walters Cultural Arts Center	16,500 (estimated)

Source: City of Hillsboro 2007-08 Annual Report

Program Revenue Generation

The overall department budget in FY 2007-08 was \$25,009,388. Recreation programs, facilities, and services accounted for \$11,212,249 or 45%, of that budget.

The department tracks revenue generation, and sets revenue goals each year. In FY 2007-08 revenues totaled \$2,905,553 (excluding General Fund Allocation, Facility Fund Allocations, and SDCs). The department recovered approximately 26% of its recreation programming operating costs from program and user fees, which is average when compared with other parks and recreation departments of this size and type of programming. See Table 2.9 for the breakdown of revenue by source.

TABLE 2.9: HILLSBORO PARKS & RECREATION REVENUE SOURCES - FY 2007/08

SOURCE	REVENUE	PERCENT
General Fund Allocation	\$11,962,645	57.2%
Facility Fund Allocations	2,000,000	9.6%
Grants/Donations	\$724,332	3.5%
SDCs	\$4,055,369	19.4%
SHARC Fees/Rentals	\$1,070,490	5.1%
Recreation Program Fees/Rentals	\$858,640	4.1%
Gordon Faber Recreation Complex	\$176,076	0.8%
Other General Revenue	\$76,015	0.4%
Total	\$20,923,567	100.0%

Note: SDC reserves are in excess of \$4 million

Source: Hillsboro Parks & Recreation staff

Recreation programs and facilities account for the majority of revenue generated. SHARC generated \$1,070,490 in revenues and Gordon Faber Recreation Complex generated \$176,076, based on actual figures. In 2007-08, SHARC recovered 61% of its operating costs and Gordon Faber recovered 68% of its operating costs.

PARK MAINTENANCE

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation has an extensive inventory of parks and public lands to maintain. In addition to maintaining developed parks, the department is also responsible for maintenance of greenways, open space, the grounds around most City buildings, as well as athletic field maintenance and preparation and the hanging of holiday light displays located around the City.

The department has been recognized by professional peers from around the state, and received the Outstanding Maintenance Management award from the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association in Fall 2006. The maintenance division was also featured in a national professional publication (*Landscape Superintendent and Maintenance Professional*) as one of four agencies with innovative practices.

The division includes 31 full-time employees and 40 seasonal employees. Volunteers and community service workers supplement the employees. Parks beautification projects attract the most volunteer hours, and the Washington County Sheriff's Office provides free labor through the "Work in Lieu of Jail" program (known as WILOJ—pronounced "will-lodge").



Traditional Park Maintenance

While Hillsboro Parks & Recreation manages approximately 806 acres of public land, some of it exists as natural open space. The total amount of land maintained is approximately 626 acres, and the department spends approximately \$4,800 per acre to maintain its parks. This cost is in line with many Northwest agencies, and seems very reasonable given the extensive range of facilities, the excellent condition of the parks, and the high level of detailed maintenance found throughout the park system.

Natural Resource Maintenance

In 2008, the department added its first Natural Resources Manager. The City of Hillsboro has acquired a significant amount of natural resource land and greenways, including natural resources contained within traditional parks. The department has only provided basic hazard maintenance of these areas in the past.

3. PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS

As part of the planning process, the planning team prepared an assessment to determine community needs for park and recreation now and into the future. All aspects of park and recreation services were assessed, with the intent of accommodating changes within the community that have occurred in recent years, such as population growth, increasing diversity and employment growth. In addition, the assessment process considered trends in recreation and the impacts these trends may have on facilities and programming.



This chapter summarizes the results of the assessments conducted during the planning process. Results of the community engagement activities informed the assessment and analysis, and provided input into evaluation criteria.

This chapter is organized into the following sections, with the analysis process for each described within each section.

- Park Land Needs;
- Greenway and Open Space Needs;
- Trail Needs;
- Recreation Facility Needs;
- Recreation Program Needs; and
- Maintenance Needs.

PARK LAND NEEDS

Prior to the *2003 Parks Master Plan*, Hillsboro evaluated its park system in terms of acres of land per 1,000 residents, following standard practice. As part of the 2003 plan, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation began to consider evaluating its park land based on geographic location, rather than just numbers, in order to analyze whether park land was distributed equitably throughout the community. Because acres per 1,000 figures are a useful marker, the 2003 Plan retained a goal of providing 10 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, but added geographic goals for certain types of parks.

The 2009 plan update took the geographic analysis a step further. The 2003 plan used a straight-line radius to evaluate geographic

distribution of some types of parks. In 2008, a more refined geographic analysis was used to evaluate how accessible parks are using the street and pathway network. Access points to parks are factored in, as are transportation modes, service barriers, and travel distance.

- *Access Points* – Parks and trails in Hillsboro have a series of access points that allow residents to gain entry to them. For parks, access points are located where trails and streets enter or intersect the site and no barriers exist.
- *Transportation Modes* – People travel to and from parks by different modes of travel. 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. A good road network can provide access to parks, but 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. Landscape barriers, such as buildings, fences, and private property can also block access to a park site.
- *Travel Distance* – Typical pedestrians are willing to walk between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (5-10 minutes) to reach a park destination. Bicyclists are willing to travel approximately a $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to reach a destination, assuming that they don't have to cross major barriers to get to their destination. Motorists will travel the greatest distance to access a destination.



Public Involvement Findings

Parks are highly valued by the community, according to all of the public involvement activities. Telephone survey results showed Rood Bridge Park is one of the top visited parks in Hillsboro. Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve and Noble Woods are also among the most visited park sites in Hillsboro, in line with the public input that places high importance on settings that provide exposure to nature—including for quiet and stress management.

Generally, special use sites are considered valued and well received by residents. The two most visited recreation facilities are SHARC and the Fairgrounds Sports Complex. Residents support upgrading existing parks and facilities and adding new ones throughout the community.

In addition, Hillsboro residents value the ability to walk or bike to parks. Improved access to neighborhood parks for seniors and in high-density residential areas are also emphasized in the process.

Overall Park Land Needs

In 2003 Hillsboro reaffirmed its goal of providing 10 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, recognizing that although this measure of service has limitations, it is also a useful tool. In an effort to reach that goal, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation has continued to acquire land, expanding the park system as the population grows. Based on a 2008 population of 89,285, Hillsboro has 4.61 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents and 5.32 acres of park land per 1,000 residents if both developed and undeveloped parks are considered.¹



Hillsboro currently has about 63 acres of undeveloped park land in its inventory. When combining both developed and undeveloped existing park land, an additional 418.28 acres of park land is needed to reach the goal of 10 acres per 1,000. By 2029, Hillsboro will need a total of 1,608 acres of park land. Based on population forecasts and availability of land, Hillsboro needs 1,134 acres of additional developed park land to attain its future park land goal.

Community Parks

In Hillsboro, the four community parks range in size from 14 to 73 acres. All parks are in good condition and contain a diversity of recreation opportunities. However, one site (53rd Avenue Community Park) is only partially developed, and will not fully serve surrounding residents until it is completed.

In keeping with the previous 2003 Master Plan established goal of providing a community park within 2 miles of each resident, the geographic analysis considered a travel distance of 2 miles along the street and trail network. Map 3 depicts the 2 mile service areas around the community parks. This analysis shows that most of the areas within

¹ This figure does not include the 125.32-acre Rock Creek Trail Corridor that was included in the acreage per 1,000 calculation of the 2003 Plan. This site has been re-categorized as a greenway. If this site was included in the total, the LOS would be 6.02 for developed parks, and 6.72 for both developed and undeveloped.

The 2009 population estimate of 90,380 was released during the final stages of the plan adoption. However, this most recent figure does not significantly change the 2008 population LOS calculations. Based on the 2009 population, the developed park land LOS is 4.56 and the developed and undeveloped park land LOS is 5.25.

the current city limits are served by existing community parks. Within the planning area, areas that are not served include:

- *53rd Avenue Community Park* – The area around 53rd Avenue Community Park will be fully served when this park is completed.
- *Northeast Hillsboro* – The Amberglen area south of The Streets of Tanasbourne, west of 185th Ave., east of 206th Ave., and north of the MAX line. The current community planning effort for Amberglen is focused around a central park feature and natural area.
- *Northeast Hillsboro* – The area around Gordon Faber Recreation Complex west of Cornelius Pass Road. This area is currently designated for industrial uses and includes corporate campuses.
- *Northwest Hillsboro* – The area north of Hamby Park and west of Glencoe Creek Park. This area is designated for residential use and is developed with housing.

Neighborhood Parks

Hillsboro has fifteen neighborhood parks containing a total of 88.72 acres, with most of the parks in good condition. Bicentennial Park, the lowest quality site, will be renovated in 2009. Community parks serve as neighborhood parks for nearby neighbors and are considered when analyzing neighborhood parks.

To evaluate how well Hillsboro is meeting the goal of providing a neighborhood park within ½-mile of each resident, the geographic analysis evaluated the ½-mile service area around neighborhood parks and community parks, factoring in several barriers that prevent access, including Highway 26, Cornell Road, Tualatin Valley Highway, Cornelius Pass Road, and the MAX line.



Schools, although not considered to be parks, provide recreation and open space opportunities. In some communities, park amenities are developed on school sites and the sites are formally designated as park sites. Hillsboro has an excellent partnership with the School District, and has an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) that governs joint use of the school sites. The City provides recreation programs in school buildings, and has shared the cost of improvements at school sites. Because there is potential to expand on the excellent partnership already in place, elementary schools—which include playgrounds—are very suited to use as neighborhood parks.

Map 4 depicts the ½-mile neighborhood park service area and adds ½-mile service areas around each of the elementary schools. As the map shows, Hillsboro’s existing neighborhood and community parks

do not fully serve the City at the ½-mile service goal. However, if elementary schools are considered to serve as neighborhood parks, there are fewer unserved areas. Based on this map, the underserved areas are described below.

- *Orenco Neighborhood Property* – The area around the Orenco Neighborhood Property (currently designated as undeveloped) southeast of the intersection of Cornelius Pass Road and the MAX line is not served. When developed, the Orenco Neighborhood Property would meet the needs in this area.
- *South of the Fairgrounds* – The area southwest of the MAX and SE Brookwood Parkway intersection, to the south of the fairgrounds, is unserved. There are no schools in this area. However, Hillsboro is in the process of acquiring some land along Brookwood that could potentially be developed as a neighborhood park. Otherwise, Bicentennial Park is the nearest park.
- *Patterson Street Property Area* – The area around the Patterson Street property is not served. While this site has natural resources, including a creek corridor, it has upland areas that could be developed to include neighborhood park amenities.
- *Orchard Park Area* – The area around Orchard Park, north of the MAX line and east of Rock Creek Trail, does not have a neighborhood park. However, Orchard Park (classified as a Nature Park) contains neighborhood park facilities, and can be considered to serve part of this area. A future community park would also provide for some of the neighborhood park needs in the area.
- *Industrial Area* – The area around Gordon Faber Recreation Complex is not served by neighborhood parks. This area is currently designated for industrial uses, and is home to corporate campuses.

Hillsboro also has some subdivisions that contain private parks, owned and maintained by homeowners associations. Though these private parks are not included in the inventory, they may meet localized needs in some underserved areas.

Special Use Sites

Since the *2003 Master Parks Plan*, the City of Hillsboro has added or significantly upgraded three special use facilities. These are the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center, Hondo Dog Park, and Shute Park Aquatic & Recreation Center (SHARC). SHARC was significantly renovated to help increase capacity. Gordon Faber Recreation Complex has also received some upgrades since 2003.

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve provides access to a significant natural feature in Hillsboro and serves to support environmental education and nature-oriented outdoor recreation. Additionally, it has

a unique arrangement with the Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Department. For the purposes of this plan, the preserve is classified in the greenways and open space category, rather than special use facility.

Because special use sites contribute to Hillsboro's identity and support health and wellness, Hillsboro should maintain its special use sites, and consider developing future special use facility development in response to community desires and trends.

Nature Parks

Each of the nature parks in Hillsboro provides a unique function within the park system. Noble Woods offers forested areas with popular walking trails and secluded picnic facilities. Orchard Park preserves wetlands, but also incorporates neighborhood park facilities and a disc golf course.

Because these parks are heavily used and provide multiple benefits, Hillsboro should consider adding new nature parks in locations where there are resources to preserve.

Additional Park Land Needs

To keep the City of Hillsboro a great place to live and work, the department should explore the park and recreation needs within employment centers, as well as planning for park needs in an expanded urban growth area.

Parks are just as significant in commercial and industrial areas as in residential areas. While employees are working, they may have time available for exercise, picnicking, and enjoying the outdoors. Some industrial development in Hillsboro is developed in the corporate campus style, such as the Dawson Creek complex, where pathways, trees and a park-like setting are provided by the employer or developer. However, there are important employee recreation needs that the City of Hillsboro can help fulfill. These activities help employees become more effective and productive, and they also make Hillsboro a more attractive place for employers.

The City of Hillsboro is considering expanding its Urban Growth Boundary. Based on scenarios under consideration in Fall 2008/ Winter 2009, this expansion could add more than 10,000 acres, or as many as 71,000 new residents. The result of this expansion will generate a need for new parks sites in residential and employment centers, as well as trail expansions for recreation and transportation needs and increased recreation programming.

New neighborhood and community parks will be needed, so that every resident has a neighborhood park within ½-mile and a community park within 2 miles. Nature parks and greenways will be needed where natural resource opportunities exist. Trail corridors will be needed to provide connections within new areas, as well as connections to greater Hillsboro and the region. The number of neighborhood and community parks will depend on the configuration of the new areas.



