

Redmond Area Park and Recreation District

# Parks & Recreation Master Plan

JUNE 2025



# 2025 Parks & Recreation Master Plan

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# Message from the Director

Welcome to the 2025 RAPRD Parks and Recreation Master Plan

PENDING

Katie Hammer  
Executive Director

## Acknowledgements

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**DRAFT**

## Chapter 1

# ACTIVE. THRIVING. ENGAGED.

## Introduction

### Plan Purpose

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to serve as the guiding recreation plan for the Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD). The greater Redmond area and Deschutes County continues to grow and face development pressures, and this Plan aims to reflect current community interests and recreational opportunities.

This 2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) creates a vision for a cooperative and inclusive park and recreation system that promotes outdoor recreation, health and conservation as integral elements of a thriving, livable Redmond area. The Plan will serve as a 'North Star' to guide the efforts of the District in providing high quality, community-driven parks and recreational opportunities through specific goals, recommendations and actions.

It is a document that will guide the elected RAPRD Board of Directors, management and staff when making

decisions or taking actions regarding planning, acquiring, developing or implementing parks, trails, open space or recreational facilities or programs. The Plan is intended to be updated periodically to remain current with the community's recreational interests.

### District Overview

Redmond Area Park and Recreation District was incorporated on July 8, 1975 for the purpose of providing park and recreation facilities for the residents residing within the boundaries of the district. In Oregon, park and recreation districts are organized under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) chapter 266. This section of state statutes enables RAPRD to acquire, operate and maintain park and recreation facilities and to levy and collect taxes to fund the operations of the District.





GET THAT SWIM CENTER BUILT AND PACK OUT THE CLASSES OFFERED! ~ SURVEY RESPONDENT

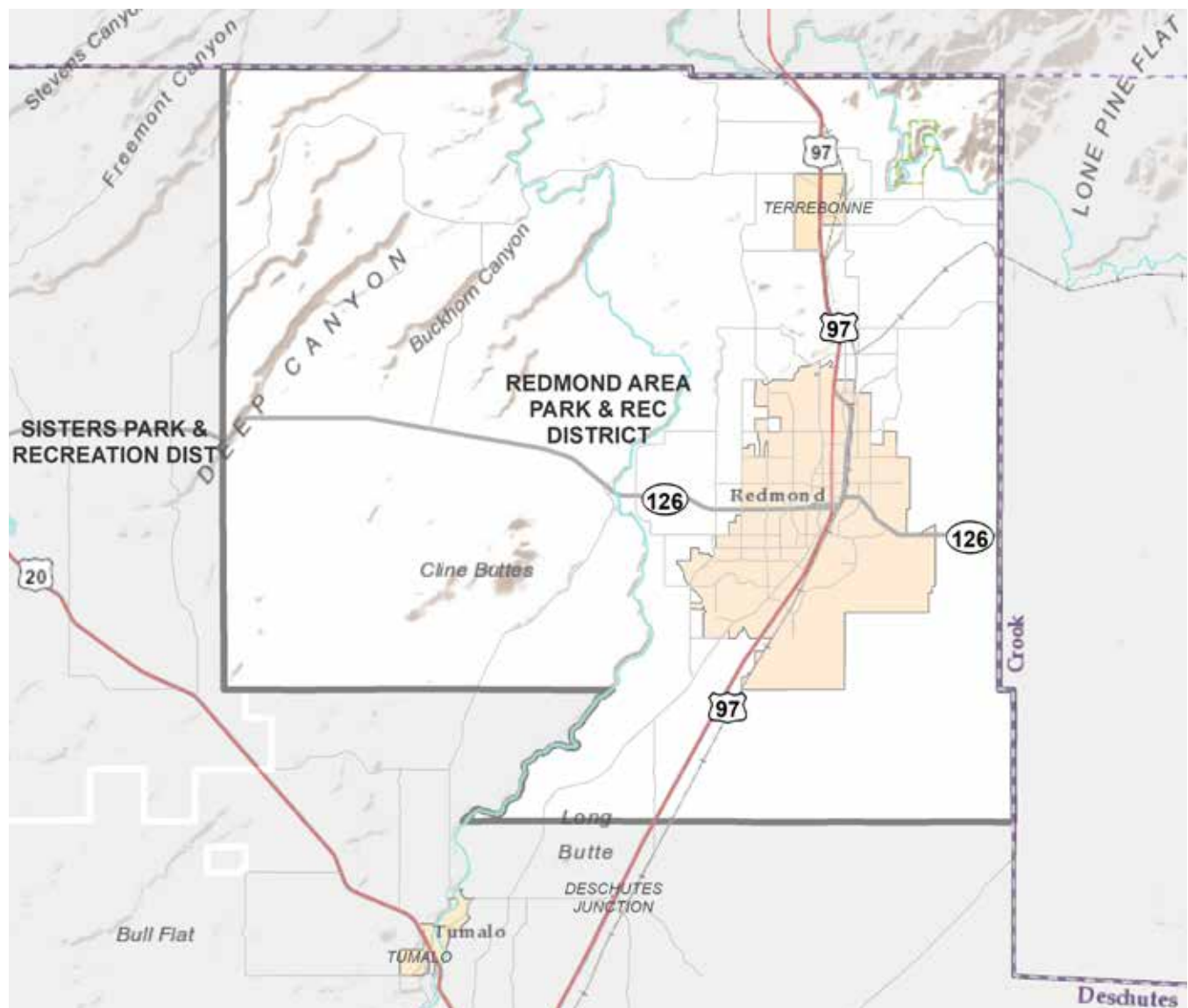
Currently, the District's facilities include the Cascade Swim Center, the Pleasant Ridge Community Hall, the High Desert Sports Complex, Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve, and undeveloped parks at Majestic Ridge in Redmond, Lake Park estates northeast of Redmond, and at Tetherow Crossing. The District offers a variety of recreation programs, including youth and adult sports, red cross classes, art classes, and swim lessons.

Opened in 1979, the Cascade Swim Center catered to a population of about 6,500 people in the recreation district. Now, the District boundaries are home to approximately 52,000 people, which has stretched the Cascade Swim Center in capacity with no room for growth in activities. In November 2022, local voters supported a \$49 million bond to fund a new community recreation center. Currently under construction, this new recreational facility sits on

ten acres at SW 35th Street and Lava Avenue in Redmond, and it will include both a competitive pool and leisure pool, locker rooms, gymnasium, exercise facilities, group fitness rooms, special event spaces, offices and other administrative/support spaces, and more. This community center project is a crucial investment in the future of the community providing state-of-the-art facilities, modern amenities, and the ability for growth in adding programs and recreational opportunities.

## District Boundaries

Situated in the northeastern corner of Deschutes County, RAPRD offers recreational programs for the greater Redmond, Oregon community, serving the communities of Redmond, Terrebonne, and Tumalo.



## District Services & Organization

As the Redmond area's primary provider of recreation classes and programs, RAPRD offers a variety of classes for all ages – ranging from sports leagues to art classes, summer camps, and many outdoor activities. Programming at the Cascade Swim Center includes lap swim, recreation swims, swim lessons, aqua wellness classes, youth swim team, masters swimming, and water polo.

RAPRD oversees park and open spaces within the district boundary but outside of the city limits of Redmond. All parks and trails that are inside the Redmond city boundary are under the care of the City of Redmond Parks Division. RAPRD operates a number of its recreational programming using the City of Redmond's park facilities.

The District is governed by an elected Board of Directors consisting of five individuals who live inside the district, and they are responsible for developing goals and setting policy.

RAPRD staff and the Board of Directors established core values and guiding principles statements. These statements, along with the updated mission and vision statement, are used to set priorities, direction, and expectations for the district staff. The core values and guiding principles statements are as follows:

### Core Values:

- Customer Service
- Quality programs and facilities
- Safety
- Inclusive
- Diverse

### Mission Statement:

*RAPRD leads our community to health and well-being by providing fun, high-quality recreational experiences and activities for all.*

### Vision Statement:

*RAPRD is valued as a partner and recognized as a key asset in our community, enhancing the quality of life with innovative and inclusive programs, facilities, parks, and open spaces.*

The Board's Goals for 2025 were organized by short and longer term targets. Short term goals focused on implementing a fundraising plan; updating the organizational structure; reviewing and updating

policies; and exploring re-branding the District. Longer term goals included developing some RAPRD properties; improving community outreach; and stabilizing funding sources for the District. The completion of this Plan and the implementation of its capital improvements plan were also goals of the Board.

## Plan Approach

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan analyzes the supply, demand, and need for public and recreation facilities and services under District ownership and/or management and within the District boundaries, exclusive of specific park and recreation needs defined for the City of Redmond. The inventories include a comprehensive assessment of current and upcoming facilities within the District. The development strategies proposed for RAPRD are the result of this analysis combined with public feedback and projected needs. Generally, the proposed strategies recommend focusing resources where park and recreation needs are most critical and where the efforts will be most effective. The Plan aims to provide a vision for the future of park and recreation services offered by the District. The major elements of the Plan include:

- Analysis of existing parks, open space, trail and recreation facilities,
- Analysis of local demographics and an assessment of the community's recreation needs,
- Recommendations related to recreation services and facilities,
- Recommendations for the acquisition and development of parks and trails, and
- Recommendations for implementation, project coordination and partnerships.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

**"More programming for kids,  
homeschool groups, educational  
and nature based activities."**

- Survey respondent





# Community Engagement Process

Several methods were used to engage the community, seek their input, and provide information about the Plan through convenient online and in-person activities. Public outreach methods included:

- Online community-wide survey
- Public open house meeting
- District Board meetings
- Multiple social media postings

## Community Survey

A community-wide, online survey was conducted to assess the recreational needs and priorities of District residents. The survey was posted to the District's website and Facebook page on November 4, 2024. The survey was promoted multiple times on Facebook, with Facebook ads, and via email announcements to recreation program participants. The survey was closed on March 24, 2025, and data were compiled and reviewed. In all, 231 responses were collected.

Residents were asked about future improvements and the types of recreational programs they would like to see. Survey respondents were asked about:

- Performance and quality of programs and parks;
- Usage of RAPRD parks and recreation facilities;
- Overall satisfaction with the value of services being delivered by the District;
- Opinions about the need for various park, recreation, and trail improvements; and
- Priorities for future recreation amenities and offerings.

Highlights from the survey are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the needs assessment chapters covering recreation (Chapter 4) and outdoor recreation and parks (Chapter 5).

### Major Survey Findings:

- Virtually all respondents (98%) feel that local parks, recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in the greater Redmond area.
- Respondents tend to visit RAPRD parks and facilities frequently, with more than one-third (36%) of respondents visiting at least once a week and another 24% visiting two or more times per month.

- Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reason is to take children to play (61%). Between one-third and half of respondents visit parks for exercise (47%), sports (41%), swimming (37%) or being in a natural setting (37%).
- A significant majority of respondents (61%) identified expanding or improving indoor facilities as important. Strong interest also was noted for improving sport fields and courts (46%), repairing worn amenities (43%), and offering or promoting more classes (40%).
- Regarding program choices, respondents expressed the greatest interest for expanding options for special events (53%), youth sports (50%), swim lessons (38%), teen programs (38%), adult fitness (37%).
- When it comes to recreation program costs, respondents expressed strong sentiments that RAPRD's programs are inexpensive or reasonably priced.
- When asked about the potential to explore providing a trail corridor along the Deschutes River, a majority of respondents were very interested (59%), and a strong majority (87%) were either very or somewhat interested.

The complete summary is provided in Appendix A.





## In-Person Open House

The District hosted an in-person open house at the Redmond Library on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Community members explored display boards featuring project information based on park and recreation topics relevant to RAPRD's services, which included recreation programming, The Hub Aquatics and Recreation, parks and open space, and trails. RAPRD staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation services for the District. Using sticky notes, participants commented on potential projects and shared ideas by writing or drawing on a conceptual recreational trail system. Attendees also utilized dots to identify priority amenities and projects and contribute additional comments or ideas.

### Open House Highlights:

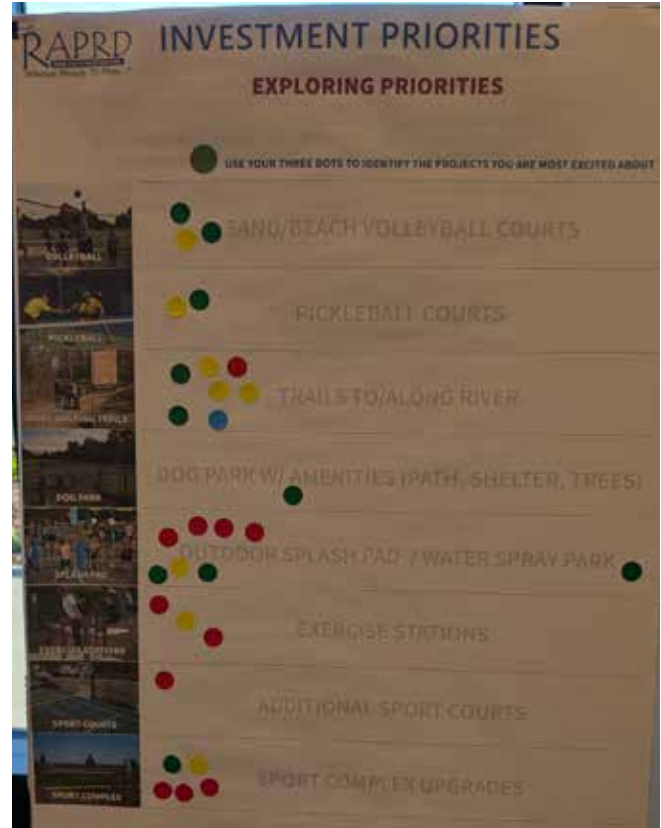
- Program areas with strong interest: swim lessons & aquatics; before/after school programs.
- Amenities of interest: outdoor splash pad; trails to/ along the Deschutes River; upgrades to the High Desert Sport Complex.
- Other feedback: provide better communication regarding who manages which property; collaborate with the City, Deschutes County, State Parks, etc. on future efforts.

## Board Meetings

The RAPRD District Board provided feedback on the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan during three regularly scheduled public sessions. The first session occurred in October 2024 to review the project timeline and explore future opportunities and challenges. At subsequent sessions, the Board reviewed and commented on community survey results, project priorities, and strategies to implement improvement projects.

## Other Outreach

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities described above, the greater Redmond community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media platforms. The District shared information about the project and provided opportunities to participate and offer their comments via social media postings on Facebook and the RAPRD website.



## Guiding Documents

Existing RAPRD documents, past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction, goals and historical context as they relate to recreation facilities, programming, parks, open space, and trails across the District. These include the following:

- RAPRD budgets (prior four years)
- Redmond Recreation Center Feasibility Report
- Recreation Program & Facility Plan (2013 draft, not formally adopted)
- RAPRD Board of Directors Goals 2024-25
- RAPRD Activity Guides (prior three years)
- Tetherow Homestead Renovation Schematics
- City of Redmond Parks Master Plan (2024 draft)
- City of Redmond Transportation System Plan 2020
- Deschutes County Transportation System Plan (Feb 2024)
- Sisters Comprehensive Plan 2021
- 2026-2035 Oregon Trails Plan

## Plan Contents

The remainder of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile – provides an overview of the District and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Classifications & Inventory – describes the inventory and classifications for the existing park system.
- Chapter 4: Recreation – describes community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for recreation services, facilities and activities.
- Chapters 5: Outdoor Recreation & Parks – describes community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for parks, open space and trails.
- Chapter 6: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the park and recreation system grouped by major program area.
- Chapter 7: Projects & Implementation – describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan and details a 10-year program for addressing park and facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes a summary of the community survey, stakeholder notes, funding options, among others.



## Chapter 2

# DISTRICT PROFILE

THIS CHAPTER OFFERS A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE DEMOGRAPHICS FOR THE COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.



## Saving One of Redmond's Historic Treasures

The Tetherow house was built in 1878 or 1879 and is believed to be the oldest standing house in Deschutes County. The property was used as a home, inn, campsite, store, farm, ranch, orchard, garden, dairy, blacksmith, and brewery. The property also served as a store and stopping point (or way station) from 1879 to 1898. The site served as one of only three Deschutes River crossings during the settlement days of Central Oregon.

Source: [www.raprdblog.org/](http://www.raprdblog.org/)

## Community Profile

The Redmond Area Park & Recreation District (RAPRD) serves a community of approximately 52,000 residents in the Redmond area of Central Oregon. The population within the District is growing rapidly, driven largely by the City of Redmond – now one of Oregon's fastest-growing cities. The area is popular with families with children as well as older adults, underscoring the need for recreational options that serve people of all ages. The District is also home to residents of a wide range of abilities, incomes, and cultural backgrounds. As the District plans for its future, it will need to consider how to accommodate the recreational needs of its diverse and rapidly growing community.

## Location

The Redmond Area Park & Recreation District (RAPRD) encompasses parts of Deschutes County in central Oregon. It stretches from unincorporated community of Terrebonne and Smith Rock State Park along U.S. Route 97 to south of the City of Redmond. The District is centered east-west along State Highway 126, encompassing rural residential areas, agricultural and range lands, and open spaces. The District's geography showcases Central Oregon's high desert environment, characterized by juniper trees, sagebrush, ponderosa pines, and volcanic rock formations.



## History

The area served by the Redmond Area Park & Recreation District was originally home to Native American tribes, including the Warm Springs and Northern Paiute peoples, who lived semi-nomadically and utilized the high desert's abundant resources for hunting, fishing, and gathering. The Deschutes River served as a vital source of food and a natural corridor for travel. Conflicts with white settlers, including the Snake War, devastated the Northern Paiute population and left a profound impact on the tribe and the region's history.

The late 19th century brought a wave of settlers drawn by the Homestead Act and the promise of fertile farmland. Terrebonne, with its name

meaning "good earth" in French, emerged as an agricultural community capitalizing on the area's irrigation projects, which transformed arid sagebrush plains into productive farmland. To the south, Redmond officially incorporated in 1910, benefiting from its strategic location along the Oregon Trunk Railroad. The railroad not only connected Redmond to larger markets but also spurred the growth of commerce and industry, positioning it as a central hub for the surrounding farming and ranching communities.

During the 20th century, Redmond's role expanded with the construction of Roberts Field, which began as an Army Air Corps training base during World War II. After the war, the airport transitioned to civilian

use and became a cornerstone of regional connectivity, fostering economic growth and development.

Today, the area served by the Redmond Area Park & Recreation District reflects a blend of its agricultural roots mixed with recent residential and urban development. Redmond has grown rapidly into a thriving city with a diverse economy, while Terrebonne retains its rural charm, with both serving as gateways to outdoor recreation. Iconic landmarks like Smith Rock State Park near Terrebonne and the scenic Deschutes River attract visitors from around the world and serve as hubs for community and tourism.



## Demographics

The Redmond Area Park & Recreation District (RAPRD) serves a rapidly growing community of over 51,000 urban and rural residents. The District serves a population spanning all life stages, from young families to an increasing number of older adults, as well as a growing Hispanic and Latino community.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: RAPRD, Redmond, Deschutes County, and Oregon <sup>1,2</sup>

Demographics	RAPRD	Redmond	Deschutes County	Oregon
<b>Population Characteristics</b>				
Population (2022) <sup>3,4</sup>	<b>50,820</b>	37,566	207,561	4,281,851
Population (2020)	<b>46,430</b>	33,274	198,253	4,233,358
Population (2010)	<b>32,820</b>	26,215	157,733	3,831,074
Percent Change (2000-23)	<b>42.0%</b>	27.0%	26.0%	11.0%
Persons with Disabilities (%)	<b>N/A</b>	14.7%	12.0%	14.9%
<b>Household Characteristics</b>				
Households	<b>18,064</b>	13,025	81,481	1,680,800
Percent with children	<b>29.3%</b>	30.9%	27.0%	27.7%
Average Household Size	<b>2.33</b>	2.61	2.43	2.46
Average Family Size	<b>N/A</b>	3.14	2.88	3.00
Owner Occupancy Rate	<b>91.0%</b>	64.2%	69.7%	63.2%
Median Household Income	<b>N/A</b>	\$72,798	\$82,042	\$76,732
<b>Age Groups</b>				
Median Age	<b>N/A</b>	36.4	42.6	39.9
Population < 5 years of age	<b>5.5%</b>	5.9%	4.8%	5.1%
Population < 18 years of age	<b>72.9%</b>	22.8%	19.4%	20.2%
Population 18 - 64 years of age		60.8%	60.1%	61.5%
Population > 65 years of age	<b>21.5%</b>	16.4%	20.5%	18.3%

### Sources:

\*1 Unless otherwise noted, Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD) estimates, where available, are from the 2010 (population estimate only) and 2020 Decennial Census, computed at the Census block level (data provided by IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org), accessed December 2024).

\*2 Unless otherwise noted, estimates for Redmond, Deschutes County, and Oregon from the U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census. All other estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022, 5-year estimates.

\*3 2022 population estimate for the Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD) computed based 2020 Decennial Census data, calculated at the Census block level (provided by IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org), accessed December 2024) and inflated based on estimates for the City of Redmond and unincorporated areas of Deschutes County provided by the Population Research Center.

\*4 2022 population estimate for Redmond, Deschutes County, and Oregon prepared by the Portland State Population Research Center and available in the "2022 Annual Oregon Population Report Tables" (<https://www.pdx.edu/population-research/>, accessed December 2024).

## Embracing Growth

The area served by the Redmond Area Park & Recreation District has experienced significant growth since the district’s formation in 1975, when it served roughly 6,000 residents. The District now serves approximately 51,000 residents (18,064 households), nearly three-quarters of whom reside within the City of Redmond.

Much of the District’s growth has occurred since 1990, largely driven by rapid growth in the City of Redmond. Redmond, which is now one of the fastest growing cities in the state, grew from about 7,000 residents in 1990 to over 33,000 in 2020. This growth has been by driven in part by local investments in transportation and parks, downtown redevelopment, and by economic shifts that have broadened local employment opportunities in the manufacturing, health care, and education sectors.

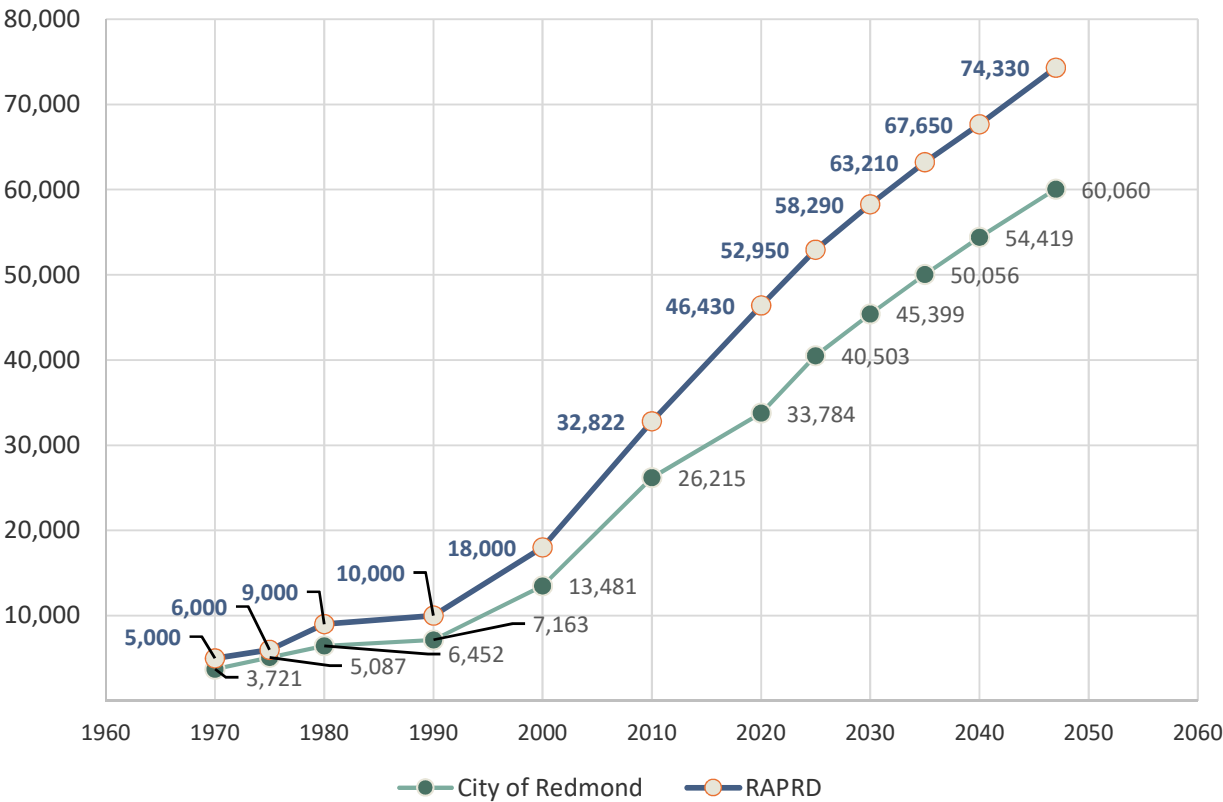
The Redmond area has also seen growth as Central Oregon has become a more desirable

place to live. As nearby Bend experiences rapid growth and rising housing costs, Redmond has emerged as an attractive alternative, offering a combination of affordability, scenic beauty, abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation, and convenient transportation connections.

Areas in the District outside of the City of Redmond have also contributed to the District’s growth. The population of the community of Terrebonne has grown modestly over the past thirty years, increasing from 1,143 residents in 1990 to 1,393 residents in 2020.

Based on growth projections from Portland State’s Population Research Center, the District is likely to serve approximately 63,000 residents in 2035 and nearly 75,000 residents by 2047 <sup>5</sup>, a 60% increase over its 2020 population – see Figure 2. The area’s growth poses critical considerations for the District’s park and recreation facilities. As the population expands, existing facilities will need to be assessed for their capacity to meet future needs effectively.

Figure 2. Population Growth – Estimated and Projected: 1970 – 2047 <sup>6</sup>



Sources

- 5 Population forecasts for the Redmond Area Park and Recreation District is based on 2020 population estimate inflated per growth forecasts for the City of Redmond and unincorporated Deschutes County as prepared by Portland State University’s Center for Population Research, 2022, available at: <https://www.pdx.edu/population-research/population-forecasts> and accessed in December 2024.
- 6 2010 and 2020 population estimates for the Redmond Area Park and Recreation District are based on Decennial Census data, computed at the Census block level. Block level data provided by IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org), accessed December 2024.

## A Family & Retiree-Friendly Community

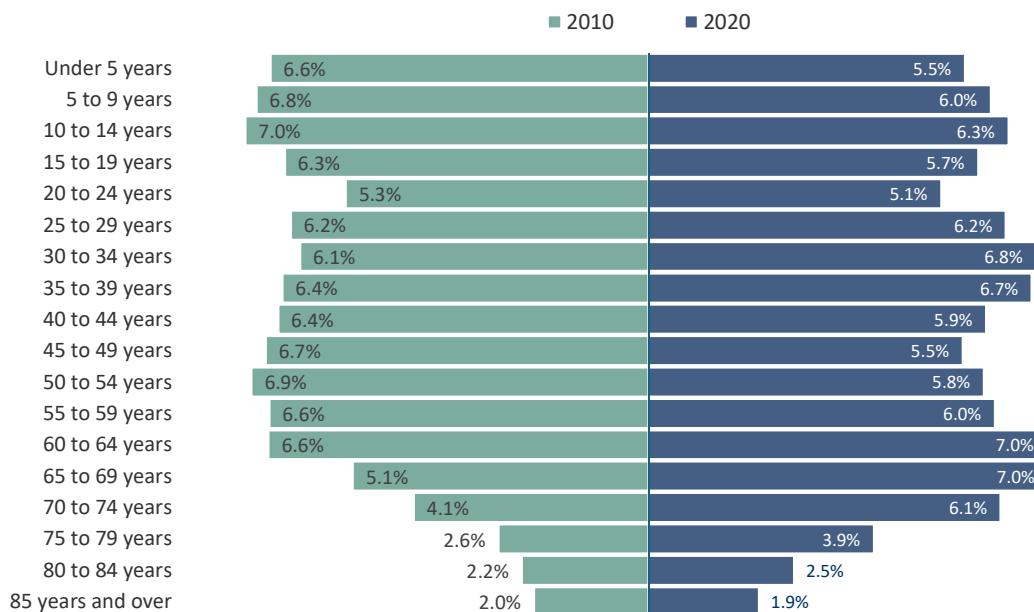
The area served by the Redmond Area Park & Recreation District appeals to families as well as older adults. Nearly one third of the District's households include children under the age of 18 and children and young adults make up about 30% of the its population. However, between 2010 and 2020, the District saw a decline in younger residents, particularly those under 25, and an increase in the percentage of residents over the age of 60, see Figure 3.

Nearly one in three residents served by the Redmond Area Park & Recreation District are under the age of 25 – these younger residents have distinct recreational interests and needs. Approximately 6% of the population are children under 5 years old, who primarily benefit from toddler and preschool-focused programs. These young residents often use trails and open spaces in strollers, accompanying their families, and represent future participants in youth recreational activities. Children aged 5 to 14 years, comprising about 12% of the population, are active participants in youth programs, sports, and recreational opportunities designed for school-aged children. Meanwhile, teens and young adults aged 15 to 24, who make up 11% of the District's residents, are transitioning from youth to adult programs. They engage in teen-focused and young adult activities where available, while many also seek seasonal employment opportunities.

Nearly half of the District's population are between the ages of 25 and 64, representing a wide range of recreational needs. Adults aged 25 to 34 years, approximately 13% of residents, often participate in adult programs while entering long-term relationships, starting families, or balancing early career stages. Since 31% of households in Redmond include children, residents in this demographic are also likely to support youth-focused activities. Residents between the ages of 35 to 54 years make up 27% of the population and are significant users of park facilities and adult programs. This group spans from parents of young children to empty nesters, requiring a variety of recreational options to suit their evolving lifestyles.

Older adults aged 55 and above represent another 35% of the District's population, with varied recreational needs and preferences. This group includes working adults and those who are approaching or enjoying retirement, who may participate in general-adult or senior-focused programs. Their activities range from spending time with grandchildren to engaging in healthy and active lifestyles. However, the group also includes individuals with more limited physical activity levels, necessitating diverse program offerings and facilities that cater to varying levels of mobility.

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2020 <sup>7</sup>





Increasing Racial & Language Diversity

The area served by RAPRD, like much of Central Oregon, has historically had a less diverse population compared to urban cities in the state. However, the District is becoming more diverse over time, especially in the communities of Redmond and Terrebonne. As it plans for future park and recreational opportunities, the District should consider how to best meet the recreational needs of all community members.

As of 2020, a large majority of District’s population identified as White (83.5%). However, the District is seeing an increase in the percentage of community members who identify as Hispanic or Latino, with most identifying as Mexican. These residents make up approximately 12% of District residents and 15% and 24% of the population of Redmond and Terrebonne, respectively. Fourteen percent of District residents identify as either two or more races or some other race not listed on U.S. Census forms, see Figure 4. In general, people of color are less likely to use parks and recreation programs as compared to White residents, often because they tend to have access to fewer and lower quality park and recreational opportunities.<sup>8</sup>

Residents who speak languages other than English may face barriers in finding, accessing, and participating in park and recreation facilities and programs. About 12% of Redmond residents and 20% of Terrebonne residents speak a language other than English at home (predominantly Spanish), with about 5% speaking English “less than very well”.

Figure 4. Changes in Racial Identification - 2010 to 2020<sup>9</sup>

Racial Identification	2010	2020
White	91.0%	83.5%
Two or more races	2.6%	9.2%
Some other race	4.0%	4.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.1%	1.1%
Asian	0.7%	1.0%
Black or African American	0.3%	0.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	9.7%	11.6%

Sources

7 2010 and 2020 estimates based on Decennial Census data, computed at the Census block level. Block level data provided by IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org), accessed December 2024.

8 Casper, J., Lee, K.J., and Floyd, M. “Racial and Ethnic Diversity and Inclusion Efforts of Public Park and Recreation Agencies”. The Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, Vol. 38, No 1 (2020).

9 2010 and 2020 estimates based on Decennial Census data, computed at the Census block level. Block level data provided by IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org), accessed December 2024.

10 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2018-2023.

A Varied Local Economy<sup>10</sup>

The economy of the area served by the RAPRD is anchored by the educational and healthcare sectors, which employ about a quarter of the local workforce. Retail, construction, and professional services also play significant roles, with each accounting for 10% to 15% of jobs in the area. Key employers include government agencies, educational institutions, healthcare providers, the residential construction industry, and businesses tied to tourism and hospitality. Notably, Smith Rock State Park and the resorts of Eagle Creek and Juniper Ridge are all located within the RAPRD and are major local tourist destinations.

While employment data for the entire District was not readily available, approximately 55-60% of adults in the City of Redmond and community of Terrebonne are employed. Unemployment rates vary, ranging from approximately 4.8% in Redmond to 18.7% in Terrebonne. One-third of Redmond’s residents and 39% of Terrebonne’s residents are no longer in the labor force.

A community’s level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members as well as their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. Median income levels vary across the District, ranging from approximately \$79,800 in Redmond to \$102,000 in Terrebonne, compared to an average of about \$80,400 across Deschutes County.

Higher income households have an increased ability and willingness to pay for recreation and leisure services and often face fewer barriers to participation. Approximately 36% of Redmond households and 52% of Terrebonne households have household incomes in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 and greater), compared to the county average of 40%.

Lower-income residents can face barriers to physical activity including poor access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time, and poor health. Lower-income residents may also be less able financially able to afford recreational service fees or to pay for services, like childcare, that can make physical

activity possible. In Redmond, 11% of households earn less than \$25,000 annually and 7% of local families live below the poverty level (\$27,750 for a family of four), slightly higher than county rates. Poverty affects 14% of youth under 18 and 9% of adults. In Terrebonne, 25% of households earn less than \$25,000 per year.

Education attainment is positively correlated with both the income and health status of a community, meaning that when residents are better educated, they are more likely to have higher incomes and improved overall health. Residents within the RAPRD are lower, on average, than those across Deschutes County. In Redmond, 91% of residents have a high school degree and 29% have a Bachelor's degree or higher, rates lower than county averages (95% and 43%, respectively). Graduation rates are lower in Terrebonne, where 87% of residents have a high school degree and 22% have a Bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>11</sup>

## A Community of Active Residents

The overall health of a community significantly influences its residents' participation in recreational and physical activities. Accessible and convenient green spaces, recreational facilities, and active transportation options are crucial for promoting an active lifestyle. While specific health data for District residents is not readily available, the 2024 County Health Rankings highlight that Deschutes County performs well in health outcomes compared to other counties in Oregon.<sup>12</sup> It excels in areas like length of life and quality of life, indicating that residents generally experience longer, healthier lives than those in many other regions. Deschutes County residents benefit from strong social and economic foundations, such as high levels of education and employment, and local opportunities for physical activity, which contribute to overall well-being.

Nearly all (93%) of Deschutes County residents have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, surpassing the Oregon state average of 88%. This reflects the county's abundance of parks, trails,

community centers, gyms, and other facilities that encourage active living. As the community continues to prioritize health and well-being, fostering a supportive environment with accessible recreational opportunities is crucial in maintaining the good relative health of District residents.

In terms of physical activity, approximately 17% of Deschutes County adults aged 20 and older report no leisure-time physical activity, a figure lower than the statewide average of 20% and the national average of 23%.

Age, mobility, and physical ability can play a role in whether residents participate in recreational activities. Overall, one in ten Redmond residents recently reported that their participation in local parks & recreation is diminished due to age, physical limitations, or accessibility barriers. And while detailed data on accessibility needs across the District is not available, approximately 15% Redmond's population (about 5,000 people) and 19% of Terrebonne's population (280 people) have a disability that interferes with life activities. This is on par with county and state averages (14-15% each). Approximately 5% of youth under 18 years of age, 12% of adults 18 to 64, and 39% of residents over age 65 live with a disability.

The Redmond Area Park & Recreation District should consider community needs to create inclusive and accessible parks, facilities, programs, and communications, enabling everyone to participate in recreation activities. Maintaining a park system that caters to residents of all abilities is also essential for complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

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### Sources

- 11 U.S. Census Bureau, 2023.
- 12 Data on the health status of Deschutes County and Oregon State residents taken from: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. "Oregon Rankings Data". County Health Rankings. Available at <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/oregon/2024/rankings/deschutes/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>. Accessed August 2024.
- 13 City of Redmond. "Redmond Citywide Parks Master Plan – Community Survey Summary Results". Available at <https://www.redmondoregon.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/26323/638714314824130000>. Accessed December 2024.
- 14 U.S. Census Bureau, 2022.

# BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.



## Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety. Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week.



## Community Benefits

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.

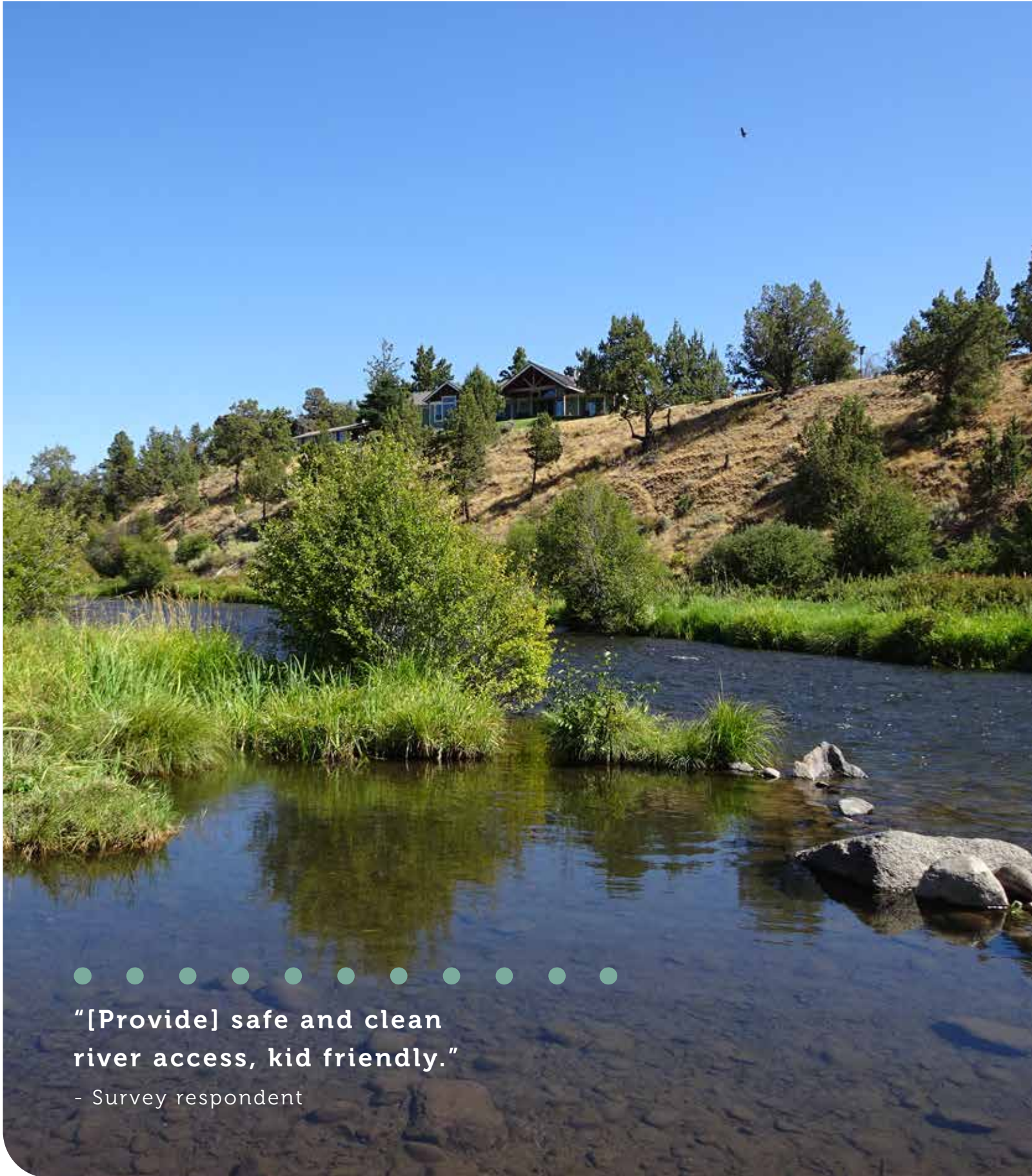


## Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities.

In Oregon, outdoor recreation generates \$8.3 billion in consumer spending, creates 73,900 direct jobs and results in \$4.4 billion in outdoor recreation wages. According to the 2023 Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account published by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for citizens.





**"[Provide] safe and clean  
river access, kid friendly."**

- Survey respondent

## Chapter 3

# CLASSIFICATIONS & INVENTORY

THIS CHAPTER DESCRIBES THE PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

## Classifications

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The classifications also reflect standards that inform development decisions during site planning, in addition to operations and maintenance expectations for the level of developed facilities or natural lands. The RAPRD park system is composed of various park types, each offering recreational opportunities and natural environmental functions. Collectively, the park system is intended to serve a broad range of community recreational needs.

Classifying parkland by function allows the District to evaluate its needs and to plan for an efficient, cost effective, and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses. Several factors are considered when classifying parks:

- Specific community or service area needs;
- Suitability of a site for a particular use;
- Cost and effort of development;

- Possibility for public-private partnerships; and
- Operating and maintenance costs.

Each park classification defines the site's function, expected/typical amenities, and recreational uses. The classification characteristics serve as general guidelines addressing the size and use of each park type. The following three classifications are used in RAPRD's park system:

- Special Use Facilities
- Neighborhood Parks
- Trails / Linear Parks



## SPECIAL USE FACILITIES



Special use areas are sites that are occupied by a specialized facility or that fulfill a specialized purpose. Some uses that fall into this park type include recreation or aquatic centers, historic sites, botanical gardens, community gardens, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, or other sites that offer unique recreation opportunities.

### Typical Amenities

#### Passive Recreation

- ☒ Seating
- ☒ Casual Use Spaces
- ☒ Internal Walking Trails
- ☒ Water Access
- ☒ Community Gardens
- ☒ Unique Landscape Features
- ☒ Natural Spaces

#### Active Recreation

- ☒ Creative Play Attractions
- ☒ Playgrounds
- ☒ Biking Trails
- ☒ Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- ☒ Rectangular Fields
- ☒ Diamond Fields
- ☒ Basketball Courts
- ☒ Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- ☒ Volleyball Courts
- ☒ Water Play

#### Facilities

- ☒ Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- ☒ Group Picnic Areas
- ☒ Park Shelters
- ☒ Skateparks / Bike Skills
- ☒ Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- ☒ Outdoor Event Spaces
- ☒ Off-leash Areas
- ☒ Restrooms
- ☒ Parking

### Size

- Unique to each site

### Existing Facilities

- Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve
- Cascade Swim Center
- High Desert Sports Complex
- Pleasant Ridge Community Hall
- Tetherow Crossing Park

### Future Facilities

- The Hub Aquatic and Recreation Center

# NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



While not a significant focus for the District or where the District holds many sites suitable to function in this park classification, a neighborhood park is typically 0.5 to 5 acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location, and opportunity. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity. Neighborhood parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites. These parks can offer both active and passive recreation on a limited scale, but they are used primarily for unstructured recreational activities. Amenities may include playgrounds, picnic areas, small facilities for active recreation, open lawn areas, and gathering spaces. Support facilities may include restrooms and off-street parking.

## Size

- 1 to 5 acres

## Existing Facilities

- None developed

## Future Facilities

- NE Walnut Drive – East
- NE Walnut Drive – West

## Typical Amenities

### Passive Recreation

- ☒ Seating
- ☒ Casual Use Spaces
- ☒ Internal Walking Trails
- ☐ Water Access
- ☒ Community Gardens
- ☒ Unique Landscape Features
- ☒ Natural Spaces

### Active Recreation

- ☐ Creative Play Attractions
- ☒ Playgrounds
- ☐ Biking Trails
- ☒ Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- ☐ Rectangular Fields
- ☐ Diamond Fields
- ☒ Basketball Courts
- ☒ Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- ☒ Volleyball Courts
- ☐ Water Play

### Facilities

- ☒ Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- ☒ Group Picnic Areas
- ☒ Park Shelters
- ☐ Skateparks / Bike Skills
- ☐ Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- ☐ Outdoor Event Spaces
- ☐ Off-leash Areas
- ☐ Restrooms
- ☐ Parking

## TRAILS / LINEAR PARKS



The purpose of trails/linear parks is to provide safe and readily accessible connections between neighborhoods, local parks, and centers of local importance to encourage walking, jogging, bicycling, and other forms of non-motorized recreational travel. Trail development may coincide with the installation of sidewalks in some locations where there is a logical connection between activity centers or there is a need to place pedestrian walkways adjacent to local streets. Trails/linear parks help people of all ages incorporate exercise into their daily routines by connecting them with places they want or need to go.

### Size

- Unique to each site

### Existing Facilities

- Majestic Ridge Open Space

## Typical Amenities

### Passive Recreation

- ☒ Seating
- ☐ Casual Use Spaces
- ☒ Internal Walking Trails
- ☒ Water Access
- ☐ Community Gardens
- ☒ Unique Landscape Features
- ☒ Natural Spaces

### Active Recreation

- ☒ Creative Play Attractions
- ☐ Playgrounds
- ☒ Biking Trails
- ☒ Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- ☐ Rectangular Fields
- ☐ Diamond Fields
- ☐ Basketball Courts
- ☐ Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- ☐ Volleyball Courts
- ☐ Water Play

### Facilities

- ☒ Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- ☐ Group Picnic Areas
- ☐ Park Shelters
- ☐ Skateparks / Bike Skills
- ☐ Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- ☐ Outdoor Event Spaces
- ☐ Off-leash Areas
- ☒ Restrooms
- ☒ Parking



# Park System Inventory

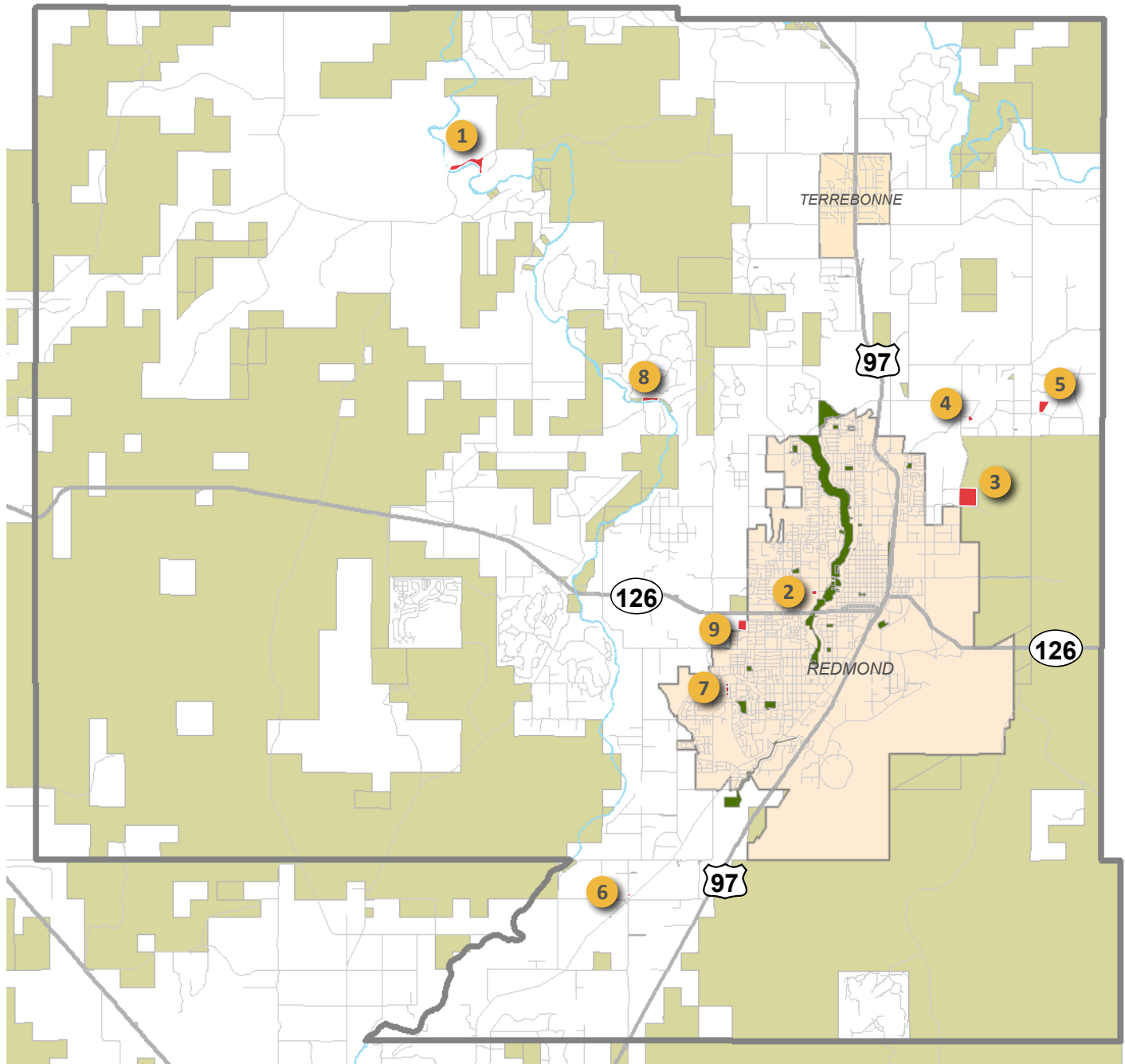
The park inventory identifies the recreational assets under the management of RAPRD. The District provides 103 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among nine parks, facilities and natural areas.

Figure 5. RAPRD Park System Inventory

SITE NAME	ACRES	ADDRESS	TAXLOT
Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve	23.22	9950 NW Lower Bridge Way	1412000001800
Cascade Swim Center	2.59	465 SW Rimrock Dr	Ptn RSD site
High Desert Sports Complex	39.79	1859 NE Maple Ave	1513000000123
NE Walnut Drive - East (near NE 40th St)	10.78	39xx NE Walnut Dr (no site address)	141336C000800
NE Walnut Drive - West	2.52	1956 NE Walnut Dr	141335C000800
Pleasant Ridge Community Hall	1.02	7067 SW Canal Blvd	161201C000099
SW 39th St (Majestic Ridge)	0.91	SW 39th St (Majestic Ridge)	151319DB00100
SW 39th St (Majestic Ridge)	1.69	SW 39th St (Majestic Ridge)	151319DB04600
SW 39th St (Majestic Ridge)	1.07	SW 39th St (Majestic Ridge)	151319DB06300
Tetherow Crossing Park	9.80	5810 NW Tetherow Rd	141236A004500
The Hub Recreation Center	10.50	3515 SW 35th St	1513180003100
Total Acres		103.89	

The following map shows the location of existing parks and open space within the District.

The following sections provide an overview of site-specific inventory information and recommendations for public parklands managed by RAPRD and other nearby recreational opportunities.



Map ID#	Site Name	Map ID#	Site Name
1	Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve	6	Pleasant Ridge Community Hall
2	Cascade Swim Center	7	SW 39th St (Majestic Ridge)
3	High Desert Sports Complex	8	Tetherow Crossing Park
4	NE Walnut Drive - West	9	The Hub Recreation Center
5	NE Walnut Drive - East		

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



#### Legend

- RAPRD Boundary
- City Limits & Uninc. Communities
- RAPRD Properties
- Other Public Lands
- City of Redmond Parks & Open Space
- Highways & State Routes
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- Rivers

Map 1: Existing Parks & Open Space



## Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve

Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve has hiking trails, picnic tables, wildlife viewing, fishing, swimming and more. This section of the Deschutes River is part of the National Wild and Scenic Waterways System.

### Design Opportunities

- As future improvements become feasible, consider installing improved access through the addition of paved pathways.
- Improvements, such as small shelter, ADA access, benches and picnic tables, could support naturalist/environmental programming if support facilities were added.

### Management Considerations

- None noted.

### Special Use Facility

23.22 acres

### Amenities

- Bike rack
- Deschutes River riverfront
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Interpretive signs
- Natural area
- Osprey nesting platform & pole
- Parking
- Picnic table
- Portable toilet
- Signage
- Trash receptacle





## Special Use Facility

2.59 acres

### Amenities

- Basketball court
- Benches
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Drinking fountain
- Fencing
- Flagpole
- Lighting (in parking lot)
- Multi-use trail (along street frontage)
- Open grass area
- Parking
- Picnic tables
- Sand volleyball courts
- Shade trees
- Swim Center
- Trash receptacles



## Cascade Swim Center

The Cascade Swim Center is the only public pool in Redmond and opened in 1979. The site is leased from the Redmond School District, and the Center includes a 25-meter indoor pool, diving boards, seasonal canopied outdoor wading pool, 8-10 person spa, ADA showers, family dressing rooms, and locker rooms.

### Design Opportunities

- The Swim Center and its recreational programming may be discontinued when the new Hub Aquatic and Recreation Center is completed. If the Swim Center becomes fully funded by District voters, several upgrades should be considered for its grounds. Converting the basketball courts to pickleball courts, adding a playground, small shelter and other park amenities could create a neighborhood park for nearby residents.

### Management Considerations

- The picnic tables, volleyball courts and the basketball courts are not on ADA-accessible routes. If future improvement are warranted (based on funding), consider paved pathway connections to these elements.



## High Desert Sports Complex

The High Desert Sports Complex includes three softball fields, one multi-purpose field, playground equipment, the Smith Rock BMX Race Track, and the Field of Dreams R.C. landing strip.

RAPRD provides a trailhead at the Complex for access into the county-owned Radlands. The trail system offers 8-10 miles of biking/hiking trails and about nine miles of equestrian trails. The trailhead provides a kiosk with a trail map, dog waste bag dispenser, trash can and portable toilet. The trail system is maintained in partnership with the Central Oregon Trail Alliance.

### Design Opportunities

- Consider how to reduce barriers to universal access by adding paved pathways to spectator areas.

### Management Considerations

- Fencing along the sports fields appears to have been damaged by mower activity. Once repaired, a mowing strip (without grass) could help prevent future damage.
- Renovate and upgrade sport fields. Consider synthetic turf.
- Pave and stripe parking lot.

### Special Use Facility

39.79 acres

### Amenities

- AMA Fields of Dreams R/C airstrip
- Basketball half-court
- Bleachers
- Concession/restroom building
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- Fencing
- Maintenance sheds
- Parking
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Remote-control course
- Shade trees
- Smith Rock BMX race course
- Sports fields
- Park identification sign
- Trash receptacles





## Special Use Facility

9.8 acres

### Amenities

- Deschutes Paddle Trail
- Deschutes River waterfront
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Historic house
- Interpretive signs
- Natural areas
- Park identification sign
- Parking (gravel)
- Picnic tables
- Portable toilet
- Shed
- Trash & recycling receptacles



## Tetherow Crossing Park

The District is working on long term plans for the development of Tetherow Park, which include restoration of the house.

### Design Opportunities

- Prepare site master plan to guide future site improvements.
- As future improvements become feasible, consideration should be given to where improved access could be provided through the addition of paved pathways. Some improvements could support naturalist/environmental programming if support facilities (small shelter, ADA access, benches & picnic tables) were added.
- Renovate the Tetherow House as a public facility. The restoration of the historic house could support some future environmental programming or perhaps caretaker housing.

### Management Considerations

- None noted.



## Special Use Facility

10.5 acres

## Amenities

- Under construction

# The Hub Aquatic & Recreation Center

Currently under construction, the new recreation center will include both a competitive pool and leisure pool, locker rooms, gymnasium, exercise facilities, group fitness rooms, special event spaces, offices and other administrative/support spaces.

## Design Opportunities

- Construct Phase 2 improvements which may include sport courts, sport fields, playground and splash pad.

## Management Considerations

- None noted.

## Neighborhood Park

10.78 acres

### Amenities

- Undeveloped



## Neighborhood Park

2.52 acres

### Amenities

- Undeveloped



## NE Walnut Drive – East

This is a small, undeveloped site near a residential area along NE Walnut Drive in unincorporated Deschutes County.

### Design Opportunities

- Conduct a site master plan process to determine the best future use for this site.

### Management Considerations

- None noted.

## NE Walnut Drive – West

This is a small, undeveloped site near a residential area along NE Walnut Drive in unincorporated Deschutes County.

### Design Opportunities

- Conduct a site master plan process to determine the best future use for this site.

### Management Considerations

- None noted.



## Pleasant Ridge Community Hall

The Pleasant Ridge Community Hall property was donated to the Redmond community in 1921. The hall is available for community activities and is available as a rental facility.

### Design Opportunities

- Delineating parking spaces with painted lines could ensure more efficient use of parking area to accommodate vehicles, if more capacity is needed.

### Management Considerations

- None noted.

## Majestic Summit Park

This open space consists of three parcels along SW 39th Street and under a powerline corridor.

### Design Opportunities

- Conduct a site master plan process to determine the best future use for this site.

### Management Considerations

- These sites, defined by their perimeter sidewalks and roads, are beneath overhead utility lines that restrict potential future development and use of the three parcels.

## Special Use Facility

1.02 acres

### Amenities

- Community building
- Paved parking area



## Trails / Linear Parks

3.67 acres

### Amenities

- Undeveloped



## Other Recreation Providers

### Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages extensive public lands in the American West with to mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. These use may involve rangeland management, resource harvesting and outdoor recreation. BLM's Prineville District is the largest District in Oregon with 1.65 million acres scattered over 13 million acres. The boundary generally follows county boundaries and stretches from the Columbia River in the north to the edge of the Great Basin in the south, and includes the Cascade crest in the west and the Blue Mountains in the east. It is roughly 180 miles across, both north-south and east-west. All of the Redmond Area Park and Recreation District is within the boundaries of the BLM Prineville District. Specific outdoor recreation opportunities on BLM land near or within RAPRD boundaries are described below.

- Maston Trail System is located on the east side of the Cascade Mountains with over 4,000 acres for mountain bikers and horseback riders and hikers west of Redmond within the RAPRD boundaries. Lava rock-lined routes can lead to breathtaking views of the Deschutes River. The Maston Area (through the Maston or Juniper Trailheads) allow for exploring the geology and landscape of Central Oregon through almost 50 miles of trail.
- Middle Deschutes Wild and Scenic River provides numerous sites for access to the River in addition to the Steelhead Falls Trail with its cliffs and visual displays of local geology. The trail to the Falls also allows for access to the River for picnicking, fishing or exploring.
- Cascade View Trail System is located on the northwest slopes of Cline Buttes. The trails originating from Cascade View Trailhead offer looping options or horseback riders may enjoy and out-and-back option to Barr Road. This non-motorized trail system includes 5.6 miles of horse and pedestrian trail and a separate 3.9 miles of single-track mountain bike trail also open to hiking. The area is a part of the larger Cline Buttes Recreation Area.
- Clines Buttes/Buckhorn Motorized Recreation Use Area, this OHV trail system covers more than 8,000 acres on the south side of State Route 126 and another 5,200 acres on the north side of the Mackenzie Highway. Numerous OHV designated motorized trails are available with non-motorized trails extending into adjacent BLM lands.

- Redmond Caves Recreation Site is close to the Redmond Airport on SW Airport Way in Redmond. This small public land contains five caves formed by the volcanic flows of molten lava from the Newberry Caldera. The caves are preserved in their natural state and can be explored with flashlights to observe the geology and past human use. No toilets or other amenities are available on the site.

### U.S. Forest Service

Ochoco National Forest & Crooked River National Grassland, north and northeast of Redmond, these two National Forest Service lands encompass a variety of different landscapes. Three wilderness areas within Ochoco are Mill Creek Wilderness, Black Canyon Wilderness and Bridge Creek Wilderness. Extensive trail options and sno-parks offer access to unique environments. The Big Summit Wild Horse Territory is a 25,434-acre Congressionally-designated land for wild horses. The Crooked River National Grassland contains the Island National Natural landmark, the Rimrock Springs Wildlife Area (a wetland oasis favored by birds), Gray Butte with trails that tie-in to Smith Rock State Park and BLM land and Haystack Reservoir that supports year-round fishing and campgrounds.

The Deschutes National Forest covers nearly 1.6 million acres with a wide range of year-round recreation opportunities. Part of the Deschutes National Forest, the Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington, Mount Jefferson, Mount Theilsen and Three Sisters Wilderness areas provide trail access to iconic mountain peaks, high alpine meadows and lakes, and old growth forests. Newberry National Volcanic Monument is within the boundaries of Deschutes National Forest. Managed by the U.S. Forest Service, this monument provides a unique opportunity to view the Lava Lands of central Oregon. Scenic Byways and Wild Scenic Rivers pass through the National Forest recognizing the special characteristics of these public lands.

### Oregon State Parks

Smith Rock State Park offers stunning views of rock outcroppings and the winding river with numerous hiking and mountain biking trails and rock climbing routes. Camping is open from early spring to late fall with restrooms and showers provided. The day uses include fishing, trail use and picnicking. The sheer rocky cliffs are renowned for hosting cliff-nesting birds such as prairie and peregrine falcons as well as swifts.

Peter Skene Ogden State Scenic Viewpoint at the Ogden wayside overlooks basalt cliffs and the river canyon. The scenic viewpoint provides picnicking and restroom facilities.

The Cove Palisades State Park encompasses both the Deschutes and Crooked Rivers as a year-round destination with camping, hiking trails, boating and swimming. Facilities includes restrooms, showers, playground and a seasonal marina. The marina (open from April – October) rents boat moorages, boats and water toys, including water skis, tubes, life jackets and ropes. Houseboat rentals offer a luxurious overnight stay right on the water. The marina also includes a café and store that sells fuel and ice.

Cline Falls State Scenic Viewpoint a quiet day use area along the Deschutes River with picnicking, restrooms and access for fishing along the banks of the River.

Tumalo State Park lies along 2.4 miles of the Deschutes River providing for paddling, fishing and swimming. The park offers camping options, restrooms and showers, a playground, picnicking and access to the Deschutes River Trail. The Deschutes River Trail connects to the Riley Ranch Nature Reserve, provided by the Bend Park and Recreation District.

## Deschutes County

Deschutes County does not have a parks department, but owns multiple properties designated as park lands. These lands were designated to protect resources such as water, wildlife or rivers. The only public parks the County maintains are a section of the County Fairgrounds and the Worrell Wayside in downtown Bend. Immediately east of Redmond and adjacent to the High Desert Sports Complex, the Radlands is owned by the County and includes over eight miles of trails that are popular with mountain bikers and equestrians.

## Bend Park and Recreation District

The Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD) maintains and operates more than 3,626 acres of developed and undeveloped parkland including 84 developed parks and natural areas and over 88 miles of trail. The District also offers over 1,000 recreation programs for all ages and abilities throughout the

area and at the Juniper Swim and Fitness Center, The Pavilion, The Bend Senior Center and the Larkspur Community Center.

Riley Ranch Nature Reserve, a day-use nature preserve northwest of Bend managed by BPRD, encompasses 184 acres with dramatic views of the Cascades Mountain Range and the Deschutes River canyon. Several miles of hiking trails wind above the canyon with connectivity to Tumalo State Park.

## City of Redmond

The City of Redmond maintains public parks, trails and open space, including 26 developed parks and 3.8 miles of Dry Canyon Trail. The city park system supports year-round recreation including walking and biking paths, playgrounds, a skate park, disc golf course, off-leash dog park.

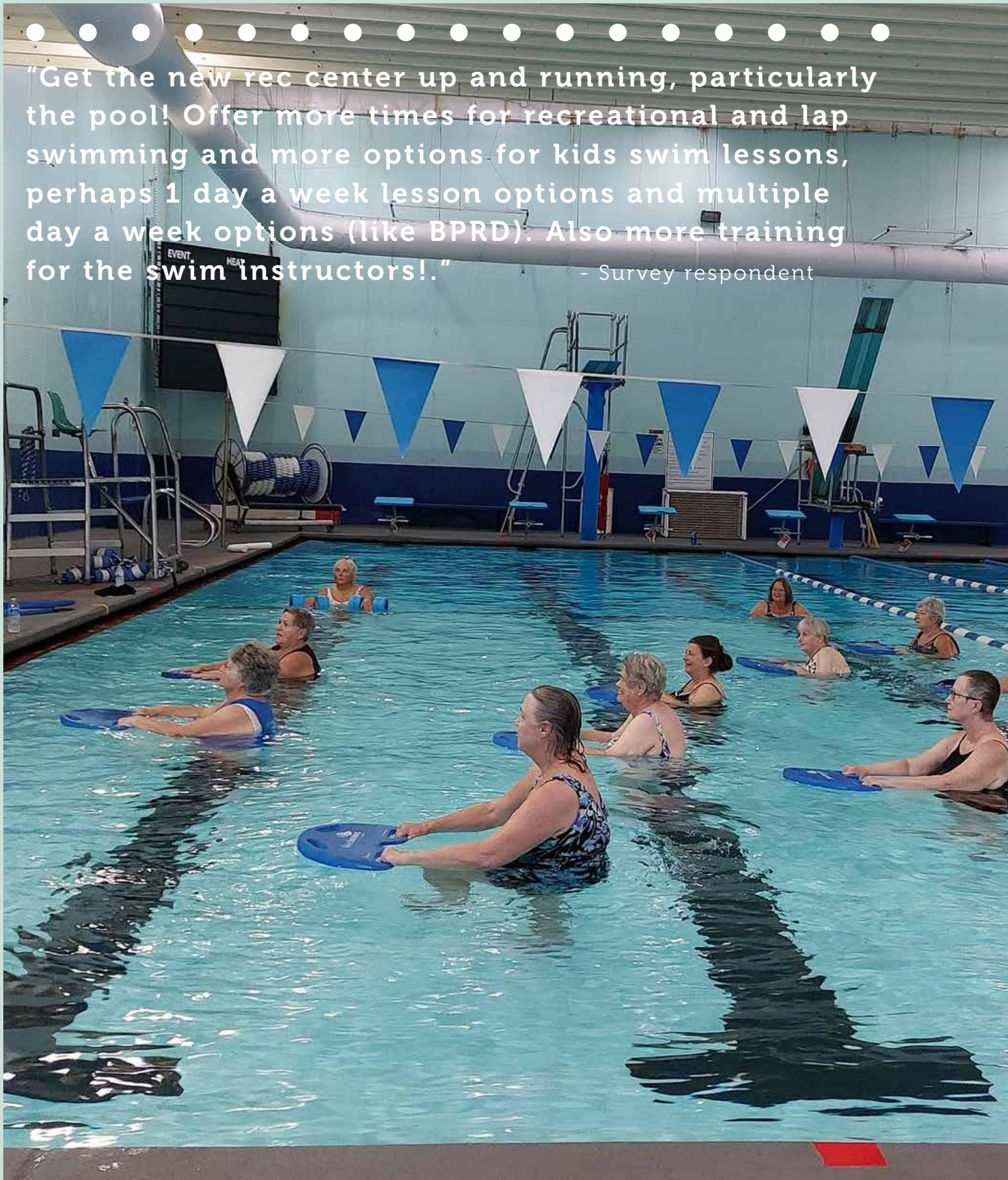
## Redmond School District

The Redmond School District supports some degree of community use of its facilities for education, recreation and services activities. Fees are assessed for community use, and priority for facility use is given to school programs. The District athletic fields are available at two high schools, two middle schools, two community schools and four elementary schools.



“Get the new rec center up and running, particularly the pool! Offer more times for recreational and lap swimming and more options for kids swim lessons, perhaps 1 day a week lesson options and multiple day a week options (like BPRD). Also more training for the swim instructors!.”

- Survey respondent





## Chapter 4

# RECREATION PROGRAMS & FACILITIES



The recreation facilities, offerings and available through RAPRD are a major community asset and support the physical, mental, and social health of community members.

Various recreation options are available through a range of public and private recreation, health and fitness providers and facilities. RAPRD currently provides programming through a mix of District-run programs and through partnerships and program contractors. At the present, RAPRD is preparing for expanded recreation services and the opening of a new recreation center in Redmond.

## Recreation Trends

The following national and state data highlights some of the current trends in recreation and may frame future considerations in RAPRD's recreation offerings, activities and partnerships. Additional trend data are provided in Appendix D.

- Nearly all (93%) park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. The top five most commonly offered programs include holiday or other special events (65%), educational programs (59%), group exercise (59%), fitness programs (58%), and day or summer camps (57%).<sup>(1)</sup>
- More than eight in ten agencies provide themed special events (90% of agencies), team sports (87%), social recreation events (88%), youth summer camps (83%), fitness enhancement classes (82%), and health and wellness education (80%).<sup>(2)</sup>
- America's children are spending more time outdoors over the past

decade, and the COVID pandemic accelerated that trend. Overall, the percentage of children participating in outdoor recreation was high in 2021, at just over 70%. <sup>(3)</sup>

- Over the past two years, participation rates are up across the board for America's youth, with strong growth in participation by girls (4.9% higher for girls ages 6 to 12, and 5.3% higher for girls 13 to 17). <sup>(3)</sup>
- Yoga continued to have one of the largest gains in fitness activities. <sup>(4)</sup>
- Activities with the highest 5-year increase in participation include indoor climbing (13%) and pickleball (12%). <sup>(4)</sup>
- People who say their neighborhood has easy access to quality arts and cultural activities tend to be more satisfied, identify more with local lifestyle and culture, and invest more time and resources in their communities. <sup>(5)</sup>

Recreation Management magazine's 2024 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry summarizes information provided by a wide range of professionals working in the recreation, sports, and fitness industry. Regarding program options, respondents from community centers, park departments, and health clubs reported that they plan to add programs over the next few years. The ten most commonly planned program additions in 2024 were:

1. Environmental education programs (26.4%, up from 22.2% in 2023)
2. Educational programs (24.1%, down slightly from 24.8%)
3. Holiday events and other special events (23.8%, up from 18.1%)
4. Fitness programs (22.5%, up from 20.3%)
5. Mind-body balance programs (22.2%, down from 23.3%)
6. Adult sports teams (22.2%, up from 19.9%)
7. Teen programming (22.2%, down from 23.3%)
8. Programs for active older adults (22.2%, up from 19%)
9. Group exercise programs (20.6%, down from 22%)
10. Special needs programs (19.6%, up from 18.8%)

According to the 2024 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation, just over half (57%) of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2023. The number of outdoor participants has grown as new and more casual participants began hiking, biking, camping, running and fishing.



#### Sources

- (1) 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- (2) 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- (3) 2022 Outdoor Participation Report
- (4) 2022 Sport & Fitness Industry Association Sports, Fitness, And Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report
- (5) Knight Foundation Community Ties survey Community-Ties-Final-pg.pdf (knightfoundation.org). Builds off Soul of Community Longitudinal Study (2008-2010) conducted by the Knight Foundation found key drivers of community attachment to be social offerings, openness, and aesthetics. <https://knightfoundation.org/sotc/overall-findings/>

## Programming Trends

Recreation departments now often serve as a coordinating agency and a clearinghouse for multiple recreation organizations and providers, in an effort to bring a comprehensive scope of recreation programs to a community. This has also increased the number of partnerships that are in place to deliver a broader base of programs in a more cost-effective manner. There is a greater emphasis on a fee-for-service concept, especially for more specialized programming, and these services are supported by a formal fee policy.

Programming continues to emphasize the needs of youth and seniors, but also focuses more on adults and the whole family unit. Specific programming development trends include:

- Developing programs that are single day or no more than four sessions in length.
- Developing programs for youth during non-school days, plus holiday, spring break, and other extended breaks.
- Offering a variety of summer camps with different areas of interest.
- More Saturday programs and the introduction of some Sunday programming (especially in adult sports leagues).
- Senior programming that occurs in the evening or on the weekends to appeal to seniors who are still in the work force.
- Introducing programs that are oriented toward specific ethnic groups.
- Developing a baseline of programs that appeal to the family unit.
- Staggering the days and times of similar programs that are offered at multiple locations.
- Expanded senior programming to include a greater focus on the Baby Boomer generation, which often means programs and services that are available in the evenings and on weekends and those that have a more active orientation.



**Youth after school programs would be amazing especially in the out of town areas where there are no affordable options for kids to participate in any activities.”**

- Survey respondent

According to the National Sporting Goods Association, the top ten activities based on participation are highlighted in the following chart.

Figure 6. Top Recreation Activities by Overall Participation (millions)



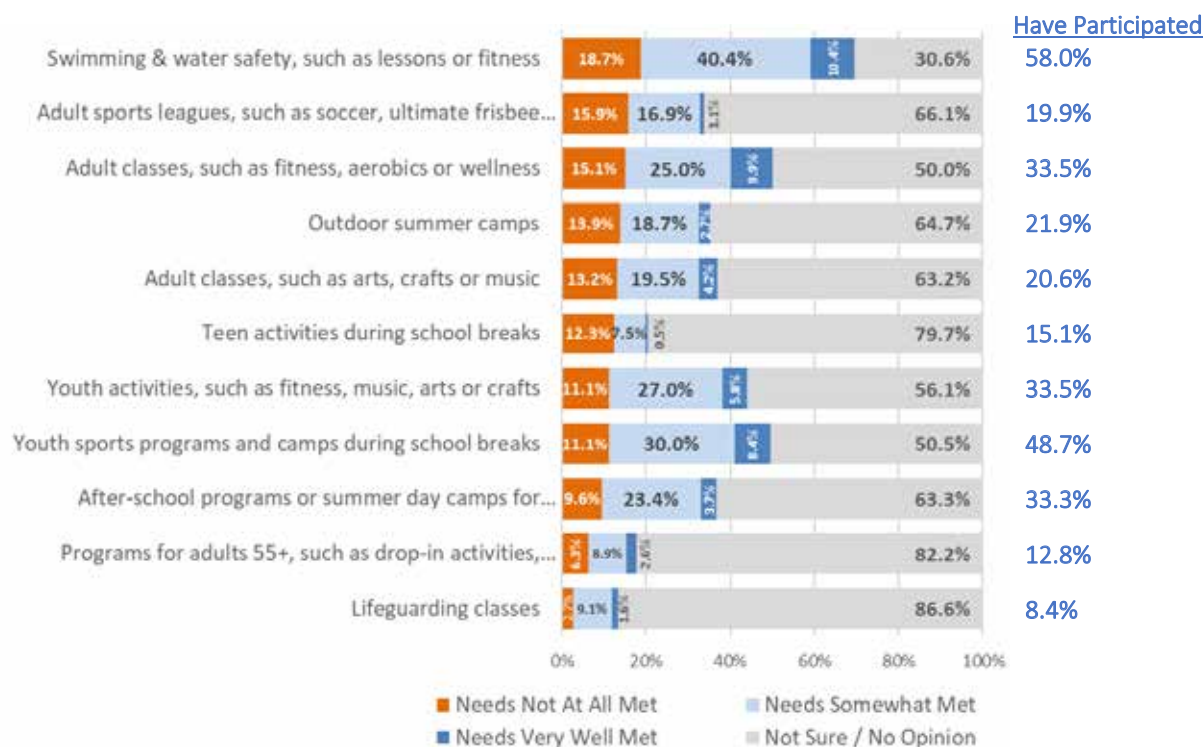
## Community Feedback

The community survey provided insights into local program interests, preferences and priorities. Survey respondents were asked which recreation programs members of their household had participated in within the past two years. Swimming and water safety programs were the only program type where more than half of respondents' households (58%) participated in the recent past. Nearly half of households (49%) participated in youth sport programs. Approximately one-third of households participated in each of three other program areas: youth activities (34%), adult classes (34%), and after school programs (33%).