CITY OF HILLSBORO Parks & Recreation

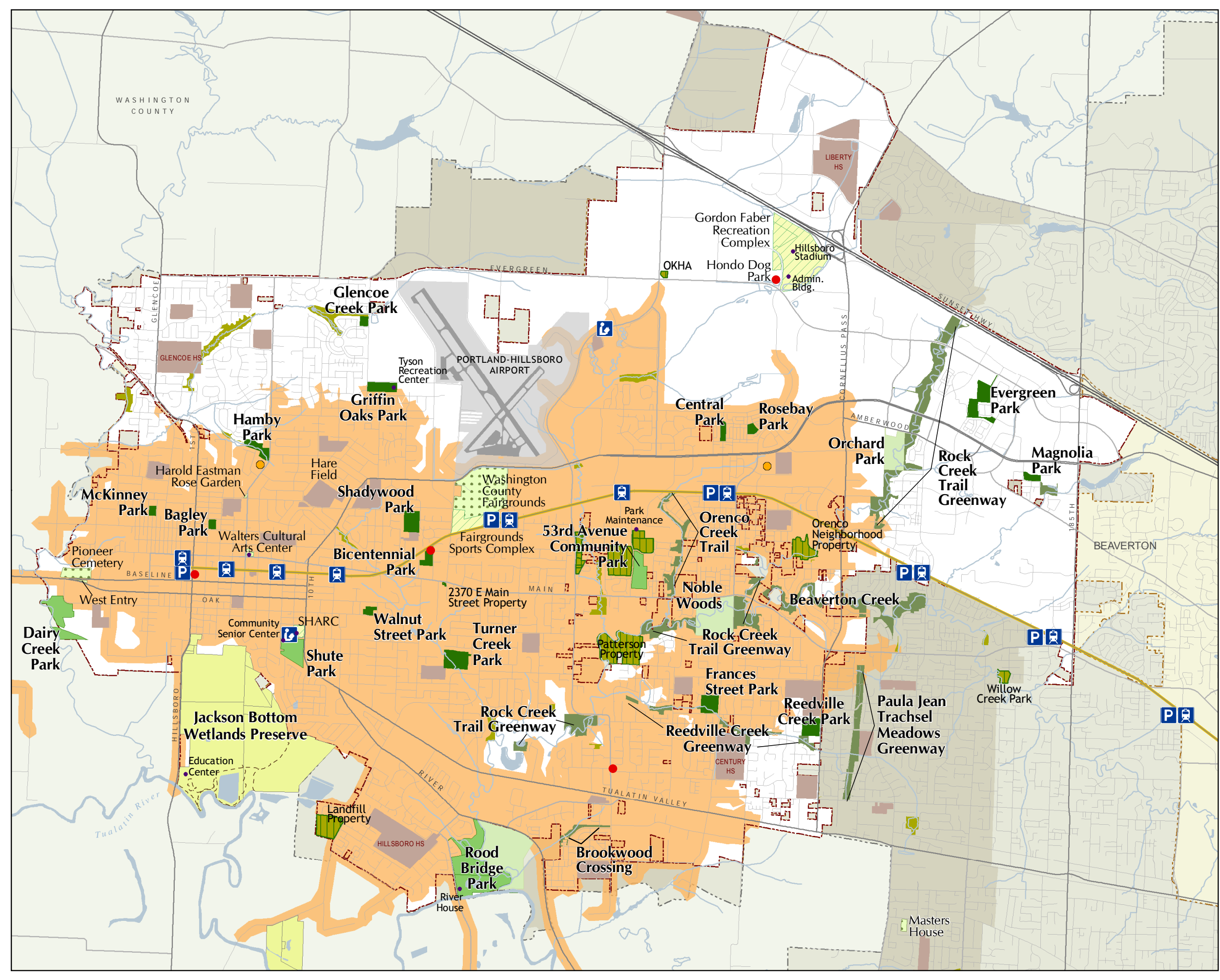
Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resource Analysis

2 Mile Community Park Service Area

- Facility
- Park Trail
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Nature Park
- Greenway
- Open Space
- Special Use Facility
- Other Site
- Undeveloped Park
- School

- Library
- Transit Center
- MAX Stop
- MAX Line
- Highway
- Major Arterial
- Railroad
- Stream
- Water Body
- City Limits
- Other City
- Expansion Area
- Urban Growth Boundary

Map 3: Community Park Service Area





CITY OF HILLSBORO
Parks & Recreation

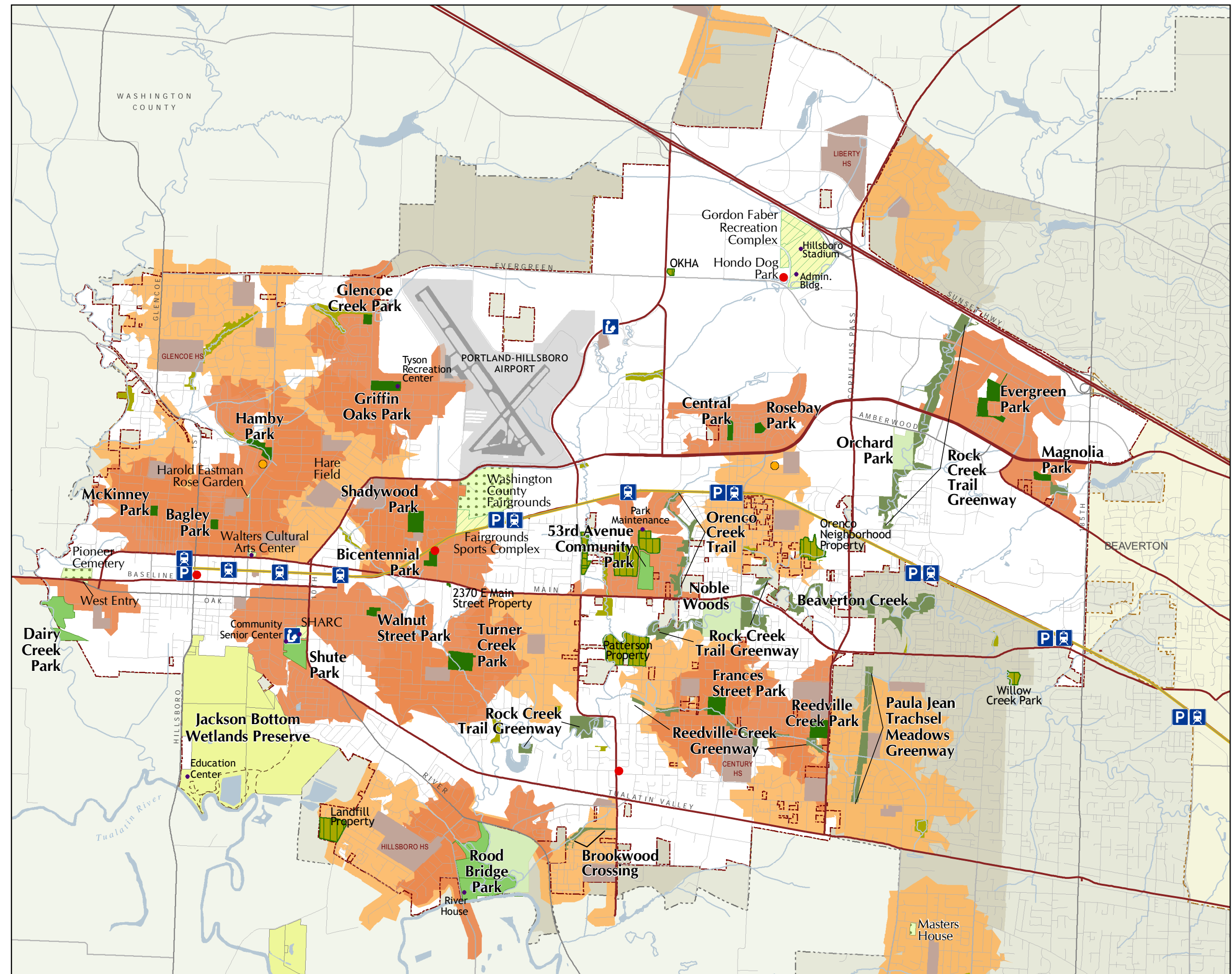
**Parks & Trails
Master Plan and Natural
Resource Analysis**

- 1/2 Mile Neighborhood Park Service Area
- 1/2 Mile Elementary School Service Area
- Barriers

- Facility
- Park Trail
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Nature Park
- Greenway
- Open Space
- Special Use Facility
- Other Site
- Undeveloped Park
- School

- Library
- Transit Center
- MAX Stop
- MAX Line
- Highway
- Major Arterial
- Railroad
- Stream
- Water Body
- City Limits
- Other City
- Expansion Area
- Urban Growth Boundary

**Map 4: Neighborhood
Park and Elementary
School Service Area**



GREENWAY AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS



Greenways and open space are two land categories within the park system that provide recreation and ecological functions. Greenways are a significant factor in providing overall water protection within a community. The greenways and open space component of the *2008 Master Plan* takes into account the greenways and open space that are already established throughout the park system—as well as current and proposed greenways and open space administered or planned by other agencies, such as the state or regional governments.

A number of planning documents have policies relating specifically to greenways and open spaces in Hillsboro, including the Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment Report, Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan, and Metro’s Regional Trails and Greenways System Plan. These plans are summarized in Appendix A.

Public Involvement Findings

Throughout the public involvement process, Hillsboro residents expressed the value of protecting the natural environment. Protecting the environment and providing opportunities in nature and the outdoors are ranked as top benefits of parks and recreation. According to the public, specifically trails and areas that protect wildlife and provide natural habitat are important. A majority of residents said purchasing land to preserve open space is important to improving the parks system, with 20% willing to fund it with tax dollars.

Greenway and Open Space Needs

- **Rock Creek** – The Rock Creek corridor is high quality and has been a top priority in Hillsboro. The City has acquired a number of properties along the corridor, including Orchard Park, Noble Woods, Patterson Street Property, and existing greenway/open space properties. The effort to connect the entire length of the Rock Creek Trail should be continued, with a focus around existing park sites.
- **Glencoe Swale** – There is an opportunity to form a continuous open space/greenway corridor by connecting the existing open space parcels and private open space owned by the Jackson School Homeowner’s Association. A public use easement exists for a pedestrian trail through the property connecting the area with Hamby Park. A pervious surface footpath could be considered to provide pedestrian connectivity through the corridor.

- **Turner Creek** – Though there is limited expansion potential because of existing development, there is a possible greenway or open space site at the intersection of the Westside MAX line and Baseline Road.
- **Beaverton Creek** – There is a proposed regional trail along Beaverton Creek. Continue to acquire additional land along this corridor, focusing on connecting with Seminole Estates.
- **Reedville Creek** – Connecting the western creek end with the creek’s confluence at Rock Creek may be difficult due to the existing ownership pattern. Acquiring land should still be pursued, though the most feasible connection may be between Frances Street Park and Reedville Creek Park.
- **McKay Creek** – Metro proposes acquisition of land along the full length of McKay Creek and a portion of Dairy Creek to create a greenway corridor. With assistance from Washington County and Metro, this should be pursued to ensure protection along the water resources along Hillsboro’s west boundary.
- **Waible Creek** – This creek is primarily outside the urban growth boundary, north of Hillsboro. Protection of this creek from the confluence with McKay Creek on the west to the Waible Creek tributary to the east provides an opportunity for a greenway buffer, potentially incorporating a future footpath or multi-use path.
- **Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve** – Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve is a regional natural area and provides an environmental education center. With the expansion of the UGB near Minter Bridge Road, there may be opportunities to expand the preserve.

TRAIL NEEDS

A well-developed park system addresses not only the elements within parks but the interaction between parks and surrounding land uses. Trails and pathways are two significant uses of land within and adjacent to parks, serving both recreation and transportation uses. This section takes into account the trails and pathways that are already established throughout the Hillsboro park system—as well as current and proposed trails administered by other agencies such as the state or regional governments.



Public Involvement Findings

The 2008-2012 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), completed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, makes recommendations regarding walking and hiking trails based on a statewide survey and public outreach workshops. The Plan categorizes recreation activities into four broad categories: a rapidly aging population, fewer youth learning outdoor skills, an increasingly diverse Oregon population, and Oregon's physical activity crisis. Throughout all four categories walking and hiking trails are addressed. The report finds that when asked what parks management action is most important to people, walking and hiking trails closer to home and the expansion of facilities and parking along trails rank second to clean and safe facilities. The plan also recommends "Promot[ing] the use of existing trail networks by providing information on existing trails." Oregonians across the state have expressed an interest and see a value in developing non-motorized trails that connect destinations within their community and to the region.

In keeping with the statewide trend, a majority of Hillsboro residents identified a need for walking and biking trails. When asked what four recreation facilities are the most important, walking and biking trails ranked second to small neighborhood parks with 34% of the respondents. Additionally, developing new walking and biking trails that connect to existing trails is considered a high priority for residents.

Trails Needs

The assessment of trail needs included an evaluation of the existing pedestrian and regional trails network and identifying gaps to develop a comprehensive series of pathways allowing for safe travel within and out of the City to key recreational facilities. Based on the interest in trails and trail activity, the planning team established a goal of providing access to a trail, multi-use pathway, or neighborhood route within a ½-mile of all areas of Hillsboro.

Two MAX transit stations currently lack existing or planned connecting trail routes: Fair Complex/Hillsboro Airport MAX station and the Willow Creek /SW 185th Ave MAX station. Currently developed employment centers will be well served if the proposed alignments are developed. The employment areas lacking in trails access are those lands that have been identified for industrial use but have not yet been developed. The most notable area is the area north of the airport between NW Evergreen Road and NW Meek Road, due west of NW Shute Road.

Although the proposed trails and pathways network will potentially provide comprehensive coverage across the City, there are additional

opportunities for creating off-street linkages through Hillsboro's existing open spaces and greenways. Some of the alignments mentioned below have been reviewed with greater detail in the Greenways and Open Space section of this report.

- **Glencoe Swale** – The Glencoe Swale near Glencoe High School may provide an opportunity an unpaved trail or foot path starting from NE Harewood Street heading north to NE Lenox Street and then east toward NE 15th Street. At present an informal path exists in portions of the open space. Designating the route as an unpaved trail will create an off-street connection to the school property from within the neighborhood.
- **Waible Creek** – To the north of Hillsboro the Waible Creek could provide an opportunity for an unpaved trail or footpath from McKay Creek Greenway east through the Gordon Faber Recreation Complex and continuing on to the Rock Creek Trail. Establishing a foot path in this area could provide low impact recreational trail opportunities for the future northern employment district of Hillsboro.
- **Reedville Creek** – The Reedville Creek and Greenway provides an opportunity for the development of a foot path connecting the Rock Creek Trail to the BN Powerline Trail. The pathway would connect Frances Street Park and Reedville Creek Park and run adjacent to Century High School.
- **Dawson Creek** – To the west of 53rd Avenue Community Park, Dawson Creek runs from Cornell Road south to the Patterson Street Property. The City maintains greenway and open space properties along the creek alignment and the corridor could provide an opportunity of an additional off-street foot path or unpaved trail connecting 53rd Avenue Community Park with the Rock Creek Trail through the Patterson Street Property.
- **Turner Creek** – Turner Creek runs from the MAX line north of Walnut Street Park toward the Rock Creek Trail adjacent to Open Space #5. This creek corridor presents an opportunity for developing an unpaved trail or footpath that would connect two parks and an open space to a regional trail and transit.

RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS



The 2003 Plan included suggested standards or guidelines for several types of recreation facilities. This section reviews the guidelines and evaluates them to see if they are still appropriate for the Hillsboro community. New recreation trends are also discussed in this section. Since Hillsboro has an IGA with the School District for public use of school recreation facilities, school facilities are considered part of the inventory of public facilities, following the same assumptions used in the 2003 Plan.

Public Involvement Findings

National and regional data on sports and recreation trends can help to determine if the demand for particular types of activities is expected to increase, decrease, or remain the same. Trend data from the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) are noted below.

- According to 2007 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.
- NSGA data indicates that 6 of the top 10 recreation activities nation-wide are fitness activities, including exercise walking (1), exercising with equipment (2), swimming (3), bicycle riding (6), workout at club (8), and weight lifting (9).
- Nationally, sports participation is changing. Participation in football (-8.9%), baseball (-4.7%), and soccer (-1.8%), softball (-20%), and basketball (-9.7%) all decreased in one year. Soccer is the highest-ranked sport in terms of participation.
- According to 2007 NSGA participation data, four of the top 15 activities are trail-related: exercise walking (1), bicycle riding (6), running/jogging (11), and hiking (14).
- Regionally, participation in sports seems to be increasing. SCORP data indicates that for Regions 2 & 3 in Oregon, which includes Hillsboro, 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 between 1987 and 2002.