Using the same list, survey respondents were asked the degree to which their households' needs for each program offering were met. Overall, program needs across most programs types were somewhat or well met. In total numbers, respondents expressed the greatest need for swimming programs (19%), adult sports (16%), and adult classes. However, in comparing the responses of need not being met against need being somewhat or very well met, the relative need for teen activities during school breaks is the strongest of all program options, followed closely for adult sports. These two program types may represent strong options for expansion with RAPRD as a direct provider or via partnership with other providers.



Figure 7. Interest &amp; Sentiment of Need for Various Program Options



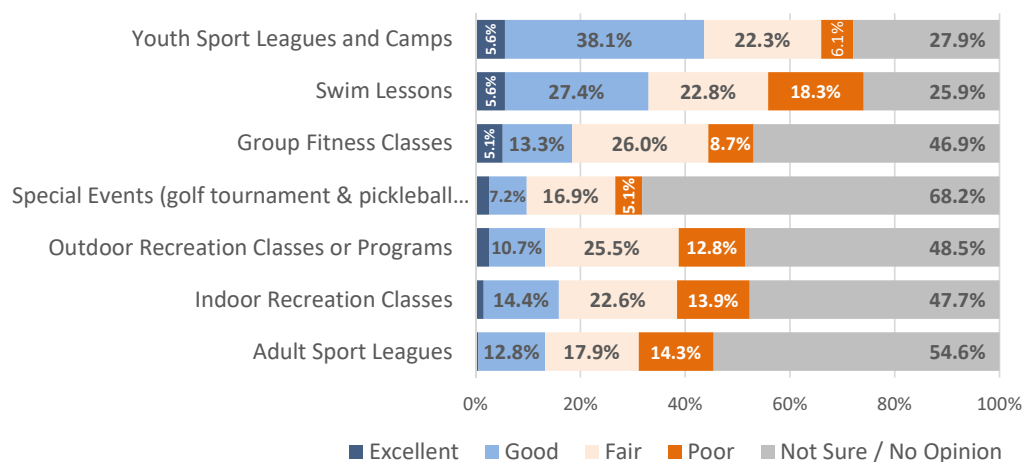
When it comes to recreational programs and activities, a plurality of respondents (44%) rated the availability of youth sport leagues and camps as either excellent or good. While one-third (33%) said the availability of swim lessons was either excellent or good, respondents more strongly rated the availability of this program area as either fair or poor by more than eight percentage points (41%). For each of the remaining five program types, respondents indicated the availability of programs as either fair or poor by at least a two-to-one margin over those who feel the availability is excellent or good.



**Add more family swim times and open swim programs geared toward young families”**

- Survey respondent

Figure 8. Sentiment of Availability of Various Program Options





The survey asked residents about their interest for a variety of potential recreation or educational experiences to expand or improve. Majorities of respondents indicated interest in special events (53%) and youth sport offerings (50%). Roughly one-third of respondents identified interest for several other program options, including swim lessons (38%), teen programs (38%), adult fitness (37%), arts (34%), adult sports (33%), and enrichment activities (31%). Write-in responses included beach or sand volleyball, adaptive or inclusive recreation, youth after school programs, dance and fitness programs.

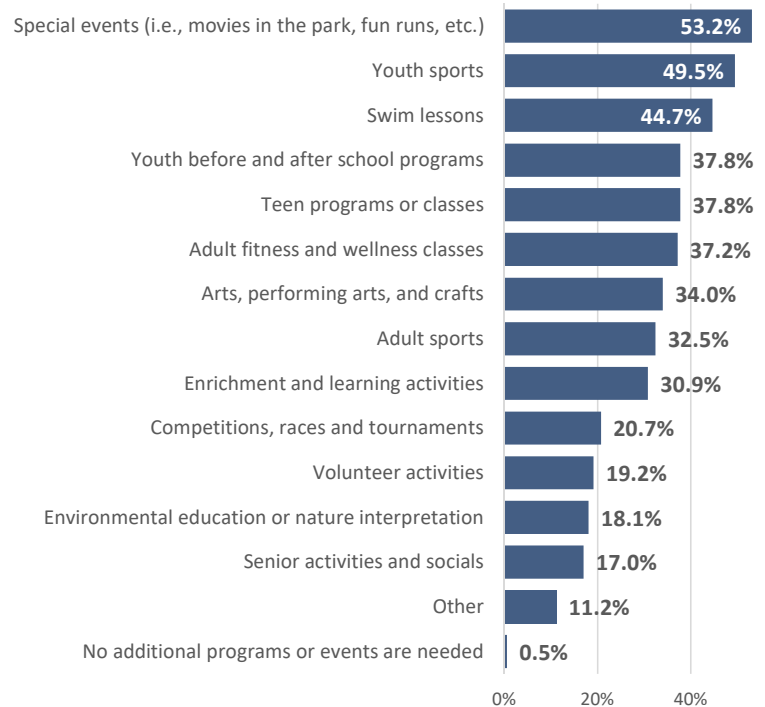
Respondents without children indicated stronger interest for special events and adult fitness and wellness classes. Those with children and those between 35 and 54 years of age showed stronger interest for youth and teen programs and swim lessons. Respondents over 65 years of age showed stronger interest for adult fitness and wellness classes and senior activities and socials.

Respondents were also asked why they do not participate in recreation, arts or sports programs offered by RAPRD. The most frequent responses are as follows:

- Not aware of program offerings (24%)
- Not having programs or activities of interest (20%)
- Programs held at inconvenient times (19%)
- Need for childcare to participate (17%)
- Not having time or being busy (16%)
- Classes being full (16%)

When it comes to recreation program costs, respondents expressed strong sentiments that RAPRD's programs are inexpensive or reasonably priced. Fewer than one-in-six respondents (15%) said youth programs and activities were expensive, and less than half as many respondents said programs were expensive for swim lessons (7%), adult or general interest classes (4%) or adult sport leagues (4%).

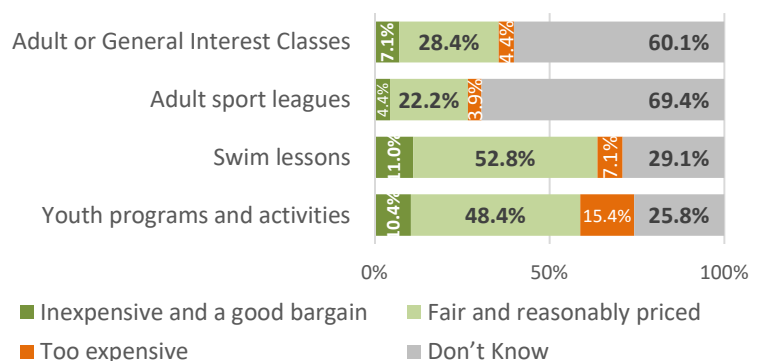
Figure 9. Recreation or Educational Experiences to Expand or Improve



# 86%

rate the affordability of RAPRD programs as either inexpensive or reasonably priced (overall)

Figure 10. Sentiment of Program Affordability

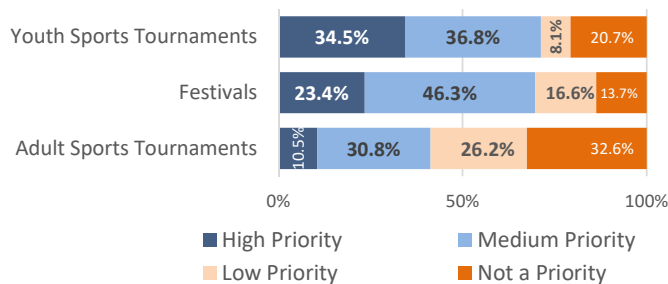


Nearly half of respondents (47%) indicated it is very important for RAPRD to focus on under-served populations, and three-quarters (74%) said it was either very or somewhat important for the District. The survey included an open-ended question that asked if there any geographic areas in the greater Redmond area (northeast Deschutes County) where RAPRD should consider increasing programming, activities and/or facilities. In all, 38 responses were provided (see appendix for full list) and can be summarized as the following:

- Maintain existing facilities before growing into other areas, fix irrigation and add lighting at sport fields.
- Provide more amenities, such as walking and biking trails, volleyball, picnic shelters.
- Provide options for Terrebonne, which is underserved with limited clubs and no affordable after school activities for kids.
- Provide more parks and playgrounds, especially in southwest and north Redmond.

As with recreation programs, the survey asked a question regarding community event priorities. A majority of respondents identified youth sport tournaments (71%) and festivals (70%) as either high or medium priorities, with over one-third of respondents stating that youth sport tournaments should be a high priority,

Figure 11. Priority Event Types



## Recreation Facilities

RAPRD provides access to recreation programs and activities in its parks, City of Redmond parks, and in several buildings. The day-to-day management, ongoing maintenance, and long-term reinvestment in City facilities are crucial to the success of RAPRD's recreation programs. Additionally, efficient scheduling and use of the facilities ensures that cost recovery, inclusion, program vitality and other goals are met.

### Cascade Swim Center

The Cascade Swim Center offers fitness, recreational and learn-to-swim programs for individuals of all ages. Facility amenities include a 25-meter indoor pool, diving boards, seasonal canopied outdoor wading pool, 8-10 person spa, ADA showers, family dressing rooms, and locker rooms. The Center offers lifeguard certification classes, swim lessons and runs an entry-level and competitive swim team. Swim team participation includes coaching on proper swim strokes and options to compete in swim meets. RAPRD also is part of the Silver & Fit, SilverSneakers and Renew Active membership programs for fitness classes, lap swim and water walking. The Center is also available for pool party rentals.

### Pleasant Ridge Community Hall

Located south of the City of Redmond at 7067 SW Canal Boulevard, the Pleasant Ridge Community Hall is available for community activities and is used for fitness classes. The Hall also is available as a community event and rental facility.

### The Hub Aquatic and Recreation Center

The new, 56,000 square foot recreation center sits on 10 acres at SW 35th Street and Lava Avenue in Redmond and will include both a competitive pool and leisure pool, locker rooms, gymnasium, exercise facilities, group fitness rooms, special event spaces, offices and other administrative/support spaces. The construction of the center is funded by a \$49 million bond approved by local voters in November 2022. The major elements of the first phase of construction for the center include the following:

- 8 lane, 25-meter competition pool & locker rooms
- Leisure pool with hot tub
- Water slide
- 1-meter diving boards
- Gymnasium with 1 high school sized court and 2 middle school sized cross courts
- On-grade running/walking track
- Fitness room with cardio, circuit, and weights
- Group fitness classrooms
- Multi-purpose and party rooms
- Teaching Kitchen
- Conference room

A future phase may include a variety of outdoor recreation elements, such as a multi-sport athletic field, pickleball courts, splash pad and playground.



#### FUTURE OUTDOOR AMENITIES

- 1 Shared Use Path & Path Lighting
- 2 Multi-sport Field
- 3 Shade Trellis
- 4 Outdoor Courtyard & Seating
- 5 Sun Deck & Screening
- 6 Restrooms
- 7 Playground with Splash Pad
- 8 Exercise Equipment
- 9 Pickleball Courts & Fence/Windscreen
- 10 Beginners Bike Skills Mini Course/Trails
- 11 Parking Lot North (40 Stalls)
- 12 Parking Lot South (200 Stalls)
- 13 Approximately 800 Meter Outer Loop Path Distance.



Renderings of Future Recreation Center (Credit: BARKER RINKER SEACAT ARCHITECTURE)



## Recreation Programs

RAPRD offers a wide range of programming available to the community. These programs, activities, and events take place at several locations across the District including the Cascade Swim Center, athletic fields, local schools, and specialized providers. Almost all programs have fees that vary by program, program intensity, and the market. The registration process can be completed in person, online, and phone-in with the District utilizing MyRec to process recreation classes.

### Program Participation

The following chart summarizes participation in recreation activities over the past two full years offered by RAPRD.

Figure 12. Overall Program Participation (2023-2024)

Program Area / Metric	2023	2024
<b>Program Highlights</b>		
Programs Offered	931	897
Programs Cancelled	151	149
Programs Full	360	293
<b>Seasonal Participation</b>		
Winter/Spring (Jan-April)	29.5%	29.0%
Summer (May-August)	39.4%	42.9%
Fall (September-December)	31.1%	28.1%
<b>Other Program Metrics</b>		
Total Participants (annual)	5,953	6,103
Percent City Residents	86.1%	85.2%
Total Registrants on Waitlist	1,372	863
Number of Classes with Waitlist	271	212
Percent of Classes with Waitlists	29.1%	23.6%

The District maintains an annual catalog of approximately 900 programs and classes with 6,000 annual participants. Approximately one-quarter of classes are full – many of which retain waiting lists. These in-demand programs consistently include programming around cooking, outdoor activities and nature camps, sports camps and clinics, swim lessons, and youth sports. Program registration is consistent between seasons with an uptick in registrations during the summer months.



### Program Delivery

RAPRD currently uses multiple models to deliver programs to the community. The primary models can be described as follows:

- **Staff Produced.** These programs are offered by the District and are managed by staff, both full-time and part-time, and can take place on a seasonal or annual basis.
  - **Benefits:** The District has maximum control over the program, its content, and the instructors. They can also maximize revenue generation.
  - **Challenges:** The District is responsible for managing and maintaining the staff.
- **Third Party.** These programs are run by a third-party contractor. These instructors are paid on a contract basis and there is typically a revenue split between the contractor and the District.
  - **Benefits:** Using contract instructors/programmers allows the District to pivot as trends shift. It also means that the District does not have to hire additional part-time staff.
  - **Challenges:** The biggest challenge is managing the contract as to how the program is run and is a reflection on the District.
- **Co-Sponsor.** These programs are run by an outside group that is utilizing facility space from the District.
  - **Benefits:** The District is only maintaining the space, there is minimal staff time required, and it is transactional in nature.
  - **Challenges:** The programs taking place can be associated with the District which can cause challenges if not done properly.

It is important to note that the program delivery model does not impact whether a program is a core service.



## Program Area Categories

The categories below represent the major areas of focus often provided by full-service parks and recreation agencies. It is unusual for an agency to directly offer programs in all of these areas, but there are usually either agreements with other providers for some of these activities or a referral to them.

Program Area Definitions (generalized):

- Sports – Team and individual sports including camps, clinics, and tournaments. Also includes adventure/non-traditional sports.
- Fitness – Group fitness classes, personal training, education, and nutrition.
- Cultural Arts – Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, literary arts, music/video production and arts events.
- Aquatics – Swim lessons, aqua exercise classes, swim team, and other programs.
- Education – Language programs, tutoring, science (STEM) classes, computer, and financial planning. Also included is CPR/AED/First Aid.
- Specialty / General Interest – Personal development classes and activities.
- Adaptive / Special Needs – Inclusive and adaptive programs for the physically and mentally impaired.
- Special Events – City wide special events that are conducted throughout the year.
- Outdoor Education – Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, fishing, and other activities.
- Individual / Self-Directed – This includes the opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own. This can include activities such as drop-ins, open gym, use of weight/cardio space, and lap/recreational swimming. Although not an organized program, time and space must be allocated for this purpose.
- Senior / Human Services – This can include senior nutrition and meal programs, social service support, job training, life skills training, childcare, and other activities such as health screenings.

Figure 13 identifies current RAPRD recreation programs classified by the major areas of focus. Program lists are based on a review of program offerings between 2023 and 2025.

Figure 13. Existing RAPRD Programs by Classification

Area	Primary Focus	Programs
Sports	Youth	Soccer, Basketball, Golf Clinic, Tennis Clinic, Various Sport-specific Camps, Tumbling, Muay Thai, Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, Bouldering
	Teen+	Adult Softball League, Dodgeball League, Men's City League Basketball, Premier Pickleball Lessons, Smith Rock BMX Skills Clinic, Bouldering
Fitness	Preschool	Kids Yoga
	Youth+	Powercut Plus, Cardio Kickboxing, Zumba, Zumba Toning, Fitness 4 Life, Silversneakers Circuit, Prenatal Yoga, PIYO, Beginner & Advanced Kendo
Arts & Culture	Youth - Teen	Marble Paint on Silk Scarf, Kids Magical Fairy Garden, Art Explorers, Holiday Ornaments Workshop, Watercolor, RPA Summer Theater Camp, Beginner Crochet, Faux Succulent Garden
Aquatics	Youth	Swim Lessons, Swim Team, Parent/child swim, Open swim
	Teen+	Swim Lessons, Lap Swim, Aquarobics / Water Fitness, Aquatic Boot Camp, Aqua Zumba, Aquatic Wellness
Education	Teen+	Child & Babysitter Safety, First Aid/CPR, Lifeguarding
Specialty / General Interest	Adult	Wildness First Aid Essentials, Scuba Diving, Photo 1 Digital SLR, Learn to Use Lightroom, Adult Golf Clinic, Horseback Riding
Adaptive / Special Needs	All ages	Adaptive Swim Lessons, plus overall adaptive/inclusive mission
Special Events	Teen+	RAPRD Golf Classic, Water Polo Jamboree
Outdoor Education	Youth - Teen	Intro to Wilderness Survival, Intermediate Wilderness Survival, Fun with Archaeology, Rock Art, Fly Fishing Camp
Self-Directed	All ages	Drop-In Basketball, Drop-in Dodgeball, Open Swim, Lap Swim
Senior / Human Services	Adult	

## Programs Available by Age Groups

Below is listed the basic program categories that are available for different age groups.

Figure 12. Segmentation of RAPRD Programs by Age Group

Program Category	Preschool	Youth	Teen	Adult
Sports	●	●	●	●
Fitness		●	●	●
Arts & Culture	●	●	●	●
Aquatics	●	●	●	●
Education		●	●	●
Specialty / General Interest		●	●	●
Adaptive / Special Needs	●	●	●	●
Special Events			●	●
Outdoor Education		●	●	
Self-Directed		●	●	●
Senior / Human Services				

- Aquatics – RAPRD is the primary provider of aquatic facilities and activities for the greater Redmond community. Aquatic programs include youth and adult swim lessons, recreation swimming, swim teams, water exercise classes, therapeutic programs, adult fitness, and reserved pool time for competitive swim teams and other community activities.
- Sports – The District also is the primary provider of youth and adult recreation sports programs in Redmond. RAPRD offers programming for a variety of traditional and non-traditional sports, both indoor and outdoor. The District also offers youth sport camps and skill development programs each year. Adult sport leagues include softball, basketball and dodgeball.
- Fitness & Wellness – RAPRD provides group exercise classes including cardio fitness, strength and conditioning, mind and body sessions and water exercise. Classes are offered for all ages and levels.
- Arts & Culture – A variety of art programs are available, with a significant focus on youth programs. These include painting, crafts, music, dance, theater, among others.
- Specialty / General Interest – A small number of programs are provided of general interest, such as scuba diving, photography, wilderness first aid, STEM, gaming/coding, cooking, among others.
- Outdoor & Nature Experiences – RAPRD offers opportunities for, primarily, youth to explore and engage with the outdoors. Youth programs include fly fishing, archaeology and wilderness survival, along with a variety of skill-based classes such as BMX and horseback riding. RAPRD had partnered with the City of Redmond and has managed the point-of-sale operations for the downtown seasonal ice skating rink. Due to significant mechanical failures of the

rink at Centennial Park, the ice rink was permanently closed at the beginning of the 2024/2025 season. Options are being explored for building a new, year-round ice rink for the community.

- Self-Directed – District parks provide opportunities for both active and passive recreation. While not fee based or staff led, RAPRD's parks provide open space to view nature, trails for walking, running or cycling, and options for volleyball and basketball, among other activities.

## Program Partners

The District relies on several third-party providers and co-sponsors for many of its recreation services. This includes long-standing partnerships with the City of Redmond and the Redmond School District for use and access to parks, fields and facilities. There are a significant number of other organizations that provide recreation opportunities across the greater Redmond area and include the following

There are youth sport organizations and significant other providers of a variety of recreation programs and services within the region, including dance studios, martial arts studios, fitness centers, and specialty facilities such as pickleball facilities and gymnastics studios. The Bend Park and Recreation District provides considerable indoor and outdoor space for a wide range of recreation programs and services.

Figure 13. Recreation Program Partners &amp; Providers

Central Christian School	Premier Pickleball
Central Lacrosse Foundation	Redmond Little League
City of Redmond	Redmond Panther Football (RSD)
Connection Rio Jiu-Jitsu	Redmond Proficiency Academy
Diane's Riding Place	Redmond Ridgeview Raven Football (RSD)
Jug Rock Gym	Redmond School District
Juniper Golf Course	Redmond Senior Center
Lux Hydro Art Workshop	Selva Studio
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife	Skyhawks

## Program Classifications

The following are the current and projected programming classifications for RAPRD. It is important to realize that while certain program areas may be a focus for growth in programs and services, the District's role in providing the actual service may be different as indicated below.

### Classification Definitions

- Core Programs are those RAPRD has primary responsibility for providing programs for the community.
- Secondary Programs are those that may or may not be provided by RAPRD, and they are a lower priority to provide for the community. These may be offered by other organizations.
- Support Programs are programs that are not a priority for RAPRD to be providing directly to the community. The District may provide information and/or promote the activities but they are administered by other organizations.

Figure 14 identifies and summarizes general classifications of programs by degree of emphasis as core programs, secondary programs and support program areas for RAPRD. This determination is also based on facility capacity and the staffing dedicated to supporting the programs.

Figure 14. Future Program Types by Focus Area

Core Programs	Secondary Programs	Support Programs
Adult Sports	Adaptive / Special Needs	Senior / Human Services
Aquatics	Education	Special Events
Arts & Culture	General Interest	
Fitness	Outdoor Education	
Youth Sports	Self-Directed	

Although the majority of the program areas currently are covered, additional recreation programs have been requested of the District. With limited staffing and available program space, the focus areas for



**More Programs for kids! Activities, camps, classes, (Archery, Gardening, Music Classes Tennis, Golf, Swim Lessons at different times (warmer pool!))"**

- Survey respondent



**Enrichment, nature, volunteer and art/craft activities for teens, age 12-16-ish. Programs that encourage them to collaborate, experience different cultures and be part of the community. After school/evenings and during holiday/summer breaks."**

- Survey respondent

programming have been aquatics, sports, arts, and enrichment classes, with the majority of those programs provided by staff or co-sponsors.

With the new recreation center, the District should consider how to expand certain programs to meet the community need. Survey respondents indicated an interest in more options for volleyball, pickleball and basketball – all of which can be programmed in the gymnasium of the new center. Some respondents suggested the need for adult sports and activities with more accessible scheduling, additional youth/children summer and school holiday camps, expanded fitness programming, and expanded scheduling to accommodate earlier/later participation.

Also, the District should explore additional aquatics programming focusing on water rescue (i.e., in partnership with fire departments or other first responders) and kayak/roll clinics. Other specialized recreation programs for youth, teens and adults could include wilderness activities, cooking, art and painting classes, plus additional adult group activities and excursions such as hiking, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and bouldering.

While the District currently offers programs and activities for Outdoor Recreation and Teens, additional resources should be allocated to these program areas. Outdoor Recreation was identified in the survey as one of the programs with the greatest need, and some potential program options could include orienteering, archery, stargazing, and outdoor photography. To expand these programs, additional equipment and staffing will be required. The relative need for teen activities during school breaks was the strongest of all program options from the survey, followed closely for adult sports, and the lack of providers and programs within this area

leads to the recommendation for the District to also increase its emphasis in this area. The intent of teen programs should be to reduce idleness and prepare them for the future. Traditional programs such as sports, art and dance appeal to a large portion of teens; additional programming opportunities should be provided on leadership and skill development. This may require additional staffing for outreach and meeting teens where they are, such as schools. Figure 15 summarizes the proposed shift in recreation program areas of emphasis.

Also as the population continues to age, program mix should continue to be regularly assessed to ensure both active and inactive adults at 55+ have program opportunities. As these demographics change, the relative importance of each program area may evolve as well.

## Special Events

Opportunities to connect are clearly important to residents in the Redmond area. Survey responses showed strong interest for additional community events. While popular, the District is not a primary provider of special events and hosts only a few events: the RAPRD Golf Classic and the Water Polo Jamboree. The City of Redmond, Chamber of Commerce and other organizations have led in this capacity, and the District should continue to support events as a partner and promoter. Also, when the new the community center is completed, it can provide another venue to support events, cultural gatherings and other community celebrations.

Figure 15. Proposed Program Area Emphasis by Type

Core Programs	Secondary Programs	Support Programs
Adult Sports	Adaptive / Special Needs	Senior / Human Services
Aquatics	Education	Special Events
Arts & Culture	General Interest	
Fitness *		
Outdoor Education *		
Self-Directed *		
Youth Sports		

\* indicates expanded role or programming



**Adult sports and activities for those who aren't yet retired (i.e. more accessible scheduling)."**

- Survey respondent



# Programming Considerations

The District's current programming philosophy is to serve as the primary provider of aquatics and general recreation programming for the greater Redmond community and utilize other organizations' assets (e.g., fields, courts, parks, gymnasiums) to support program delivery. The District has taken a strong role in coordinating with the City of Redmond, Redmond School District and other recreation providers to advance local recreation offerings. Going forward, the District will need to determine the areas of focus for future recreation programming efforts based on the level of financial and resource commitment that it wants to make to recreation programs and services.

## Programming Philosophy

The District should review and refresh its overall basic programming philosophy to guide programming decisions, especially as the new recreation center becomes operational and the District has participant data from the new facility to drive a refinement of programming objectives and targets. This should be a simple, straight forward document that includes the following objectives:

- Serve as the primary provider of most recreation programs and services that are available in the community (informed by Core program areas), but coordinate these efforts to ensure there are opportunities for additional recreation services for all age groups and abilities.
- Maintain, expand and develop partnerships with other providers to bring a full spectrum of recreation programs and services to the community.
- For recreation programs and services that occur at RAPRD facilities, develop an approach that relies on:
  - RAPRD staffed programs in key program areas.
  - Contract provided programs where revenues are shared.
  - Rental of space to other providers for their programs, as appropriate.
- Ensure that recreation program and service opportunities (regardless of who provides them) are available to all ages, incomes, abilities, gender, and ethnic groups in an equitable and inclusive manner.
- Ensure that recreation program and service opportunities are available in areas of interest that are identified as a need in the community.
- Continue to explore options to provide recreation opportunities geographically across the district boundaries.

This should be a simple one-to-two-page document that clearly articulates the programming philosophy.

## Program Trends & Metrics

RAPRD should track program trends on a regional and national basis to ensure that program offerings are current and reflect the opportunities that are available. There are no existing program metrics that detail the number of people being served by in-house programs or ones offered by contract providers. Basic performance measures will need to be enhanced in order to track recreation programming effectiveness. This includes the following for both District programs, as well as those that are contracted:

- Rates of fill for programs and activities (capacity vs. actual numbers).
- Participation numbers and comparisons to past years/seasons.
- Rate of program cancellations.
- Financial performance including cost per participant.
- Evaluations from participants.

## Overall Program & Life Cycle Planning

To assist with future program planning, staff periodically should request and review participant data from providers to stay abreast of class and program utilization and consider the available program mix. Also, staff should periodically review data from the following sources to determine community needs for programs and services:

- Historical registration trends/success of current programs and services
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Suggestions provided by current or prospective instructors and current employees

Additional, expanded or new program options may be limited today by indoor and outdoor facility capacity, staffing, and available instructors. However, with the planned construction of the new recreation center, the District will be poised to expand recreation program offerings. Doing so will require advance program planning to determine the range of potential programs, scheduling, and the needs for full-time and temporary staff for programming and facility operations. As part of the Recreation Center Feasibility Report, RAPRD created an

operations proforma, which identified preliminary staffing and operations needs for the new center. Also, comments from public outreach indicate a latent demand for additional program options for teen activities, adult sports, and aquatics programs (lap swim, aerobics class, etc.). Considerations about existing and planned programs should gauge performance and priority offerings based on a mix of criteria that include:

- Community interest or deficiencies
- Potential for increased participation
- Fill rates for programs (registrants compared to program capacity)
- Rate of program cancellations
- Availability of qualified and knowledgeable staff or contractors to provide consistency and reliability for program delivery
- Financial performance of individual programs (operating expenses vs. revenues)
- Program life cycle assessment to balance the suite of new, mature, and declining programs
- Revenue potential, affordability, and accessibility
- Cost of service policy metrics

With these criteria, staff should evaluate programs on an annual basis to determine the overall program mix. If participation levels are still growing, then continue to provide the program. When participation growth is slow to no growth, or competition increases from other providers, staff should look at modifying the program to re-energize their customers to participate. When program participation is consistently declining, staff should terminate the program and replace it with a new program based on the public's priority ranking, in activity areas that are trending, while taking into consideration the anticipated percentage of local participation, facility or staff demands and pricing potential.

Based on the programming philosophy, an updated program plan should define the general direction of recreation programming for the next five+ years. This also should be a simple document that includes the following elements to determine which programs will be primarily offered by District staff:

- Priorities for general programming based on community input (primarily the survey) should include:
  - Aquatics
  - Youth sports
  - Teen activities
  - Adult Sports
  - Outdoor Recreation

- Regarding participation in sports or athletic activities, priorities include:
  - Basketball
  - Volleyball
  - Softball
  - Pickleball
  - Swimming
  - Soccer
  - Self-directed activities
  - Walking, hiking and jogging
- For leisure or cultural activities, priorities include:
  - Art, dance, music and cultural classes
  - Creative classes and workshops
  - Enrichment and learning activities
  - Supporting special events
- Define the roles of RAPRD, such that the District does not need to be the actual source of all these activities, but working with other providers through partnerships or referrals will be important to providing a broad range of recreation program opportunities to the community.
- Ensure that recreation programs are available for specific demographic groups including:
  - Youth – Programs that serve a variety of interest areas beyond sports, including arts, enrichment, after-school and summer camps.
  - Teens – Activities designed specifically for teens that are both organized and drop-in in nature.
  - Adaptive/Inclusion – Provide programs to meet the needs of specific groups of participants with disabilities, as well as ensuring programs provide opportunity to allow full participation with adaptations and support if necessary.
  - Intergenerational/Multigenerational – Offering programs and services that have an appeal to multiple generations or across generations.
  - Ethnic/Culturally Based – There should be an effort to consider programs and services that are appropriate for the cultural orientation of the Redmond area.
  - Working with the Redmond Senior Center, determine the future role of RAPRD in providing older adult programming or support services that are complementary to their organization.
  - For other organizations and recreation providers in the area, clearly identify areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation.



**Have people opt in for texts about the programs or facilities they want.”**

- Survey respondent

## Fee Policy

Updating a comprehensive fee policy to guide fee setting for recreation programs and services will be essential. This should define the philosophy behind fee setting (higher rate of cost recovery and/or maintaining existing levels of recovery), the need to have different levels of cost recovery, the criteria for determining specific fees, and how fees are evaluated. This effort could be completed by staff or through a contracted consultant.

Part of the consideration in the development of the Fee Policy is the ability to pay for parks and recreation services. Redmond has a lower median household income (\$72,798) than Deschutes County and the State of Oregon (\$82,042 and \$76,732, respectively). Income level is important when it comes to price point for programs and services, and subsequently the cost recovery level of a facility. Although the community survey indicated that the District's program fees were generally affordable, RAPRD should be mindful of lower than average income levels when pricing out program offerings, while taking into account lower income residents who fall outside the averages.



## Marketing & Communications

Marketing efforts for the District should elevate and expand promotions for programs, activities and facilities to drive engagement to increase participation, reach new demographics, and increase revenue. The primary method is through the seasonal program guide, social media, and the website. Maintaining a strong programming emphasis requires a marketing plan to support these efforts. This should be a brief, but pointed, plan that emphasizes marketing priorities, the mechanisms, and tools for marketing, as well as who is responsible for each of the marketing tasks.

Feedback from the community survey suggested some limited awareness of the recreation options and amenities available to Redmond area residents. RAPRD should continue to take a strong role in coordinating and promoting recreation services to improve awareness and inclusion for residents. The District's website, Facebook, Instagram and direct mail were noted as the four main ways survey respondents would prefer to learn about RAPRD's parks, programs and activities. Stronger marketing efforts will be needed to inform and promote the recreation programs that are available and should continue to focus on the following areas:

- Website enhancement to better promote programs and services in addition to the periodic program guide, including searchable program offerings and services offered by other providers;
- Social media (including emerging platforms such as Bluesky), email, flyers, and signage promotions of program registration options;
- Continued cross marketing and/or promotional opportunities with partner organizations, such as the City of Redmond, school district and others; and
- Using appropriate communication channels to effectively market to various demographic segments.

“

Promote. I'd say the biggest thing is I don't know things are happening. I live in Redmond but don't work in Redmond or have kids. I'd love to join an adult sports league but a lot of time I miss registration or I don't have enough people for a team and don't get communication on being a "free agent" so I end up going to Bend."

- Survey respondent



## Chapter 5

# OUTDOOR RECREATION & PARKS

## ASSESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

The park system planning process assesses recreational needs and priorities for park facilities, active use areas, natural areas and trails within the District. The park assessment includes a discussion of specific local needs with consideration given to RAPRD's park and open space system. Public input and information on park inventory conditions also were heavily relied upon in the planning process.

## Park & Outdoor Recreation Trends

### National Trends

A review of several recognized park and recreation resources provide a background on national and state trends, market demands, and agency comparisons. These outdoor recreation trends, combined with community interests in parks, trails and open space and an assessment of current conditions, help identify and shape recommendations for park system improvements. Examining current outdoor recreation trends can help inform potential park and facility improvements and opportunities that may enhance the community and create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future.

The following national and state data highlights some of the current park usage trends and may frame future considerations for RAPRD's park system. Additional trend data and summaries are provided in Appendix D.

- 90% of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation is an important service provided by their local governments. <sup>(1)</sup>
- 84% of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live. <sup>(1)</sup>









- Running, jogging, and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation, followed by hiking, fishing, biking, and camping. <sup>(2)</sup>
- A significantly higher percentage of seniors (ages 55+) are participating in outdoor recreation. In 2022, the senior participation rate hit a record high of 35% and is rising. <sup>(2)</sup>
- Participation nearly doubled for pickleball in 2022, increasing by 86% year-over-year. In 2022 for the first time in over seven years, every racquet sport increased its total participation number compared to the previous year. <sup>(3)</sup>
- Wildlife viewing and paddle sport participation increased statewide by 28% since 2017. <sup>(4)</sup>
- Nationally, outdoor recreation economic activity increased 19% from 2020 to 2022, while the overall U.S. economy only saw a 5.9% increase. <sup>(5)</sup>

According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, participation nearly doubled for pickleball in 2022, increasing by 85% year-over-year. In 2022 for the first time in over seven years, every racquet sport increased its total participation number compared to the previous year. In terms of team sports, the overall participation rate approached, but did not exceed, the 2019 rate. Basketball, outdoor soccer, and flag football all posted three-year increases of over 4.5%, with basketball leading the way with a 13% increase since 2019. Lifestyle activities generally remained very popular. Golf and tennis have grown more than 20% since 2019, and yoga grew more than 10% in that same time period. Trail running and day hiking participation grew for the fifth straight year.

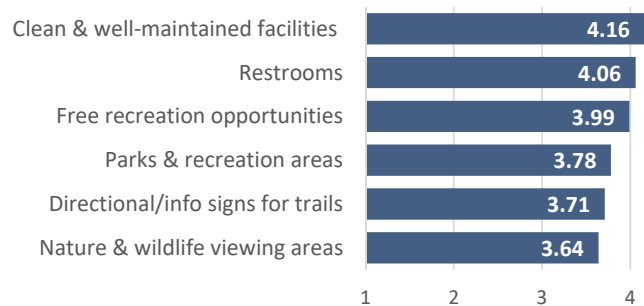
#### Sources

- (1) 2022 American Engagement with Parks Report, National Recreation and Park Association
- (2) 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report, Outdoor Foundation
- (3) 2023 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report, Sports and Fitness Industry Association
- (4) 2022 Assessment of Resident Demand, Washington State 2023 Recreation & Conservation Plan (draft)
- (5) 2022 Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account data, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

## State Recreation Trends

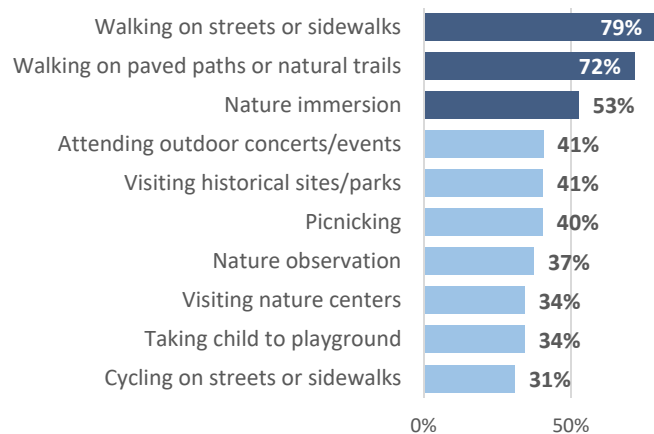
The 2025-2029 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), entitled “Balance and Engagement: Sustaining the Benefits for all Oregonians”, constitutes Oregon’s basic five-year plan for outdoor recreation. As part of developing the SCORP, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) conducted a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their 2022 outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about park and recreation management. The resident survey measured the top ten outdoor recreation activities for Oregon residents that occur within their community. Walking rated the most participation whether on local streets and sidewalks or along paved paths or natural trails.