- According to public outreach activities completed during the planning process, most residents are satisfied with the level of service that the department provides. Almost 90% of respondents that visited a park or recreation site thought it was in excellent or good condition. Shute Park Aquatic & Recreation Center is the most used recreation facility. Indoor swimming and leisure pools are considered important parks and recreation facilities.
- In distributing funds to improve the parks and recreation system, the actions that the highest percentages of respondents support are:
 - Upgrade existing neighborhood and community parks
 - Fix-up/repair older recreation facilities
 - Upgrade existing youth and adult athletic fields
 - Upgrade and improve the Senior Adult Center
 - Develop new walking and biking trails and connect existing trails

Baseball/Softball Fields Needs

The City of Hillsboro currently has 57 baseball and softball fields. 17 fields are on parks sites and 40 are on Hillsboro School District sites. This translates to an existing level of service of 1 field for every 1,549 residents.



The 2003 guideline for baseball or softball fields was one per 1,000 residents. While softball remains very popular in Hillsboro, as does youth baseball, public involvement does not indicate that there is currently a major shortage of softball or baseball fields. It appears that there is general satisfaction with the current level of field access. Based on school and park projections, it is recommended that Hillsboro revise the 2003 guideline to one field per 1,600 residents, to maintain the same level of service for baseball and softball fields as is currently available within the City.

Soccer Field Needs

The City of Hillsboro currently has 79 soccer fields. Nine fields are on parks sites and seventy are on Hillsboro School District sites. This translates to an existing level of service of one field for every 1,118 residents.

The 2003 guideline was one soccer field per 1,000 residents. Soccer remains a popular organized sport among all ages in Hillsboro. Hillsboro Parks & Recreation and other organizations provide soccer

for youth and adult participants, using fields at the Fairgrounds complex, Gordon Faber Sports Complex, and at school district sites. In addition, there are organized Latino leagues using the Fairgrounds and Gordon Faber fields. Soccer fields are used for other sports, such as lacrosse and, to a lesser degree, Ultimate Frisbee. Since the 2003 plan, lacrosse has increased dramatically in popularity in the Portland region and contributes to the need for rectangular fields.

Given the flexibility of this type of fields and the increasing popularity of “rectangle” sports that make demands on these fields, new development and improvement should focus on full-sized or larger youth class fields with features such as lighting and turf. In addition, conversion of existing fields to artificial turf should be considered. Artificial turf allows for extended play throughout the year and requires less maintenance.

While public input and local trends indicate a need for additional soccer fields, these don’t warrant an additional nine fields (the need generated by the 1 field per 1,000 residents guideline). To accommodate current trends, four additional fields are needed currently. This translates to a guideline of 1 field per 1,100 residents.

Aquatic Facilities

Hillsboro’s public swimming pools are all located at SHARC, which was renovated and expanded as recommended in the 2003 Plan. The facility now includes three tanks.

The 2003 Plan established two measures for aquatic facilities:

- 280 square feet of water surface area per 1,000 residents
- 1 aquatic facility/ 45,000 residents.



These guidelines made no distinction between indoor and outdoor facilities, or competitive and leisure facilities. The guideline to provide 1 facility per 45,000 residents also did not distinguish whether a facility should be defined as an individual tank, or whether it referred to a single site even if it has multiple tanks.

If each of the three tanks at SHARC is considered as a separate facility, SHARC would provide capacity for 135,000 residents based on the 2003 guideline. Considered as one single aquatic facility, the SHARC site would not meet the needs of residents and one other site with at least one tank would be needed.

Based on the guideline of 280 square feet per 1,000 residents, Hillsboro would need one leisure pool plus a 50 meter pool. The pool at 53rd Avenue Community Park will meet this need.

Indoor Recreation Facilities

Indoor Courts & Gyms

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation does not have any gymnasiums within the park system. However, the City's IGA with the School District provides access to School District gymnasiums, which are programmed by Hillsboro Parks & Recreation. Based on the percentages of time noted in the 2003 Plan, roughly 4% of time at School District facilities is available for public use. While Hillsboro has never had a gymnasium, the City did have three racquetball/handball courts at the time of the 2003 Plan. These courts were eliminated when SHARC was renovated.

The 2003 plan suggested a standard of 1 court per 3,000 residents. With adjustments for availability, the School District provides 15 courts worth of time for use for Parks & Recreation programming and other community organizations.

There is a need for programmable indoor space for all types of activities, including basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, indoor playgrounds, pickleball, ping pong, group exercise classes, and more. Additionally, there is potential demand for indoor tennis programming. While 1 court per 3,000 residents may be needed at peak use times, it is not cost effective to build facilities for peak demand and could result in facilities that are underutilized during non-peak times. Therefore, it is recommended that the guideline be reduced to 1 court per 4,600 residents. This guideline would mean that 4 additional courts are needed to serve the current population in Hillsboro.



Indoor Recreation Facilities

Hillsboro has a variety of indoor recreation facilities of differing scales, serving different functions. SHARC, Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center, and the Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve Education Center are signature facilities, each one serving as the center of activity for each of Hillsboro's three core program areas. Tyson Neighborhood Recreation Center and the Community/Senior Center are smaller neighborhood activity centers. The River House is a recreation building that can support programming and serves as a community event space. The Administration Building has a meeting room that could be used similar to River House, for occasional programs or community activities.

In the future, there may be a need for another signature indoor center, such as the concept proposed for 53rd Avenue Community Park, to meet the full range of health and wellness programming needs in the community. No additional signature centers are anticipated for the arts and culture or environmental program areas, since the two existing centers serve these needs well and are anticipated to do so into the future.

Tyson is currently the only neighborhood facility available for active programming during the school day. Future neighborhood activity centers should be considered at other park sites in Hillsboro, particularly in the south and east, since the two existing neighborhood activity centers are on the west side.

Recreation buildings, similar to River House, may also be considered for incorporation into community or nature parks in the future to expand rental opportunities in the community and to serve as outposts for occasional programming and activities.

Additional Outdoor Recreation Facilities

The Hillsboro park system contains a wide range of outdoor recreation facilities, in addition to those already discussed.

- **Playgrounds:** Hillsboro has at least one playground at each community and neighborhood park, as well as at the two sports complexes. All local and neighborhood level park facilities should include children's play areas.
- **Skate Park:** Hillsboro developed a community-scale skate park at Reedville Creek Park, following a recommendation of the 2003 plan. This site is heavily used, and it appears there is demand for another facility, especially one that accommodates both skateboards and bikes.
- **Disc Golf Course:** Orchard Park includes a 9-hole disc golf course which is well-used. The addition of another disc golf course should be considered along with a future study examining the impacts.
- **Horseshoe Pits:** Shute Park has Hillsboro's only horseshoe pits, a facility that is very compatible with the picnic facilities at the park. Horseshoe pits can be considered as an appropriate element for inclusion in neighborhood and community parks, and potentially at special use facilities.
- **Outdoor Courts:** Hillsboro has outdoor courts for basketball, tennis and volleyball. Outdoor courts should be considered for inclusion at neighborhood and community parks and special use facilities.

- **Off-Leash Dog Areas:** Hondo Dog Park was developed based on a recommendation in the 2003 plan. This facility is very popular and is a state of the art dog park with separate areas for large and small dog areas. Public input during the first two phases of this planning effort indicated support for additional off-leash facilities within the community.
- **Outdoor Performance Space:** The Shute performance stage meets the community's need for a large scale venue. However, smaller scale performance/event spaces should be considered at neighborhood and community parks to support localized events and provide additional, smaller venues for arts and cultural programs.
- **Community Gardens:** Demand appears to warrant additional plots, and therefore Hillsboro should consider expanding at this site or to additional sites either on City parkland or on sites owned by others. Target areas would be locations convenient to higher density residential areas.
- **Spraygrounds:** Magnolia Park, opened in 2008, includes an outdoor sprayground. In addition, there is a very popular interactive fountain at City Hall. These facilities should be considered as a potential element within neighborhood and community parks, as well as at special use facilities or at public spaces with a more urban character.
- **Other Activities:** Additional activities that residents are participating in include bocce ball, croquet, bouldering, and model airplane activities. Additional recreation space should be considered for these activities.



RECREATION PROGRAM NEEDS

Over the past five years, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation has greatly expanded its recreation program offerings to accommodate public demand for programming. Many of the capital projects have been designed to support recreation programs, and the department's youth programming has been expanded building on the excellent partnership with the school district.

Public Involvement Findings

Most residents were satisfied with the level of service that the department provided. Roughly 91% of participants who had participated in a recreation program in the last year rated the program as excellent or good. Respondents identified adult fitness and wellness,

city-wide special events and Youth Learn to Swim as important programs to meeting community needs.

In considering future recreation programming, respondents identified walking and jogging track, leisure pool, and cardiovascular equipment/weight room as important indoor programming space to fund. Creative uses of venues, such as performances in parks, integration of arts in parks, and using picnic shelters for painting classes was suggested as a way to expand programming in parks.

Seniors specifically identified the following issues: age-specific programming held at an intergenerational recreation center, program costs as a barrier for seniors with fixed or low incomes, and additional programming. Additional classes were requested to better meet senior interests and schedules, including tai chi, pickle ball, dancing, weekend breakfasts, chair volleyball, and stability classes.

Recreation Program Needs

Based on public involvement results, recreation program staff, and recreation trends, the following needs were identified:

- **People with disabilities** – Strategy 48 of the *Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan* is aimed at reducing barriers for people with disabilities. While some programming is offered for people with disabilities, this population group has limited options available for recreation. The department should reach out and offer additional programs and services for people with disabilities. This could include developing community partnerships, as well as examining inclusive programming opportunities.
- **Non-Caucasian population groups** – The non-Caucasian population is steadily growing in the City of Hillsboro. As of 2006, the Latino (20%) and Asian (7.6%) populations represented the largest non-Caucasian population groups. Cultural differences and language barriers need to be recognized. Flexibility, such as providing culturally specific programs and translated marketing material, should be built into programming.



- **Youth & Teens** – Currently, this is the largest population that uses recreation services. Continuing to target this population broadly, as well as targeting specific groups such as high school age teens and 10-12 age group, provides expansion opportunities. Providing scholarships and developing partnerships for youth and teens with transportation or financial barriers should be considered.

- **Young professionals** – This population is identified as young single or couples with no children. The 25-34 years old age group has experienced the most recent growth in Hillsboro, but program participation by this age group is not reflective of its population share. Outreach methods and program formats may need to be custom tailored to appeal to this group.
- **Seniors** –Seniors have expressed the desire for activities in a multi-generational setting as well as age-specific activities, both of which are currently available in Hillsboro. However, survey results indicated a need for more senior programming, as well support for improving the Community/Senior center.
- **Adult classes** – Survey results indicated a need for more adult fitness and wellness classes.

MAINTENANCE NEEDS

As noted in Chapter 2, Hillsboro has an extensive and varied park system that incorporates traditional developed parks, as well as important local and regional natural resources—including creek and river floodplains, extensive wetlands, riparian woodlands, mature oak groves and upland conifer forests. City parks play various roles in preserving natural resources. While some highly-developed parks have little or no natural resources (e.g., Central Park by Orenco Station), other parks are primarily undeveloped areas with some trail access (Rock Creek Greenway, Noble Woods). Within this range are sites that maintain remnant natural features in parks designed for other purposes (Shute Park), along with hybrid parks that balance developed and natural features (e.g., Rood Bridge Park, Glencoe Creek).



Public Involvement Findings

Hillsboro residents are generally satisfied with the condition of the park system. Almost 90% of residents felt the physical condition of all parks and recreation sites were excellent or good. Hillsboro residents also rank protecting the environment and providing opportunities in nature and the outdoors as a top benefit of parks and recreation.

Maintenance Needs

Based on the planning team’s review of the park system, Hillsboro’s traditional parks are very well maintained. Public involvement results indicate that the public agrees. However, the department does not have established maintenance protocols for natural resource areas and has only provided basic hazard maintenance of these areas.

The City of Hillsboro faces a number of maintenance and management challenges regarding natural resources and within greenways and open space, identified by the planning team during a detailed review of these areas in Spring 2008.

- **Invasive Species** – The presence of non-native plants is probably the single greatest threat to the ecological integrity of Hillsboro’s natural areas and greenways. Fortunately, techniques for managing common invasive plants are improving in terms of both effectiveness and economics.

Based on a 2008 assessment of natural resources, the following invasive species were present in several City of Hillsboro’s Parks:

- Reed canary grass (*Phalarus arundinacea*)
- Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*)
- English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- English hawthorn (*Crateagus laevigata*)
- Scott’s broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)
- English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Additional information is presented in Appendix D of this report.

- **Wildfire Risk** – Wildfire risk in Hillsboro’s parks and greenways is generally low. Most of the area is wet, flat, and dominated by deciduous trees—which are fire resistant. Highest risks are in areas with invasive species (especially blackberry) and unmaintained fields where fine fuels can quickly dry out and catch fire under the right conditions. Noble Woods Park has areas of dense conifer woodland with flammable understory plants (salal, Oregon grape) that could catch fire, putting adjacent homes at some risk.
- **Access** – Natural areas and greenways in Hillsboro have limited access for recreation or vegetation management. Many greenways were set aside as part of land development projects that failed to provide trail systems, creating a challenge for access. In other cases, some greenways are not wide enough to develop a linear trail. In other cases, trails are opposed by immediate neighbors who fear crime or privacy loss. However, some access will be necessary to maintain these areas.
- **Trail Development** – The development of new trails and upgrades to existing trails continue to be accomplished in the City of Hillsboro. Some areas with access can be improved to protect the natural resources. For example, in Dairy Creek Park, previously-used social paths were converted to trails that, in some places, appear to be too close to the stream banks. Relocation should be

considered to protect natural areas. Overall, a coordinated approach to trail planning and greenway management is needed.

4. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

This chapter presents policies and recommendations for improving the park system, including trails, greenways, and open spaces. These recommendations are designed to continue to advance Hillsboro's system of parks to achieve the vision of a park system that includes exceptional and widely accessible facilities, contributes to the health and strength of the diverse community, and advances prosperity and quality of life. This vision parallels the department's vision identified in the *Marketing & Communications Plan*.



This chapter is organized into the following categories:

- Parks, including strategies, greenway and open space;
- Trails; and
- Recreation facilities, including sports and aquatic facilities.

In addition to the recommendations in each of these categories, a project list is included in Chapter 7 that details more specific recommended projects. The prioritization of these projects is a task that will begin with this plan and continue to occur between the community, the Parks & Recreation Commission, and Parks & Recreation staff.

PARKS

Strategies

- 4.1. Continue to strive to meet the goal of providing 10 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, as adopted in the 2003 Park Master Plan. Avoid setting goals or standards for individual park classifications.
- 4.2. Set a goal of providing approximately half the inventory in developed parks to maintain a balance between active and passive recreation opportunities.
- 4.3. Follow the design guidelines contained within this Plan. See Table 4.1 for design guidelines by park classification.
- 4.4. Continue with the goals of providing a community park within 2 miles of and a neighborhood park within ½-mile of each resident. Use a network analysis rather than a straight-line analysis to evaluate the service area. When new areas are brought into City limits or the urban growth boundary, evaluate whether an additional community or neighborhood park will be needed.

4.5. Maintain the IGA with the School District. Consider expanding it to address access to elementary school sites for use as neighborhood parks. The following schools are recommended sites to add neighborhood park amenities. Priority One schools should be considered first, followed by those listed under Priority Two. See Table 4.1: Design Guidelines for examples of neighborhood park amenities.