Figure 16. Top 10 Activities for Oregon Residents



Further survey questions explored where residents felt future investments were needed in their community outdoor recreation areas. Their highest two priorities covered clean and well-maintained facilities and provision of restrooms.

Figure 17. Priorities for Future Investments



In addition to the resident survey, land managers and public recreation providers in Oregon were also surveyed regarding their needs, challenges and priorities for recreation management in their jurisdiction. The most challenging management



issues for local outdoor recreation providers (within urban growth boundaries) were identified.

- Reducing illegal activities
- Creating new park and recreation facilities
- Maintaining existing local parks and facilities
- Addressing ADA and other accessibility issues
- Providing safe walking and biking routes to parks and trails

The results illustrate that providers face large challenges when increasing opportunities and access to outdoor recreation through resident-supported actions like creating new park and recreation facilities and providing safe walking and biking routes to parks and trails. These larger challenges require more significant investments and longer term planning.

Research also included the total net economic value for recreation participation in Oregon from their participation in 76 outdoor recreation activities in 2022 for a total of 1.27 billion user occasions. The total net economic value for a recreation activity is the value per activity day times the number of activity days. Filtering the top ten contributors for outdoor recreation activities and their associated economic value reveals walking and enjoying nature as the top generators followed by bicycling, running/jogging, field sports, and playground and dog park users.

## Local Interests & Feedback

Beyond the broader perspectives of national and state recreation trends, local needs were explored through a community survey, an open house meeting, and prior feedback from the City of Redmond Parks Master Plan process for information on priorities, interests, and future needs for RAPRD's park and recreation system.

### Community Survey

The community survey confirmed that RAPRD residents strongly value their local parks, recreation options and open space opportunities. Virtually all respondents (98%) feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in the Redmond area. Seventy-seven percent of respondents overall feel that

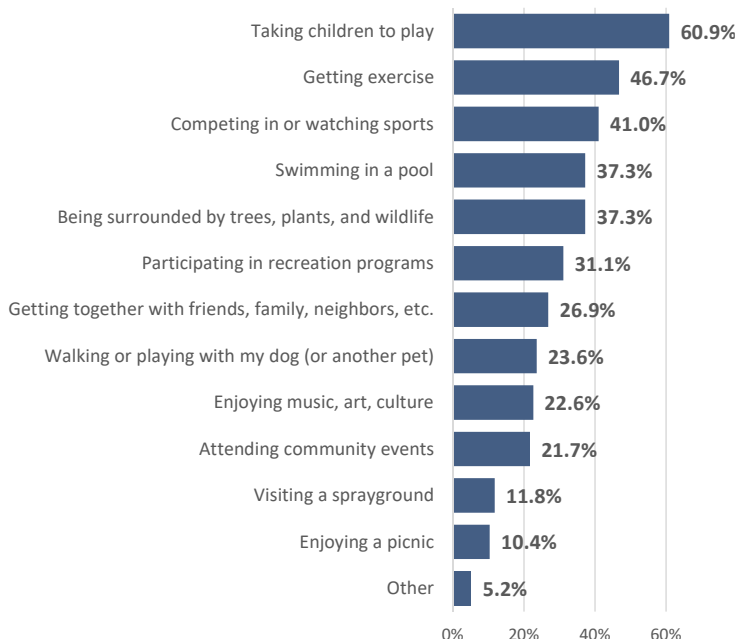
they are essential; while an additional 21% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential.

### Key Findings:

- The majority of residents (71%) indicated they visit RAPRD parks and facilities at least once a month, and 36% visit at least weekly. Survey respondents under age 55 and those with two or more children indicated more frequent visitation to RAPRD facilities with at least multiple month visits.
- Survey respondents have mixed opinions about the condition of RAPRD facilities. Less than a majority (40%) rate the condition of the High Desert Sports Complex as either excellent or good, and only 13% of respondents give the same ratings to the Cascade Swim Center.
- Respondents listing a Redmond to Deschutes River corridor as the top priority (58%) in a grouping of four potential trail corridors.

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reason is to take children to play (61%). Between one-third and half of respondents visit parks for exercise (47%), sports (41%), swimming (37%) or being in a natural setting (37%). Nine write-in responses were noted for those who selected 'other' as an option, and seven of the nine responses were for sand or beach volleyball. Survey respondents without children in the household identified getting exercise and enjoying art, music or culture as more compelling reasons to visit parks. Respondents over 55 years of age also visited to enjoy art, music or culture more than other age groups.

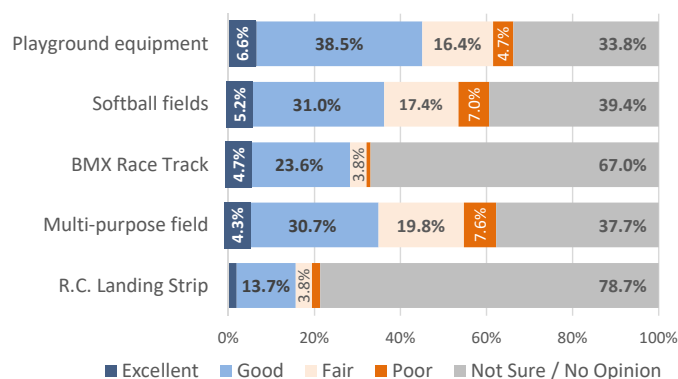
Figure 18. Reasons for Visiting RAPRD Park & Recreation Facilities



Survey respondents have mixed opinions about the condition of RAPRD facilities. A slight plurality (40%) rate the condition of the High Desert Sports Complex as either excellent or good, and only 13% of respondents give the same ratings to the Cascade Swim Center. Nearly three-quarters of respondents (72%) noted the Cascade Swim Center as in either fair or poor condition. Large majorities of respondents had no opinion for the conditions of the Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve, Tetherow Crossing and the Pleasant Ridge Community Hall; however, majorities of respondents noted the condition of the Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve and Tetherow Crossing as excellent or good for those who indicated ratings.

Respondents also were asked to rate the condition of the primary amenities at the High Desert Sports Complex. Acknowledging that approximately one-third of respondents do not know or have no opinion about the Sports Complex, those that are familiar with the park generally view the amenities in good condition. For respondents who indicated a rating other than not sure or no opinion, majorities of respondents rated the conditions of park amenities as either excellent or good. By more than a two-to-one margin, respondents rated the condition of the following as either excellent or good compared to fair or poor: playground equipment (45%), BMX track (28%) and R.C. landing strip (16%). Respondent ratings were more even for the conditions of softball fields and multi-purpose field between those who feel the fields are excellent and good or those who feel the fields are fair and poor

Figure 19. Adequacy of Existing Amenities



The survey asked residents a question regarding their sense of importance for a variety of amenities and facilities for future investment in the park system. A significant majority of respondents (61%) identified expanding or improving indoor facilities as important. Strong interest also was noted for improving sport fields and courts (46%), repairing worn amenities (43%), and offering or promoting more classes (40%), see Figure 18.

Approximately one-third of respondents identified as important building more trails (35%), hosting community events (32%), and adding a greater variety of features to parks (31%). Only one-quarter of respondents noted that adding new parks was important for RAPRD.

Figure 20. Importance of Future Investment Options

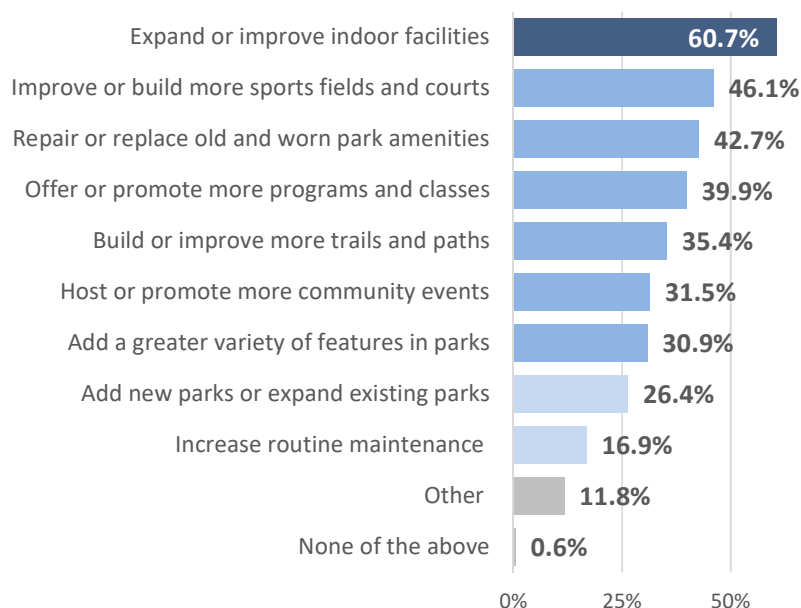
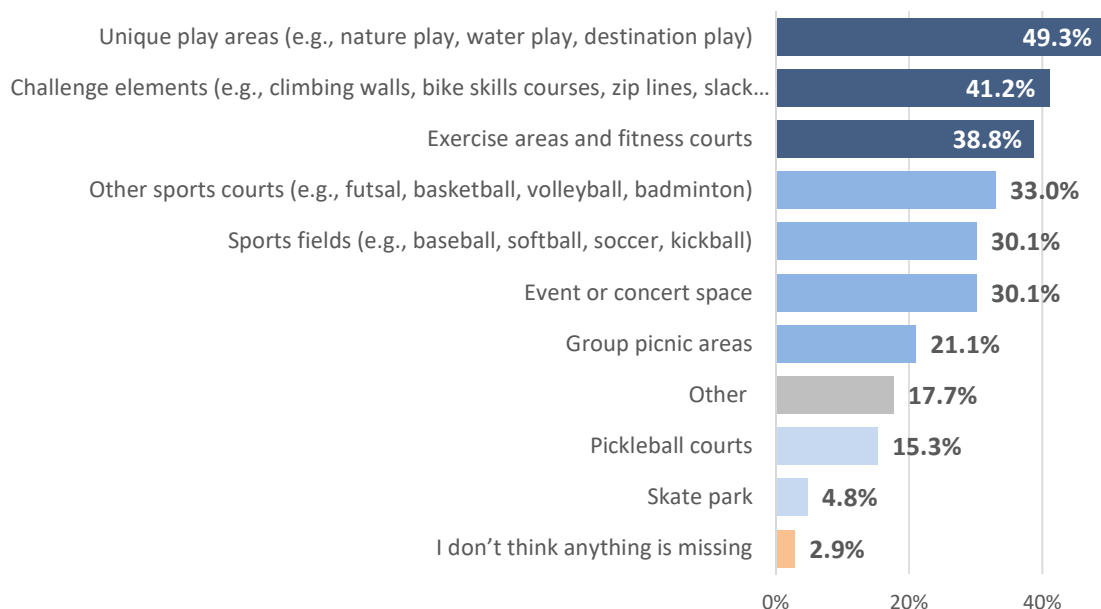


Figure 21. Importance of Future Investment Options



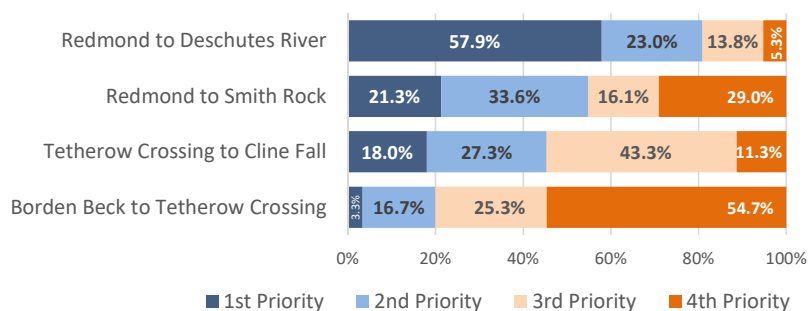
A different question asked respondents to select the types facilities they would like to see more of in RAPRD parks. For this question, rather than using ranking or a scale for selection, respondents were allowed to select up to three options, and the focus was geared toward outdoor recreation elements suitable for parks. Nearly a majority of respondents identified interest in seeing more unique play areas in RAPRD parks. Also, fitness and active recreation elements were identified with strong interest by roughly 30% and 40% of responses. This includes climbing elements (41%), exercise areas (39%), sport courts (33%), sport fields (30%), and event space (30%). Other specialized amenities rated less favorably, such as pickleball (15%) and a skate park (5%). Write-in responses for 'other' included sand and beach volleyball, bocce, trails, water play (splash pad), and nature play.

A series of three questions asked respondents to identify and rank their interest in various trail opportunities and connections that could be considered in the future. When asked about the potential to explore providing a trail corridor along the Deschutes River, a majority of respondents were very interested (59%), and a strong majority (87%) were either very or somewhat interested.

A second question asked respondents to consider specific corridors for non-motorized trails. While majorities of respondents identified each of the four listed corridors as either very or somewhat important, a trail corridor connecting Redmond to the Deschutes River had the strongest support, with 78% of respondents identifying this corridor as either very or somewhat important.

In an effort to identify potential priorities for the four trail corridors from the previous question, respondents were asked to use the same list of four corridors and rank their preferred priority for each. Respondents overwhelmingly reiterated the priority of a Redmond to Deschutes River corridor, with a majority (58%) listing it as the top priority. A connection between Redmond and Smith Rock ranked second, and a connection from Tetherow Crossing to Cline Falls ranked third.

Figure 22. Priority of Certain Trail Corridor Development Options



## Trends in Playgrounds

Redmond area residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities and park playgrounds are an important element in outdoor recreation. Reported in Landscape Architect magazine, the top five playground industry trends for 2021 were compiled from data and feedback from parks professionals, landscape architects, and educators.

1. **Inclusive Playgrounds**, increasingly popular over the last few years, have been evolving beyond meeting basic ADA guidelines. Designers are seeking to expand accessible playground equipment, consider multi-generational play, and leverage inclusive play to help overcome societal barriers.
2. **Rope-based Playgrounds**, climbers and playground nets provide a technique for working around natural environments and unusual topography. Their flexibility in placement offers more options for connecting with the landscape rather than working around difficult topography.
3. **Outdoor Fitness** has increased importance during the COVID-19 pandemic as many gyms and indoor fitness centers closed and forced more people to seek outdoor options. Outdoor fitness spaces are being increasingly integrated into park and trail designs to encourage health and physical fitness for all ages.
4. **Outdoor Learning** has been implemented during the pandemic to replace or supplement indoor classrooms. Outdoor classrooms can encourage activity in children to counteract the reduction in recess time due to hybrid class schedules and remote learning. Seating, tables, shelters, hand sanitizer stations and other outdoor products are helping create outdoor classrooms.
5. **Human-powered Play** engages users to provide physical energy to “power-up” the activity, such as turning a handle, pressing foot pedals, rotating wheels. These products often relate to sensory experiences like lights and music, story-telling, or social games.

Spurred on by the social distancing of the pandemic, these five trends in playground design and development point to more human-to-human interactions that reinforce the value of social connections, even in a physically distanced environment.





Respondents were asked to describe one thing that they would like to see RAPRD do to improve parks, facilities, and/or recreation programs. While respondents provided nearly 120 specific comments and ideas, a few themes emerged:

- The highest frequency comments related to opening the new facility, making improvements at the High Desert Sports Complex (e.g., additional parking, field improvements), trails, communication, volleyball courts, and ongoing maintenance.
- Respondents expressed interest in seeing the new recreation center completed and capacity for additional programming.
- Respondents would like to see continued investment in maintenance and staffing of existing facilities, with some comments stressing the need to focus on taking care of what you already have before expanding into new program areas.
- Several respondents offered interest in focusing on youth and teen activities and amenities, expanded adult sports and options for 'free agent' coordination, and programs for those with special needs.

## Open House

During the May 2025 open house, participants commented on potential projects and shared ideas by writing on sticky notes and using dots to identify priority amenities and improvements. The following represent the highlights from the open house related to parks, trails and outdoor recreation.

### *Investment amenities of interest (dot exercise):*

- 9 - Outdoor splash pad/water spray park
- 7 - Trails to/along the Deschutes River
- 5 - Sport complex upgrades
- 3 - Sand/beach volleyball
- 3 - Dog park with amenities (path, shelter, etc.)
- 3 - Exercise stations
- 2 - Pickleball courts
- 1 - Additional sport courts

### *Other Comments:*

- Consider a dog agility course and dog-friendly trails
- Provide better communication regarding who manages which property
- Collaborate with the City, Deschutes County, State Parks, etc. on future efforts

## Recent City of Redmond Engagement

In 2024, the City of Redmond initiated an update to its Parks Master Plan, which included substantial community engagement and outreach. Highlights from that process can add additional light to the broader recreational needs for the Redmond community and are noted below.

### *Survey*

- Respondents identified acquiring large pieces of land for larger community parks and expanding trail opportunities as top priorities.
- More than three quarters of respondents placed a high or top priority on seeing more hiking trails in natural open spaces and walking trails in parks.
- Respondents identified a need for safer, more interconnected walking and biking routes, including paved and unpaved trails, for walking, running, hiking, cycling, and mountain biking.
- Respondents emphasized a desire for more inclusive and varied recreational options for all age groups. There is a strong demand for activities geared towards teenagers, suggesting facilities such as a skate park, climbing wall, and courts for various sports to provide safe and active hangout spaces.
- Comments also highlight the need for shaded areas and shelters to make parks more comfortable for gatherings and events in all weather conditions.

### *Other Outreach*

The City of Redmond hosted two open house meetings, three focus group discussions, and in-person tabling events to gather community feedback and identify suggestions for park system enhancements. The following highlights the suggestions that were offered:

- Acquire more land for active use park needs (i.e., sports fields & courts, spray pads, etc.) and more natural areas.
- Developing new parks, such as the Pershall property, additional neighborhood parks, and more dog parks.
- Conduct more restoration to natural spaces, and utilize volunteers for additional planting and stewardship efforts.
- Increase connectivity between parks and to Dry Canyon, especially for improved east/west connections and more, better and accessible access into Dry Canyon.
- Improve education and information about bike etiquette, and aim to reduce concerns about e-bike conflicts with other trail users.
- Add and improve amenities, such as adding benches, shade, and restrooms.

## Park Conditions Assessment

The overall condition of park infrastructure and amenities is one measure of park adequacy and assurance of public safety. Proper stewardship of park infrastructure requires developing a long-term maintenance and capital plan to ensure the safety of park users that aligns with community needs and allocates limited funding resources properly. General park infrastructure include walkways, parking lots, restrooms, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems and vegetation. Amenities include picnic shelters, play equipment, site furnishings, sports courts, sports fields and other recreational assets. Deferred maintenance over a long time period can result in unusable amenities when perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines also provide a measure of acceptable condition.

The current conditions of the RAPRD park system were assessed to identify existing site maintenance issues and opportunities for future capital improvements. In late August 2024, the consulting landscape architect conducted site visits to all the park, open space and facilities owned and/or managed by the District. These site visits provided visual observations of current conditions throughout the park system. The park assessment includes a discussion of specific local needs with consideration given to existing District park infrastructure. Assessments are documented for each individual park facility, features and amenities are rated based on visible condition (good, fair or poor) and a matrix of all sites with their ratings is created to help visualize system-wide considerations.

The assessment included walkways, parking lots, park furniture, vegetation, and other amenities. The following conditions assessment matrix (Figure 23) summarizes the results of these assessments. These inform developing project prioritization strategies for park improvements, identifying funding strategies, and updating the ten-year Park Capital Improvement Plan. Park amenity conditions were also averaged across park elements to indicate which types of elements are in greater need for significant upgrades, renovations or overall improvements.

The matrix on the following page indicates the types of amenities within each park facility, and park infrastructure and amenities are rated based on the following scale:

-  **1 – Good Condition:** Generally, amenities in ‘good’ condition offer full functionality and do not need repairs. Good facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). Good facilities may have minor cosmetic defects and encourage area residents to use the park.
-  **2 – Fair:** In general, amenities in ‘fair’ condition are mainly functional, but need minor or moderate repairs. Fair facilities have play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or periods where they are unusable. Fair facilities remain essential amenities for the community but may slightly discourage the use of the park by residents given the current condition.
-  **3 – Poor:** In general, amenities in ‘poor’ condition are largely or completely unusable. They need significant repairs to be functional. Some examples include athletic fields that are too uneven for ball games, irreparably broken features, buildings that need structural retrofitting, etc. Poor facilities discourage residents from using the park and may present safety issues if left open or operational.

Good conditions should be the goal for the management and stewardship of park facilities. Where infrastructure or amenities are rated as ‘fair,’ strategies should be developed for repair or restoration. Park features, structures, amenities, or landscapes rated as ‘poor’ should receive immediate attention and be prioritized for near-term maintenance, capital repairs, or a new capital project. Facilities in poor condition should also be evaluated and taken out of operation if they are deemed unsafe.

Figure 23. Park Site Conditions Assessment Matrix

Site Name	Acres	Park Site Average	Recreation Amenities								Site Amenities				Park Structures				Vegetation				ADA	
			Aquatic Facility	Playgrounds	Sports Courts	Baseball / Softball Fields	Pathways / Trails	Waterfront	BMX Track	Other Rec Amenity	Site Furnishings	Lighting (Y/N)	Signage	Parking Areas	Restrooms	Picnic Shelters	Kiosks	Shore Launch	Concession Building	Natural Turfgrass	Park Trees	Landscaped Beds	Natural Areas	ADA Compliance
PARKS & FACILITIES																								
Cascade Swim Center	2.59	1.5	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	Y	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	
High Desert Sports Complex	39.79	1.6	-	1	2	2	2	-	1	1	2	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	2
Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve	23.22	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	N	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	
Pleasant Ridge Community Hall	1.02	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
The Hub Recreation Center	10.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tetherow Crossing Park	9.80	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	N	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
NE Walnut Drive - East	2.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
NE Walnut Drive - West	10.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SW 39th St (3 lots -Majestic Ridge)	3.67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Average:		1.7	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	-	1.2	1.8	1.7	1.0	-	-	2.0	1.0	2.0	-	1.0	2.4

## Park Conditions Summary

Beyond the individual park facilities, the following summaries offer highlights from park conditions observations as well as some suggestions for improvement and upgrade considerations. More detailed notes are provided within each park summary noted in the previous chapter.

### Infrastructure

#### Park Structures

The park conditions assessment does not include architectural or engineering evaluations of existing park buildings. However, general observations may include signs of aging, barriers to access, and appearance. As part of an overall asset management program, park buildings (restrooms, concessions and picnic shelters) could be tracked by age and repairs, in addition to regular inspections and monitoring to help plan for eventual replacement in capital improvement planning.

#### Parking

Parking areas provide valuable first impressions for park visitors. A well-defined parking area can offer clear access and communicate the distinction between travel lanes and parking stalls. The gravel parking areas associated with the High Desert Sports Complex have a crushed stone surface with delineation provided by old telephone poles. Paving and delineating parking spaces with painted lines could ensure more efficient use of parking area to accommodate vehicles.

Parking areas for the two natural areas, Tetherow Crossing and Borden Beck, could remain as crushed rock surfacing to allow some permeability. The addition of wheel stops, spaced as parking stalls, could direct drivers to 'spaces' for aligning their parked vehicles.

#### Pathways, Trails & Pavement

In many outdoor park situations, paved pathways provide universal access to recreation amenities to ensure ADA compliance and all-weather walking surfaces. Older park facilities often lack connections

between sports courts, sports fields, playgrounds and other amenities. As improvements are planned for the High Desert Sports Complex, as well as the Tetherow Crossing and Borden Beck Natural Areas, consideration should be given to where improved access should be provided through the addition of paved pathways. Also, the High Desert Sports Complex serves as a trailhead for access into the county-owned Radlands, which offers 8-10 miles of biking/hiking trails and about 9 miles of equestrian trails. The trailhead provides a kiosk with a trail map, dog waste bag dispenser, trash can and portable toilet.

## Amenities

### Site Furnishings

Benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike racks, and trash and recycling receptacles are common site furnishings provided in public parks. In RAPRD's park system, these site furnishings are limited and somewhat diverse. Furnishings were not always ADA-compliant or on accessible routes.

For future park improvements and prior to implementing new master plans for undeveloped parks, it would be beneficial to have a standard design, style and color for benches, picnic tables, etc. Future park improvements could standardized to create unity and simplify future replacements and additions.

Benches that provide universal access should be located on accessible routes, provide backs and armrests and offer an extra space to the side of the bench as a 'companion seating' space. Picnic tables on accessible routes should have seating spaces that allow room for a wheelchair to pull forward comfortably to join their group at the table. Drinking fountains should be provided on accessible routes with easy-to-reach buttons and spouts. Trash receptacles and dog waste bag dispensers should be along accessible routes within easy reach of an individual in a wheelchair or using a cane or walker. Across the park system, the degree of accessibility varies, especially where tables and benches are out in grass lawn areas and not on accessible routes. The general recommendation for provision of site furnishings is to provide at least 50% of benches, tables, etc. that are fully ADA-compliant.

### Play Equipment

The play equipment at the High Desert Sports Complex was installed several years ago, and some parts are showing signs of wear. The need for playground replacements should be based on existing conditions, as well as predicted by charting past installation dates and planning for complete replacements when the assets have reached their expected lifespan. Regular monitoring by certified playground equipment inspectors should help to indicate if and when specific play equipment should be scheduled for replacement.

Access to playground areas was not completely barrier-free. Several play areas contained timbers or edging that created ADA barriers from park pathway pavement to the lower safety surfacing of the playground. The drop-off edges varied, exceeding the maximum 1/2-inch tolerance.

### Play Safety Surfacing

Some areas of the playground at High Desert Sports Complex appeared to have compromised wood fiber surfacing. Where surface drainage runs into a play area, sediments can build up and limit the resilience of the wood fiber buoyancy. Organic debris from nearby trees can build up and fill the voids in the wood fiber depth. Regular inspections should be conducted to ensure the play safety surfacing meets the ASTM standards for the provision of fall safety.

### Sport Fields & Courts

Ballfields always require higher levels of turf management than general use grass lawn areas. The sports fields at High Desert Sports Complex appeared in good condition. Overuse during wet, fall conditions by soccer programming can create a challenge to maintaining good turf conditions for ballfield use in the spring.

The basketball court at the Cascade Swim Center is in poor condition with significant cracking on the paved surface to inhibit effective play. The basketball court at the High Desert Sports Complex lacks an accessible route. The sand volleyball courts at the Cascade Swim Center appeared in payable condition despite lacking an ADA-accessible route to the courts.

At the High Desert Sports Complex fields, the bleachers did not have safety railings. The International Building Code (IBC) requires safety rails on any bleacher seating with two or more tiers. These bleachers should be retrofitted with safety railings.



## Landscape / Environment

### Natural Areas

RAPRD's two natural areas along the Deschutes River provide important access to the water. Currently, there is not a 'developed' access route to the riverfront for recreational use at either Tetherow or Borden Beck. Many user-defined pathways weave through cattails and other riparian vegetation to gain access to the river's edge. To manage this rogue path-making activity, RAPRD could determine the best locations for sanctioned riverfront access and develop appropriate pathways and amenities to guide public use along the riverfront.

A stewardship plan could carefully define and delineate areas for public access, restoration and preservation and establish standards of care and management practices for both staff and volunteers.

### Natural Turfgrass

Turf grass management appears to be managed adequately to maintain sport fields and open mown grass areas within parks. Grass playing fields for organized sports require a higher level of maintenance and expected quality to ensure safe and continual team play during the baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse seasons. Typically, these athletic fields with natural grass must be fertilized and mown more often than typical open grass areas in public parks.

Park standards can be established that specifically identify the tolerance for weed growth within natural grass sports fields and the approved methods for weed control in the public arena. Timing and notification methods should also be incorporated into adopted park standards to ensure safe application and public use.

## ADA Compliance

As with many older parks, some architectural barriers were present in the park system. Updating and providing ADA accessibility and compliance with federal guidelines should be part of a regular capital repair schedule to ensure the reasonable access on older pavements, parking, playgrounds, picnic amenities, restrooms and recreational elements. The RAPRD park system has a few ADA compliance issues with non-ADA complaint benches and picnic tables lacking accessible routes.

Standards for park furnishing such as benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash

receptacles and other common amenities used throughout the park system can be instrumental in assuring consistent ADA compliance and streamlined maintenance and repairs. RAPRD will want to develop an ADA Compliance Checklist to identify and prioritize these deficiencies and develop a methodology for bringing all their facilities into compliance.

## Other Site Management Considerations

### Natural Area Stewardship

Open space and preserved natural areas play critical roles in supporting healthy, well-functioning ecosystems. Many benefits are provided by protected open space, including maintaining air and water quality, mitigating impacts of climate change, capturing stormwater runoff, and providing recreational and scenic opportunities to connect with nature that promote physical and mental well-being.

The greater Redmond community is fortunate to have access to significant natural areas across the district. Approximately half of the land with RAPRD's boundary is public land, including federal, state, county and city lands – much of which is available for outdoor recreation. These open space lands are managed to preserve, conserve and maintain the health of public lands, native vegetation, and wildlife habitat, while also accommodating recreational uses. Open space properties are primarily left in their natural form, and they may include trails, wildlife viewing, or interpretive signs, along with modest support amenities such as parking or restrooms (as appropriate and feasible).

The future of parks as enabling local natural resource stewardship continues to gain traction. As the NRPA states, "Parks and public lands serve an essential role in preserving natural resources and wildlife habitats, protecting clean water and clean air, and providing open space for current and future generations." The following trends can be proactively integrated into future site management.

"Rewilding": Rewilding is an ecological strategy that helps rebuild wildlife populations by restoring wildlife habitats that goes beyond planting native plant species in park landscapes. Rewilding, with

tactics such as “pollinator” gardens, urges a new kind of ethic to conserve and protect nature, while reducing the local developed ecological footprint. Parks can host significant rewilding areas within their boundaries by supporting and maintaining more natural plant communities without losing outdoor recreational values and function.

**Native Wildlife:** Recent studies in conservation news have revealed an ongoing global biodiversity crisis. This has occurred in tandem with news about the climate change emergency that threatens biodiversity and an increased rate of species extinction. Parks play an important role in preserving and restoring native plant species and native wildlife communities by intentionally focusing on planting and replanting landscapes with native plant species that provide critical roles as habitat and food sources in the local ecosystem and its biodiversity.

**Climate Resiliency:** Large canopy trees, native landscapes, green infrastructure, and other applications of ecological landscape tactics can contribute to mitigating, to some degree, the negative impacts of climate changes. Parks play a role in advancing climate resiliency if planned and planted to accommodate for the future with limited disruption to the park system’s functions.

## Park Enhancements & Upgrades

### High Desert Sports Complex

The District’s largest park, High Desert Sports Complex, also includes the widest variety of recreation elements for any single site within the District’s management. Future investments to this park will be critical to improve the user’s experience and expand both the capacity and utilization of the park.

As noted in the City of Redmond’s draft Parks Master Plan, existing and popular sport programs in the Redmond area outstrip the capacity of current fields. While the layout and quantity of the fields at the High Desert Sports Complex is good and supports local field demand, the condition and year-round usability of the fields are less than optimal. Feedback from the open house and community survey indicate a public interest for field upgrades for better playability and player safety, as well as general site improvements such as organized, paved

parking. Upgrades to this complex should be the next priority for the District after the completion of phase-I of the new recreation center and should include the following:

- Sport field renovations to include re-grading, re-seeding, lighting, irrigation improvements and synthetic turf installation
- Parking lot upgrades (paving, striping) and expansion if feasible
- New bleachers, benches and picnic tables
- ADA-compliance upgrades for improved accessibility to outdoor recreation elements (fields, benches, tables, etc.)
- Park identification sign

For many years, the greater Redmond community has benefited from a cooperative relationship between the City, RAPRD, and the Redmond School District. This partnership has been a critical component of meeting field sport needs within Redmond. Going forward, the District should continue to work closely with the City of Redmond and the Redmond School District to actively explore opportunities for greater joint use and development of facilities. Agreements between these agencies should identify opportunities and define responsibilities regarding field planning, acquisition, development, improvement, maintenance and operations; as well as clarify scheduling, decision-making and revenue sharing objectives.

### Potential Site Design Concepts

The following concept sketches were prepared with the intent only to represent potential amenities to consider – consistent with the size and programming capacity of each site and do not represent specific recommendations. The District will conduct additional public outreach to prepare community-based site master plans for each property to determine the ultimate mix of amenities and site development to align the designs with the public’s needs. Once master plans have been adopted, phased park development should be planned as part of the capital facilities program.



**PLEASE improve the sports complex facility grounds! Kids are playing soccer on pitted, lumpy, rocky fields. The grass is either nonexistent or in terrible shape. The fields are in desperate need of better care.”**

- Survey respondent

### Tetherow Crossing

Tetherow Crossing is the site of the oldest standing house in Deschutes County and the site of an early pioneer cable ferry crossing. An important public parkland with access to the Deschutes River, Tetherow Crossing is situated along the Deschutes Paddle Trail in the segment between Borden Beck and Twin Bridges. The Upper Deschutes River is both a National Wild & Scenic River, as well as an Oregon Scenic Waterway. Generally, this section of the Deschutes River can be paddled from October through April. Flows are lower in the summer months when waters are more hospitable for wading and swimming.

In 2018, the District commissioned an architectural and design process to renovate and upgrade the historic Tetherow homestead for use as a public facility. Considerations for the future of the historic house, its renovation and potential adaptive re-use are part of the park design concepts that follow. The primary goals for developing this park include improving access, formalizing pathways, providing better picnicking and group accommodations, upgrading for a restroom, and accelerating natural restoration.

The potential to enhance the outdoor recreational opportunities at Tetherow Crossing, in conjunction with continued habitat restoration along the

Deschutes River, informed three different approaches for future improvements. The three concepts are similar in that they all provide defined and delineated access to the riverfront and offer a picnic pavilion with restrooms. These basic amenities can support environmental programming for groups or family and individual park visitation. Additionally, a proposed 'official' trail alignment through the upland would help manage user-generated pathways that may disrupt restoration efforts. A new interpretive kiosk and picnic tables support park use, while the reduced mown lawn area allows for more native habitat to support wildlife and wildlife viewing. Each concept has a difference amount of restoration areas and different delineations for reduced mown lawn areas.

The three concepts differ in their approach to possible treatment of the river's edge and how improved shore access could support water-based activities. One concept (A) offers both a fishing platform (for ADA accessibility and/or young fish folk); another concept (B) provides a shore launch amenity that allows watercraft use or simply stable walk-in access; the third approach (C) is more minimal with some reinforcement to the river edge to allow foot access without triggering bank erosion.

Figure 24. Tetherow Concept A



- Historic house restoration
- Pathways to riverfront
- Riverfront access: fishing platform & shore launch
- Pavillion w/ restrooms
- Trail thru upland
- New interpretive kiosk
- Picnic tables
- Reduced lawn area (some)
- Riparian habitat expansion

Figure 25. Tetherow Concept B



- Historic house restoration
- Pathway to riverfront
- Riverfront access: shore launch
- Pavillion w/ restrooms
- Trail thru upland
- New interpretive kiosk
- Picnic tables
- Reduced lawn area (more)
- Riparian habitat expansion

Figure 26. Tetherow Concept C



- Historic house removal
- Pathway to riverfront
- Riverfront access: 'armored' beach
- Pavillion w/ restrooms
- Trail thru upland
- New interpretive kiosk
- Picnic tables
- Reduced lawn area (most)
- Riparian habitat expansion



### NE Walnut Avenue – West

This is a small, 2.5 acre, undeveloped site in the Lake Park Estates subdivision along NE Walnut Drive in unincorporated Deschutes County. The site could be improved as a neighborhood park to serve residents of this area northeast of Redmond; however access improvements for the general public and perceived impacts to adjacent neighbors might cloud the future development potential of this site. Two concept sketches provide different approaches for the site.

#### Passive Concept

A somewhat passive approach to conceptual park improvements could include parking, a small picnic shelter, picnic tables, a playground, a skate spot, a loop trail and restroom. The property would also be enhanced with native tree plantings, wetland enhancements and native habitat improvements.

#### Modest Sport Concept

A more active approach to creating a public park could include parking, a small picnic shelter, picnic tables, a playground, a skate spot, a loop trail, restroom, sport court, exercise stations and benches. To further improve the value of the park, the addition of native tree plantings, wetland enhancements, native habitat would enhance the park environment for visitors.