Priority One

- Patterson Elementary School
- Hare Field
- Brookwood Elementary School
- Witch Hazel Elementary School

Priority Two

- Butternut Creek Elementary School
- Lenox Elementary School

4.6. Increase accessibility where possible to existing and proposed neighborhood parks to maximize the function of each site. Providing trail and sidewalk access on all sides of park maximizes its functionality.



4.7. If appropriate for the site, consider incorporating appropriately themed neighborhood park features into future nature parks, especially in areas not served by existing neighborhood parks. Neighborhood park features within nature parks should be located in visible locations, near park entrances and within sight of public streets. See Table 4.1 for neighborhood park features.

4.8. Conduct specific outreach to the employment population to further define the park and recreation needs of employees. Hillsboro should target companies or employees in areas where there are lands designated 'Industrial' on the Comprehensive Plan map. Preliminarily, the following service goals are proposed for employment areas, as a starting point for employee outreach activities:

- 10 minutes to reach an off-street trail or walking path;
- 10 minutes to reach a place to picnic in a nice outdoor environment that could be located in a park or along a trail or greenway; and
- 10 minutes to reach an active recreation facility (exercise station, basketball court, disc golf course, tennis court, climbing

wall, bocce, etc.) or open lawn for self-directed activity, such as tossing a Frisbee or kicking a ball. This type of facility could also be located in a park or along a trail or greenway.

- 4.9. Partner with Metro and others agencies in locating land opportunities to establish a regional park within the City of Hillsboro.
- 4.10. Consider exploring additional System Development Charges (SDC) credit opportunities for employers as part of future updates to SDC methodology.
- 4.11. Continue to update the park SDC periodically, to ensure that the fees are keeping with the cost of developing new parks.

TABLE 4.1: DESIGN GUIDELINES

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	MINIMUM FEATURES	MAY ALSO INCLUDE
Community Parks	Community parks are larger parks that provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community. These sites typically support organized, active recreation and large-group activities with facilities such as sports fields, outdoor courts, skate parks, group picnic shelters, large playgrounds, water play features, watercraft launches, disc golf, festival space, and internal or looped pathways. Support amenities, such as restrooms, off-street parking, and water fountains are also provided at these sites. In addition to developed park areas, community parks may include unique landscapes or natural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground or play features • Picnic tables and benches • At least one picnic shelter • ADA-compliant internal pathway system, including looped walking path • Restrooms • Parking (on-street may substitute for off-street, in more urban neighborhoods where adequate on-street space is available) • Open lawn area • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) appropriate for the scale of the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice or game sports fields (baseball, cricket, football, rugby, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) • Sports courts (basketball, handball, tennis, volleyball) • Other active recreation facilities (BMX course or facility, performance areas, handball court, horseshoe pits, skateboard park or spots, etc.) • Sprayground • Indoor recreation center (Signature recreation facility, specialty center, or recreation building) • Sports complex • Community garden • Off-leash dog area • Concessions • Stage/amphitheatre • Upgraded utility service to support special events • Natural areas • Lighting • Maintenance facilities • Multi-use or pedestrian trails • Other facilities with communitywide draw
Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood parks are smaller than community parks and provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents. These sites should be easily accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists. Designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities, neighborhood parks often include amenities such as playground equipment, outdoor sports courts, picnic tables, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas. Some larger sites provide additional amenities and facilities, such as those that are typically found in community parks. In general, neighborhood parks support close-to-home recreation opportunities, provide a neighborhood gathering space, enhance neighborhood identity, and preserve open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground or play features • Picnic tables and benches • ADA-compliant internal pathway system • Open lawn area • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) appropriate for the scale of the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice sports fields (baseball, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) • Sports courts (basketball, handball, tennis, volleyball) • Other small-scale active recreation facilities (skate spot, horseshoe pits, bocce court, shuffleboard lane) • Sprayground (small-scale) • Community garden • Picnic shelter • Specialty center or recreation building • Restroom • Off-street parking • Natural areas • Infrastructure to support small-scale performances and local events • Lighting • Multi-use or pedestrian trails • Other facilities with localized draw

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	MINIMUM FEATURES	MAY ALSO INCLUDE
Special Use Parks	Special use facilities include stand-alone recreation facilities not located within larger parks. These include single-purpose sites that may serve a city-wide audience—such as sports complexes, aquatic facilities, recreation centers, urban plazas, dog parks, historical landmarks, and community gardens. Note: specialized facilities contained within other parks (such as the Tyson Recreation Center and the Senior Center) are not classified as special use facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated special use and necessary support facilities • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) appropriate for the scale of the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open lawn area • Playground or play features • Sprayground • Sports courts (basketball, handball, tennis, volleyball) • Off-street parking • Concessions or vendor space • Commercial lease space (restaurant, bookstore, coffee shop, etc.) • Restrooms • Natural areas • Lighting • Maintenance facilities • Multi-use or pedestrian trails • Any facility or use that supports the primary special use • Skateboard park
Greenways	Greenways include built or natural corridors that protect open space corridors, tie park components together, provide people with trail-related outdoor recreation opportunities, and allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian and bicycle movement throughout the community. Greenways may include abandoned railroad lines, transportation or utility rights-of-way, easements, public dedications or other elongated natural areas defined by drainage or topographical changes. These corridors may contain trails and supporting facilities, such as viewing areas or trailheads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional, multi-use or pedestrian trail • Park identification sign • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood park facilities • Viewing blind • Restrooms • Off-street parking • Lighting • Natural areas • Lighting • Interpretive signage
Nature Parks	Nature parks are natural open space areas designed to provide access to unique or significant natural features for recreation. Nature parks typically reflect the shape and size of the resource at the site, which distinguishes them from greenways. Nature parks typically support nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as wildlife viewing, environmental interpretation and education, small-scale picnicking, and trail use. The amenities provided typically include pathways and/or trails, parking areas, restrooms, and picnic facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Multi-use or pedestrian trails • Park identification signage • Site furnishings (trash receptacles, bike rack, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive signage • Picnic shelter • Viewing blind • Restrooms • Interpretive center or educational facilities or classrooms (indoor or outdoor) • Amenities provided should be limited to the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate, while retaining its resource value and natural character

Recommendations

Existing Parks

Recommendations for each of Hillsboro’s existing parks are presented in Table 4.2 below. The recommendation categories included in the table are defined below.

- **Enhance Asset** – In many cases, an existing park is fully developed and is in good condition. Enhancing the asset means to plan for and implement capital replacement, as well as continuing to provide excellent maintenance, to ensure that the parks continue to contribute to Hillsboro’s quality of life.
- **Renovation** – Renovation includes projects that reinvest in a previously developed site.
- **Finish Development** – This category of project means to continue implementation of previously developed plans and designs that have not been fully completed.
- **Develop** – This means to improve a site previously not developed as a park. This may be done in phases.

TABLE 4.2: PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK	ENHANCE ASSET	MAJOR & MINOR RENOVATIONS	FINISH DEVELOPMENT	DEVELOP
COMMUNITY PARKS				
53rd Avenue Community Park			✓	
Dairy Creek	✓			
Rood Bridge Park (Includes CWS IGA)	✓			
Shute Park		✓		
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS				
Bagley Park	✓			
Bicentennial Park		✓		
Central Park	✓			
Evergreen Park		✓		
Frances Street Park	✓			
Glencoe Creek Park	✓			
Griffin Oaks	✓			
Hamby Park		✓		

	ENHANCE ASSET	MAJOR & MINOR RENOVATIONS	FINISH DEVELOPMENT	DEVELOP
PARK				
Magnolia Park	✓			
McKinney Park	✓			
Reedville Creek Park	✓			
Rosebay Park	✓			
Shadywood Park	✓			
Turner Creek Park		✓		
Walnut Street		✓		
SPECIAL USE FACILITIES				
Fairgrounds Sports Complex		✓		
Gordon Faber Recreation Complex		✓		
Hondo Dog Park	✓			
SHARC (Shute Aquatic & Recreation Center)	✓			
Tyson Recreation Center (see Griffin Oaks Park)	✓			
Walters Cultural Arts Center	✓			
NATURE PARKS				
Noble Woods (Includes Co. IGA)	✓			
Orchard Park	✓			
OPEN SPACE & GREENWAYS				
Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve		✓		
UNDEVELOPED PARKS				
2370 E Main Street Property	✓			
Patterson Street Property				✓
Landfill Property				✓
OHKA				✓
Orenco Neighborhood Property				✓
Willow Creek Park				✓

New Parks

As the results of the needs assessment indicated above, some areas of Hillsboro lack the desired level of access to community and neighborhood parks. Map 5 depicts areas served, indicating which areas of Hillsboro are currently fully served or partially served by parks, or should be considered future service areas for parks. This map should be used as a tool to help prioritize park land acquisition.



CITY OF HILLSBORO Parks & Recreation

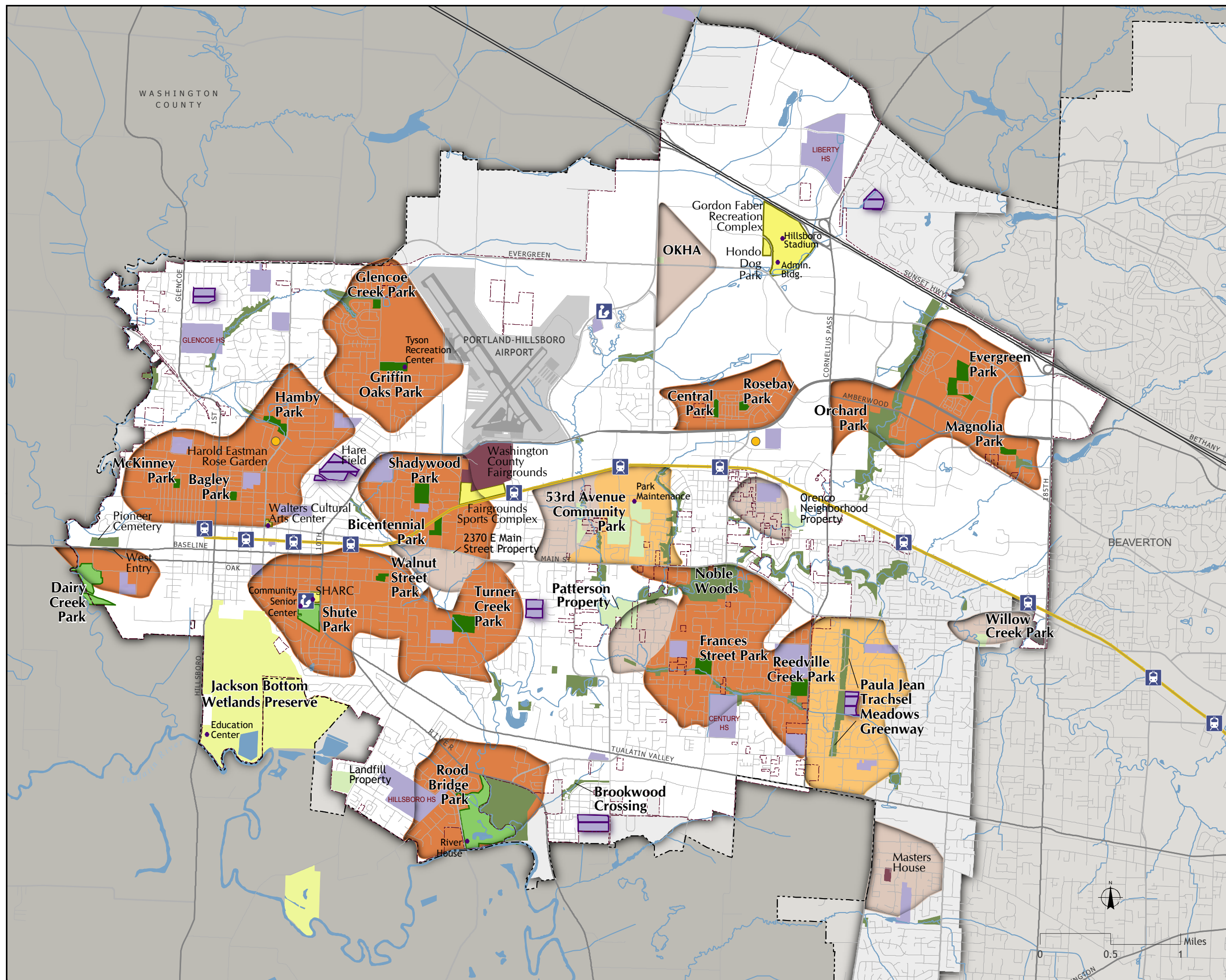
Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resource Analysis

- Fully Served
- Partially Served
- Future Service Area
- Outside of Service Area

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Undeveloped Park
- Greenway, Nature Park, or Open Space
- Special Use Facility
- Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
- Other Site
- Potential School Park
- Facility

- Library
- MAX Stop
- MAX Line
- Highway
- Arterial
- Railroad
- Stream
- City Boundary
- UGB
- Expansion Area
- Other City
- Outside UGB
- School
- Water Body

Map 5: Acquisition & Development Areas



Additional recommendations for new parks include:

- Proactively target the acquisition of park land in undeveloped service areas and in the projected growth area.
- Consider a new community park east of Cornelius Pass Road, especially if the Amberglen community is developed with residential uses in the mix.
- Partner with the Washington County Historical Society in the acquisition and management of the historical Masters House and the development of this site for neighborhood park uses.
- Consider a community park north of Highway 26 to serve residents of this area. If a community park is built in this area, then Gordon Faber Recreation Complex should not be considered as a future community park site. If another site could not be found, the Gordon Faber solution could still be considered.
- Use existing undeveloped sites to meet neighborhood park needs, where feasible, including the Patterson Street Property, Willow Creek Park, and Orenco Neighborhood Property. Keep neighborhood park amenities, including a play area, at Orchard Park.
- Consider funding improvements at elementary school sites in areas not served by public parks.



- Evaluate whether private parks exist in areas identified for future services, as these areas may be partially served by an existing private park. Use the presence of private parks as a prioritization criterion for determining which areas have the greatest need.
- Pursue additional special use facilities in the future if a need arises and can't be accommodated within a park of another type.
- Consider adding new nature parks in locations where there are resources to preserve.
- Consider incorporating picnic areas, viewpoints, and small waysides along planned trails and pathways to help meet recreation needs in employment areas. Also explore the feasibility of providing employee recreation amenities at the OHKA site.

Greenways and Open Space

- Continue to work with Metro to advance the regional greenways identified in Metro's regional trails and greenways plan:
 - **Beaverton Creek Greenway**, connecting with the Rock Creek Trail at Noble Woods Nature Park and heads east

following Beaverton Creek where it crosses the BN Powerline Trail and Bronson Creek Greenway.

- **Bronson Creek Greenway**, starting at the confluence of Beaverton Creek and Bronson Creek and running northeast past the southeast edge of Magnolia Park.
- **McKay Creek Greenway**, starting at the confluence of Dairy Creek and Tualatin River, continue to confluence of Dairy Creek and McKay Creek and continuing north to North Plains.
- Follow the policy direction in Strategy 22 of the Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan.
- Acquisition of parcels in and around greenways may be challenging. Prioritize partnerships with Homeowner’s Associations (HOAs) and areas where acquisition is easy.
- Establish a greenbelt along the northwest boundary of Hillsboro as indicated on Map 6. This greenbelt will primarily serve to protect natural resources, but may provide for nature-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Target acquisition/protection in the following opportunity areas:
 - **Rock Creek** – Continue efforts to connect the entire length of the Rock Creek corridor, and make this a high priority.
 - **Glencoe Swale** – Develop cross connections throughout the corridor, including those owned by the Jackson School HOA.
 - **Turner Creek** – Though there is limited expansion potential because of existing development, there is a possible greenway or open space at the intersection of the MAX line and Baseline Road.
 - **Dawson Creek** – Explore a greenway connection from the south end of the footpath near Hillsboro Airport along Dawson Creek, through 53rd Avenue Community Park and connecting with the Patterson Street property.
 - **Beaverton Creek** – Continue to acquire additional land along this corridor, focusing on connecting with Seminole Estates.
 - **Reedville Creek** – Connecting the western creek end with the creek’s confluence at Rock Creek may be difficult due to the existing ownership pattern. Consider cross section development throughout the corridor.
 - **McKay Creek** – Metro proposes acquisition of land along the full length of McKay Creek and portion of Dairy Creek to create



a greenway corridor, as depicted on Map 6. Pursue acquisition of this corridor in coordination with Metro and Washington County to ensure protection along the water resources along Hillsboro’s west boundary.

- **Waible Creek** – This creek is primarily outside the urban growth boundary, north of Hillsboro, though the east portion of this creek will soon be coming into the City. Pro-active planning and dedication is needed to get greenway trail and improvements in place before development. Work with employers and future landowners to integrate employee access to this future facility.
- **Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve** – With the expansion of the UGB near Minter Bridge, there may be opportunities to expand the preserve. The 1989 Jackson Bottom Concept Master Plan provides opportunities and proposed actions that should continue to be implemented.

TRAILS

Pathways between parks and other important destinations are significant factors in overall connectivity within a community. The recommendations below take into account the trails and pathways that are already established throughout the Hillsboro park system—as well as current and proposed trails administered by other agencies, such as the state or regional governments. Map 6 shows the locations of trail recommendations.



- Periodically evaluate connectivity and access gaps. Consider residential areas and major employers (those with 200 or more at a location) as origins. Consider Hillsboro’s community parks, nature parks, MAX stops and public buildings, such as libraries and City Hall as destinations in the analysis. If necessary, identify additional trail connections to fill any new gaps identified.
- Continue to work with Metro to implement the planned regional trails within Hillsboro.
- Support implementation of the proposed neighborhood routes included within Hillsboro’s Transportation System Plan (TSP), as these routes provide important local access to parks. When the TSP is updated, ensure that local access to parks is maximized.
- Develop a signage and wayfinding program. This may include interpretive signs, distance markers, and other distinct signage.

- Provide additional off-street linkages, especially those that pass through parks, greenways, and open spaces. The following routes are recommended:
 - **Glencoe Swale** – The Glencoe Swale near Glencoe High School provides an opportunity for cross connections. At present an informal demand path exists in portions of the open space. Further analysis for this area will be necessary.
 - **Waible Creek** – To the north of Hillsboro the Waible Creek could provide an opportunity for a paved trail or footpath from McKay Creek Greenway east through the Gordon Faber Recreation Complex and continuing on to the Rock Creek Trail. Establishing a foot path in this area could provide low impact recreational trail opportunities for residents and the future northern employment district of Hillsboro.
 - **Reedville Creek** – The Reedville Creek and Greenway provides an opportunity for the development of cross connections. Further analysis for this area will be necessary.
 - **Dawson Creek** – To the west of 53rd Avenue Community Park, Dawson Creek runs from Cornell Rd south to the Patterson Street Property. The City maintains greenway and open space properties along the creek alignment and the corridor could provide an opportunity for an additional off-street foot path or unpaved trail connecting 53rd Avenue Community Park with the Rock Creek Trail through the Patterson Street Property.
 - **Turner Creek** – Turner Creek runs from the MAX line north of Walnut Street Park toward the Rock Creek Trail adjacent to Open Space #5 northwest of the Preserve at Rock Creek. This creek corridor presents an opportunity for developing an unpaved trail or footpath that would connect two parks: an open space to a regional trail and transit.

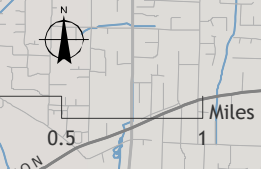
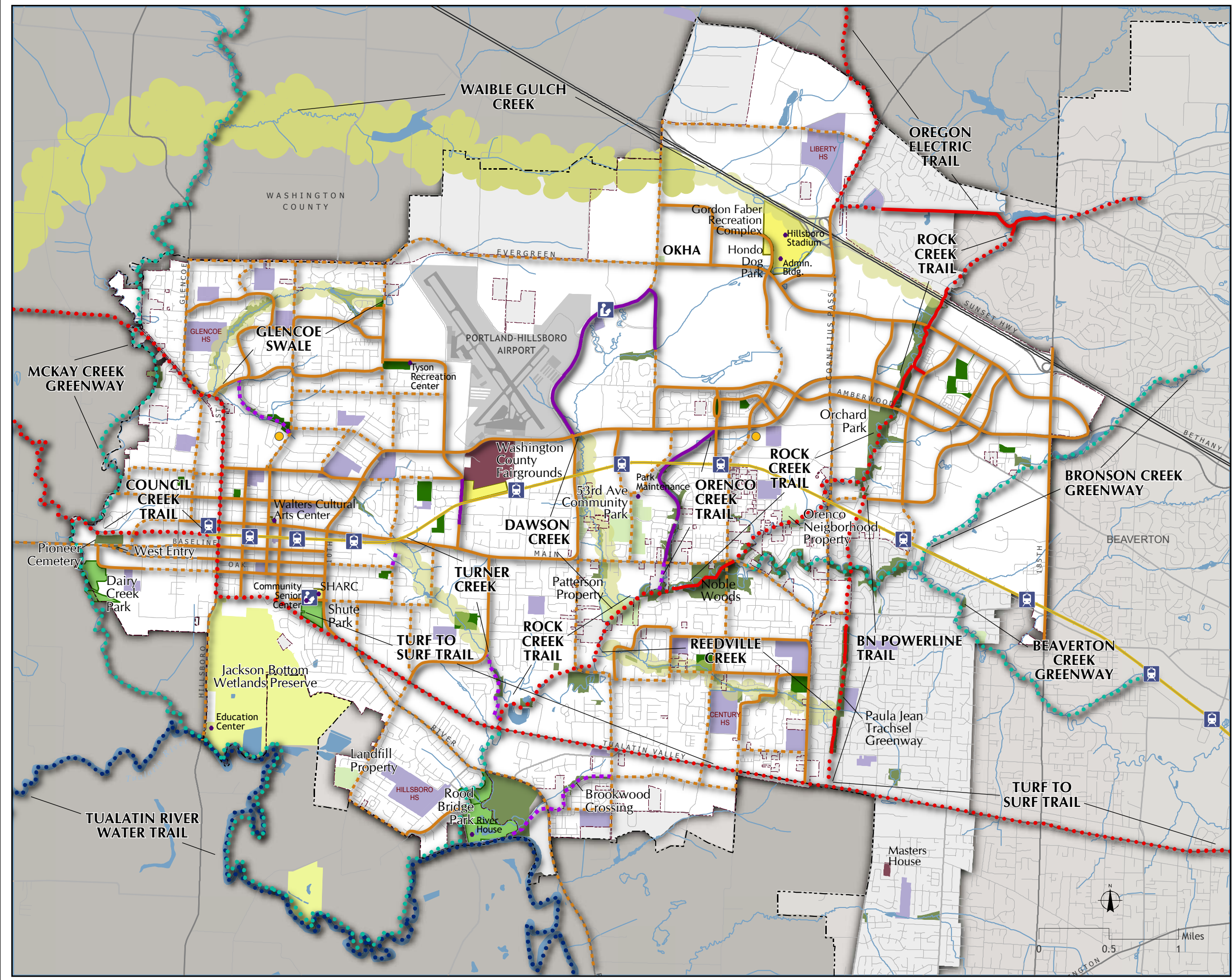


CITY OF HILLSBORO Parks & Recreation

Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resource Analysis

- Trails**
- Existing Multi-Use Pathway
 - Proposed TSP Multi-Use Pathway
 - Existing TSP Neighborhood Route
 - Proposed TSP Neighborhood Route
 - Existing Regional Trail
 - Proposed Regional Trail
 - Regional Greenway
 - Water Trail
 - Greenway Linkage Opportunity
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Neighborhood Park | Special Use Facility |
| Community Park | Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve |
| Undeveloped Park | Other Site |
| Greenway, Nature Park, or Open Space | Greenbelt Opportunity |
| Library | City Boundary |
| MAX Stop | UGB |
| MAX Line | Expansion Areas |
| Highway | Other City |
| Arterial | Outside UGB |
| Railroad | School |
| Stream | Water Body |

Map 6: Proposed Trails & Greenways



RECREATION FACILITIES

Hillsboro's wide variety of recreation facilities demonstrates the department's commitment to the vision of exceptional and widely accessible facilities, a healthy and strong community, and excellent quality of life. This section presents recommendations for continuing to advance the vision.

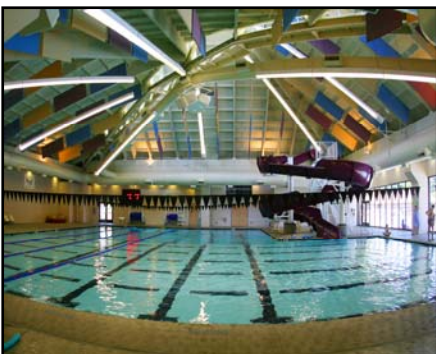
Baseball/Softball Fields

As the recreation needs assessment indicated, baseball and softball continue to be popular activities in Hillsboro. Hillsboro Parks & Recreation should preserve the existing fields, and should continue its collaboration with the Hillsboro School District on the improvement and use of school fields. Hillsboro should also consider adding new fields as the population grows to provide one baseball or softball field per 1,600 residents, which will maintain the same level of service for baseball and softball fields as is currently available within the City. Fields may be provided at City parks or at school sites. In addition to the numerical guideline, Hillsboro should strive to provide a mix of baseball and softball fields, and ensure that there are playable fields for all age groups.

Soccer Fields

Hillsboro should strive to provide one soccer field per 1,100 residents, including both City and school district fields. Given the flexibility of this type of field and the increasing popularity of "rectangle" sports that make demands on these fields, new development and improvement should focus on full-sized or larger youth class fields with features such as lighting and turf. Conversion of existing City or school district fields to artificial turf should be considered. In addition, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation should evaluate the soccer field inventory to ensure that there are adequate field configurations to support play for all age groups.

Aquatic Facilities



The results of the telephone survey and other public involvement activities, as well as the waiting lists at SHARC, provide evidence of a need for additional aquatic facilities in Hillsboro. Hillsboro Parks & Recreation should continue to follow its established guidelines for aquatic facilities:

- 280 square feet of water surface area per 1,000 residents
- 1 aquatic facility/ 45,000 residents.

These guidelines indicate that another aquatic facility is needed in Hillsboro, with at least 7,500 square feet of water area to meet the needs of today's population and the capacity to provide more square feet of water area to meet the needs of the projected future population.

Geographic distribution should also be considered. Currently, SHARC contains all of the City's swimming pools. Any future swimming pools should be located at a different site that provides improved access for residents in eastern Hillsboro. The aquatic center proposed in the concept for an indoor recreation center at 53rd Avenue Community Park would be well-located, as would a swimming pool at other east side parks or schools.

SHARC performs well financially, generating significant revenue to offset the expense of pool operations. Future swimming pools should also be designed with long-term operating costs in mind. Finally, any new swimming pools should incorporate leisure pool elements, whether within a single tank or as multiple tanks. The aquatics concept developed for the 53rd Avenue site includes multiple tanks, and a facility of this type would adequately provide for swimming pool needs in Hillsboro for the entire planning horizon.

Indoor Recreation Facilities

Indoor Courts & Gymnasiums

As noted in Chapter 3, there is a need in Hillsboro for programmable indoor space for all types of activities, including basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, indoor playgrounds, pickleball, ping pong, group exercise classes, and more. In Washington County, there is a higher than typical tennis participation. Currently tennis players go to THPRD and private facilities in eastern Washington County. There is a need for more tennis facilities in Hillsboro to serve the local population. Because of the need for programmable indoor courts of all types, Hillsboro should strive to provide 1 indoor court per 4,600 residents, considering both school district and city facilities.

Hillsboro's relationship with the school district relationship is excellent and maximizes the use of public facilities. The City should continue its IGA with the school district to provide public access to gyms. However, because school gyms are unavailable to the public during the day, the City should seek to provide at least one full-sized gym within its park system so that some gym space is available for daytime programming. Functionally, multiple courts within a single indoor facility works the best for programming, and also allow for the inclusion of an indoor walking track and other features. The indoor



center concept considered for 53rd Avenue Community Park included a total of four indoor basketball courts at one site.

Indoor Recreation Centers

The City should classify its indoor recreation centers based on their size and function:

- **Signature facilities.** These are large facilities serving a communitywide audience. Each signature facility serves as a center of activity for a core recreation program area. Hillsboro's existing signature facilities include SHARC, Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center, and the Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve Education Center.
- **Neighborhood Recreation Centers.** Neighborhood recreation centers are small centers (typically less than 10,000 sq. ft) that include flexible indoor space that supports localized recreation activities. Neighborhood recreation centers may be focused on a typical population or age group. Tyson Neighborhood Recreation Center and the Community/Senior Center are both neighborhood recreation centers.
- **Community Facilities.** Community facilities are smaller indoor spaces that can be used for community activities, occasional programming, and party/event rentals. These are typically incorporated into community parks and other larger park classifications. The River House is a community facility located within Rood Bridge Park, and the Administration Building could also be considered a community facility because of its meeting room.

Signature Facilities

There is a need for another signature indoor center, such as the concept proposed for 53rd Avenue Community Park, to meet the full range of health and wellness programming needs in the community. However, no additional signature centers are anticipated for the arts and culture or environmental program areas, since the two existing centers serve these needs well and are anticipated to do so into the future.

Neighborhood Recreation Centers

Tyson is currently the only neighborhood facility available for active programming during the school day. Future neighborhood recreation centers should be considered at other park sites in Hillsboro, particularly in the south and east, since the two existing neighborhood recreation centers are on the west side. In developing additional neighborhood recreation centers, Hillsboro should strive to provide one neighborhood recreation center within each of the designated 2040 Town Centers. Neighborhood recreation centers should be located in parks that provide outdoor recreation and activity areas. If a

neighborhood recreation center is provided in a “main street” setting, it should be designed to have good visual presence and contribute to the character of the surrounding development. Sites for possible future neighborhood recreation centers include Peter Boscoe School and the 28th and Main site.

Community Facilities

Community facilities, similar to River House, may also be considered for incorporation into community or nature parks in the future to expand rental opportunities in the community and to serve as outposts for occasional programming and activities.