Figure 27. NE Walnut Avenue (West) Passive Concept

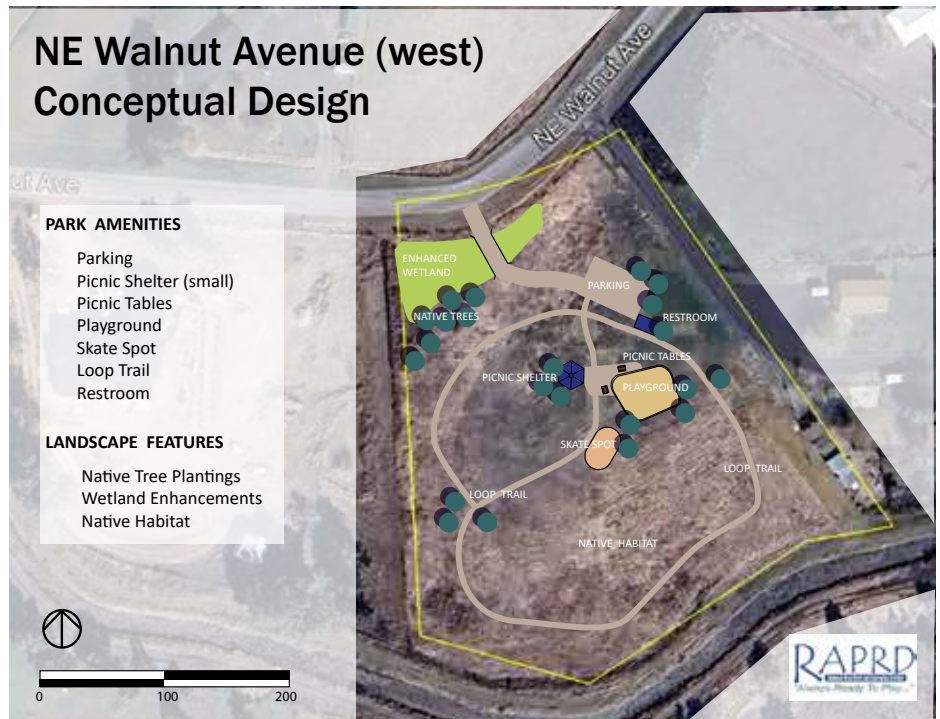


Figure 28. NE Walnut Avenue (West) Modest Sport Concept





### NE Walnut Avenue – East

The District owns a second, larger (10.7 acres) parcel in the Lake Park Estates subdivision along NE Walnut Drive. A single concept sketch for this drier site could provide for a moderate, high desert neighborhood park with parking, a small picnic shelter, picnic tables, a playground, a skate spot, loop trail and vault toilet. The property would also be enhanced with native tree plantings and native habitat improvements.

## Other Enhancements

### Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve

Modest improvements to the Preserve should be considered to include parking and entry upgrades for ADA compliance, a small picnic shelter with pathway, picnic tables, benches and improved riverfront access. These improvements could support on-going and future naturalist/environmental programming.

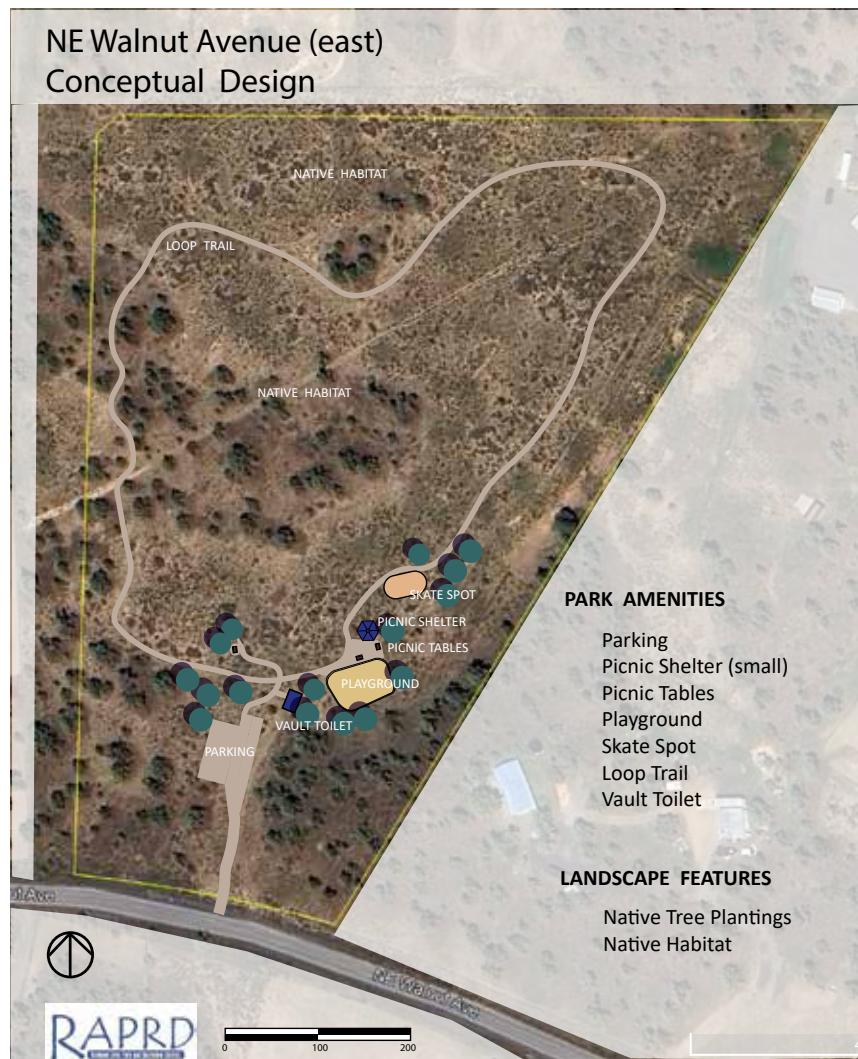
### SW 39th Street (Majestic Ridge)

Modest improvements to the Preserve should be The use of the District's three parcels along SW 39th Street should be re-evaluated for low-impact recreation. One potential option could include the installation of community gardens, and this would necessitate vehicular access, parking and water service to support the use. Another option is to consider leasing or deeding some of the land to the City for development as an off-leash dog park to serve southwest Redmond.

### Pleasant Ridge Community Hall

Although this is a minor facility and event space, site improvements could include delineating parking spaces with painted lines to ensure a more efficient use of the parking area, if more capacity is needed. Periodic upgrades and refurbishment of the interior and exterior of the building should be considered over time to keep the building looking fresh and potentially improve its utilization.

Figure 29. NE Walnut Avenue (East) Concept



### Terrebonne

To better serve District residents north of Redmond, RAPRD should consider acquiring and developing a neighborhood park in Terrebonne. Newer residential development has not included new public parks, and the Terrebonne Community School is the only recreation facility in the hamlet, which include the school playground and an under-sized sport field. A future park for this area could be two to four acres in size to accommodate a suite of traditional neighborhood park elements, such as an all-ages playground, bouldering features, group picnic shelter, sport courts and open lawn areas.

## Recreational Trails

Trails and paths provide people with valuable links between neighborhoods, parks, schools and other destinations. Expanding trail system connections was identified as one of the priorities during the community engagement process, and, in the community survey, a trail corridor connecting Redmond to the Deschutes River had the strongest support, with 78% of respondents identifying this corridor as either very or somewhat important. Continued investments in and coordination for trails will be essential to maintaining a healthy and livable community by enhancing walking and biking opportunities and promoting alternatives to vehicle use.

### Trail Trends

Walking and hiking remain the most popular recreational activities both nationally and regionally. Over the past decade, national recreation studies have consistently ranked walking and hiking as the top forms of outdoor recreation (see Appendix D for summaries of recreation trends). The 2019 COVID pandemic significantly impacted outdoor recreation, with trail use surging as many people turned to walking and bicycling for their daily exercise. This shift led to increased usage and crowded trailhead parking, challenging local and regional park agencies.

According to the 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends report by the Outdoor Foundation, hiking is the most popular outdoor activity, with 881,000 new hikers in 2022. Hiking is considered a “gateway activity” that encourages participation in other outdoor recreation activities. Running boasts the highest average outings per runner (54 per year), and biking saw an annual growth of 22.9%, with 54.7 million cyclists across all categories (road, BMX, mountain). Notably, participation among seniors (65 and older) in outdoor activities grew by 16.8% between 2019 and 2021. Trails are essential infrastructure for these and other outdoor activities.

The annual study from the National Recreation and Parks Association of how Americans use their parks determined that people who live near parks and recreation facilities are more likely to arrive at that park by walking, biking or running, with walking being the most common method of transport.

Additionally, with the rapid increase in electric-assist mobility devices and the potential for user conflicts due to increased speeds, RAPRD should stay

informed on best management practices to ensure safety for all trail users and promote trail etiquette on any future multi-use or shared-use pathways or trails.

### Trail Types

Recreational trail classification system are usually designed around a tiered network comprising three primary trail categories: Multi-use pathways, Connector, and Park/Local Trails. Each category serves a distinct purpose and caters to varying levels of use, which dictates the trail width, material, and recommended support facilities. While RAPRD properties do not yet have enough distinct trail types to warrant a classification system, the following categories may be useful in determining the scale of future trail projects and for coordination with other regional agencies for long-range trail planning.

#### Multi-Use Pathways

Multi-use pathways are paved and separated from streets and are designed for both walking and bicycling. These routes form the backbone of a trail network, providing long-distance routes that connect significant community destinations. These trails are designed for high-intensity use and to accommodate various activities, including walking, running, cycling, and commuters. Where space allows, corridors with high usage may be developed with redundant paths to separate people walking from people biking. The paths for people walking or running may be unpaved depending on the intended use.

- **Wider Paths:** Regional trails often have 12 feet or more widths to support multiple users simultaneously.
- **Durable Surfaces:** Paved surfaces to withstand heavy traffic and accommodate all-weather use. Boardwalks, elevated spans, or other appropriate surfacing to traverse sensitive areas.
- **Support Facilities:** Ample amenities such as restrooms, water stations, seating areas, and informative signage to enhance user experience and safety.

#### Connector Trails

Connector trails serve as vital links between multi-use pathways, parks, neighborhoods, and other points of interest. These trails support moderate to high usage and are crucial for creating a cohesive network. Key characteristics include:

- **Moderate Width:** Typically, 8-12 feet to balance usability and environmental impact.
- **Varied Surfaces:** Depending on the surrounding

environment and anticipated use, surfaces may range from paved to compacted gravel. Stable surfaces accommodate strollers/wheeled access even if not fully ADA compliant. Boardwalks, elevated spans, or other appropriate surfacing to traverse sensitive areas.

- **Basic Facilities:** Essential amenities include benches, directional signs, and occasional restrooms or water fountains.

### Park Trails

Park trails are designed for more localized, lower-intensity use within parks and community areas. These trails prioritize accessibility and recreational enjoyment for residents and visitors, featuring:

- **Narrower Paths:** Usually 4-8 feet wide, sufficient for walkers, runners, and casual cyclists.
- **Soft or Natural Surfaces:** Including dirt, mulch, or grass to blend seamlessly with the natural surroundings.
- **Minimal Facilities:** Focus on maintaining the natural environment, with limited but essential amenities such as benches and waste disposal stations.

The integration of these trail categories will ensure a comprehensive and interconnected trail network that accommodates various recreational needs and enhances the overall accessibility of the District's outdoor spaces. This tiered approach also supports a wide range of activities and promotes sustainable use and sensitivity to natural resources. The strategic development and maintenance of additional trails are essential for fostering community health, recreation, and environmental stewardship.

## Trail Planning

### Regional Coordination & Facilitation

Achieving future recreational trail connections will require coordination between multiple partners and with transportation improvements and land development. The City of Redmond, Deschutes County and state agencies have been involved and continue to lead in the long-term planning for improved and expanded bikeways and trails serving the greater Redmond area. Although RAPRD is a minor land holder regarding District properties to contain substantial on-site trails, the District manages numerous sites that are significant destinations along trail corridors and for future trail system planning.

As such, this Plan recommends that RAPRD should engage as a facilitator and advocate for Redmond area trail corridor planning, which could include supporting the acquisition of trail easements or access rights. The District should continue to coordinate with the City, County, State, irrigation districts, and area partners to consider and future opportunities for regional trail connections linking across Redmond to RAPRD facilities and to other communities or destinations (e.g., Terrebonne, Smith Rock, Cline Falls).

The following summarizes some of the ongoing trail corridor planning projects serving the Redmond area. Map 2 on the following page illustrates potential trail corridors for consideration as a reference point, which will require additional site-level assessments and more detailed planning.

The City of Redmond Transportation System Plan (2020) includes a planned, 1.2 mile multi-use path along SW 35th St between SW Quartz Avenue and W Antler Avenue that would enhance non-motorized access to the new recreation center.

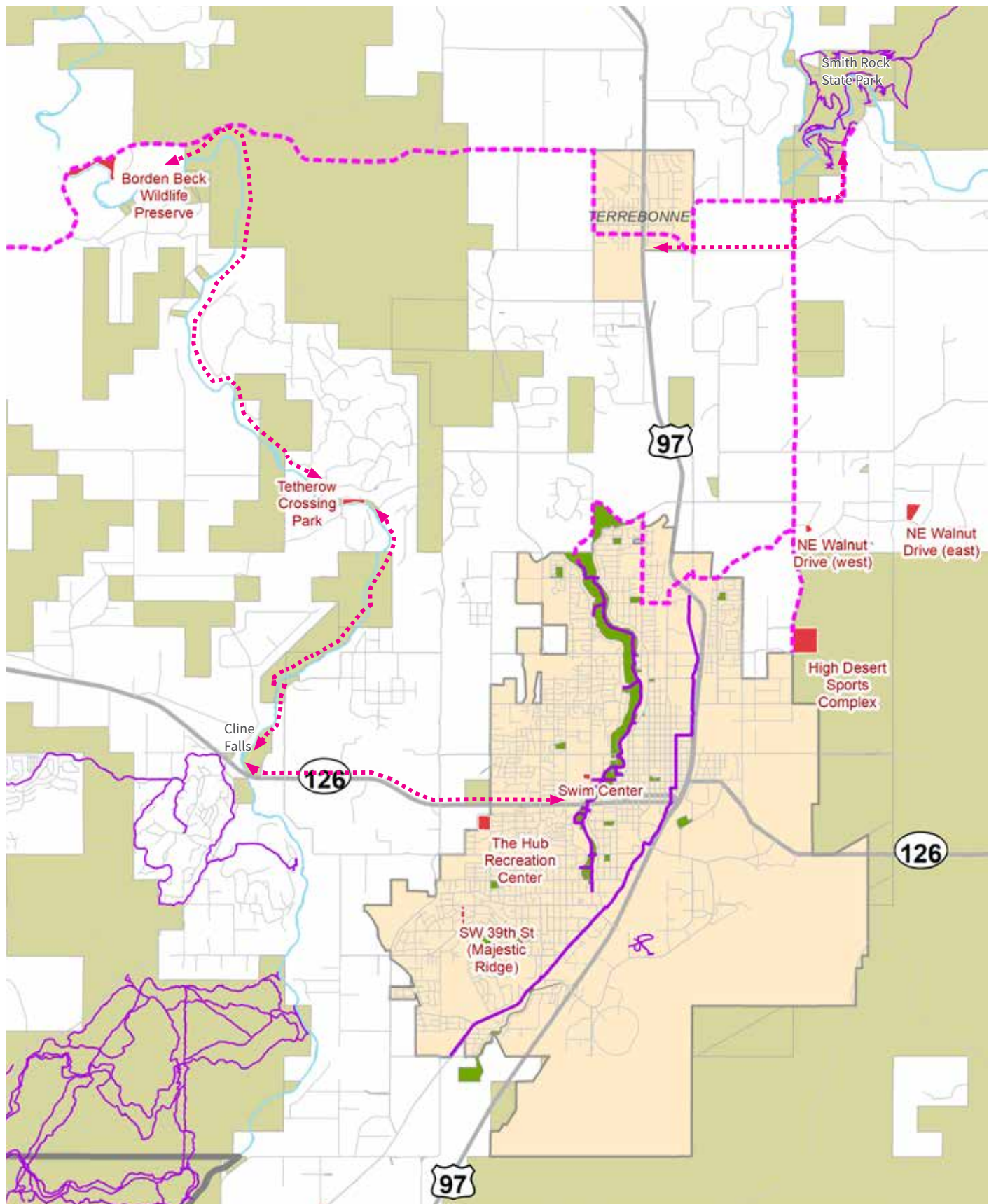
The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department identified the Sisters to Smith Rock Bikeway, a segment of the Three Sisters Regional Bikeway, that will run through Redmond and connect Smith Rock and Sisters. This route would be part of the Oregon Scenic Bikeways larger network of Central Oregon regional trails that would connect Redmond with La Pine, Sunriver, Bend, Sisters, and Terrebonne. The alignment follows Lower Bridge Way and directly connects to the Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve.

Additionally, the proposed Redmond section of the Three Sisters Regional Bikeway would travel northeast out of Redmond city limits along NE King Way. The alignment would pass less than one mile from the High Desert Sports Complex, and a spur connection could be considered along NE Negus Way.

Deschutes County Transportation System Plan reflects the County's continued commitment to coordinating transportation and land use planning within Central Oregon. With regard to bicycle system planning, the County TSP states the following:

*The Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD) also provides access to trails and facilities outside of the Redmond City Limits, including those in Terrebonne and Tumalo and the Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve. As part of TSP implementation, the County will coordinate with RAPRD on the need for and timing of new*





Map 2: Conceptual Recreational Trail System

*trails outside of the Redmond City Limits.*

*As part of TSP implementation, the County will coordinate with BPRD, RAPRD, the La Pine Park and Recreation District, and the Sisters Park and Recreation District on the planning for and timing of new trails outside of city limits. It is important to note that not all County roadways are currently or will be designed to provide roadside parking for trailhead users within the County. The County will work with each of these parks and recreation districts to identify appropriate locations in the future to provide safe access for trail users as well as to roadway users not accessing the parks/trails.*

Additionally, specific trail alignments must be determined through a site plan engineering and review process that considers appropriate trail design characteristics in conjunction with natural resource sensitivities, as well as applicability for universal access. Trails are built infrastructure and often involve some grading, soil displacement, potential vegetation removal, and improvements for trailheads and access. While trails can be designed for minimal environmental impact, their alignment and design require site-specific solutions that balance the intended purpose of the trail with meeting applicable land use and environmental codes and regulations.

## Acquisitions & Development for Trail Connections

Additional trail connections are needed to link destinations and promote walkability and healthier lifestyles. The City should partner, act as a land bank and/or actively pursue the acquisition of easements, corridors and parcels to create comprehensive linkages for the greater Redmond area's recreational trail system. Coordination between parks and transportation funding sources is essential for planning the most appropriate links. The District also should aim to implement ADA guidelines for trails where reasonable.

## Trail System Signage

As the trail network grows, it is recommended that detailed trail signage standards, wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities, and informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities, be designed and implemented to improve user experiences. This signage system could be coordinated with park signage styles, colors, fonts and materials to provide a uniform look to RAPRD's public spaces.

## Chapter 6

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives described in the following section define the park and recreation services that the Redmond Area Park and Recreation District aims to achieve based on the needs within the local community and the trends developing in the region.

These goals and objectives follow from the foundation established in the past operations of RAPRD, the feedback from the community, stakeholders and staff during this planning update process as well as the District's vision for future recreation services. The District's mission statement provides the overarching direction for the District while the goals and objectives focus the efforts towards tangible parks and recreation achievements.

## Mission Statement:

*"The mission of the Redmond Area Park and Recreation District is to lead our community to health and well-being by providing fun, high-quality recreational experiences and activities for all."*

The demand for quality park and recreation services continues to grow in the Redmond region. The District provides professional leadership in the provision of recreation services that complement city and school district services.

For each of the listed objectives, a leadership or facilitation role has been suggested to assign the degree of involvement and commitment to be pursued by RAPRD's professional staff and Board members. Leadership roles dictate a primary responsibility for action by the District, while facilitation suggests more of a partnership and coordination responsibility.

Also, these goals align with the National Recreation and Parks Association's Three Pillars, which are foundational concepts adopted by the national organization and help frame recreation advocacy at the national level. These core values (below) are crucial to improving the quality of life for all Americans by inspiring the protection of natural resources, increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating, and empowering citizens to improve the livability of their communities.

## NRPA's Three Pillars:

- Conservation – Public parks are critical to preserving communities' natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits.
- Health and Wellness – Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of citizens, and fighting obesity.
- Social Equity – Universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few.







## RECREATION PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

**Goal 1: Offer and improve healthy lifestyle choices and opportunities through park and recreation facilities and programs.**

*Objective 1.1. Provide a varied and inclusive suite of recreational services and programs that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities. (Leadership role)*

### Strategies:

- A. Strategically expand and enhance the diversity of recreation programs offered, in partnership with other providers and organizations, considering programs that are in high demand, serve a wide range of users, utilize the District's unique indoor and outdoor assets, and complement services of other providers, as facilities, staffing levels and partner opportunities allow.
- B. Plan for and implement Phase II of The Hub Aquatic and Recreation Center.
- C. Enhance programming opportunities for regional outdoor recreation through existing and new partnerships (school district, city, non-profits, fitness clubs, private recreation businesses, etc.) that help connect people to programs through shared marketing, facilities, coordination and activities.
- D. Coordinate with the County and City of Redmond to pursue outreach and promotion that reaches beyond the region to enhance the potential tourism benefits to the local economy. A focused effort by all area jurisdictions could capture more of the value of SR 97 & SR 126 proximity and the extensive outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands.
- E. Partner with the community and local organizations to support community and cultural events.
- F. Consider cross-marketing different activities and events to appeal to broader audiences, such as a running/jogging/walking "race" with different lengths for a range of abilities combined with a harvest/local food fair and historic craft demonstration. Linking compatible themes and providing activities/events for whole families to enjoy can increase participation and involvement. Products and programming provide complimentary participation and have the potential to draw people from beyond the region.
- G. Periodically evaluate recreation program offerings in terms of attendance, current trends, customer satisfaction, cost-to-subsidy, and availability of programs through other providers and make adjustments as necessary.
- H. Periodically review and update the fee policy for programs, indoor facility uses and rental rates that support operational requirements and are measured against cost recovery goals.
- I. Maintain and enhance program scholarships and other mechanisms to support recreation access for low-income residents.
- J. Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming.



**Goal 2: Provide a diversity of outdoor recreation experiences and a balance of opportunities for both passive and active recreation that meet the needs of different age groups, abilities, and interests.**

*Objective 2.1. Neighborhood and Special Use Parks: Improve park sites to provide a diverse range of active and passive recreational experiences. (Leadership role)*

**Strategies:**

- A. Evaluate park acquisition and development opportunities based on their potential to improve recreation options for residents in unincorporated urban areas outside the City of Redmond with consideration of local needs, partner support/capacity, recreational trends, and availability of similar facilities within the City of Redmond and region.
- B. Develop park sites based on master plans, management plans, or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals, and available financial resources.
- C. Design and develop park sites and facilities to maximize recreational value and experience, while minimizing maintenance and operational costs and negative environmental and community impacts.
- D. Enhance maintenance, investments and safety of sport fields and courts to better serve recreation users and extend playing seasons.
- E. Consider resurfacing existing or new sport fields to artificial turf to allow more intensive use of field space, extend field seasons, and limit play cancellations.
- F. Provide environmental education opportunities in open space areas with creative and interactive interpretation strategies, such as hands-on displays, self-guided walks, and other engaging experiences.
- G. Support the preservation and improvement of federal, state, county or City of Redmond lands that provide park and recreation opportunities to local residents.



## PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE

**Objective 2.2. Riverfront Parks. Maintain and enhance RAPRD's riverfront parks to connect residents with the water and provide unique recreational experiences. (Leadership role)**

### Strategies:

- A. Expand and improve appropriate public access to the Deschutes River; including, but not limited to, the Tetherow and Borden Beck properties.
- B. Encourage water- and nature-oriented activities and programs along the Deschutes River where appropriate and consistent with public interest and needs.
- C. Continue to improve riverfront parks and trails to provide enhanced recreational opportunities and visitor facilities.
- D. Design, develop, and operate waterfront facilities in ways that limit and/or mitigate negative environmental impacts or improve overall environmental conditions.
- E. Create a stewardship plan for the two riverfront properties to ensure that best management practices are implemented for management and maintenance that will support continual restoration of wildlife habitat and ecosystem function.

**Objective 2.3. Recreational Trails: Actively encourage the collaboration of local jurisdictions, Deschutes County, and both state and federal land managers to help cover the gaps in trails and public lands for a more coordinated and connected system. (Facilitation role)**

### Strategies:

- A. Coordinate with Deschutes County and Oregon State Parks, whose trail planning should provide regional leadership and coordination for the planning, design, implementation and maintenance of a countywide regional trails system to ensure regional trail connections between jurisdictions and linkages with other local trails.
- B. Cooperate with Deschutes County and City of Redmond to help create an integrated trail system that connects with other transportation modes and requiring new development to make trail connections and create linkages.
- C. Partner with local utilities, public agencies and private landowners to secure trail easements and access to open space for trail connections.
- D. Continue the relationship with the Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA) to advocate for future trail systems for diverse trail users to safely connect public lands and enhance trails within public lands.
- E. Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, signage, restrooms and other amenities.
- F. Implement best practices for the siting, design, construction, and management of sustainable recreational trails, as appropriate for the intended user group.
- G. Implement trail signage standards, route and wayfinding signage and informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities.





## MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

### Goal 3: Maintain and invest in the park and recreation system.

*Objective 3.1. Maintain and proactively manage RAPRD's parks and recreation facilities to ensure longevity of assets, a positive aesthetic and sensory experience, and safety for park patrons. (Leadership role)*

#### Strategies:

- A. Maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification. Integrate needed replacements into capital planning.
- B. Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity at all parks and facilities. Incorporate into a signage and wayfinding plan.
- C. Standardize park furnishings and amenities (trash cans, tables, benches, fencing) to reduce inventory and replacement costs and improve appearance of, and maintenance consistency within the park system.

*Objective 3.2. Continue to provide leadership and foster partnerships to improve and broaden the parks and recreation system. (Leadership role)*

#### Strategies:

- A. Pursue sufficient financial resources to ensure a vibrant and well-maintained parks and recreation system and allocate adequate funding for maintenance, staffing and asset preservation.
- B. Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues, such as private donations, sponsorships, partnerships, and grants, along with support through partnerships with service organizations, volunteer groups, businesses and other agencies.
- C. Continue to create active partnerships with the city, county, neighboring communities, and school district to ensure provision of a balanced mix of parks and recreation facilities and pursue joint use agreements.
- D. Develop, leverage and strengthen partnerships for recreation programming and trail projects across local, county and state ownerships.
- E. Invest in professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and commitment from staff, Board members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with relevant national and regional associations.
- F. Periodically update the Capital Improvement Plan to address facility improvement needs.
- G. Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan periodically and approximately every ten years to ensure facilities and services meet current and future community needs and maintain eligibility for State grants.



## Chapter 7

# CAPITAL PROJECTS & IMPLEMENTATION

## OUTLINING FUTURE INVESTMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The preceding chapters provided an overview of RAPRD's programs, facilities and park system, along with goals and policies to guide future planning, development, and operations. This chapter focuses on specific project actions, including the proposed 10-year capital project list, and offers recommendations on additional strategies for successful implementation.



## Key Project Recommendations

The following is a summary of key project recommendations which will require commitment from the District Board and its residents for the continued support a healthy park and recreation system that preserves and enhances the safety, livability and character of the Redmond community.

### PARK DEVELOPMENT & ENHANCEMENTS



The District's largest park, High Desert Sports Complex, also includes the widest variety of recreation elements for any single site within the District's management. Future investments to this park will be critical to improve the user's experience and expand both the capacity and utilization of the park. Upgrades to this complex should be the next priority for the District after the completion of phase-I of the new recreation center and should include the following:

- Upgrades to this complex should be the next priority for the District after the completion of phase-I of the new recreation center and should include the following:
- Sport field renovations to include re-grading, re-seeding, lighting, irrigation improvements and synthetic turf installation
- Parking lot upgrades (paving, striping) and expansion if feasible
- New bleachers, benches and picnic tables
- ADA-compliance upgrades for improved accessibility to outdoor recreation elements (fields, benches, tables, etc.)



Another key project for the District will be to improve the function and utility of Tetherow Crossing Park. Considerations for the future of the historic house, its renovation and potential adaptive re-use should be included as part of the park design process. The primary goals for developing this park should include improving access, formalizing pathways, providing better picnicking and group accommodations, upgrading for a restroom, and accelerating natural landscape restoration.



Other projects may include adding amenities to existing parks, such as picnic shelters for small gatherings and paved pathway connections to improve user circulation and ADA-compliant routes. A general consideration for the public is to create a park system that provided year-round facilities for all ages and all abilities to gather and recreate in diverse range of safe, clean and well-maintained park facilities that also balance fiscal stability.





## RECREATION FACILITIES

The construction of phase 1 of The Hub Aquatic and Recreation Center is the core focus of the District at the present. The completion, opening and full programming of the new center will provide a significant improvement for the scale and scope of recreation programming offered by the District. Funding and developing phase 2 of the center will install a variety of outdoor recreation elements, including multi-sport athletic field, pickleball courts, splash pad and playground.



## TRAIL SYSTEM COORDINATION

RAPRD should engage as a facilitator and advocate for Redmond area trail corridor planning, which could include supporting the acquisition of trail easements or access rights. The District should continue to coordinate with the City, County, State, irrigation districts, and area partners to consider and future opportunities for regional trail connections linking across Redmond to RAPRD facilities and to other communities or destinations. As improvements are planned for the High Desert Sports Complex as well as the Tetherow Crossing and Borden Beck Natural Areas, consideration should be given to where improved access should be provided through the addition of paved pathways.



## ADA &amp; OTHER ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENTS

Minor improvements to access, such as providing stable surface access to site furnishings, are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. The site assessment summaries and the capital project list identified and includes upgrades to remove barriers and improve universal access. In general, RAPRD will want to develop an ADA Compliance Checklist to identify and prioritize improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability, accessibility, and quality of park features and grounds.



## ACQUISITIONS TO FILL PARK SYSTEM GAPS

To better serve District residents north of Redmond, RAPRD should consider acquiring and developing a neighborhood park in Terrebonne. Newer residential development has not included new public parks, and the Terrebonne Community School is the only recreation facility in the hamlet. A future park for this area could accommodate a suite of traditional neighborhood park elements, such as an all-ages playground, bouldering features, group picnic shelter, sport courts and open lawn areas.



## COMMUNICATIONS &amp; WAYFINDING

Recreation facilities, parks, trails, and other public open spaces require a cohesive, accessible, and identifiable wayfinding system. To clarify ownership and the managing agency, RAPRD should install additional, graphically-unified signs to help users navigate the outdoor recreation experiences offered by the District. Also, RAPRD should continue to take a strong role in coordinating and promoting recreation services to improve awareness and inclusion for residents. Stronger marketing efforts will be needed to inform and promote the recreation programs and clarify facility and park ownership and management.



## Capital Improvement Planning

The following Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) identifies the park and facility projects considered for the next ten years, along with brief project descriptions. The majority of these projects entail the maintenance, acquisition, and development of facilities, parks, and recreational amenities.

The following table summarizes the aggregate capital estimates by park types for the next ten years.

Figure 30. 10-Year Capital Project Expenditures

< insert pie chart - PENDING >

The following Capital Improvement Plan provides brief project descriptions and sequencing to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

As projects are phased over the next ten or more years, the planning-level project costs have been inflated at an increase of 6% annually. Overall, the inflated costs for projects identified in the CIP total over \$\_\_\_ million. The proposed project list focuses primarily on improving existing facilities through timely repairs, replacements, and upgrades to ensure an ongoing, healthy, and safe recreation system for the greater Redmond area.

RAPRD 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Inflation factor of 6% added to outgoing years to address rising rates and construction costs (rounded to \$1000).

Project Name	Description	Project Type	2025 Cost Opinion	2025-26	2027-28	2029-30	2031-32	2033-34	2035+	Totals
PARK IMPROVEMENTS										
High Desert Sports Complex	Parking lot & park signage upgrades	R	\$100							\$0
	New bleachers, benches, picnic tables	R	\$100							\$0
	Sport field renovations (regrading, reseeding, irrigation)	R	\$100							\$0
	Sport field synthetic turf installation (2 fields)	D	\$100							\$0
	Sport field lighting (3 fields)	D	\$100							\$0
	Replace playground; Upgrade or replace basketball half court	R	\$100							\$0
	ADA upgrades & accessible routes	R	\$100							\$0
Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve	Parking & entry upgrades (ADA-compliant)	R	\$100							\$0
	Small shelter with pathway	D	\$100							\$0
	Picnic tables & benches	D	\$100							\$0
Tetherow Crossing	Riverfront access	D	\$100							\$0
	Pavilion/shelter with pathway	D	\$100							\$0
	Parking, identification sign & entry upgrades (ADA-compliant)	R	\$100							\$0
	Picnic tables & benches	D	\$100							\$0
	Restroom installation	D	\$100							\$0
	Interpretive signs & displays	D	\$100							\$0
	Riverfront access	D	\$100							\$0
NE Walnut Drive (west)	Tetherow homestead remodel, retrofit & adaptive re-use	R	\$100							\$0
	Master plan for park design	P	\$100							\$0
	Park development	D	\$100							\$0
NE Walnut Drive (east)	Master plan for park design	P	\$100							\$0
	Park development	D	\$100							\$0
SW 39th St (Majestic Ridge)	Community gardens, BMX trails, dog park in partnership with City	D	\$100							\$0
Systemwide Enhancements	Wayfinding & signage (design & install park identification signs)	D	\$100							\$0
	Acquisitions or easements to support conceptual trail alignments	A	\$100							\$0
	Trail surfacing repairs or rehabilitations	R	\$100							\$0
	Add accessible routes, ADA-compliant benches & tables	D	\$100							\$0
Total Park Improvements			\$2,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
RECREATION FACILITIES										
The Hub Aquatic & Recreation Center (Phase 2)	Playground & splash pad	D	\$100							\$0
	North parking lot & restroom	D	\$100							\$0
	Sport courts & field	D	\$100							\$0
	Walking path & exercise stations	D	\$100							\$0
Pleasant Ridge Community Hall	Refurbish interior, parking area striping	R	\$100							\$0
North Redmond - Terrebonne Indoor Facility	Feasibility study & community outreach	P	\$100							\$0
Total Facility Projects			\$600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
PARK ACQUISITIONS (* Acquisition target areas are estimations and will require due diligence & negotiation with current landowners)										
Terrebonne area	Acquisition (1.5-3 acres)	A	\$100	\$0						\$0
Total Park Acquisitions			\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total CIP Projects			\$3,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Acquisition A  
Planning/Permitting P  
Renovation/Repair R  
Development/Expansion D

NOTES:  
This list identifies planning-level cost estimates and does not assume the value of volunteer or other non-District contributions. Detailed engineering, design and/or costing may be necessary for projects noted.  
This list is not an official budget and is intended as a guiding document for RAPRD staff in the preparation of District budgets.



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## Implementation Tools

Several strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the District, and clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. The recommendations noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations, and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the District is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement, and support the implementation of proposed initiatives and projects. While grants and other efficiencies may help, these alone will not be enough to realize many ideas and projects noted in this Plan.

The following strategies offer near-term options to consider for project implementation. Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is included as Appendix E, which addresses local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.

### Local Option Levies

Local option levies are separate property tax levies that can be assessed to fund capital improvements or operations and maintenance activities. Such levies are outside of the District's permanent tax rate limit, subject to the combined rate limit imposed under Measure #5. Local option levies require voter approval and are subject to the double majority (50% voter turnout and 50% approval) requirement of Measure #5. If used to fund capital improvements, revenues can be used to secure bonds or complete one or more projects on a pay-as-you-go basis, over a period of up to 10 years. Operations and maintenance levies are limited to a period of five years.

### System Development Charges (SDCs)

Park System Development Charges (SDCs) are fees paid by new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. SDCs can only be used for parkland acquisition, planning and/or development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Redmond currently assesses a Parks System Development Charges (SDC) on new residential development within city limits to assist with the cost of park improvements needed to accommodate new growth. RAPRD could explore the benefit and utility of coordinating with

Deschutes County for the implementation of a parks SDC as a tool to support park acquisition and development outside the city limits of Redmond. Given the limited residential development growth for the portions of the District outside Redmond city limits, a parks SDC might provide very limited functional value.

### Land Donations & Dedications

Land donations from development projects, individuals, or other organizations could occur to secure and support the expansion of trail corridor opportunities across the district. Gift deeds or bequests from philanthropic-minded landowners could allow for lands to come into District ownership upon the death of the owner or as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Any potential dedication must be vetted by RAPRD to ensure that such land is located in an area of need or can expand an existing property holdings and can be developed appropriately with the desired site amenities.

### Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are necessary for local agencies to leverage limited resources in providing park and recreation services. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, conservation stewardship programs and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. RAPRD should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement the recommendations in this Plan.

Coordination with the City of Redmond, Redmond School District, sport leagues, and other recreation providers should be ongoing to assess the range and type of recreation programs offered in the greater Redmond area and to maximize use of community facilities, such as gymnasiums, fields, sport courts, and other active-use spaces.