Additional Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Additional recommendations for outdoor recreation facilities are outlined below.

- **Trend Analysis:** Hillsboro Parks & Recreation should continue to monitor trends and incorporate new types of facilities into the park system, as they have done in the past.
- **Playgrounds:** All neighborhood and community parks should include children’s play areas. Where appropriate, playgrounds can be incorporated into special use facility parks. Where feasible and appropriately themed, children’s play areas or environments can be incorporated into nature parks.
- **Skate Park:** A second community-scale skate park should be considered in another area of Hillsboro, with the capacity to accommodate both skateboards and bikes. Skate spots may also provide small-scale opportunities for less experienced skaters if incorporated in community and neighborhood parks.
- **Disc Golf Course:** Orchard Park’s 9-hole disc golf course should be retained. An additional disc golf course could be considered for inclusion in parks that attract a communitywide audience. A study should be conducted to examine the natural resource impacts prior to the addition of another disc golf course, if proposed in an area with natural resources present.
- **Horseshoe Pits:** Shute Park’s horseshoe pits should be retained to complement the extensive picnic facilities at the park. In addition, horseshoe pits can be considered as an appropriate element for inclusion in neighborhood and community parks, and potentially at special use facilities, if there is community interest.
- **Outdoor Courts:** Additional outdoor courts, including volleyball, should be considered for inclusion at neighborhood and community



parks and special use facilities. The addition of lights or a court bubble at community parks and special use sites should be considered to expand the day and seasonal usability.

- **Off-Leash Dog Areas:** To respond to the popularity of Hondo Dog Park and the public input supporting more dog parks, the City should create at least one other off-leash area located in south or west Hillsboro, to provide geographic distribution of the off-leash areas. Depending on the level of use, Hillsboro should consider adding more sites geographically dispersed throughout the city. In addition, Hillsboro should consider providing a different style of dog park to provide facility diversity. For example, a future park could be in the style of the Marymoor Park dog park in Redmond, WA, which is more wooded in character.
- **Outdoor Performance Space:** Maintain and reinvest in the Shute Park performance stage to keep it as the community's large scale venue. Incorporate smaller scale performance/event spaces at neighborhood and community parks to support localized events and provide additional, smaller venues for arts and cultural programs. Where performance spaces are provided in parks, utilities should be upsized to accommodate the demand for amplification, lighting, and other temporary performance equipment.
- **Community Gardens:** Demand appears to warrant additional plots, and therefore Hillsboro should consider developing a system of dispersed community gardens throughout the City. Continue to work with partners where possible. Target areas that are convenient to higher density residential areas. In addition, continue with implementation of the planned greenhouse and gardens at 53rd Avenue Community Park to support master gardeners.
- **Spraygrounds:** Consider incorporating spraygrounds within neighborhood and community parks, as well as at special use facilities or at more urban public spaces. Geographically disperse spraygrounds. The existing spraygrounds are located downtown and in the Tanasbourne area. Future spraygrounds should be located in other areas of Hillsboro.
- **Other Activities:** Residents are increasingly participating in bouldering, model airplane activities, cricket, and bocce ball. Some space allows for these activities, but additional space should be considered if it is warranted.

5. RECREATION PROGRAMS



In 2003, when the last Parks Master Plan was adopted, Hillsboro offered a variety of recreation programs. Since then, the department has greatly expanded its offerings and now serves thousands of residents and visitors.

This chapter includes recommendations to advance the department's mission of providing diverse, innovative, and exceptional recreational and cultural opportunities. Recommendations respond to the department's core values: customer service and value; fostering community; environmental stewardship; encouraging recreation and healthy living; and responsible use of resources.

CORE PROGRAM AREAS

Core program areas provide an overall framework for recreation programming within Hillsboro.

Strategies

1.1 Based on the *Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan*, the department's strengths, and community needs, the Parks & Recreation Department should focus on the following three core program areas:

- **Arts & Culture:** Hillsboro Parks & Recreation will enhance the experience of living in Hillsboro by contributing to the richness of the community's cultural fabric. Art & Culture encompasses all arts and cultural programming. This includes visual arts such as painting and poetry; fine arts such as dance and theater; and cultural-related activities such as spoken word events at the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center.
- **Health & Wellness:** Hillsboro Parks & Recreation will contribute to a high quality of life by providing activities and opportunities that contribute to the overall health and well being of the participants. Health & Wellness includes aquatic, sports, and fitness programs. This includes swimming lessons, lifeguard training, open swim, drop-in sports activities, fitness classes such as yoga and group exercise classes, martial arts, and weight training.
- **Outdoor & Environment:** Hillsboro Parks & Recreation will develop programs that stimulate understanding and support for a positive relationship with the community's resources and natural surroundings. Outdoor and

environmental education program areas include self-guided hikes; navigation classes; activities and classes addressing the natural environment, ecosystems, wildlife, and related topics, such as programs offered at Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve.

- 1.2 Continue to work with partners to provide youth afterschool and out-of-school programming to support youth development and enrichment in Hillsboro.
- 1.3 Provide diverse programming within each core program area so that all ages, including youth, and abilities can find opportunities.
- 1.4 Provide different formats and times within each core program area, including self-directed, drop-in classes, afterschool programs, and special events to meet diverse needs.
- 1.5 Evaluate each of the three core program areas to determine if there are programming gaps.
- 1.6 Identify the specific benefits to be provided by each program
- 1.7 Use program evaluation tools, such as questionnaires or surveys to track how well the desired benefits are being provided.

SERVICE PROVISION ROLE

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation is the primary public recreation service provider in the community, but there are a number of other providers.

Strategies

- 2.1 Evaluate Hillsboro Parks & Recreation's role in service provision decisions to make sure that the desired level of community benefit is being provided for the level of investment.
- 2.2 When new programs are proposed, consider the most appropriate role for Hillsboro Parks & Recreation, whether it is direct provider, partner, coordinator or facilitator. Whether a specific program is within the three core program areas should be a factor in the decision. In addition, the programs of other providers should be considered to avoid duplications and gaps.
- 2.3 Coordinate with other public and non-profit recreation providers to minimize duplication of services.
- 2.4 Continue to be proactive in managing existing partnerships and developing new ones.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Program Expansion

Hillsboro offers an excellent variety of programs, with staff evaluating programs regularly to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the community.



- **Look to existing department resources to establish new programs.** Be creative in using existing resources. For example, offer new types of programming in existing parks and facilities, such as performances in parks, or deploy existing expertise at new locations. For example, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve educators could offer programs at other sites in Hillsboro.
- **Strive to reflect the diversity of the community in program offerings and in staffing.** Diversity may come in the form of expertise, years of experience, gender, ability, ethnicity, or age.
- **Emphasize cross-programming and multiple benefits when developing new programs.** Recreation programs can provide users with a number of benefits and experiences. One program can provide an art and environmental experience while also providing a fitness opportunity, achieving multiple benefits. When implementing each program, consideration should be given to multiple benefits and cross-disciplinary experiences.
- **Increase programming to underserved populations.** Solicit feedback from underserved populations and develop new programs or modify existing ones to expand service. The following population groups were identified as underserved during the planning process.
 - **People with disabilities:** Strategy 48 of the *Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan* states to reduce barriers for people with disabilities. The department will work to meet this strategy by reaching out and offering additional programs and services for people with disabilities. This may include developing community partnerships, as well as examining inclusive programming opportunities.
 - **Non-Caucasian population groups:** The non-Caucasian population is steadily growing in the City of Hillsboro. As of 2006, the Latino (20%) and Asian (7.6%) populations represented the largest non-Caucasian population groups. Cultural differences and language barriers need to be recognized. Flexibility, such as accommodating cultural norms with existing programming (e.g., providing activities for

multiple age groups to allow siblings to participate together) and providing culturally specific programs and translated marketing material, should be built into programming.

- **Youth & Teens:** Currently, this is the largest population that uses recreation services. Continuing to target this population broadly, as well as targeting specific age groups, such as high school age teens and the 10-12 age group, provides expansion opportunities. Providing scholarships and developing partnerships for youth and teens with transportation or financial barriers should be considered. Provide an unstructured drop-in environment for teen activities. Many teens seek a place to hang out and socialize, such as a game room or center in an existing or new facility.
- **Young professionals:** This population is identified as young single or couples with no children. The 25-34 years old age group has experienced the most recent growth in Hillsboro. Outreach methods and program formats may need to be custom tailored to appeal to this group.
- **Seniors:** Seniors have expressed the desire for activities in a multi-generational setting as well as age-specific activities. Survey results indicated a need for more senior programming and support for improving the senior center. Strategy 37 of the *Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan* states to bring community senior and youth together in mutual learning, mentoring and support programs. Hillsboro should continue to offer both multi-generational programs and age-specific programs for seniors.
- **Adult classes:** Survey results indicated a need for more adult fitness and wellness classes. Currently, there are few options for adults except for private providers and there are a number of gaps in program coverage.

Test new types of programming and program formats to expand services to underserved groups. For example:

- Provide mobile recreation services to reach young adults at their workplaces, similar to a playground program but with activities targeted to young adults.
 - Offer programs on-site at major employers. Identify specific existing programs and a minimum participation number, and offer to provide these at the workplace if the minimum number of registrants is met and a location is provided.
- **Increase self-guided recreation opportunities.** Self-guided recreation allows residents to recreate anytime and at their own pace. It may be done indoors or outdoors and with no upfront cost to the resident. Examples include self-guided nature walks; check

out boxes with environmental curriculum for classrooms, and fitness trails with signage at strategic points.

- **Promote volunteerism as a recreation activity.** A core strategy of the Hillsboro Vision Plan is the promotion of volunteerism. Volunteer activities are suitable for all ages and develop a strong sense of community and promote service. Volunteering can be a social activity bringing people together of like interests. Hillsboro Parks & Recreation should continue to expand on its volunteer program.



- **Promote environmental stewardship through outdoor interaction and programs.** Incorporate stewardship elements into all program types that take place outdoors. Offer programming in parks that enhance awareness of the local environment. Promote “nature near you” through parks and park events.
- **Continue to evaluate best practices within the recreation profession.** Adapt these as needed to Hillsboro.

Program Marketing

Hillsboro already conducts program marketing, guided by a Marketing and Communications Plan. The recommendations below are designed to further the efforts already underway.

- **Follow the Marketing and Communications Plan.** Periodically evaluate it to make sure it is relevant and effective.
- **Implement new uses of technology to reach a wider audience.** Strategy 2 of the *Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan* provides guidance in developing “on-line access to City of Hillsboro resources” for all community members and “creating on-line centers in public places throughout the community”. Parks and recreation facilities are designated public spaces and actions should be taken to provide on-line access. Internet, emails, text-messaging, social networking sites, blogs and other technology resources provide an opportunity to increase efficiency and reach out to a larger audience. Conducting focus groups with specific user groups, such as young adults, and asking which technology resources are frequently utilized may provide direction on how to best move forward. In addition, the development or refinement of City policies to support new uses of technology may be needed to provide access to available tools.
- **Conduct a “technology savviness” evaluation.** The purpose of this evaluation is to ensure that Hillsboro Parks & Recreation is responsive to an increasingly sophisticated audience. For example,

are Hillsboro's parks and recreation facilities on Google maps?
Have programs been rated on internet evaluation sites?

- **Continue to work with advisory groups, such as Team of Recreational Youth (TRY), Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC), and Hillsboro Arts & Culture Council (HACC).** Evaluate whether new advisory groups are needed, or whether other established City advisory groups should be consulted for programming input. For example, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation should consider establishing structured program input opportunities for high school youth to compliment the successful TRY program.
- **Periodically evaluate broad community needs for recreation programs.** This can occur through the use of surveys, questionnaires, outreach booths at community activities, or other public involvement methods that attract users and non-users of recreation services.

Program Management

Hillsboro effectively manages its recreation programs and services. Department staff are motivated professionals and the recreation services receive good evaluations from the public. The following recommendations address management of programs and services.

- **Continue to track revenues and expenditures.** Hillsboro tracks revenues and expenditures consistently across program areas, and reports on the data regularly. This practice should be continued and the data collected should be used to support informed decision-making about specific programs.
- **Set revenue and participation goals.** Hillsboro already tracks revenues and participation, and should expand this effort to establish revenue and participation goals for each specific program, as well as overall revenue or cost recovery goals for each core program area.
- **Continue to establish resident and non-resident fees.** The City should continue the practice of establishing resident and non-resident fees for participation in activities.
- **Develop a pricing strategy to fill non-peak hours at facilities.** A number of Hillsboro recreation facilities experience high use during peak hours, but are under capacity at other times. Peak hours vary depending on the facility. Encouraging facility rental at non-peak hours should be encouraged, and can provide venues for groups, increase revenue, and alleviate peak demands.
- **Continue to offer multiple means of program registration.** The City's practice of offering on-line, in person, phone-in and mail-in registration should be continued. New program registration

opportunities, such as kiosks or booths at community events should be considered. The department should continue to keep up with current customer service trends in registration and payment methods.

- **Continue to track participation consistently.** Hillsboro tracks participation consistently among all program areas and facilities, and should continue to do so. This means that the data collected are comparable, and can be used to make program decisions.
- **Continue to establish minimum participation levels for each class.** Class cancellation options due to low enrollment should be provided.
- **Continue to seek feedback from program participants and facility users.** Formal evaluation tools, such as surveys and focus groups, should be used. The data should be used in program decision-making.
- **Prepare an annual report to the CAPRA Commission.** To remain an accredited agency program through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the department is required to submit annual maintenance reports, and renew accreditation in five years, when the current accreditation expires.

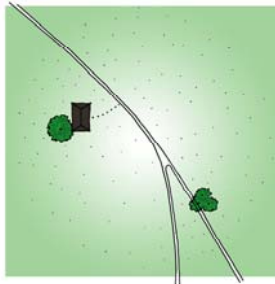
6. MAINTENANCE

Hillsboro's park system contains a wide diversity of parks and facilities. This includes parks that are fully developed, fully natural, as well as those containing a mix of developed and natural areas. Generally, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation has focused on the maintenance of the developed areas, and has been an effective and efficient service provider. However, as the park system has increased, the complexity of maintaining the parks, facilities, and trails has also increased.

This chapter is organized into four sections, each addressing a specific area of the park system. The first section recommends implementation of a maintenance classification scheme to assist in management of the expanded, diversified park system. The second section addresses traditional park maintenance. The third discusses natural area management and coordinating with the maintenance management program. The last section addresses maintenance of trails.

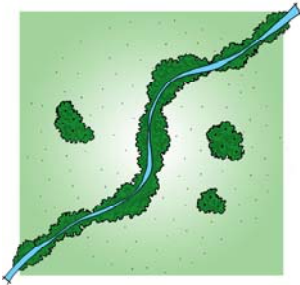
MAINTENANCE CLASSIFICATION

Hillsboro's parks are classified by type (neighborhood, community, etc.) to reflect their function and purpose within the park system. Within the park system, Hillsboro's approach to park development has been a contextual, site-specific response to the unique qualities of each park. As a result, each park has its own character and defining elements, even while fitting into the overall functional classification scheme. Because of the many natural resources present in Hillsboro, a new approach to allocating maintenance resources efficiently is described below. This approach is based on viewing the mix of natural areas and developed park land as a spectrum, with five types of maintenance classifications.



A. Fully Developed Park

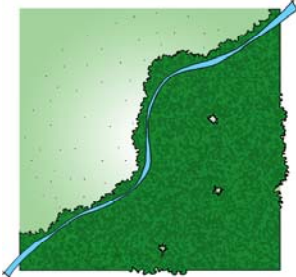
These parks are fully developed, such as Hondo Dog Park and Fairgrounds Sports Complex.



B. Primarily Developed Park

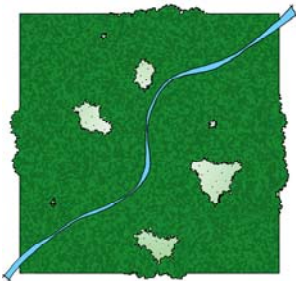
These parks are primarily developed, but have some remnant natural resources, such as stands of native trees or a creek or wetland.

Bicentennial Park and Shadywood Park are examples of primarily developed parks.



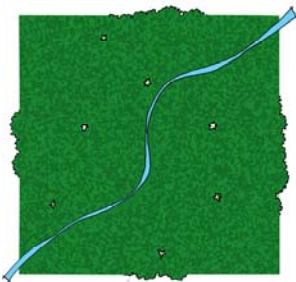
C. Integrated Developed Areas and Natural Resources

These parks have a mix of natural areas and developed areas. Orchard, Rood Bridge, and Dairy Creek parks fit this model.



D. Primarily Natural Resource Park

These parks are primarily natural areas, but have small developed areas within them such as Noble Woods Park.



E. Natural Resource Park

These parks are natural areas, and while they may contain trails, they often have no facilities at all.

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation should implement the maintenance classification system as follows:

- Assign each park to a maintenance classification.
 - Adjust maintenance protocols, identifying maintenance tasks and levels for each maintenance category to reflect its needs.
- Incorporate recommendations on enhancing natural resource management contained later in this chapter.

TRADITIONAL PARK MAINTENANCE

Hillsboro has a very well-developed and efficient system in place for conducting traditional park maintenance activities. The cost of providing maintenance is about average for the Northwest, but the parks are in above average condition throughout the system. The current level of maintenance satisfies the public who report very high levels of satisfaction with Hillsboro Parks & Recreation and the condition of the City's parks.

Traditional park maintenance includes trash removal, mowing, fertilizing, overseeding, flower bed maintenance, mulching, edging, restroom cleaning, and pavement maintenance. Playground safety inspections and other monitoring of park features also are traditional park maintenance activities.

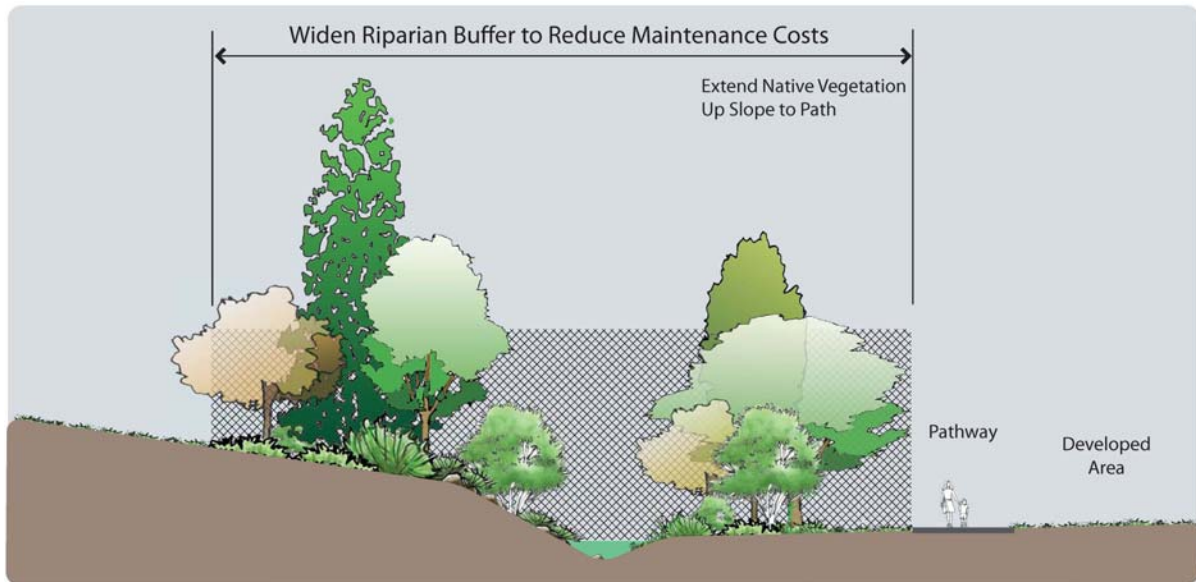
The department should continue to provide traditional park maintenance at the current level. This level of maintenance provides for the long term stewardship of Hillsboro's park assets and meets the needs of the public who reported very high levels of satisfaction with the department and the parks in the community.

Hillsboro should continue to develop parks to the high level of quality demonstrated in the past ten years of park development. Committing capital funds to build quality parks reduces the overall maintenance burden. In addition, there are three initiatives that Hillsboro Parks & Recreation should consider to improve stewardship of the park system. The consideration of these three initiatives will provide a holistic, long-term approach that will protect and provide maintenance for the features that help define the distinct character of Hillsboro's established parks.

- **Tree Health Monitoring** – Establish a tree health monitoring protocol throughout the park system and develop tree replacement plans for existing parks. The tree canopy is a defining characteristic of many Hillsboro parks. Shute Park and Bicentennial Park have mature stands of Douglas firs that have been part of these parks since they were established. At these sites and others in the system, the canopy is single age with no natural regeneration. The absence of an active tree monitoring program may see a major change in canopy character if the canopy declines gradually or in a single event.
- **Adjacent Riparian Edge Treatments** – Develop and implement edge treatments for Types B and C parks to improve the management of the areas where traditional park features intersect with natural areas. For example, turf grass grown on slopes or wet areas on the edge of a forest or wetland create difficulty in maintaining the lawn and unnecessarily limit habitat. An identified

transitional edge zone from lawn to native grassland or shrubs, then to native forest or wetlands (where lawn is not needed for recreation purposes) will improve natural habitats, facilitate maintenance, and reduce overall maintenance costs in the medium to longer term. The following illustrations provide examples of edge treatments.

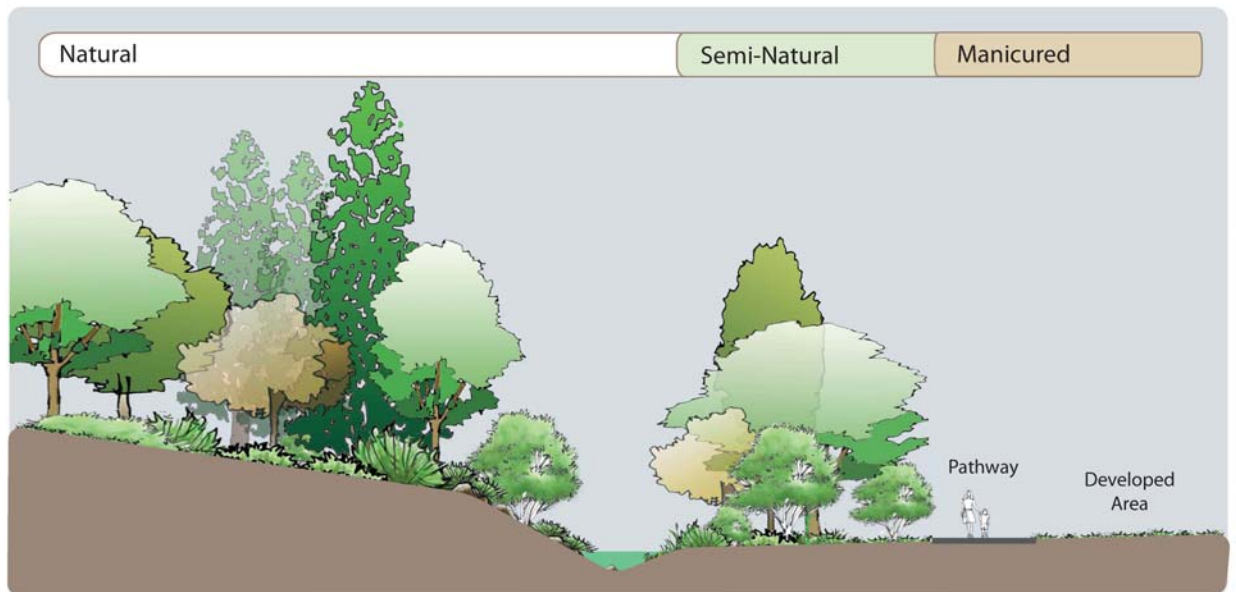
FIGURE 6.1: DEVELOPED PARK WITH NATURAL FEATURES



Suggested Management:

- Widen riparian area into park;
- Monitor for invasive species;
- Prevent erosion or chemical pollution; and
- Add wood to creek for habitat enhancement.

FIGURE 6.2: INTEGRATED DEVELOPED AREAS AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Suggested Management:

- Place rustic facilities within natural area;
 - Monitor and manage invasive species; and
 - Transition from a manicured area to a semi-natural edge.
- **Natural Resource Management** – Develop and implement natural resource management protocols throughout the park system aimed at stabilizing and gradually improving natural areas. Hillsboro’s park system has many important natural resource areas. The traditional view of maintaining these areas is to provide no maintenance or only to mitigate hazards. However, natural resource management in urban settings is critical to maintaining ecological integrity and controlling invasive species. Specific natural resource management recommendations are described in the next section.

NATURAL AREAS

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation excels at providing traditional park maintenance, but the maintenance staff doesn't currently have natural resource management expertise. This expertise is a necessity for the department to develop and implement a natural resource management program. The department should continue to diversify the maintenance staff skill set, providing onsite resources to increase natural resource management expertise.

Natural Resource Management Concepts

Table 6.1 shows a matrix of natural resource management concepts and associated issues and actions for each concept. Each concept addresses management based on several issues common to natural areas. These are:

- Safety & Fire Mitigation;
- Wildlife;
- Invasive Species;
- Native Species Composition & Structure;
- Restoration Practices & Opportunities; and
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management.

Each concept, defined below, describes levels of effort and intervention for maintenance of natural areas and stewardship of Hillsboro's valuable natural resources. Expansion—an additional approach included in the list—may present a win-win situation at some sites, both increasing the total natural resource areas and lowering the maintenance costs.

- **Current Practice** – This level of natural resource management describes what Hillsboro currently does, including minimal or occasional management of hazard trees, invasive species, homeless camps, and brush. There is no regular monitoring. Under this scenario, natural areas will continue to degrade.
- **Stabilize** – In this level of resource management, natural plant communities and habitats are managed to prevent further deterioration or degradation. The primary focus would be on invasive species, including regular monitoring and intervention to prevent further spread or establishment of new populations. Some brush and conifer removal near oaks would prevent over-topping or excessive competition. Erosion into creeks is prevented.
- **Improve** – Invasive species extent is reduced. Native plant communities and habitats are enlarged, more complex, and have better function. Water quality—temperature, nutrients, bacteria—gets better than at present.
- **Restore** – Natural areas are substantially free of invasive species and are on a normal trajectory of change. Oak woodlands are free of

competing species (particularly Douglas fir). The historic diversity of plants (and most animals) is in place. Water quality is high, similar to that found in non-urban natural areas.

- **Maintained System** – Similar to ‘Restore’, but with less direct intervention needed. Focus is shifted to monitoring and occasional actions to eliminate new invasive populations. Prescribed burning might be used in some small areas (oak woodlands and prairies).
- **Expansion** – In some places, it might be desirable to expand natural vegetation patches outward into currently developed parks. This helps improve their function by reducing edge effects, and could reduce maintenance costs, since natural areas cost less to maintain.

TABLE 6.1: NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS

Management Concepts for Hillsboro Parks & Natural Areas

Investment Over Time Continuum	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	\$\$
		Stabilize	Improve	Restore	Maintain Restored System
Issue:					
Safety & Fire Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazard trees management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mow fire breaks at edges Reduce fuels at edges nearest homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thin fuels within coniferous woodlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed burn oak woodlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue prescribed burning and/or periodic fuel reduction
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common species present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common species present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially implements Oregon conservation strategy (OCS) by improving oak woodland and aquatic habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further implement OCS by enlarging oak habitat Could attract or reintroduce additional listed species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue OCS
Invasive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasional weed removal Invasion & spread of exotic species continues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor regularly Prevent spread of existing and new invasions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Prevention / Early Detection Rapid Response program (*PEDRR) 50% of sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand PEDRR* to 100% of sites Remove existing weed population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue PEDRR* and treat new populations
Native Species Composition & Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some opportunistic planting projects Native species out-competed by exotic grasses, brush, and invasive exotic weeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect best native patches Reduce nonnative species Plant native understory species in cleared areas Mow weeds and brush annually Under-plant park groves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrich 50% of woodland understory by planting Convert reed canary wetlands to native emergent or scrub-shrub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand practice to 100% of sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue PEDRR* Occasional mowing and brush removal
Restoration Practices & Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunistic projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove firs that crowd oaks Mow reed canary patches to prevent seed development Remove ivy from trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance best oak patches Thin oak edges Convert reed canary wetlands to native shrub-scrub Invasive reduction Expand natural edges within developed parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue and expand improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular monitoring & weeding Occasional mowing & brush removal Possible periodic prescribed burn Continue PEDRR*
Monitoring And Adaptive Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for soil erosion Monitor for invasive species (PEDRR*) Monitor for tree/shrub encroachment on oaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and adapt practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and adapt practices Design field experiments Urban Ecology Research Consortium (UERC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and adapt maintenance practices Participate in UERC

*Prevention/Early Detection Rapid Response program (PEDRR)

**Note that initial mowing of the brush patches is more expensive than subsequent mowing of grass/forb vegetation. Prescribed burning can be less expensive than mowing.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are designed to improve natural area management.

- **Assign an individual to natural resource stewardship.** This role could be filled by a staff member (existing or new), a contractor or a partner agency or organization. This person would be responsible for initiating and overseeing implementation of the following five recommendations.
- **Implement an annual natural resource area inspection and monitoring program.** This program should be conducted in spring each year. The main purpose is to determine whether resources are declining, remaining steady, or are improving. A key outcome of an inspection and monitoring program is identifying natural resource maintenance and management needs for the coming fiscal year, including identification of where noxious weed abatement is most needed. Inspection and monitoring could be conducted by in-house or contract/partner staff resources, using protocols, tools, and techniques already developed by other natural resource area managers (THPRD, Metro, Portland Parks).
- **Implement the natural resource management level system.** The matrix presented in Table 6.1 has been developed to illustrate several levels of natural resource management. The matrix highlights the levels ‘Stabilize’ and ‘Restore’ as target levels for most of the Hillsboro park system. There are areas that will require a higher level of natural resource management due to the on-site resources. For example, there is significant potential for wetland restoration/mitigation work at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve.
- **Manage first for high priority resources types.** Highest priorities should include those habitat types that are regionally important, including oak trees and woodlands, riparian woodlands, mature upland forests, wetlands, and aquatic areas. Since intervention methods can be intrusive—including mature tree cutting and herbicide use—public outreach/education process is highly recommended.
- **Enhance partnerships with agencies and individual volunteers through increased outreach to the public.** Many communities have extensive natural resource volunteer opportunities, which enhance natural areas, provide recreation value, and increase ownership of the park system. Further develop Hillsboro’s natural resource volunteer and partnership opportunities. Hillsboro should expand its natural resource volunteer opportunities and partnerships to assist with the enhanced natural resource management program recommended in this plan.
- **Pursue grants to help manage natural resources.** Many grants for natural resource enhancement and restoration are

available, including regional, state, federal, and private foundation sources. Some programs, like Metro and City of Portland, bring in hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars a year in these types of grants.