### Health Benefit Partnerships

RAPRD also should explore partnership opportunities with regional health care providers and services, such as St. Charles Health System and the Deschutes County Health Services Department, to further promote wellness activities, healthy living, and communications about the benefits of parks and recreation. For example, this group could more directly cross-market services and help expand communications about local wellness options, and

they could sponsor a series of organized trail walks through the Radlands or excursions to Borden Beck as a means to expand public awareness of local recreation opportunities and encourage residents to stay fit. For example, other communities have been successful with funding requests to regional hospitals for the development and printing of community walking guides that highlight the health benefits of walking and include trail system maps and descriptions.

## Grants & Appropriations

Several state, federal and private grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including those offered by the Oregon State Parks & Recreation Department (such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund). Pursuing grants is not a cure-all for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. RAPRD should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation projects (e.g., regional trails), and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects.

## Volunteer & Community-based Action

Volunteers already contribute to recreation services for the District, primarily in the form of youth sport coaching and support. Other volunteer projects could include wildlife habitat enhancement, invasive plant removal and general park clean-ups at existing District properties. RAPRD should maintain and update a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects for its website and Facebook site and via partnerships with school district to encourage student projects.

While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals adds value to RAPRD's recreation system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time. Additional resources may be necessary to expand volunteer coordination to more fully utilize the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

## Other Implementation Tools

Appendix E identifies other implementation tools, such as voter-approved funding, grants and acquisition tactics, that the District could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the Park Improvement Plan projects List.



## **Appendix A: Community Survey Summary**

## RAPRD

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## 2026 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

**To:** Katie Hammer, Executive Director, RAPRD  
**From:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.  
**Date:** March 31, 2025  
**Re:** **RAPRD Parks and Recreation Master Plan**  
 Community Survey Summary Results

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with RAPRD staff, Conservation Technix developed a 25-question, online-only survey that was estimated to take less than ten minutes to complete.

Information about the survey and a link was posted to the District's website and Facebook page on November 4, 2024. The survey was promoted multiple times on Facebook, with Facebook ads, and via email announcements to recreation program participants. The survey was closed on March 24, 2025, and data were compiled and reviewed. In all, 231 responses were collected.

Due to the nature of the survey, respondents self-selected to participate and were not necessarily representative of all District residents. See the table below for age demographics for the survey, as well as comparative percentages for RAPRD's population. In general, the survey had fewer responses from residents under 45 or over 75 years of age to fully reflect the District's population. See pages 15 for other demographic subgroup data comparisons.

Figure 1. Age demographics of survey respondents

Age group	Survey	District Area	
	Respondents	All	Over 20
Under 20	0%	26.8%	--
20 to 34	19.9%	17.6%	24.0%
35 to 44	44.9%	12.8%	17.5%
45 to 54	15.9%	13.6%	18.6%
55 to 64	5.1%	13.2%	18.0%
65 to 74	11.4%	9.2%	12.6%
75 and older	2.8%	6.8%	9.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

This report includes findings of community opinions based on the responses from the online survey. Each section also notes key differences between different demographic groups, where applicable. Due to the small sample size, demographic subgroup comparisons may be limited. Also, percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## DETAILED FINDINGS

### Usage and satisfaction of parks and recreation facilities

#### How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Virtually all respondents (98%) feel that local parks, recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in the greater Redmond area. More than three in four respondents feel that they are essential; while an additional 21% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential. Only about 2% of respondents believe parks are useful, but not important, or not important.

**Figure 2.** When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in the greater Redmond area, would you say that parks, arts and recreation opportunities are...

Response options		
Essential to the quality of life here	77.3%	98%
Important, but not really necessary	21.0%	
Useful, but not important	1.8%	
Not important or don't know	0%	

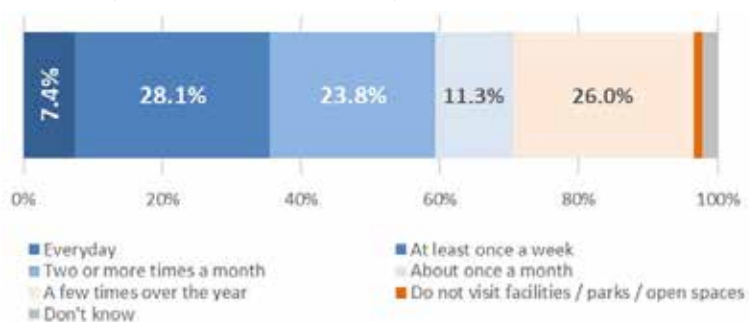
There were no significant difference noted by age groups, location of respondent, or by households with or without children.

#### How often do residents use various parks and recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked how often they visited a District park, recreation facility, or open space. Respondents tend to visit frequently, with more than one-third (36%) of respondents visiting at least once a week and another 24% visiting two or more times per month. Approximately 26% of respondents visit just a few times per year.

Minor variations in visitation exist between survey respondents by age groups. Respondents under 55 years of age indicated slightly more frequent usage of RAPRD facilities. Also, households with two or more children indicated more frequent visitation to RAPRD facilities with at least multiple month visits. No significant differences were noted based on the location of the respondents' residence.

**Figure 3.** RAPRD's facilities include the Cascade Swim Center, RAPRD Activity Center, High Desert Sports Complex, Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve, Pleasant Ridge Community Hall, and undeveloped parks at Majestic Ridge in Redmond and at Tetherow Crossing. In a typical year, how often did you visit or use any of these RAPRD facilities or parks?



#### How do residents rate the condition of RAPRD's parks and recreation facilities?

Survey respondents have mixed opinions about the condition of RAPRD facilities. A slight plurality (40%) rate the condition of the High Desert Sports Complex as either excellent or good, and only 13% of



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## 2026 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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respondents give the same ratings to the Cascade Swim Center. Nearly three-quarters of respondents (72%) noted the Cascade Swim Center as in either fair or poor condition.

Large majorities of respondents had no opinion for the conditions of the Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve, Tetherow Crossing and the Pleasant Ridge Community Hall; however, majorities of respondents noted the condition of the Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve and Tetherow Crossing as excellent or good for those who indicated ratings.

Survey respondents between 35 and 54 years of age and those with children in the household indicated higher rates of being somewhat dissatisfied with the condition of the Cascade Swim Center and High Desert Sports Complex. Respondents living north of Redmond and east of US 97 indicated higher rates of being somewhat dissatisfied with each of the five facilities compared to those who live in other parts of the District.

**Figure 4.** How would you rate the condition of each of the following recreation facilities?



Using the same rating scale as above, respondents also were asked to rate the condition of the primary amenities at the High Desert Sports Complex. Acknowledging that approximately one-third of respondents do not know or have know opinion about the Sports Complex, those that are familiar with the park generally view the amenities in good condition.

For respondents who indicated a rating other than not sure or no opinion, majorities of respondents rated the conditions of park amenities as either excellent or good. By more than a two-to-one margin, respondents rated the condition of the following as either excellent or good compared to fair or poor:

playground equipment (45%), BMX track (28%) and R.C. landing strip (16%). Respondent ratings were more even for the conditions of softball fields and multi-purpose field between those who feel the fields are excellent and good or those who feel the fields are fair and poor.

Survey respondents between 35 and 54 years of age and those with children in the household indicated slightly higher rates of being somewhat dissatisfied with the condition of the softball

**Figure 5.** The High Desert Sports Complex includes three softball fields, one multi-purpose field, playground equipment, Smith Rock BMX Race Track and the Field of Dreams R.C. Landing Strip. How would you rate the condition of each of these amenities at the Sports Complex?



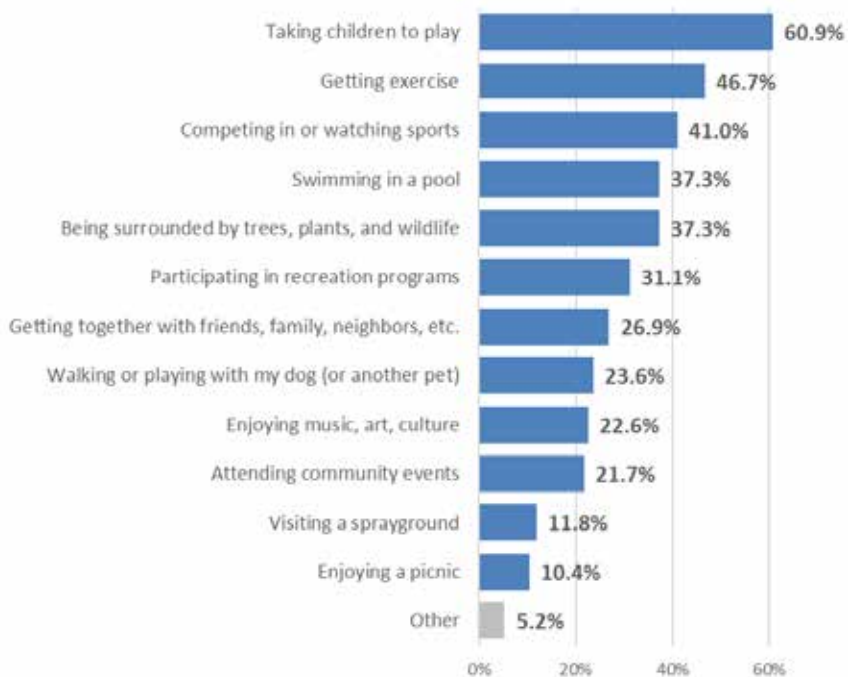
and multi-purpose fields at the High Desert Sports Complex, and those with children indicated somewhat higher ratings of ‘excellent’ and ‘good’ for the condition of the playground equipment.

#### Why do residents visit the District’s parks and recreation facilities?

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reason is to take children to play (61%). Between one-third and half of respondents visit parks for exercise (47%), sports (41%), swimming (37%) or being in a natural setting (37%). Nine write-in responses were noted for those who selected ‘other’ as an option, and seven of the nine responses were for sand or beach volleyball.

Survey respondents without children in the household identified getting exercise and enjoying art, music or culture as more compelling reasons to visit parks. Respondents over 55 years of age also visited to enjoy art, music or culture more than other age groups. Those with children and those between the ages of 20 and 44 were more compelled to visit parks for taking children to play and for sport activities.

Figure 6. What are the most compelling reasons for you to visit a park? Choose up to 3.



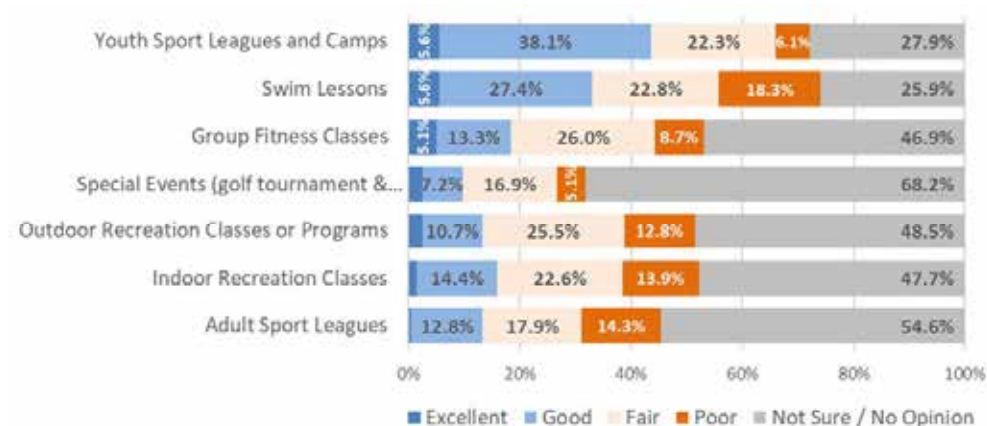
## Recreation programs

### How do residents feel about the availability of program options?

When it comes to recreational programs and activities, a plurality of respondents (44%) rated the availability of youth sport leagues and camps as either excellent or good. While one-third (33%) said the availability of swim lessons was either excellent or good, respondents more strongly rated the availability of this program area as either fair or poor by more than eight percentage points (41%). For each of the remaining five program types, respondents indicated the availability of programs as either fair or poor by at least a two-to-one margin over those who feel the availability is excellent or good.

Respondents with children and those between 35 and 54 years of age were slightly more likely to indicate the availability of youth sports, adult sports and outdoor recreation classes as either excellent or good.

Figure 7. How would you rate the availability of the following activities provided by RAPRD?



### What recreation options do residents have a need for?

Survey respondents were asked which recreation programs members of their household had participated in within the past two years. Swimming and water safety programs were the only program type where more than half of respondents' households (58%) participated in the recent past. Nearly half of households (49%) participated in youth sport programs. Approximately one-third of households participated in each of three other program areas: youth activities (34%), adult classes (34%), and afterschool programs (33%).

Using the same list, survey respondents were asked the degree to which their households' needs for each program offering were met. Overall, program needs across most programs types were somewhat or well met. In total numbers, respondents expressed the greatest need for swimming programs (19%), adult sports (16%), and adult classes. However, in comparing the responses of need not being met against need being somewhat or very well met, the relative need for teen activities during school breaks is the strongest of all program options, followed closely for adult sports. These two program types may



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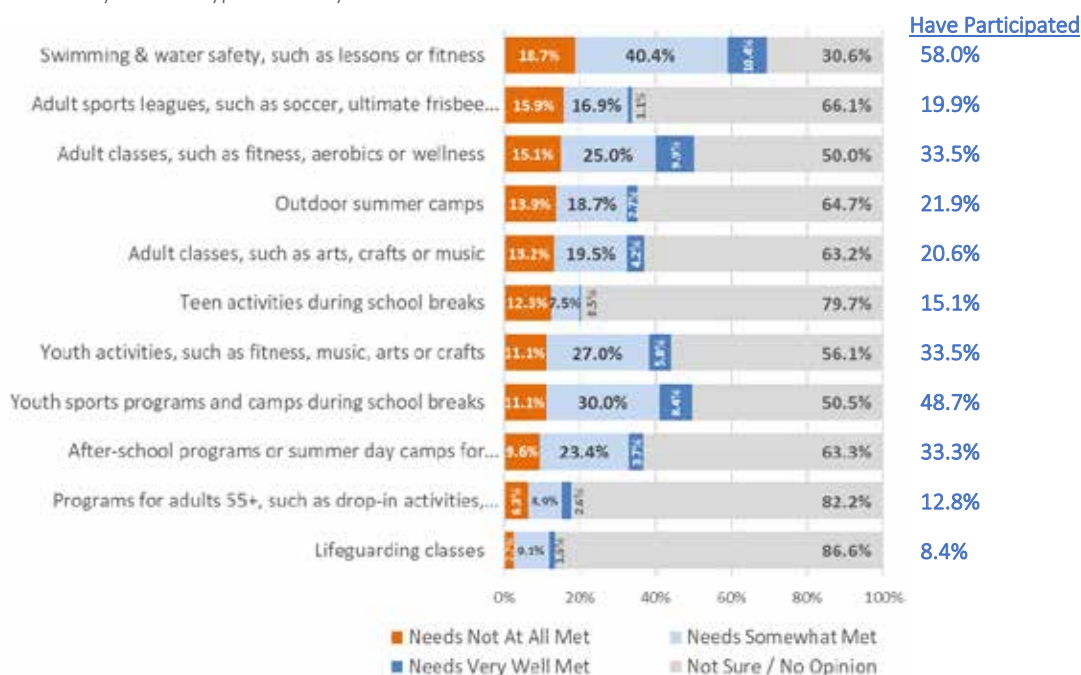
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## 2026 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

represent strong options for expansion with RAPRD as a direct provider or via partnership with other providers.

Respondents with children in the home were more likely to have participated in swimming, youth, teen, and afterschool programs in the past two years – and to want to see more of these types of programs in the future. Those without children were more likely to have participated in adult fitness and older adult programming.

**Figure 8/9.** RAPRD may explore adding or expanding recreation programs, classes, and activities. Please indicate if your household has participated in the past two years in each program or activity below, and how well met are your needs today for each type of activity?



### What park and recreation amenities would residents support adding?

The survey asked residents about their interest for a variety of potential recreation or educational experiences to expand or improve. Majorities of respondents indicated interest in special events (53%) and youth sport offerings (50%). Roughly one-third of respondents identified interest for several other program options, including swim lessons (38%), teen programs (38%), adult fitness (37%), arts (34%), adult sports (33%), and enrichment activities (31%). Write-in responses included beach or sand volleyball, adaptive or inclusive recreation, youth afterschool programs, dance and fitness programs.

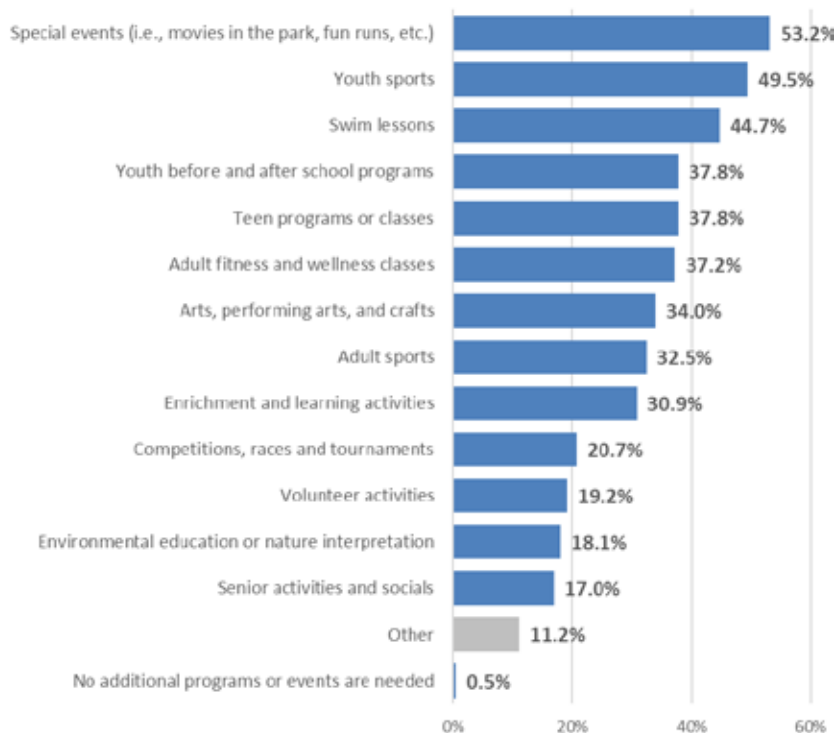
Respondents without children indicated stronger interest for special events and adult fitness and wellness classes. Those with children and those between 35 and 54 years of age showed stronger interest for youth and teen programs and swim lessons. Respondents over 65 years of age showed stronger interest for adult fitness and wellness classes and senior activities and socials. No significant differences were noted based on the location of the respondents' residence.

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**Figure 10.** Are there types of recreation or educational experiences that you think RAPRD should expand or improve? (Check all that apply)



In an open-ended question, respondents were asked what other recreation programs or activities RAPRD should consider. A variety of ideas were offered from 70 write-in responses, and the complete list is provided in the appendix starting on page 19. The following highlights the common suggestions:

- **Facility space:** Several respondents commented on the need for additional indoor space for programming, including fitness space and expanded indoor court space for basketball and volleyball. Other comments included an interest in improved sand volleyball courts with better nets and lines.
- **Enhanced programming:** Some respondents suggested the need for adult sports and activities with more accessible scheduling, additional youth/children summer and school holiday camps, expanded fitness programming, and expanded scheduling to accommodate earlier/later participation.
- **Specialized recreation:** Some respondents included comments identifying a need for an ice skating rink, wilderness activities, and cooking, art and painting classes.

Respondents were also asked why they do not participate in recreation, arts or sports programs offered by RAPRD. One-third (44%) noted that the question does not apply, since they do participate.

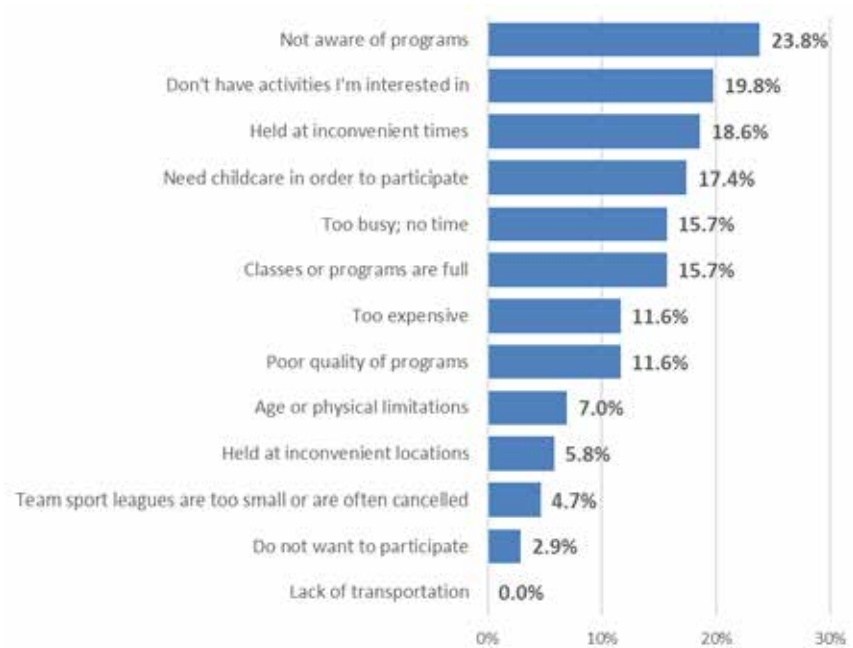
## RAPRD

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## 2026 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Of the remaining responses, nearly one-quarter (24%) responded that they were not aware of program offerings, suggesting a significant opportunity for the District to improve information and outreach. Between 15% and 20% of respondents cited not having programs or activities of interest (20%), programs held at inconvenient times (19%), need for childcare to participate (17%), not having time or being busy (16%), or classes being full (16%) as the reasons they do not participate. There were no significant difference noted by age groups, location of respondent, or by households with or without children.

Figure 11. If you do not participate in recreation or sports programs offered by RAPRD, what are your reasons? (Please check all that apply)



### How do residents view program affordability and accessibility?

When it comes to recreation program costs, respondents expressed strong sentiments that RAPRD's programs are inexpensive or reasonably priced. Fewer than one-in-six respondents (15%) said youth programs and activities were expensive, and less than half as many respondents said programs were expensive for swim lessons (7%), adult or general interest classes (4%) or adult sport leagues (4%). There were no significant differences in responses by age, geography or household composition.

Figure 12. How would you rate the affordability of RAPRD programs? Would you say they are...



## RAPRD

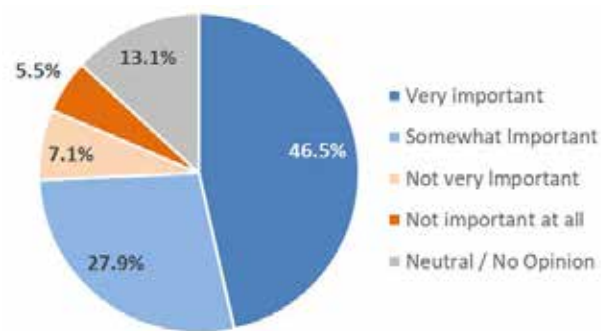
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Another question asked about RAPRD's program focus pertaining to under-served populations or populations that are not served by the private marketplace. Nearly half of respondents (47%) indicated it is very important for RAPRD to focus on under-served populations, and three-quarters (74%) said it was either very or somewhat important for the District. Fewer than 13% of respondents felt it to be not very important or not important for RAPRD to focus program delivery to under-served populations.

There were no significant differences in responses by age, geography or household composition.

**Figure 13.** How important is it to you personally that the RAPRD focuses on delivering programs and services to under-served populations or populations that are not served by the private marketplace?



Related to the above question about under-served populations or areas, the survey included an open-ended question that asked if there any geographic areas in the greater Redmond area (northeast Deschutes County) where RAPRD should consider increasing programming, activities and/or facilities. In all, 38 responses were provided (see appendix for full list) and can be summarized as the following:

- Maintain existing facilities before growing into other areas, fix irrigation and add lighting at sport fields.
- Provide more amenities, such as walking and biking trails, volleyball, picnic shelters.
- Provide options for Terrebonne, which is underserved with limited clubs and no affordable afterschool activities for kids.
- Provide more parks and playgrounds, especially in southwest and north Redmond.



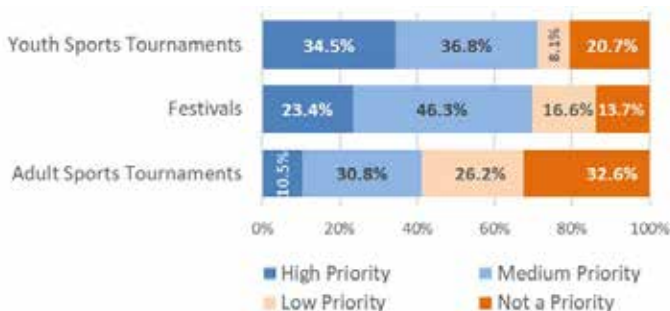
### Which community events do residents prioritize?

As with recreation programs, the survey asked a question regarding community event priorities. A majority of respondents identified youth sport tournaments (71%) and festivals (70%) as either high or medium priorities, with over one-third of respondents stating that youth sport tournaments should be a high priority.

Respondents indicated a lower preference for adult sport tournaments with nearly one-third of respondents (33%) as not a priority.

Respondents with children and those between 35 and 54 years of age indicated a slightly stronger priority for youth sport tournaments. There were no significant differences in responses by geography.

**Figure 14.** RAPRD hosts events in the Redmond community. Please indicate what type of community events are a high priority, medium priority or not a priority for your household.



### Recreational Trails

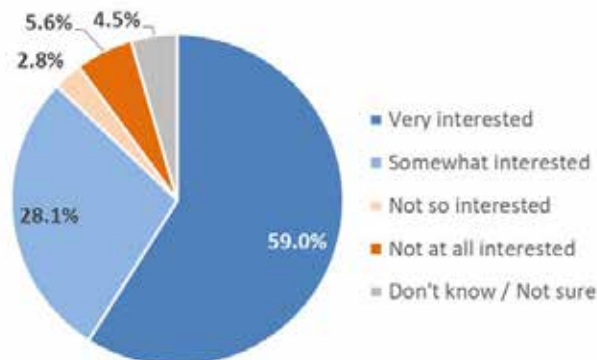
#### Are residents interested in expanded trail opportunities?

A series of three questions asked respondents to identify and rank their interest in various trail opportunities and connections that could be considered in the future.

When asked about the potential to explore providing a trail corridor along the Deschutes River, a majority of respondents were very interested (59%), and a strong majority (87%) were either very or somewhat interested.

There were no significant differences in responses by age, geography or household composition.

**Figure 15.** There are 34 miles of Deschutes River frontage within the RAPRD boundary, and the District owns two properties along the Deschutes River (Borden Beck and Tetherow Crossing). Do you have interest in developing a trail system with river access that could link District properties along the River, and to State Parks, Tumalo, and Cline Falls?



## RAPRD

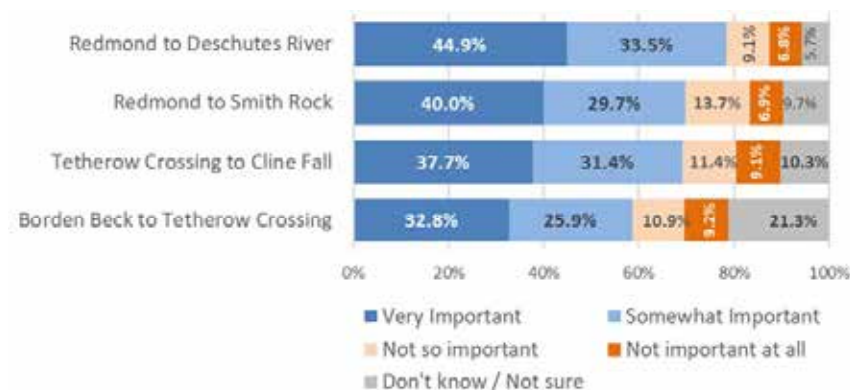
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## 2026 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

A second question asked respondents to consider specific corridors for non-motorized trails. While majorities of respondents identified each of the four listed corridors as either very or somewhat important, a trail corridor connecting Redmond to the Deschutes River had the strongest support, with 78% of respondents identifying this corridor as either very or somewhat important.

Respondents without children indicated slightly greater importance for the Tetherow Crossing to Cline Falls and the Borden Beck to Tetherow Crossing corridors. Those between 20 and 34 years of age and those living north of Redmond and east of US 97 indicated slightly greater importance for the Redmond to Smith Rock corridor.

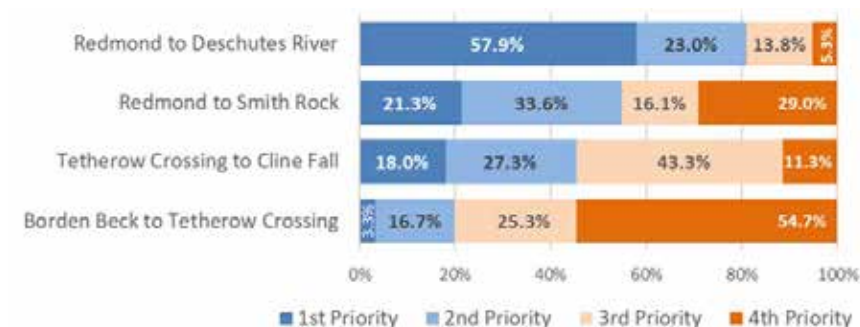
**Figure 16.** How important is it to you to build non-motorized trails to create safe connections between each of the following?



In an effort to identify potential priorities for the four trail corridors from the previous question, respondents were asked to use the same list of four corridors and rank their preferred priority for each. Respondents overwhelmingly reiterated the priority of a Redmond to Deschutes River corridor, with a majority (58%) listing it as the top priority. A connection between Redmond and Smith Rock ranked second, and a connection from Tetherow Crossing to Cline Falls ranked third.

Respondents without children and those between 20 and 34 years of age indicated slightly priority for a Redmond to Smith Rock corridor.

**Figure 17.** Using the same list again, please rank your priority for each potential trail corridor (1 is highest priority and 4 is lowest priority).



## Future Investments

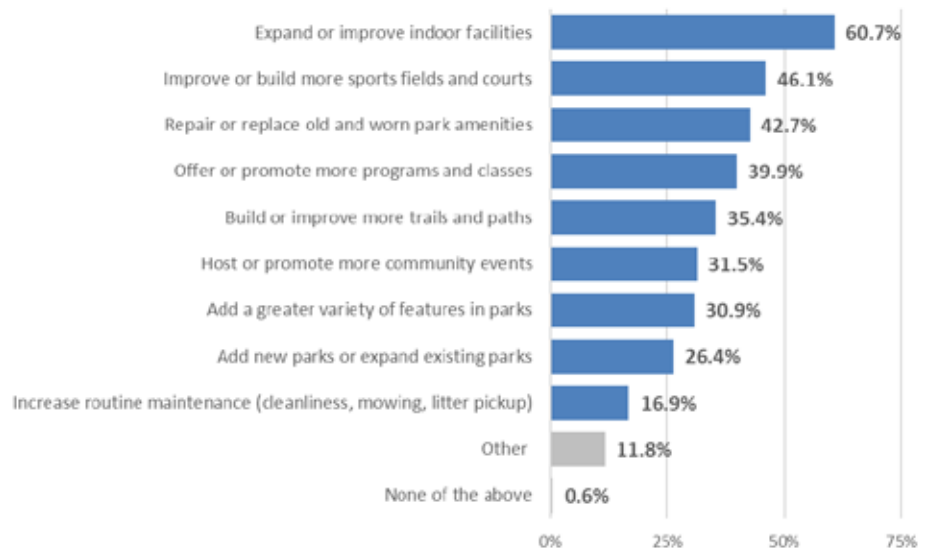
### Do residents support additional park and recreation facilities?

The survey asked residents a question regarding their sense of importance for a variety of amenities and facilities for future investment in the park system. A significant majority of respondents (61%) identified expanding or improving indoor facilities as important. Strong interest also was noted for improving sport fields and courts (46%), repairing worn amenities (43%), and offering or promoting more classes (40%), see Figure 18.

Approximately one-third of respondents identified as important building more trails (35%), hosting community events (32%), and adding a greater variety of features to parks (31%). Only one-quarter of respondents noted that adding new parks was important for RAPRD.

Respondents between the ages of 20 and 54 and those with children expressed a greater interest in improving or expanding sport fields and courts, and respondents with children also indicated greater interest in adding a greater variety of features in parks. Respondents without children and those over 65 years of age indicated a greater interest in building or improving trails. There were no significant differences in responses by geography.

**Figure 18.** RAPRD makes choices every year about how best to invest funding in renovating, enhancing, maintaining, or activating the park and recreation system. Which of the following are most important to you or your family?



A different question asked respondents to select the types facilities they would like to see more of in RAPRD parks. For this question, rather than using ranking or a scale for selection, respondents were allowed to select up to three options, and the focus was geared toward outdoor recreation elements suitable for parks. Nearly a majority of respondents identified interest in seeing more unique play areas in RAPRD parks. Also, fitness and active recreation elements were identified with strong interest by roughly 30% and 40% of responses. This includes climbing elements (41%), exercise areas (39%), sport courts (33%), sport fields (30%), and event space (30%). Other specialized amenities rated less favorably, such as pickleball (15%) and a skate park (5%). Write-in responses for 'other' included sand and beach volleyball, bocce, trails, water play (splash pad), and nature play.

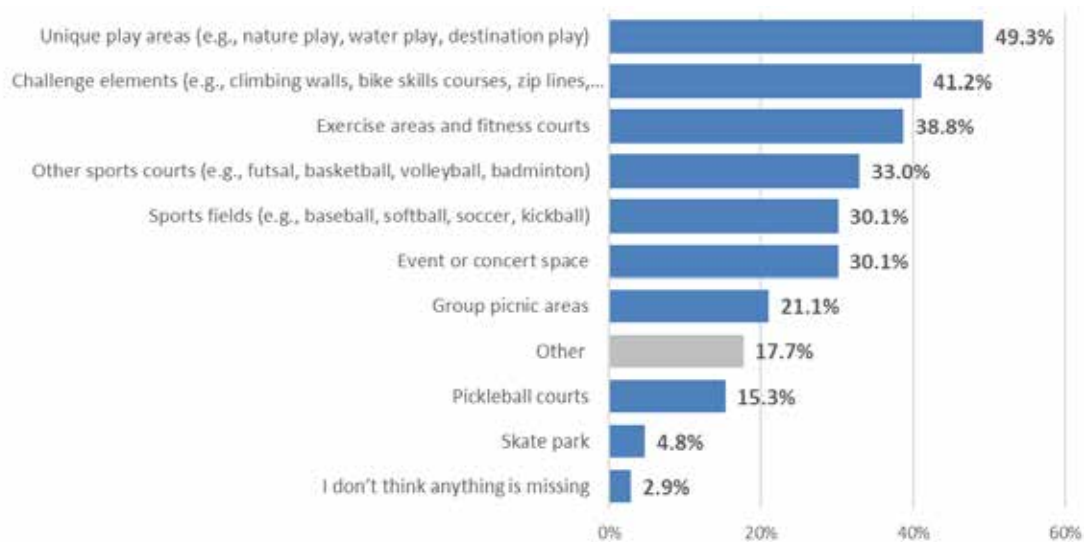
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Respondents between the ages of 20 and 44 and those with children expressed a greater interest in unique play areas and sport fields, and respondents with children also indicated greater interest in challenge elements (i.e., climbing walls, bike skills courses, etc.). Respondents north of Redmond and east of US 97 indicated slightly stronger interest for exercise areas and pickleball.

Figure 19. What types of facilities would you like to see more of in RAPRD parks? Choose up to 3.



### How do residents want to hear about RAPRD's facilities, programs and events?

The majority of respondents prefer to hear about RAPRD's facilities and programs through direct email (58%) and the District's website (51%). Facebook, Instagram and direct mail are also popular information channels preferred by at least one-third of respondents.

Respondents with children and those between 20 and 54 years of age indicated a slightly stronger preference toward Instagram, and those over 55 had a slightly stronger preference toward community event signs. There were no significant differences in responses by geography.

Figure 20. How can RAPRD best communicate with you about recreation facilities, programming and events?



Write-in responses included Bluesky social media, radio ads and information sent through local schools.



### Do residents have specific improvements they would like to see?

Respondents were asked to describe one thing that they would like to see RAPRD do to improve parks, facilities, and/or recreation programs. While respondents provided nearly 120 specific comments and ideas, a few themes emerged:

- The highest frequency comments related to opening the new facility, making improvements at the High Desert Sports Complex (e.g., additional parking, field improvements), trails, communication, volleyball courts, and ongoing maintenance.
- Respondents expressed interest in seeing the new recreation center completed and capacity for additional programming.
- Respondents would like to see continued investment in maintenance and staffing of existing facilities, with some comments stressing the need to focus on taking care of what you already have before expanding into new program areas.
- Several respondents offered interest in focusing on youth and teen activities and amenities, expanded adult sports and options for ‘free agent’ coordination, and programs for those with special needs.

The full list of write-in comments is provided at the end of this summary memo.