TRAILS

The trail network in Hillsboro includes pedestrian paths and bikeways located in parks, providing City and regional connections. Most of the bicycle and pedestrian paths are paved, with the occasional unpaved trail found in a park. The conditions of the existing trails are generally good and will require minimal maintenance duties.

Based on these trail conditions, the following pedestrian path and bikeway maintenance guidelines are suitable for Hillsboro Parks & Recreation. These are derived from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's recommendations for bicycle facility maintenance.¹

Trail Maintenance Strategies

6.1 Maintain trails and bikeways to a relatively hazard-free standard.

- Patch surfaces as smoothly as possible.
- Make sure pavement overlay projects feather the new surface into the existing one or otherwise do not create new linear joints.
- Patch potholes quickly, as soon after they are reported as possible.
- Routinely cut back all encroaching vegetation, making regional routes the highest priority.

6.2 Encourage users to report maintenance problems and hazards.

- Develop a pedestrian and bicycle spot improvement form and distribute copies throughout the community. Also make it available on line.
- Make sure returned forms are acted on in a timely fashion. Set a goal for response time and evaluate performance.

6.3 Design and build new paths and bikeways to reduce the potential for accumulating debris.

¹ U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. Bicycle Facility Maintenance recommendations (<http://www.tfhr.gov/safety/pedbike/pubs/05085/chapt16.htm>)

- Use edge treatments, shoulder surfaces, and access controls that reduce the potential for accumulation of debris.
 - Use materials and construction techniques that increase the longevity of new trail surfaces.
- 6.4 Include maintenance costs and clearly spelled-out maintenance procedures in all bicycle facility projects.
- Include reasonable estimates of the maintenance costs in the project budget.
 - Establish clear maintenance responsibilities in advance of construction.

Maintenance Concerns

The following are typical surface, vegetation, and signage problems found with paved trails. Actions to remedy the problems are included for each problem.

Surface Problems

- **Potholes and other surface irregularities** – Patch to a high standard, paying particular attention to problems near bicyclists' typical travel alignments. Require other agencies and companies to patch to a similarly high standard; if repairs fail within a year, require remedial action.
- **Debris on the pathways** – Pay particular attention to locations such as underpasses, where changes in lighting conditions can blind bicyclists to surface hazards.
- **Ridges or cracks** – These should be filled or ground down as needed to reduce the chance of a bicyclist catching a front wheel and crashing. Pay particular attention to ridges or cracks that run parallel to the direction of travel.

Encroaching Vegetation

- **Shrubs and tree branches adjacent to trail edges** – Trim vegetation back to allow at least a 2-ft clearance between the edge of the pavement and the vegetation.
- **Grasses adjacent to trail edges** – Tall grasses should be mowed regularly to expose any potential hazards that might otherwise be hidden from a pedestrian or cyclist's view. In addition, vegetation should be prevented from breaking up the edge of pavement and encroaching on the trail surface.

Signing and Marking

- **Trail signing** – Trail signs may be subjected to frequent theft or vandalism. Regular inspections should be conducted to ensure that

signs are still in place and in good condition; this is particularly true of regulatory and warning signs.

- **Trail markings** - Generally, trails have a few simple markings (e.g., a center line, pavement markings); however, these should be repainted when necessary.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

This plan puts forth a number of recommendations for improving parks and recreation services. It is intended to guide the implementation of the mission and vision of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation, as well as support the advancement of the Hillsboro 2020 Vision Plan. As changes occur in economic conditions, population, demographic characteristics, and recreation trends and preferences, Parks & Recreation staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission will need to respond and adjust.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Table 7.1 contains a list of the improvements recommended in the plan, totaling more than \$232 million. Costs in the table are based on 2009 dollars, and should be escalated using the same methodology used to increase system development charges.

This is a long-term plan, and Hillsboro alone may not be able to complete all of the improvements. Partnerships may be required. On an annual basis, the Parks and Recreation Commission should use this table, as well as the Parks & Trails Master Plan and Natural Resource Analysis to propose a capital improvement plan that accurately recognizes available resources and potential funding. The capital improvement plan should also be responsive to maintenance cost implications, as well as operating costs.

TABLE 7.1: FUTURE PROJECT ANTICIPATED COSTS

PARK	ENHANCE ASSET	MAJOR & MINOR RENOVATIONS	FINISH DEVELOPMENT	DEVELOP	LAND COST	DEVELOPMENT COSTS
COMMUNITY PARKS						
53rd Avenue Community Park			✓			\$ 8,200,000
Dairy Creek	✓					\$ 220,000
Rood Bridge Park (Includes CWS IGA)	✓					\$ 590,000
Shute Park		✓				\$ 1,000,000
New Community Parks				✓		\$ 25,000,000

PARK	ENHANCE ASSET	MAJOR & MINOR RENOVATIONS	FINISH DEVELOPMENT	DEVELOP	LAND COST	DEVELOPMENT COSTS
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS						
Bicentennial Park		✓				\$ 500,000
Evergreen Park		✓				\$ 150,000
Frances Street Park	✓					\$ 150,000
Hamby Park		✓				\$ 500,000
Turner Creek Park		✓				\$ 750,000
Walnut Street		✓				\$ 100,000
New Neighborhood Parks		✓				\$ 6,250,000
School Site Improvements				✓		\$ 2,000,000
SPECIAL USE FACILITIES						
Fairgrounds Sports Complex		✓				TBD
Gordon Faber Recreation Complex		✓				\$ 800,000
OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAYS						
Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve		✓				\$ 1,000,000
UNDEVELOPED PARKS						
Patterson Street Property				✓		\$ 2,000,000
Landfill Property				✓		\$ 1,000,000
OHKA				✓		\$ 300,000
Orenco Neighborhood Property				✓		\$ 750,000
Willow Creek Park				✓		\$ 500,000
Land Acquisition in Growth Areas						
Community Parks (2 @ 50 acres)					\$ 75,000,000	
Neighborhood Parks (5 @ 5 acres)					\$ 18,750,000	
Other Park Types (Special Use, Regional, Nature Parks)					\$ 9,375,000	
Open Space and Greenways					\$ 18,750,000	
RECREATION FACILITIES						
Indoor Recreation Center (includes aquatic facilities)				✓		\$ 50,000,000
2nd Dog Park				✓		\$ 450,000
Community Gardens				✓		\$ 100,000
Additional Skatepark				✓		\$ 500,000
Additional Recreation Facilities (Artificial Turf Field, Neighborhood Recreation Center, Etc.)				✓		\$ 3,000,000

	ENHANCE ASSET	MAJOR & MINOR RENOVATIONS	FINISH DEVELOPMENT	DEVELOP	LAND COST	DEVELOPMENT COSTS
PARK						
TRAILS (Miles to build)						
Proposed Regional Trails and Greenways (Hillsboro Contribution)						\$ 5,000,000
						TOTAL \$ 232,685,000

Note: Cost assumptions are found in Appendix G

FUNDING SOURCES

Hillsboro has consistently invested in its park system over the past five to ten years and has used diverse sources to fund the improvements. The table below shows a five-year history of the revenues for capital improvements.

TABLE 7.2: REVENUE GENERATED FOR CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT—FY 2004-2009

FISCAL YEAR	SDC	GRANTS/OTHER ¹	GENERAL FUND
2004-2005	\$2,700,382	\$1,040,002	N/A
2005-2006	\$4,160,493	\$1,038,637	N/A
2006-2007	\$4,207,666	\$800,000	\$230,000
2007-2008	\$4,055,369	\$2,000,002	\$340,000
2008-2009	\$3,500,000	\$500,000 ²	\$215,000

¹ Includes grants, donations, rent payments on City owned property, etc.

As the table shows, Hillsboro has generated a significant amount of revenue from system development charges and has used a limited amount of General Fund dollars. Below is an overview of funding sources that could be used for implementation of capital projects. This is intended to serve as a resource library.

Potential Funding Sources

General Fund – This is the City’s primary source for operating revenue and comes primarily from taxes. Since park and recreation services must compete with other City operations for these funds, this source can change from year to year. Hillsboro funds operations of the Parks & Recreation Department using General Funds, but has only

used a small amount of general fund dollars to fund park improvements.

System Development Charges – Hillsboro has funded the majority of its parks capital improvements over the past five years with system development charges (SDCs), which are fees imposed on new development to pay for park system expansion. Parks SDCs are charged for both residential and commercial uses, and the City regularly updates the charges.



User Fees – Hillsboro has user fees in place for recreation programs, facility use (e.g., SHARC), rentals (picnic shelters, fields, Hillsboro Stadium, indoor facilities, etc). These fees generate revenue that is used to offset the cost of operations, especially for recreation programming.

Grants – Hillsboro has been very successful at securing grants, most recently winning a large grant to assist with implementing 53rd Avenue Community Park.

Donations – The donations of labor, land, or cash by service agencies, private groups, or individuals are a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects. Such service agencies as Lions and Rotary often fund small projects such as playground improvements. The City has garnered donations for projects from service clubs, businesses, and individuals. In addition, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation has a volunteer program. Gaining more revenue through private donations or public/private partnerships will require more investment of staff time to identify and pursue opportunities.

Metro Greenspaces Bond – The Metro Greenspaces Bond passed in November 2006 providing over \$200 million for the purchase of natural areas. The Metro Regional Greenspace Plan identifies a number of regional trails and greenways in the City of Hillsboro. Some land acquisition could potentially be funded by Metro.

General Obligation Bond – These are voter-approved bonds with the authority to levy an assessment on real and personal property. The money can only be used for capital improvements but not maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). In November 2008, a previously passed standard requiring a double majority (where a majority of registered voters must vote and a majority of those voting must approve the measure) unless during a general election in even-numbered years was relaxed. As a result, a simple majority is now required to pass a General Obligation Bond in November and May elections. The double majority provision is

still required for special elections. Hillsboro placed a bond measure on the November 2008 that was not successful.

Revenue Bonds – These bonds are sold and paid from the revenue produced from the operation of a facility. Hillsboro does not have any recreational facilities that are funded in this manner. If Hillsboro were to build a recreation center, this source of funding could be explored.

Exchange or Sale of Property – If the City has an excess piece of property with some development value it could be traded for a private piece of property more suitable for park use.

Corporate Sponsors – Hillsboro could opt to seek corporate sponsorship of park projects and facilities. In return for the financial sponsorship, the City could allow advertising or naming rights at park facilities. Before implementing such a practice, Hillsboro would need to craft a corporate sponsorship policy that requires the sponsorship to support the mission, vision, and core values of the Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Department.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Funds – Grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are available for a wide variety of projects, if the projects qualify. Projects must be located in an area of low and moderate income.

Park Utility Fee – A park utility fee creates dedicated funds to help offset the cost of park maintenance. Most City residents pay water and sewer utility fees. Park utility fees apply the same concepts to City parks and a fee is assessed to all businesses and households. The monthly fee would be paid upon connection to the water and sewer system. Creating a new source of maintenance funding could free up general fund dollars for other capital project uses. Park utility fees have a potential to be a significant and stable revenue stream for local jurisdictions.

Grants

Federal, State, and private foundation funding may be available to provide parks and recreation facilities. Of the funding sources described here, grants will be among the most politically popular to residents of Hillsboro, because people outside of Hillsboro will share some of the cost, reducing the cost to each individual resident.

While outside funding is popular, Federal, State, and private foundation funding for parks is limited. The City would have to compete for the available funds. If Hillsboro wishes to increase its revenue from grants, it will need to research and pursue appropriate

grants on a project-by-project basis. Some potential grant programs from Federal, State and private sources include the following:

- **Federal** – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), administers the program for the State of Oregon, with funding assistance awarded annually.
- **Federal** – OPRD administers the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for Oregon, with funding assistance awarded annually. The RTP is a Federal aid assistance program to help states provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized trail use. The RTP replaced the original National Recreational Trails Funding Program (also known as the SYMMS Act), which was authorized by the Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and amended by the National Highway System (NHS) Designation Act of 1995. The program provides funds for all kinds of recreational trail use, such as pedestrian use, which includes hiking, running, and wheelchair use. Other trail uses include bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving or other off-road motorized vehicle use.
- **Federal** – The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a community resource administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the National Park Service in communities across America.
- **Federal** – The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) authorizes was enacted in 2005 and will expire in September 2009. It allocates almost \$290 billion for infrastructure to maintain transportation infrastructure, including bicycling and pedestrian facilities.
- **State** – OPRD administers the Local Government Grant Program. As a result of Ballot Measure 66, lottery funds are used to provide grants to local government agencies for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The maximum grant amount is \$500,000 and requires a 50%



match for cities with a population over 5,000. Small grant requests for projects with a maximum of \$50,000 are also available.

- **Private** – The City has received a few grants from private foundations over the last five years, but has not pursued grants from private foundations as a major source of revenue. Private sector foundations do provide funds to acquire and develop parks. Examples include:
 - The Meyer Memorial Trust provides general-purpose grants to government agencies and non-profit organizations in Oregon and Clark County, Washington.
 - The Oregon Community Foundation has previously made grants to local governments for parks projects.

Private Giving and Public/Private Partnerships

Private giving is a politically popular source of revenue. Sometimes private parties provide actual facilities or parks, which may or may not be available to the general public. Outside of facilities required by development codes, the private sector typically provides recreation facilities within residential developments when the marginal benefit exceeds the marginal cost. Simply put, developers provide outdoor areas within developments because such amenities increase the price or rent for the development.

MEASURING SUCCESS

The performance measures set forth below will help the City and community members understand the progress made in plan implementation.

The measures described below are purposefully open-ended in regards to the exact goal that will be achieved. As the City begins to measure its performance, baseline data will be collected and the goal for the next fiscal year will be set. The department should track these measures on at least an annual basis, and could include them in its annual report.

- Percent of residents who live within ½-mile of a neighborhood or community park, or who are within ½-mile of an elementary school site.
- Number of acres of natural and cultural resources preserved.
- Percent of park facilities in good condition.
- Miles of trails within the City.
- Number of participants in City programs.
- Percent of residents who report that the City does a very good or excellent job of providing facilities and services that meet their needs.

- Percent of recreation program participants who report that their health has improved since participating in a City recreation program and/or using a city park or facility.
- FTE equivalent in volunteer hours achieved by volunteers in parks, recreation programs, and natural areas.

SUMMARY

The planning process is not static. To be successful at implementing its vision and mission, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation will need to take action based on the guidance and framework of the Plan, evaluate progress, and make continuous adjustments in the coming years.

The performance measures described above are an important tool in plan implementation. These measures will provide data to inform decision-making and allow the department to refine and adjust its course to progress toward the community's vision.



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