## RAPRD

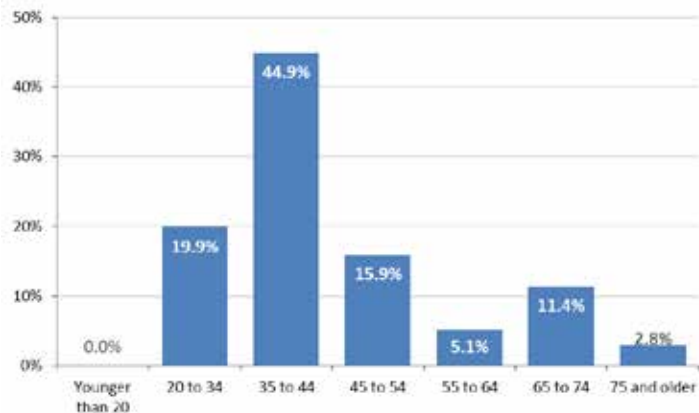
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## Demographics

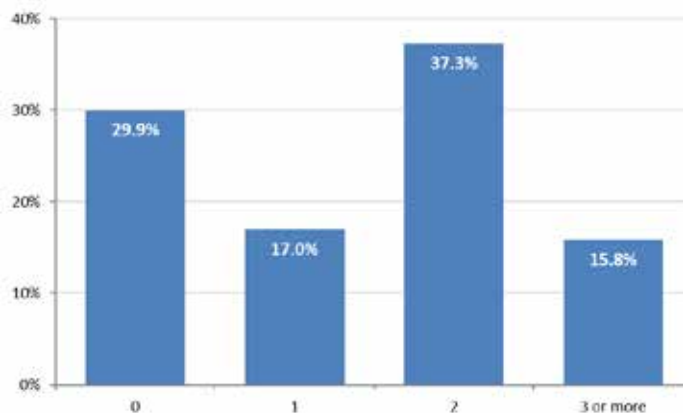
## Age groups

Overall, 61% of respondents were between 35 and 54 years of age. Equal percentages of respondents were under 35 years old (20%) and 55 and older (19%).



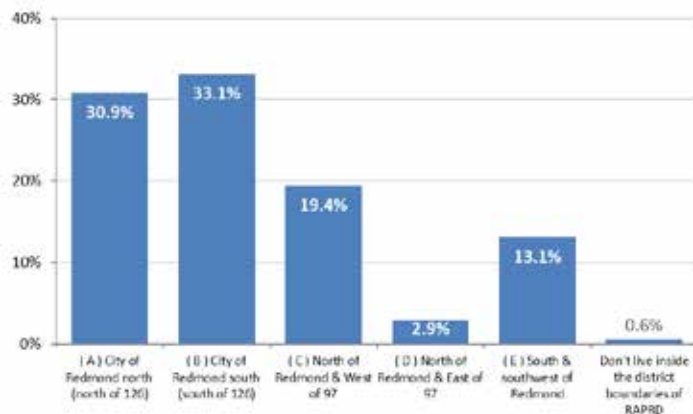
## Number of children in household

The majority (70%) of all survey respondents live in households with children under 18, where households have either one (17%), two (37%), or three or more (16%) children. Slightly fewer than one-third of respondent (30%) live in households without children under the age of 18.



## Location of residence

Approximately equal numbers of responses were collected within the southern (south of 126) and northern sections (north of 126) of the City of Redmond. An additional 22% of responses came from areas north of Redmond, and 13% came from areas south and southwest of Redmond.



## ATTACHMENT 1. OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

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### Question 5. What are the most compelling reasons for you to visit a park? (open-ended responses)

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- Beach volleyball
- Beach volleyball
- Watching my grandson play baseball.
- Beach volleyball courts
- Beach Volleyball
- Sand volleyball!
- Sand volleyball courts
- Beach volleyball
- Mmm
- Too hard to just pick 3

---

### Question 6. What types of facilities would you like to see more of in RAPRD parks? (open-ended “other” responses)

---

- Long Course Pool
- Clean safe up kept dog parks
- Ice/roller skating rink
- Volleyball!
- Sand volleyball
- Beach volleyball
- Full size ice rink like Bend’s pavilion
- Bocce ball courts at least 4 in a group.
- We don't need more pickleball. Add more paved and dirt trails.
- Outdoor pool and more kids parks with play equipment
- Beach volleyball courts
- A better, funded pool.
- Beach volleyball
- Beach Volleyball courts
- More shade in the design of children’s parks, please.
- Sand Volleyball
- Sand volleyball courts
- A speedway would be cool. Madras sucks...
- Cameras to feel safe. Too many rude, violent kids out alone.
- Sand Volleyball courts
- Beach volleyball
- Nature and water play
- Beach volleyball courts
- Trails

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- Indoor sports courts/fields
- More paved walking trails
- Gaming, bowling and go-carts for the youth
- Adult playground, aka fitness equipment, out in a park
- Meeting spaces
- South dog park
- Cline Falls turned into a clean family friendly park similar to River Bend Park with added sand and floating etc.
- Hoping the new rec center has an amazing weightlifting area and childcare, so more moms can actually go workout
- Splash pad playground. One with shade incorporated and natural play elements and a playground
- No more pickleball courts.
- Pools
- Paved bike trails

---

**Question 10. Are there types of recreation or educational experiences that you think RAPRD should expand or improve? (open-ended “other” responses)**

---

- Fitness center (a gym)
- Ice skating
- Activities for inclusion for those with disabilities
- Dance classes for all ages, dance fitness classes as well
- Mommy & Me activities
- Volleyball courts outdoor
- Bocce ball
- Youth afterschool programs would be amazing especially in the out of town areas where there are no affordable options for kids to participate in any activities.
- Beach volleyball courts
- Beach Volleyball
- Sand volleyball
- Sand volleyball courts
- Maybe don't make things so expensive to attend, but also too many people attending makes it hard to enjoy anything
- Youth and adult volleyball programs
- More programming for kids, homeschool groups, educational and nature based activities
- Youth beach volleyball events
- Beach volleyball courts need facelift
- Adaptive recreation options
- Pre-school or younger aged programs
- Race
- Quality swim lessons not taught by 14 year olds. Our family has seen too many dangerous situations in swim lessons- They are also expensive and mostly just goofing off/play time. I would be inclined to pay even more for lessons if they were quality lessons taught by adults and not 14-16 year olds mostly focused on socializing with one another.



**Question 11. What other recreation programs or activities should RAPRD consider? (open-ended)**

- Group activities
- The selection of non-fitness classes for adults has seemed very limited -- I've never found anything through RAPRD although I've done classes with Bend Parks & Rec, COCC, etc. Would love to see more of those.
- Better beach volleyball courts.
- Teen workout classes and/ or gym
- Children's all day summer camps and no school day camps
- Ice skating
- More options to include those with disabilities at all levels!
- Adult sports facilities are badly needed, especially more indoor volleyball courts.
- Bring back the RAT race triathlon! Maybe as a fundraiser for the swim team?
- Better times for adult sports (we get up early to work and too old to stay up late to play basketball, etc.)
- I send my kids to BPRD camps in the summer because the offerings in Redmond are just not that great.
- Would love to see more youth sports camps offered by the high school coaches.
- Are there any sand volleyball offerings?
- Culture programs or activities
- Adult Volleyball at the 4 courts planned for the new gym. We definitely need more courts. Also to spruce up the Redmond sand courts with some fresh sand and updated nets
- Expansion of fitness classes available
- There's a lack of activities for infants and toddlers
- Larger outdoor swimming pool, weight lifting area for teens, yoga classes.
- More programs for youth and even families
- Updating and fixing sand volleyball court
- Better softball leagues, and sand volleyball
- A full size indoor ice rink that works year round. Or an open ice rink like the pavilion. We need more indoor activities for winter. More variety of sports for kids. Cross country running club for kids. Keep up the horseback riding lesson but expand them.
- I signed up for an Painting Class a couple years ago, bought the supplies needed and it was canceled. I have not seen anything like it offered again.
- For adult sports a "free agent" list would be nice
- Roller skating rink
- New leadership over youth sports.
- After school clubs and programs for all Redmond School District schools.
- Beach Volleyball
- Beach volleyball courts
- More beach volleyball courts or an update on the nets at the pool
- More baseball fields with night lighting. Indoor space for winter sports, like basketball, indoor soccer, roller hockey.
- Expanding more soap making, belly dancing, violin, vigorous work out classes for adults, etc.
- Adult racquet ball
- Na
- MENS SOFTBALL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Ice skating rink/curling, mini golf and driving range

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- 
- Improved sand volleyball courts
  - Ultimate frisbee, frisbee golf tournaments
  - The nets of the sand courts are terrible and you can't adjust them. You can also need lines in order to play there.
  - New beach volleyball courts
  - None I can think of
  - More programming for kids, homeschool groups, educational and nature themed activities
  - More community gathering events
  - Beach volleyball programs for adult and youth, indoor volleyball programs for youth
  - Adult sports and activities for those who aren't yet retired (i.e. more accessible scheduling).
  - I wish RAPRD would advertise for lacrosse registration a lot more than one or two Facebook posts. The program was great pre-covid but now it's impossible to get a team together because no one knows about the sport. It's the oldest American game, bring more attention to it!
  - Bowling league
  - More programs for kids during the winter months
  - Yoga for moms or women. More kids cooking classes.
  - Golf league
  - Enrichment, nature, volunteer and art/craft activities for teens, age 12-16 ish. Programs that encourage them to collaborate, experience different cultures and be part of the community. After school/evenings and during holiday/summer breaks.
  - More activities for teens and more activities for those with developmental disabilities
  - Accommodations for neurodivergent support, people with all types of disabilities to access recreation programs.
  - Expanding times would be good. Not everyone can get to a class between 7am and 6:30 pm.
  - My biking classes
  - Primitive skills classes
  - Trails along Deschutes.
  - Youth sports: climbing, golf, pickleball, tennis
  - Added family swim times and open swim programs geared toward young families
  - Toddler time programs especially in winter
  - 5k runs that benefit the community in some way. It's a healthy way to organize funds for rec programs that need it.
  - Katie Hammer is burnt out. This district needs a new director to take our city into a positive future.
  - More classes for ages 2+
  - Pre school or younger aged programs
  - Art classes for kids
  - Adult art classes
  - Personal safety classes
  - Enrichment
  - More options like cooking classes, gardening etc.
  - Youth Pickleball, indoor pickleball.
  - All day/most of all day summer camps that are more affordable or at least cost comparison wise to bend park and rec. we have, several times, chosen to drive our kids to bend for summer camps with BPRD because their camps were full day and over \$100+ cheaper, making it worth the drive.
  - To be simple: Do what you already do BUT much better. Great programs but the execution and professionalism is severely lacking.
  - Youth Volleyball leagues

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- Local wilderness classes/activities hosted by a local group vs outsourcing. Also, offer them before fire season to avoid putting kids in indoor offices!!
- Creating a Youth Golf Training Class would be cool!!
- Keep existing pool open
- Home economics
- More widely available lap swim times
- Exercise opportunities for seniors are very limited. Currently, we drive three times a week to Larkspur in Bend, because our community in Redmond doesn't offer anything like that. My husband even lifeguards over there now. We absolutely cannot wait until the new facility is up and running. We hope there will be a decent assortment of classes to choose from. We were disappointed that the indoor track was deleted in the most recent planning. There's no safe indoor place for seniors to walk when the weather is less than optimal. There is no strength training machines. The terrible dressing room at Cascade keeps me from going there on a regular basis. All I ever do in Redmond is Silver sneakers, yoga, and once in a great while the 9 AM water aerobics, and then drive home wet. Redmond could definitely do better. We go to our grandchildren's games at high Desert and we take kids to the park, the splash pad and attend concert events. Those are all great.
- Ice rink and hockey

---

**Question 15. Are there any geographic areas in the greater Redmond area (northeast Deschutes County) where RAPRD should consider increasing programming, activities and/or facilities? If so, where and what types of services? (open-ended)**

---

- SW Redmond. Trails and parks under the power lines. Playground, walking trails, amphitheater... this is the fastest growing part of town and there is nothing beyond Umatilla park
- More programming in the outer areas around Redmond.
- Maybe near the airport/fairgrounds
- No, improve what you have currently first. Improve the maintenance of your existing spaces (the soccer field are so poorly maintained, please fix the sprinklers and water the fields so that there aren't divots and bare dirt. Weed the same volleyball courts).
- Hopefully the city puts in the light on highland before the rec center opens.
- The Redmond senior center
- Parks west of 19th and north of Highland
- Less at the nature preserve- there are plenty of outdoor parks and spaces. More at the gyms and swimming pool.
- I feel the location of the pending new building is a great location.
- Lights at sports parks is a dire need.
- Sand volleyball courts and indoor volleyball courts
- You should add kickball too
- Terrebonne
- The Terrebonne Community is underserved with limited clubs and no affordable after school activities for kids.
- If transportation is offered to high need areas, that might be more affordable than adding facilities.
- The beach volleyball courts at the pool. Maybe add some at a new park or facility in the future. Four or five courts to have tournaments.
- Southwest Redmond needs a park with sports fields.
- N/A
- N/A
- NW Redmond needs more!! It's growing
- DK

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- Yoga classes, youth lacrosse, hockey/ice skating rink that's year round, parenting courses, babysitting courses
- The beach volleyball courts are very under utilized. There is a huge need and interest for a beach volleyball program in Redmond! I would love to see this offered and would be willing to coach it!
- No. The urban area isn't even adequately served yet.
- Tetherow Crossing park needs a playground for kids and artificial grass and more access and improved access to water areas for kids to play.
- Picnic shelter & bathroom at Borden Beck, Tetherow Crossing
- Terrebonne
- Children's playground and grassy area on the RAPRD property on Majestic Avenue under the power lines. It's just a dirt pile and needs to be developed. Would increase the value and beauty of the neighborhood!
- North Redmond and Terrebonne like area
- Put hiking and biking trails under the power lines on the west side of Redmond near the new rec center
- SW Redmond could use a park and walking trail
- I would like to see renovation & maintenance of existing facilities. I would also like to see trail expansions & connectivity at natural outdoor areas.
- N/A
- Cline Falls - turn it into a nice family friendly park similar to river bend park. Would draw tourism and be a very popular spot for families
- NW Redmond
- North Redmond is growing and developing a ton of neighborhoods. It would be nice to have a larger playground park for kids
- I don't really have a strong opinion.
- Southeast side of Bend
- South west side of Redmond (Helmholtz and reservoir roads) has seen a big community growth recently. Making some beautiful parks on this side would be ideal. We need more parks for youth on this side too!!!

---

**Question 17. RAPRD makes choices every year about how best to invest funding in renovating, enhancing, maintaining, or activating the park and recreation system. Which of the following are most important to you or your family? (open-ended "other" responses)**

---

- Ice/roller skating rink
- Parking at the sports events
- Improving parking. Maybe paved at the high desert complex
- Redoing beach volleyball courts
- Bike paths in and around town to make it more bike friendly
- Add better sand volleyball courts
- Stop building parks that aren't smaller kid friendly. The 'ninja warrior' style remodels aren't small kid or special needs friendly Sam Johnson gets too busy.
- Build more sand volleyball courts
- Stop adding parks to maintain and add programs and activities.
- The beach volleyball courts need new adjustable nets, and high quality sand
- Promote lacrosse more!
- Parking at the swim center sucks and needs lighting
- Bathrooms!!!



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- Update Pleasant Ridge Community Hall.
- Adaptive recreation
- Bathroom cleaning/maintenance
- Nothing
- More outdoor summer water activities-safe river access and outdoor pool
- Please don't drop the ball on the new rec center/pool. Please please offer more childcare services when it opens so more people can use the facilities
- New pool and recreation facility!!!!
- More swimming options

---

**Question 21. How can RAPRD best communicate with you about recreation facilities, programming and events? (open-ended "other" responses)**

---

- Utilize social media and email- it's free and currently poorly executed
- Text messages with links
- Flyers at the RDM senior center
- A one page flyer mailed out to everyone listing what's coming and when signups end would be amazing!
- Bluesky
- Would you consider texts?
- Schools, neighbor impact, mountain star, early interventions
- Please use Bluesky, no one is on X anymore.
- Fix the RAPRD website, reducing redundancy and clutter, make the catalog digital.
- Schools
- Radio ads
- I work here
- Have people opt in for texts about the programs or facilities they want.

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**Question 22. If you wanted RAPRD to do just one thing to improve its parks, facilities, and/or recreation programs, what would it be? (open-ended)**

---

- Update them to be revamped and nicer.
- More options for non-motorized, dog-friendly trails to keep any one area from being overcrowded
- Make the website easier to navigate. Right now it is not very user friendly.
- Better beach volleyball courts
- Indoor gym/ rec center
- Combine City of Redmond and RAPRD to leverage funding and recreational opportunities.
- Safe walking trails in SW Redmond
- Day camps for kids during no school breaks, especially during the summer
- Maintain them better, make them safe.
- Ice skating
- Better sports complex (fields, courts, etc.)
- Add more options for people with disabilities.

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- Partner with the YMCA
- Maintenance - Fix the sprinklers at the sports complex and weed the volleyball courts.
- Stop off leash dogs
- Better coaches
- A green belt through town.
- More parking at High Desert Sports Complex and then 4 courts for volleyball at the new gymnasium! But I said that already... just making sure you saw. :) thanks!
- Add more fitness classes. You have good ones but a limited schedule
- Open the new building!
- Improve walking trails
- Lights in parks especially for adult sports
- Address parking
- Keep outdoor restrooms open year round & maintain them
- Add a kids softball/baseball program that isn't little league or travel ball. Both of those programs are over priced and we need a rec league. 10u, 12u, 14u etc. teams built off schools instead of tryouts and ranking kids. My daughter is 9, and I am coaching her little league team this year and the draft process was ridiculous and not needed. These kids will play on teams based on schools once they get to high school why are we drafting and grading skills at 9 years old? Rec sports are important for kids to have fun while developing skills and learning team work and all the other bigger sports there is a rec option but not for softball/baseball.
- Update and repair sand volleyball courts
- Teen center
- Better sand courts or men's softball
- More river access
- Build a full size indoor year round ice rink
- Keep the water park open later during the summer....It turns off just when the weather gets wonderful for family visits.
- Promote. I'd say the biggest thing is I don't know things are happening. I live in Redmond but don't work in Redmond or have kids. I'd love to join an adult sports league but a lot of time I miss registration or I don't have enough people for a team and don't get communication on being a "free agent" so I end up going to Bend
- Add more activities for children to get them off the streets. Making activities more accessible.
- Outdoor water attractions
- Add more trails!
- New leadership over youth sports. Do not claim its developmental when the parks and rec department is barely involved with the league
- Better indoor facilities!
- Improving the parking situation and maintaining the gravel parking area at the High Desert Parks and Rec location.
- Build more parks in north Redmond/Terrebonne.
- Add beach volleyball courts.
- Make more facilities and activities available to our youth.
- Youth sports needs significant improvement in training for coaches- BPRD partners with Bend FC to offer coach training events, Apex Futbol Club has a Redmond team, that could be a beneficial partnership to give Redmond athletes actual coaching rather than parents who have no idea how to play the sport they are teaching kids about.
- let us know when sign ups for programs open
- Add beach volleyball courts
- Sand volley courts. The ones we have are old and in horrific condition. And we need more of them and actually in a park not right next to the road

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- 
- Fix the nets and poles at the beach volleyball courts at the pool
  - Night lighting for sporting events with turf fields.
  - Improve biking trails throughout Redmond
  - N/A
  - Focus on something for teens to do, they don't really have a place to go and hang out
  - Add more parks with a variety of offerings for kids.
  - MENS SOFTBALL LEAGUE. COME ON! your pool staff suck.
  - Improve parking and fields at high desert sports complex
  - Please improve the sand Volleyball courts
  - More teen activities.
  - More programs for special needs.
  - New swim center, preferably at new rec center
  - Keeping them clean.
  - Indoor playground, our own trampoline park, something for parents and their special needs children
  - Create a bigger swim center to serve a growing community!!
  - Build more sand volleyball courts
  - Let the larger community know it exists
  - Get that swim center built and pack out the classes offered!
  - More Programs for kids! Activities, camps, classes, (Archery, Gardening, Music Classes
  - Tennis, Golf, Swim Lessons at different times (warmer pool!!)
  - A bigger newer swim center with more facilities inside, work out room, yoga room, daycare,
  - Improve the beach volleyball courts with new poles and nets, new high quality sand, and youth programs for beach volleyball
  - Create more shaded areas with trees or coverings
  - Prioritize serving the adult social fabric of the Redmond community, so we can reduce loneliness, community division, and the need to ever go to Bend.
  - Update equipment
  - Increase availability of recreation programs
  - More fitness Classes, new weights pool and gym facility
  - Add more swimming programs for the middle school ages and fix the parking/lighting problem.
  - Lower the cost of youth sports
  - Get the new swim center opened. Too many delays.
  - bathrooms
  - Trails
  - Update Pleasant Ridge Community Hall. Make it look nice for all who use it!
  - A safe place and times for teens to participate in programs, use facilities and parks.
  - Open rec center with more opportunities and hose more opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities
  - Recreation center open!
  - Trails connecting facilities and areas in Redmond, like connecting to the dry canyon, connecting facilities, and connecting to Smith Rock. We love riding our bikes around town but it is getting more and more dangerous to road bike to Smith rock.
  - Expand times of classes past 6:30 pm
  - Young family programming - add more options and classes
  - Increase walking trails and add more parks

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- Clear the steps into Dry Canyon--remove dirt, trash, and weeds. Quickly paint over or deal with graffiti in Dry Canyon and parks: establish a phone number for the public to easily report new graffiti; investigate interest in community group to do some or all of the paint-overs or other work.
- PLEASE improve the sports complex facility grounds! Kids are playing soccer on pitted, lumpy, rocky fields. The grass is either nonexistent or in terrible shape. The fields are in desperate need of better care.
- More connected trails
- Safer fields at HSC.
- Increase community access to pool.
- Safe and clean river access, kid friendly
- Adult programs
- More events
- Lights at HDSC. So practices can go a bit longer. Make the fields safe. Too many holes and mud.
- Add more adult sports leagues
- Childcare at the new rec facility so I can use the gym/pool often.
- Get the new rec center up and running, particularly the pool! Offer more times for recreational and lap swimming and more options for kids swim lessons, perhaps 1 day a week lesson options and multiple day a week options (like BPRD). Also more training for the swim instructors!
- More kids programs and sports & better training for staff
- More options for younger aged kids 2-4 years old
- Improve and expand the swim team and lesson program so children are not turned away.
- Improve management
- Improve the quality overall. I don't mean to be negative, and realize nothing will ever be perfect of course, but it feels like all areas within RAPRD need "cleaned up" to a certain degree. I think because of that, it makes getting funding approved by the public extra hard. A renewed focus on doing what you already do, with excellence in mind, would go a long ways in many ways.
- To hire better management officers to run RAPRD that possess professionalism, drive, competence and integrity!!
- Lower the cost of programs
- Better bathroom facilities
- Add more affordable wilderness classes early in the summer break (to avoid fire smoke season) preferably using local members vs outsourcing.
- Keep our pool center open
- New swimming pool facility that has space for lap swim at all times
- Would like to see major improvements at the High Desert Sports Complex. It looks worse than ever, parking is a nightmare, it's unsafe with scrap metal and unclear driving/parking areas everywhere while so many children are present. Registration for youth soccer is at an all time high, we should be doing better for our community!
- Cascade Swim Center is unbelievably rundown. Where is the new facility we were promised???
- Get the new facility open and offer more water aerobics classes. We need an indoor track and a nice gym with weight machines. Love the silver sneakers chair yoga class.
- More baseball fields
- Better facilities for indoor fitness programs
- Add bike paths and trails!
- More trails and connections to various areas



## **Appendix B: Open House Summary**



CONSERVATION  
TECHNIX

## MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT NUMBER:	#24-157PLN	ISSUE DATE:	May 8, 2025
PROJECT NAME:	RAPRD Parks & Recreation Master Plan		

RECORDED BY:	Steve Duh
TO:	FILE
PRESENT:	Members of the public City staff Project team members from Conservation Technix

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Master Plan: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (May 6<sup>th</sup>)</b>
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Community members were invited to an open house for the RAPRD Parks and Recreation Master Plan on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at the Redmond Library. For the open house, 15 display boards were mounted on easels with project information based on park and recreation topics relevant to RAPRD's services, which included recreation programming, The Hub Aquatics and Recreation, parks and open space, and trails. Attendees were encouraged to sign-in upon arrival and provide written comments.

Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members and record their comments. RAPRD staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation services for the District. Approximately 35 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

#### Programming Priorities

- 9 - Swim lessons & aquatics
- 7 - Before/after school programs
- 5 - Summer day camps
- 5 - Adult sport leagues
- 5 - Senior activities
- 4 - Adult fitness classes
- 4 - Festivals & sport tournaments
- 2 - Youth sports
- Other
  - Senior camps (i.e., kayaking)
  - Adult activities \, especially weekends and after hours (kayaking, canoeing, pickleball, ultimate frisbee)

**Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (May 6th)**

RAPRD Parks &amp; Recreation Master Plan

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**Programming Comments**

- Youth pickleball
- Would love to have more sport summer camps for kids
- Wildlife tours. Bird tours. Tetherow House tours
- Facilities for educational classes relative to our area (Think wild, fire safety)

**Investment Priorities**

- 9 - Outdoor splash pad/water spray park
- 7 - Trails to/along the Deschutes River
- 5 - Sport complex upgrades
- 3 - Sand/beach volleyball
- 3 - Dog park with amenities (path, shelter, etc.)
- 3 - Exercise stations
- 2 - Pickleball courts
- 1 - Additional sport courts

**NE Walnut Avenue (West) Concepts**

- 3 - Sport concept design
  - Comment: a sport court and skate spot would attract a different demographic than the loop trail and exercise stations. How will potential generational conflicts be addressed?
- 2 - Base concept design

**NE Walnut Avenue (East) Concepts**

- Consider fencing for allowing off-leash dogs

**Tetherow Crossing Concept**

- 3 - Option A
  - Comment: Concern – house will be destroyed by gangsters
- 1 - Option B
- 0 - Option C

**Trails**

- Linkage between HDSC & NE Walnut Avenue parcels

**Other Comments**

- Dog agility course
- Dog friendly trails
- Develop river access at Cline Falls

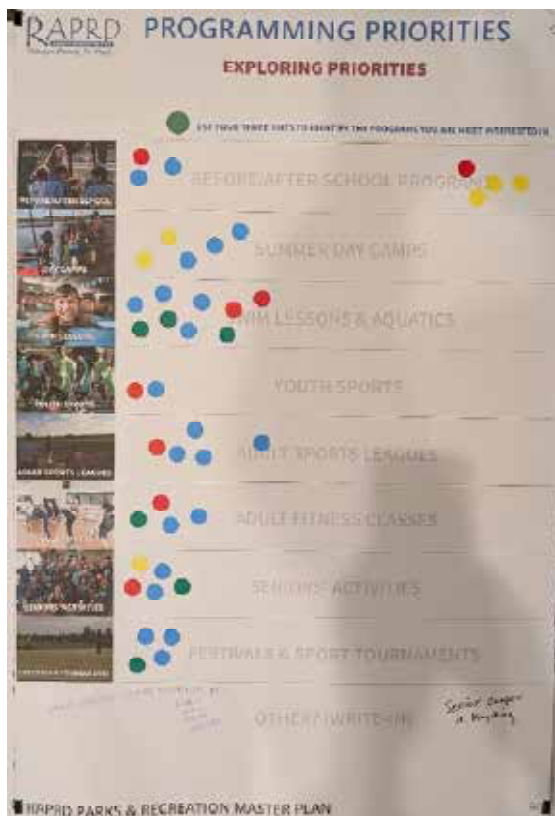
### Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (May 6th)

RAPRD Parks & Recreation Master Plan

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- Shuttle service to Rec Center & High Desert Sports Complex
- Collaboration with [city] Parks Master Plan, Deschutes County, State Parks, etc.
- Better communication regarding who manages which property
- Parking not available (reason for not visiting Cascade Swim Center more often)
- Wonderful community place for people of all ages. Love the facilities and staff
- Special events to bring people out to enjoy sharing a good time
- Need to develop a true rec center with full tennis courts, basketball (indoor), soccer, pickleball courts, etc.
- Our facilities are very well loved and reflect their use
- We have plenty of senior activities and not enough adult and teen activities
- Before school program for 6am open





**Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House #1 Meeting Notes (May 6th)**

RAPRD Parks &amp; Recreation Master Plan

Project Number #24-157PLN

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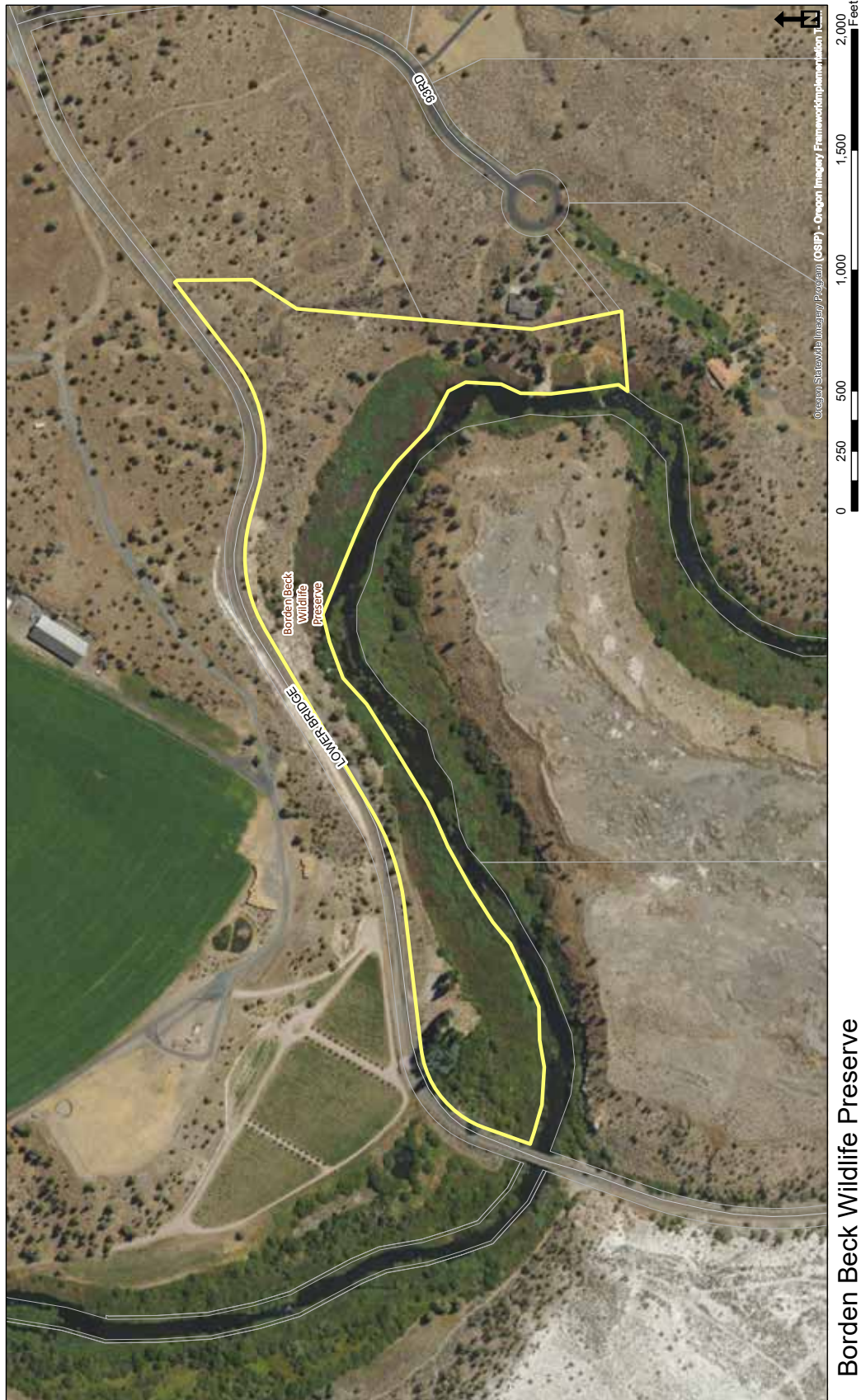
Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- End of Notes --

cc: Katie Hammer, Executive Director  
File

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## **Appendix C: Park & Facility Maps**













NE Walnut Drive - East







Pleasant Ridge Community Hall



SW 39th St Open Space

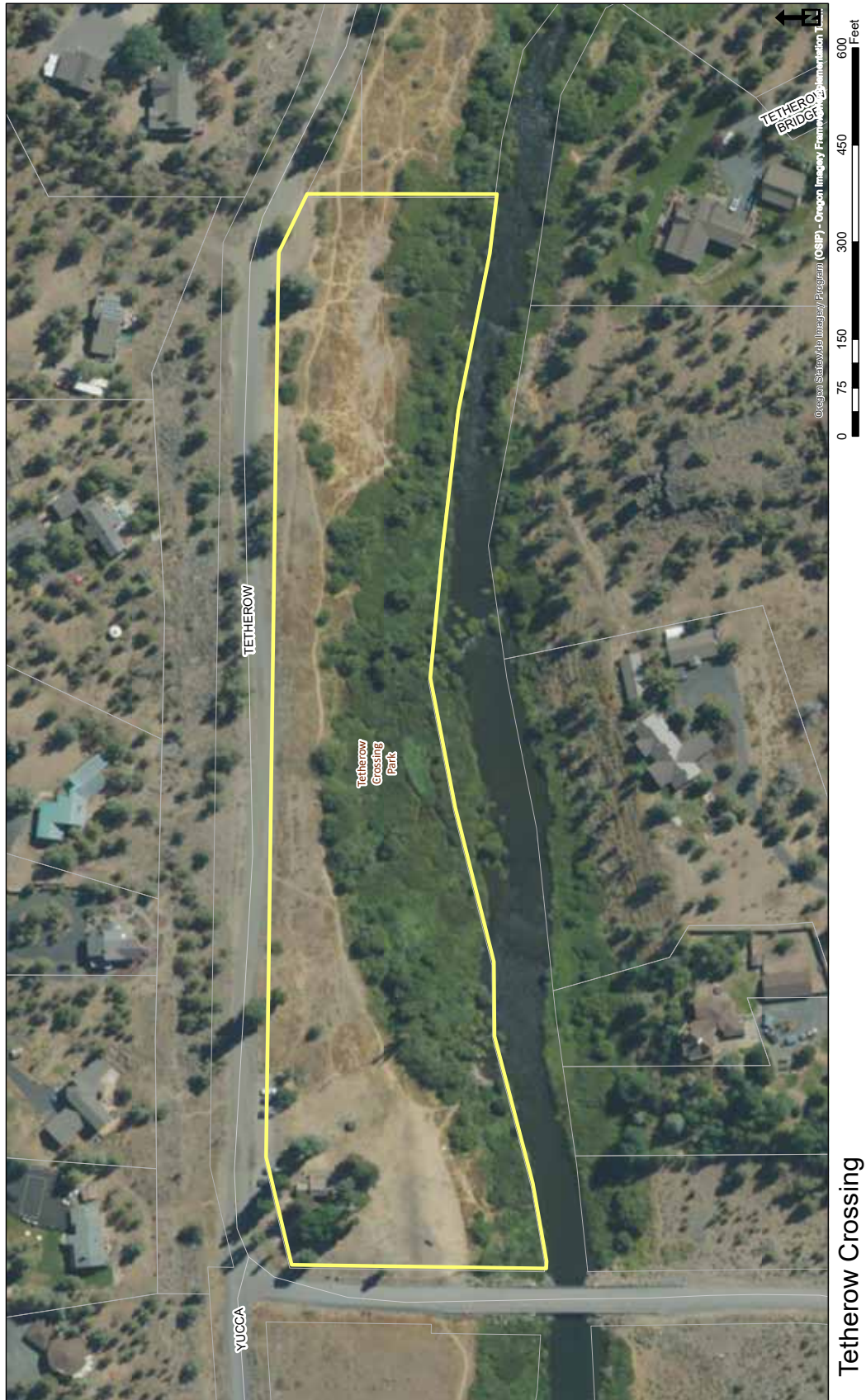
0 37.5 75 150 225 300 Feet







Future Recreation Center





## **Appendix D: Recreation Trends**

The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local park and recreation trends. Examining current recreation trends may inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities to enhance programs and services.

## 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review

In the 2025 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review and its accompanying Park Metrics share comprehensive park and recreation-related data collected and analyzed to inform park and recreation professionals and key stakeholders about the state of the industry. The 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review presents data from more than 900 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported from 2022 to 2024. These resources provide guidance to inform decisions and demonstrate the full breadth of service offerings and responsibilities of park and recreation agencies throughout the United States. This data can offer a perspective for Dayton, Oregon parks and recreation to compare their service provision to other agencies across the country. However, every park & rec agency has its own unique characteristics, combination of responsibilities and community composition. This comparison of nationwide data with the City of Dayton can provide guiding insights rather than target benchmarks. The agency performance report indicated recent trends in staffing and volunteers for park and recreation agencies show that numbers of authorized full-time positions has steadily rebounded since 2011.

### Key Findings & Characteristics

Park facilities and operations vary greatly across the nation. The typical agency participating in the NRPA park metric survey serves a jurisdiction of approximately 45,000 people, but population size varies widely across all responding jurisdictions. The typical park and recreation agency has jurisdiction over 22 parks comprising over 571 acres. When including non-park sites (such as city halls and roadway medians), the median management scale for park agencies increases to 30 sites encompassing 676 acres. Park facilities also have a range of service levels in terms of acres of parkland per population and residents per park. These metrics are categorized by the agency's population size.

#### Park Facilities

The typical park and recreation agency has:

- One park for every 2,411 residents
- 82% of agencies offer fee-based programs
- 10.2 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents in its jurisdiction
- \$103.13 operating expenditures per capita
- 8.6 full-time equivalent employees per 10,000 residents
- 94% of agencies have playgrounds
- An average of 17 miles of trails across all agencies

Figure D1. Median Residents per Park Based On Population Size

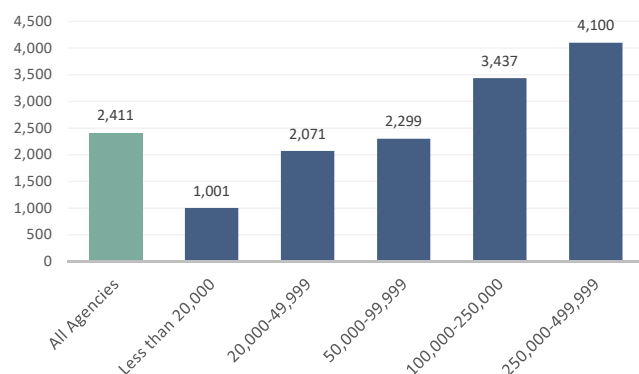
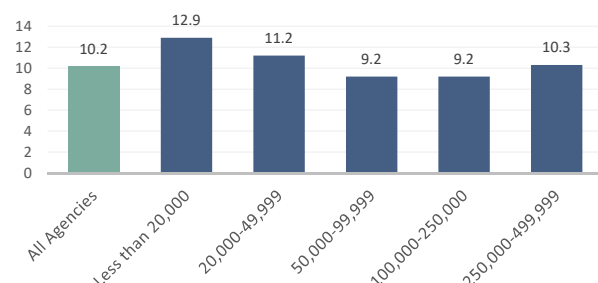


Figure D2. Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents based on Population Size



A large majority of park and recreation agencies provide playgrounds (94%) as their most common facility in their portfolio of outdoor assets. Eighty-five percent have diamond fields (baseball, softball), 84 percent have standalone basketball courts and 83 percent have rectangular fields (soccer, field hockey, lacrosse). Other common facilities include tennis courts (72%) and dog parks (68%).

The breakdown of the most common types of outdoor facilities includes:

- One playground/play structure for every 3,737 residents
- One diamond field for every 4,749 residents
- One basketball court for every 8,500 residents
- One rectangular field for every 5,946 residents
- One tennis court for every 6,794 residents
- One dog park for every 47,247 residents

Sixty-three percent of park and recreation agencies operate recreation centers. Indoor recreation facilities may provide a variety of recreational opportunities. Twenty-nine percent of agencies provide indoor multiuse courts. Nearly, a third of park and recreation agencies (32%) operate, maintain or manage indoor swimming facilities or indoor water parks.

Recreation centers (63%) are provided more often than community centers (60%). Senior centers (41%), performance amphitheaters (43%) and nature centers (35%) are also common.

Currently, 45 percent of agencies report providing pickleball courts in their inventory. National trends indicate pickleball as the fastest growing sport so it is expected that this percentage will rapidly change in the future.

The typical park and recreation agency that manages or maintains trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking has 17 miles of trails. Agencies serving less than 20,000 residents have a median of 4 miles of trails under their care.

Park and recreation agencies often take on responsibilities beyond their core functions of operating parks and providing recreational programs. Other responsibilities may include tourist attractions, golf courses, outdoor amphitheaters, indoor swim facilities, farmer's markets, indoor sports complexes, campgrounds, performing arts centers, stadiums/arenas/racetracks, fairgrounds and/or marinas.

### Programming

The typical park and recreation agency offers 250 programs, annually, with 82% being fee-based. Programming can be activities, clubs, teams, classes or other types of group activities. More than nine in ten (91%) park and recreation agencies offer theme special events, such as movies or concerts in the park, cultural events, holiday festivities and more.

At least nine in ten agencies provide themed special events (91% of agencies), social recreation events (88%), team sports (86%), fitness enhancement classes (82%), and health and wellness education (82%). Eighty-three percent of all park and recreation agencies offer summer camp; 77 percent offer older adult programming; and 67 percent offer programs for people with disabilities.

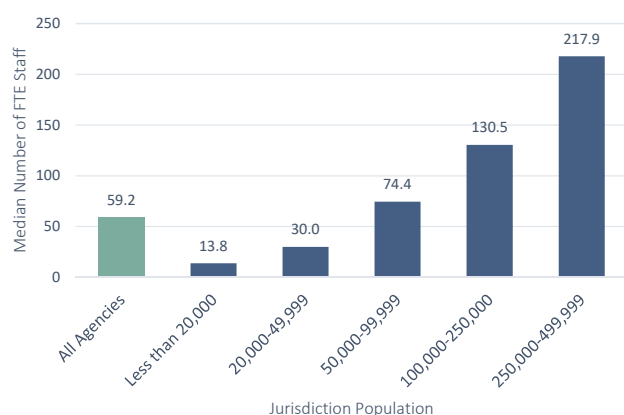
### Staffing

Park and recreation employees are responsible for operations and maintenance, programming and administration. The typical park and recreation agency has:

- 59.2 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs) on payroll
- 8.6 FTEs on staff for every 10,000 residents in its jurisdiction

Median FTE counts also positively correlate with the number of acres maintained, the number of parks maintained, operating expenditures, and the population served. For example, agencies that serve populations under 20,000 employ an average of 13.8 FTE while agencies in communities between 20,000 and 49,999 residents employ an average of 30.5 FTE.

Figure D3. Park and Recreation Agency Staffing: Full-Time Equivalents (By Jurisdiction Population)



Another way of comparing agency staffing across different park and recreation agencies examines number of staff per 10,000 residents. These comparative numbers hold fairly steady across population sizes with the median for all agencies at 8.6 FTEs. Agencies in communities under 20,000 residents have a ratio of 13.7 FTEs per 10,000 residents.



Figure D4. Park and Recreation Agency FTEs Per 10,000 Residents



### Capital and Operating Expenses

For capital expenses, the typical park agency:

- Dedicates about 56% to renovation projects and 30% to new development projects.
- Plans to spend about \$8 million on capital expenditures over the next five years.

For operations, the typical park agency spends:

- \$6.45 million per year on total operating expenses
- \$8,260 on annual operating expenses per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency
- \$99.47 on annual operating expenses per capita
- \$110,912 in annual operating expenditures per employee
- 54% of the annual operating budget on personnel costs, 38% on operating expenses, and 6% on capital expenses not included in the agency's capital improvement plan (CIP)
- 39% of its operating budget on park management and maintenance, 35% on recreation, 17% on administration and 9% on other activities

### Agency Funding

The typical park and recreation agency:

Derives 62% of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support, 21% from generated revenues, 8% from dedicated taxes or levies, 3% from other dedicated taxes, 2% from grants, and the remaining 3% from sponsorships, private donations and other sources

Generates \$22.58 in revenue annually for each resident in the jurisdiction

## 2024 State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2024 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals with the majority of respondents in leadership positions working in the recreation, sports, and fitness industry. While the respondents came from a wide range of sports-related entities, 42.5% were from park and recreation providers. The vast majority of respondents from parks—98.5%—were with public or governmental organizations. Park respondents manage the most facilities, with an average of 9.4, down from 13.3 in 2023, but in line with 2022, when park respondents averaged nine facilities.

## Partnerships

The 2024 report indicated that most (85.4%) recreation, sports, and fitness facility owners form partnerships with other organizations as a means of expanding their reach, offering additional programming opportunities or as a way to share resources and increase funding. Local schools are shown as the most common partner (59.9%) for all facility types. Youth-serving organizations (Ys, JCC, Boys & Girls Clubs) and park and recreation organizations were the most likely to report that they had partnered with outside organizations, at 96.1% and 92.9% respectively.

## Facilities and Improvements

A majority of park respondents (74.6%) said they had plans for construction, on par with 2022. More than half (54%) of park respondents were planning renovations to their facilities, and 36.9% of park respondents were planning to new construction with 31.5% planning additions. The top 10 planned features for all facility types include:

- Splash play areas (26.5% of respondents with plans to add features are planning to add splash play)
- Fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (21.1%)
- Park restroom structures (19%)
- Park shelters (17.8%)
- Playgrounds (17.6%)
- Walking and hiking trails (17.3%)
- Synthetic turf sports fields (17.3%)
- Dog parks (16.4%)
- Outdoor sports courts (14.3%)
- Community gardens (13.6%)

## Programming

Nearly all respondents (95.2%) offer programming of some kind. The top 10 most commonly offered programs include: holiday events and other special events (provided by 78% of respondents); group exercise programs (65%); fitness programs (62%); educational programs (62%); day camps and summer camps (60%); youth sports teams (57%); arts and crafts programs (55%); mind-body balance programs such as yoga and tai chi (54%); programs for active older adults (53%); swimming programs such as learn-to-swim or swim teams (47%) and sports tournaments and races (46%).

2024 saw a great deal of growth in a large number of program types. The programs that saw an increase of at least five percentage points include: arts and crafts (up 11.9 percentage points); group exercise programs (up 11.5); festivals and concerts (up 10); active older adult programs (up 9.7); holiday events and other special events (up 9.2).

Parks respondents were more likely than others to offer sports tournaments and races, sport training such as golf instruction or tennis lessons, and festivals and concerts.

The ten most commonly planned program additions in 2024 were:

1. Environmental education programs (26.4%, up from 22.2% in 2023)
2. Educational programs (24.1%, down slightly from 24.8%)
3. Holiday events and other special events (23.8%, up from 18.1%)
4. Fitness programs (22.5%, up from 20.3%)
5. Mind-body balance programs (22.2%, down from 23.3%)
6. Adult sports teams (22.2%, up from 19.9%)
7. Teen programming (22.2%, down from 23.3%)

8. Programs for active older adults (22.2%, up from 19%)
9. Group exercise programs (20.6%, down from 22%)
10. Special needs programs (19.6%, up from 18.8%)

## General Challenges

Over the past three years, staffing troubles has dominated the list of top industry challenges. Filling positions with qualified staff creates a challenge for recreation providers to meet the demanding needs of their members or visitors. In 2024, 56% of respondents identified staffing as their top challenge, while equipment and facility maintenance was the next most common concern with 53% calling it a top issue.

## 2024 Outdoor Participation Report

According to 2024 Outdoor Participation Trends Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, the outdoor recreation participant base grew 4.1% in 2023 to a record 175.8 million Americans (57.3%) ages 6 and older. The number of outdoor participants has grown as new and more casual participants began hiking, biking, camping, running and fishing. Key Insights include the following:

### Growth

The recreational participant base is growing. New and young outdoor participants are driving growth and increased diversity in the outdoor recreation participant base. While the number of participants increased the average number of outings per participant fell 11.4% from 70.5 outings per participant in 2022 to 62.5 outings per participant in 2023. The declining frequency of participation offers a cautionary warning that the loss of committed participants may result in declining retail sales of outdoor products.

### Diversity

The participant base became more ethnically and racially diverse in 2023 but not by much. The number and percentage of Hispanic and Black people in the core participants has increased but the slower rate of increase compared to growth in the overall participant base indicates a lack of engagement in the more diverse participant base. Diversity brings new participants, new ideas, and new ways of engaging outdoors, more support for outdoor and environmental policies, and more dollars into the outdoor recreation market.

### Women as Trailblazers

More than half of American women are participating on outdoor recreation for the first time ever. Female participation reached 51.9% in 2023, up from 50% in 2022. American males reached a higher level in their participation rate with a new record of 62.9% in 2023.

### Seniors

Americans aged 55 to 64 showed increased participation of 49.7% in 2023, up from 41.2% in 2019. The participation rate for Americans aged 65 and older grew 11.5% between 2022 and 2023. Those participants aged 65 and older reached a 39.5% rate for 2023.

## Inclusion

Members of the LGBTQ+ community make up 11.3% of the outdoor participant base (19.9M) and continue to be the most active adult cohort in outdoor recreation with total participation rates above 60%.

The report suggests that efforts to build core participation in a more diverse market will be key to growing outdoor participation in depth as well as breadth.

## 2025 Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this nationwide study represents 18,000 individual interviews conducted in 2024 that summarize levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The 2025 report provides a high degree of statistical accuracy using strict quotas for gender, age, income, region, and ethnicity. The study looked at more than 124 different team and individual sports and outdoor activities. The overall aim of the survey is to establish levels of activity and identify key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation participation.

In 2024, activity levels among Americans reached a historic high, with 80% of Americans aged 6+ being classified as active.

Compared to 2023, participation has grown with both CORE and Casual activity. Activity in the U.S. continues to increase for the seventh consecutive year. This CORE participation (seriously committed athletes) made up 41.2% of participants with Casual participants hitting 58.8% of all participants in 2024. This widening gap points to an evolving trend in how Americans approach their engagement with activities.

Pickleball is still the fastest growing sport in America with 45.8% growth year-over-year and an extraordinary 331% over three years. Other activities also experienced notable growth with Yoga, snowboarding, and wrestling recording year-over-year increases of 9.9%, 9.3% and 8.6% respectively, reflecting a diverse set of interests among participants.

Figure F5. 2024 Total Actives (U.S. population, ages 6+)

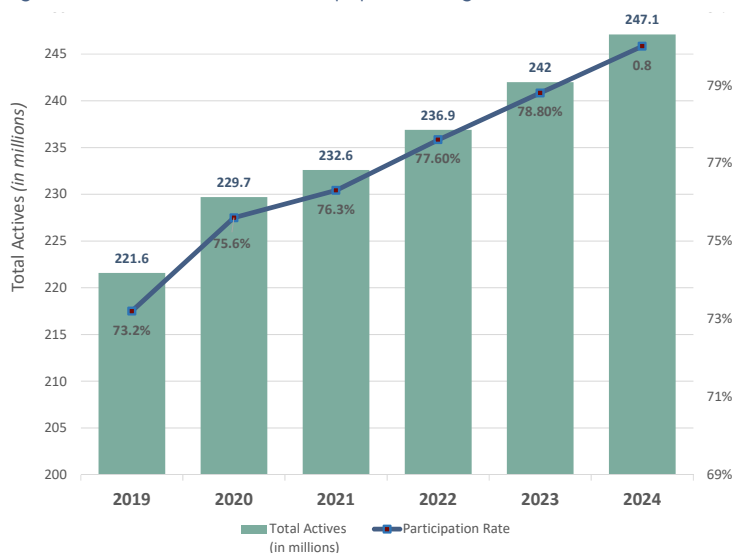
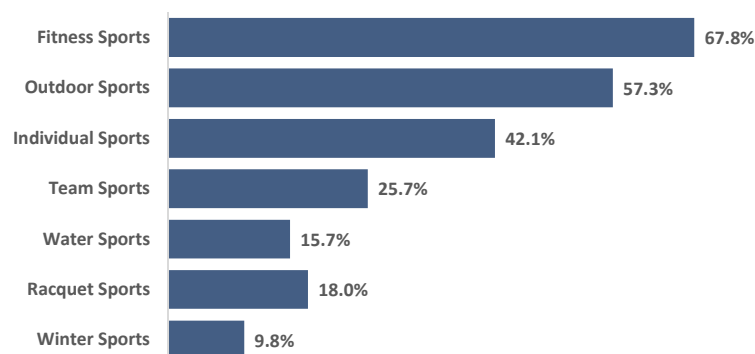




Figure F6. 2024.3 Total Participation Rate by Activity Category (U.S. population, ages 6+)



The influence of the Olympics (in Los Angeles in 2028) played a significant role in rising participation figures in a handful of activities including track & field, gymnastics, swimming on a team, surfing, wrestling and tennis.

Health club-based activities (Treadmill, Stair-Climbing Machine, Stationary Cycling, and Rowing Machine) all had good participation increases from 2022. Class-based fitness activities (Barre, Pilates, Aquatic Exercise, Boot Camp Style Training, Dance, and Yoga) all had good gains in participation from 2022 to 2023. Trail Running and Hiking (Day) both continued to grow their sport's participation. Trail Running grew 12.3% from 2022 to 2023 while Hiking (Day) grew 3.1% from 2022. Golf (on-or-off course) continues its momentum, increasing participation by 3.9% from 2022. This was driven by an 18.8% increase in off course golf, though on course golf showed a modest increase of 9.6%

## Oregon State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Draft 2025-2029 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), entitled "Balance and Engagement: Sustaining the Benefits for all Oregonians", constitutes Oregon's basic five-year plan for outdoor recreation. As of June 2024, the draft was still under review and accepting public comment. With the completion of the 2025-2029 plan, the state maintains eligibility to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund up through December 2029.

The draft SCORP addresses three important priorities facing outdoor recreation providers in the coming years, including:

1. The importance and benefits of recreation to Oregonians and the local economy.
2. Balancing conservation with outdoor recreation.
3. Engaging with underserved communities in outdoor recreation efforts.

As part of developing the SCORP, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) conducted a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their 2022 outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about park and recreation management.

The resident survey measured the top ten outdoor recreation activities for Oregon residents that occur within their community. Walking rated the most participation whether on local streets and sidewalks or along paved paths or natural trails.

Figure D7. Top Ten Activities for Oregon Resident in their Community

Activity	Percent
Walking on streets or sidewalks	79.1%
Walking on paved paths or natural trails	71.8%
Nature immersion	52.6%
Attending outdoor concerts/events	40.6%
Visiting historical sites/parks	40.5%
Picnicking	40.4%
Nature observation	37.4%
Taking children/grandchildren to a playground	34.2%
Visiting nature centers	34.2%
Pedaling bicycles on streets or sidewalks	30.9%

The resident survey also gathered input on where respondents liked to experience outdoor recreation. Local parks were the most frequently visited by 83% of respondents.

Figure D8. Types of Outdoor Recreation Areas Used

Outdoor Recreation Area	Percent
Local/city park	83%
State park, forest, or game land	71%
County park	48%
National park, forest & recreation area	49%

Further survey questions explored where residents felt future investments were needed in their community outdoor recreation areas. Their highest two priorities covered clean and well-maintained facilities and provision of restrooms.

Figure D9. Priorities for Future Investments in their Community

Recreation Priority	Mean*
Clean & well-maintained facilities	4.16
Restrooms	4.06
Free recreation opportunities	3.99
Parks & recreation areas	3.78
Directional/info signs for trails	3.71
Nature & wildlife viewing areas	3.64

This data can help local park and recreation providers better understand public opinions and the preferences of outdoor recreation participants.

In addition to the resident survey, land managers and public recreation providers in Oregon were also surveyed regarding their needs, challenges and priorities for recreation management in their jurisdiction. The most challenging management issues for local outdoor recreation providers (within urban growth boundaries) were identified.

Figure D10. Local Providers: Top 5 Challenges

Management Issues
Reducing illegal activities
Creating new park and recreation facilities
Maintaining existing local parks and facilities
Addressing ADA and other accessibility issues
Providing safe walking and biking routes to parks and trails

The results illustrate that providers face large challenges when increasing opportunities and access to outdoor recreation through resident-supported actions like creating new park and recreation facilities and providing safe walking and biking routes to parks and trails. These larger challenges require more significant investments and longer term planning.

The SCORP report also offers management recommendations to outdoor recreation providers to help protect natural resources and visitor experiences, triggered partly due to issues created by crowding.

- Promote outdoor practices and principles to minimize visitor impacts.
- Utilize web presence to provide information about crowding and encourage visitors to explore less-busy locations.
- Implement timed-entry systems, reservation requirements, and permit requirements to manage crowding.
- Adapt current infrastructure to address crowding and natural resource impacts.

Another series of studies measured the benefits of outdoor recreation on public land systems through healthy lifestyles, lower health care costs and overall quality of life. The research findings were included in the 2025-2029 SCORP. Physical health benefits are demonstrated in the SCORP chapter titled, "Health Benefits Estimates for Oregonians from their Outdoor Recreation Participation in Oregon," showing how energy expenditure from physical activity related to outdoor recreation participation may lead to \$2.965 billion in cost of illness savings for these chronic illnesses.

Research also included the total net economic value for recreation participation in Oregon from their participation in 76 outdoor recreation activities in 2022 for a total of 1.27 billion user occasions. The total net economic value for a recreation activity is the value per activity day times the number of activity days. Filtering the top ten contributors for outdoor recreation activities and their associated economic value reveals walking and enjoying nature as the top generators followed by bicycling, running/jogging, field sports, and playground and dog park users.

Figure D11. User Occasions, Activity Days, and Total Net Economic Value

Top Ten: SCORP Activity in your Community	RUVD* Activity	Total Annual Activity Days	Value/Activity Day (2023 USD)	Total Net Economic Value (2023 USD)
Walking on streets or sidewalks	Walking	357,558,563	\$21.83	\$7,804,896,510
Nature immersion	Wildlife viewing	59,056,930	\$67.36	\$3,978,126,928
Nature observation	Wildlife viewing	54,981,854	\$67.36	\$3,703,626,212
Pedaling bicycles on streets or sidewalks	Leisure biking	42,666,036	\$67.19	\$2,866,672,617
Pedaling bikes on paved or natural trails (incl. mtn bikes)	Mtn biking	22,888,395	\$115.68	\$2,647,691,141
Jogging or running on streets or sidewalks	Jogging/running	28,791,816	\$67.69	\$1,948,961,000
Field sports (soccer, softball, baseball, football, disc golf, etc)	Jogging/running	17,130,797	\$67.69	\$1,159,609,218
Jogging or running on on paved paths or natural trails	Jogging/running	19,867,529	\$67.69	\$1,344,862,692
Taking children/grandchildren to a playground	Walking	48,003,644	\$21.83	\$1,047,838,067
Going to dog parks or off-leash areas	Walking	45,415,364	\$21.83	\$991,340,308

The total net economic value for recreation participation in Oregon by Oregonians is estimated to be \$57.1 billion (2023 USD) annually based on 2022 use levels. Total consumer spending on outdoor recreation in 2022 supported 198,000 full and part-time jobs in Oregon, associated with \$8.4 billion in wages and other compensation.

## 2026-2035 Oregon Trails Plan

The Oregon Trails Plan comes as a summary report from the 2025-2029 SCORP that measures the latest data on trail usage in Oregon, the economic and health benefits of trails, management issues, and funding priorities. The report provides data on motorized and non-motorized trail activities and water trail (non-motorized) activities. Oregon has an extensive network of federal, state, and local non-motorized trails, including state designated scenic and recreational trails. Scenic trails showcase Oregon's outstanding natural features including rivers, mountains, waterfalls, and the Pacific Ocean. Regional trails connect recreation sites, schools, and communities to provide recreation and active transportation routes. Oregon has over 50 designated motorized riding areas that provide a high level of trail maintenance, signs, maps, and staging areas.

A water trail is a designated route along a lake, river, reservoir, or bay specifically designed for people using small, primarily non-motorized watercraft. Designated National Water Trails in Oregon are the Tualatin River Water Trail and Willamette River Water Trail. The Willamette River Water Trail and Deschutes River Water Trail were identified as Oregon Signature Trails. Water trail facilities are supported by local agencies along many other water bodies across the state.

### Trail Use

Oregon residents participated in nearly 275 million trail activities in 2022. Walking on local paved paths and natural trails is the second most frequent outdoor activity in Oregon after walking on streets and sidewalks, with over 149 million use occasions. Walking on local trails accounts for over half (54%) of all trail use in Oregon by residents. Walking/hiking on non-local paved paths or natural trails is the number one outdoor recreation activity that Oregon residents travel outside their community to participate in.

Motorized trail activities such as riding ATVs and snowmobiling make up 3.5% of trail use.

Non-motorized water paddle sports are one of the fastest growing forms of recreation and amongst the top three activities Oregonians started doing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Water trail activities such as canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and sailing accounted for just under 3% of trail use by Oregon residents.

A major change that has occurred on Oregon's trail network since the 2016 Trails Plan is the rapid increase in availability and adoption of electric bicycles ("e-bikes")<sup>5</sup> and electric micromobility devices ("e-micromobility"). The majority (53%) of reported e-bike and e-micromobility use occurred on streets and sidewalks, nearly 9 million use occasions. Thirty-one percent of e-bike and e-micromobility use (over 5 million use occasions) occurred on local trails.

"Walking on streets or sidewalks" and "Walking on local trails" are the most common outdoor activities for all Oregon resident demographic groups to participate in within their communities. Oregon's trail network supports outdoor recreation, access to nature, and physical activity; all of which are associated with positive impacts on physical and mental health.

The 2025-29 Oregon SCORP estimated the net economic value of outdoor recreation in Oregon by residents to be \$57.1 billion based on 2022 use levels. One quarter (25%) of the total economic value of outdoor recreation in Oregon comes from trail activities, with an annual estimated economic value of \$14.5 billion.

The 2026 Trails Plan will use the trails information from the 2025-29 SCORP to update grant criteria for the Recreational Trails and ATV grant programs. The following topic areas have been identified as potential additional focus areas for the 2026 Trails Plan:

- Funding – Identify strategies and tools to address inadequate funding for trail development, operations, and maintenance
- Trails Maintenance & Stewardship – Prioritize maintaining the existing system. Identify strategies and tools to promote stewardship, stretch limited funding, and expand community partnerships and enjoyment of trails.
- Increasing Accessible Trail Opportunities (including trail amenities such as restrooms, wayfinding, parking) – Identify strategies and tools to increase accessibility of existing and future trails and facilities.



## Americans Engagement with Parks Survey

This annual study from the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) probes Americans' usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use, and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study examines the importance of public parks in Americans' lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments. The survey of 1,000 American adults looks at frequency and drivers of parks/recreation facilities visits and the barriers to that prevent greater enjoyment. Survey respondents also indicate the importance of park and recreation plays in their decisions at the voting booth and their level of support for greater funding. Key findings include:

- Eighty-four percent of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live.
- Nearly 3 in 4 U.S. residents have at least one local park, playground, open space or recreation center within walking distance of their homes.
- Nine in ten people agree that parks and recreation is an important service provided by the local government.
- Nearly 3 in 4 adults agree that equity should be an extremely or very important goal for their local park and recreation agency.

People who live near parks and recreation facilities are more likely to be park and recreation users. Individuals living near at least one park are much more likely to arrive at that park by an "active" means (e.g., walking, biking, running), with walking being the most common method of transport. Conversely, 80 percent of U.S. adults who do not live within a walkable distance to parks or recreation opportunities travel to those amenities by car. The typical adult in the United States visits their local parks or recreation facilities every other month. Four main reasons for visiting local parks and recreation facilities stand out: being with family and friends, exercising and being physically fit, taking a break from day-to-day stresses, and being closer to nature. Park and recreation agencies can customize their offerings to the specific needs, wants and desires of their community members by knowing their motivation for visiting parks.

Figure D12. NRPA Park Engagement: Key Reasons for Park Visits



According to the Americans Engagement with Parks report,

"Parks and recreation's success results from its vast offerings of parks, trail networks and other recreation facilities that deliver critical programs for every segment of a community. Each person's relationship with parks and recreation is unique. Some people flock to their local park to stay physically fit, meet with friends and family, or reconnect with nature. Others depend on their local park and recreation agency for indispensable services that improve their lives.

But there remains much work to do. One-hundred million people do not live within a walkable distance of at least one park or recreation facility. Further, many survey respondents indicate they have felt unwelcome at a park or recreation facility or say the infrastructure and programming are not inclusive. Parks and recreation is for everyone — regardless of age, income, race, ethnicity, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation. Professionals, advocates and political leaders have the opportunity to narrow any accessibility or inclusivity gaps through greater community engagement and addressing inequitable funding and infrastructure investments that have deprived millions of people of access to parks and recreation."

## Outdoor Recreation Economy

In November 2023, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released its annual report on the economic impact of the outdoor recreation industry at national and state levels. The gross economic output for the outdoor recreation economy was \$1.1 trillion in 2022, accounting for 2.2% of the gross domestic product that year.

The GDP contribution from outdoor recreation economic activity increased by 4.8% from 2021 to 2022.

People finding employment in the outdoor recreation industry increased by 7.4% from 2021 to 2022.

Outdoor recreation remains a significant sector of the U.S. economy. A wide range of activities—from hiking, boating, and hunting to golf and tennis—result in outdoor recreation jobs in a wide variety of industries.

## Oregon Outdoor Recreation Industry

The research group Headwaters Economics, in collaboration with the State Outdoor Recreation Business Alliance, published a report in 2023 on the state of the outdoor recreation economy nationally. In the State of Oregon, the outdoor recreation industry employed approximately 72,737 people in 2022 with a total compensation level of \$3,760,711. The total recreation value contributed \$7,502,130 to Oregon's economy. The report emphasizes that investments in outdoor recreation directly result in visitor spending that supports jobs, businesses, and industries across the country.

## Inclusion & Universal Access

Across the country, local municipalities and park and recreation providers with older public infrastructure have been upgrading their facilities to comply with the outdoor recreation guidelines for universal access and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The removal of existing architectural barriers in park facilities has been ongoing and should continue until renovations, upgrades and newer construction provide barrier-free access to all users. Access and inclusion in public parks extends beyond the physical amenities and incorporates considerations of language, technology, wayfinding, program equity and equitable geographic distribution of facilities.

Park and recreation agencies are in a unique position to champion efforts that advance diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). By assuring representation of diverse life experiences and voices, park and recreation professionals will better reflect the communities their agencies serve. Inequity is the ultimate challenge facing the nation, and parks and recreation can make a profound difference.

## Parks for Climate Resiliency

Numerous studies have been documenting the contributions of parks and public lands to better climate resiliency. Parks, open space and natural lands can cool urban heat islands, buffer flood impacts, improve water quality and improve air quality. Urban tree canopy in parks can remove air pollution and sequester carbon. Parks and greenways along storm-affected coastlines are being created to help buffer impacts of anticipated flooding due to sea level rise, storm surges, and increased precipitation. Climate resilience strategies involving parks can focus on resilient shoreline development, green stormwater infrastructure and increased tree groves.

As the climate changes, outdoor recreation opportunities and availability can become more inconsistent. Wildfires, flooding, reduced snowpack and other environmental impacts from climate changes can directly and indirectly affect visitor-use patterns. Recreation planners and managers play a role in climate resiliency by protecting vulnerable resources that can impact outdoor recreation opportunities.

## Special Report on Paddlesports & Safety

In 2019, the Outdoor Foundation produced a report focused on paddlesports data based on a participation survey (over 20,000 online interviews with a nationwide sample of individuals and households). In 2018, 22.9 million Americans (approximately 7.4% of the population) participated in paddle sports. This represents an increase of more than 4 million participants since the study began in 2010. Over the last five years, there continues to be an increase in paddlesports popularity among outdoor enthusiasts, with significant portions of the nationwide growth occurring in the Pacific region.

Recreational kayaking continues to grow in popularity but may be driving some of the decline in canoeing. The popularity of stand-up paddling has soared, increasing by 1.5 million participants over the past five years, though it does not have nearly as high a participation rate as either recreational kayaking or canoeing.

One in eight paddlers have been participating in the sport for 21 years or more. However, many participants – between 30%-60%, depending on the discipline – tried a paddlesport for the first time in 2018. Such high levels of first-time participation may produce longer term growth in paddling, assuming participants continue to enjoy the sport.

Among adult paddlers, most participate for excitement and adventure, for exercise, or to be close to nature. Kayakers, rafters, canoers and stand-up paddlers often enjoy, or would be willing to try, other paddlesports. Many also enjoy similar outdoor “crossover” activities such as hiking, camping, walking, and nature viewing.

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## **Appendix E: Implementation Tools & Tactics**

RAPRD possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks and recreation system. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with District leadership is critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing revenue sources in favor of parks and recreation efforts.

## LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

### 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 construction and improvements, but not for maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). Passage requires a simple majority in November and May elections, unless during a special election, in which case a double majority (a majority of registered voters must vote and a majority of those voting must approve the measure) is required. Voters approved general obligation bonds in the amount of \$49 million in November 2022 for RAPRD to build a new comprehensive community Recreation Center.

### User Fees & Passes

This revenue source is for participating in programs, classes, activities, and events which typically require pre-registration to assure a place. These participant fees attempt to recover most if not all of the direct expenses and are often revenue positive due to market demand. RAPRD also currently sells swimming pool passes for specific time frames, which are used to offset operational costs.

### Local Option Levy

Most taxing districts in Oregon can ask voters to approve a local option levy, which allows them to temporarily exceed their permanent rate limit. These levies are typically for operations (up to 5 years) or capital construction projects (up to 10 years or the useful life of the project).

### System Development Charges

System development charges (SDCs) are charged for new residential development to help finance the demand for park facilities created by the new growth. The City of Redmond currently assesses a parks SDC. The District could consider a parks SDC for areas outside the City of Redmond to support future investments (e.g., Terrebonne).

## FEDERAL / STATE GRANTS & CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

### Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program - National Park Service

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 assists communities and public land managers in developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as creating outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors.

### Urban and Community Forestry Grants - Oregon Department of Forestry

The Oregon Department of Forestry provides a range of grants and incentives for private landowners and municipalities. Program areas range from community forestry to weed control to conservation and resiliency efforts.

### North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program - US Fish & Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Both are Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or

enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. In Mexico, partners may also conduct projects involving technical training, environmental education and outreach, organizational infrastructure development, and sustainable-use studies.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

### Local Government Grant - Oregon Parks and Recreation

Local government agencies who are obligated by state law to provide public recreation facilities are eligible for OPR's Local Government Grants, and these are limited to public outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities. Eligible projects involve land acquisition, development and major rehabilitation projects that are consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

### Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant - Oregon Parks and Recreation

LWCF grants are available through OPR to either acquire land for public outdoor recreation or to develop basic outdoor recreation facilities. Projects must be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives stated in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and elements of local comprehensive land use plans and park master plans. A 50% match is required from all successful applicants of non-federal funds, in-kind services and/or materials.

### Recreational Trails Program Grant - Oregon Parks and Recreation

Recreational Trails Grants are national grants administered by OPRD for recreational trail-related projects, such as hiking, running, bicycling, off-road motorcycling, and all-terrain vehicle riding. Yearly grants are awarded based on available federal funding. RTP funding is primarily for recreational trail projects, rather than utilitarian transportation-based

projects. Funding is divided into 30% motorized trail use, 30% non-motorized trail use and 40% diverse trail use. A 20% minimum project match is required.

### **Oregon Heritage Grants - Oregon Parks and Recreation**

Oregon Heritage offers a variety of grant programs for heritage projects from historic building preservation to oral history projects and more. Grant programs focus on specific foci, including façade renovation, main street revitalization, Veterans' and War Memorials, the preservation of historic resources, among others.

### **Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Grants - Oregon Department of Transportation**

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Grant Program is a competitive grant program that provides resources to Oregon cities, counties and ODOT regional and district offices for design and construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Proposed facilities must be within public rights-of-way. Grants are awarded by the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Project types include sidewalk infill, ADA upgrades, street crossings, intersection improvements, minor widening for bike lanes.

### **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Grant**

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board focuses on projects that approach natural resources management from a whole-watershed perspective. OWEB encourages projects that foster interagency cooperation, include other sources of funding, provide for local stakeholder involvement, include youth and volunteers and promote learning about watershed concepts. There are five general categories of projects eligible for OWEB funding: watershed management (restoration and acquisition), resource monitoring and assessment, watershed education and outreach, and technical assistance.

### **Arts Grants - Oregon Arts Commission**

The Oregon Arts Commission funds arts programs and individual artistic innovation throughout Oregon. Grant programs serve as investments in our state's culture. They are supported by contributions from the State of Oregon, the Oregon Cultural Trust, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## **OTHER METHODS & FUNDING SOURCES**

### **Private Grants, Donations & Gifts**

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fund raising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

### **Meyer Memorial Trust**

The Meyer Memorial Trust seeks opportunities to make program-related investments in Oregon and Clark County, WA. General Purpose Grants support projects related to arts and humanities, education, health, social welfare, and a variety of other activities. Proposals may be submitted at any time under this program, and there is no limitation on the size or duration of these grants.

### **REI in the Community - Non-Profit Partnerships and Grants**

Partnerships begin with store teams who may connect with nonprofits by promoting or partnering for events and service projects, raising visibility with REI customers, offering product donations, and inviting and selecting organizations for an REI grant.

### **Kaiser Permanente Healthy Environments Program**

These programs work with community-based organizations, public agencies, businesses and residents to translate their vision for healthy communities into visible, concrete changes — and ultimately healthier neighborhoods.



## Business Sponsorships/Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

## Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between parks, school districts, other municipalities and utility providers.

# ACQUISITION TOOLS & METHODS

## DIRECT PURCHASE METHODS

### *Market Value Purchase*

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the District purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

### *Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)*

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

### *Life Estates & Bequests*

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the District, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on

and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the District. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the District upon death. While a life estate offers the District some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the District in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

### *Option to Purchase Agreement*

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the District that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the option agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

### *Right of First Refusal*

In this agreement, the landowner grants the District the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the District. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

### *Conservation Easements*

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property – often the right to subdivide or develop – and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the District (or private organization) that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. The preservation and protection of

habitat or resources lands may best be coordinated with the local land trust or conservancy, since that organization will likely have staff resources, a systematic planning approach and access to non-governmental funds to facilitate aggressive or large scale transactions.

## LANDOWNER INCENTIVE MEASURES

### *IRC 1031 Exchange*

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see [www.irc.gov](http://www.irc.gov) for more details).

## OTHER LAND PROTECTION OPTIONS

### Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. The Deschutes Land Trust is the local land trust serving the Redmond area. Other national organizations with local representation include The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.



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