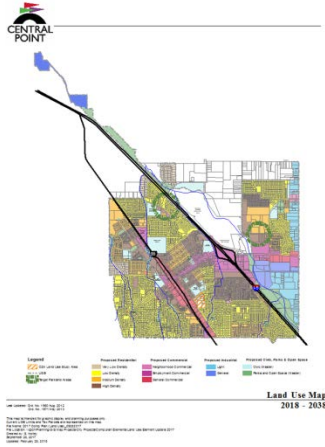
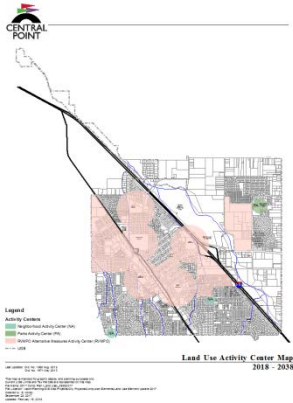


PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT 2018-2038



City of Central Point Comprehensive Plan



Adopted by the Central Point City Council

Ordinance No. 2045

DLCD Acknowledged:

8/7/2018

Contents

- 1. Introduction and Summary..... 4
 - 1.1. Community Engagement..... 4
 - 1.2. Strategic Objectives 4
 - 1.3. Service Standards..... 5
 - 1.4. Future Improvements 6
- 2. Planning Context..... 7
 - 2.1. Central Point Forward, A City Wide Strategic Plan 7
 - 2.1.1. City Mission Statement..... 7
 - 2.1.2. City Statement of Values 8
 - 2.2. Central Point Comprehensive Plan 8
 - 2.2.1. The Regional Plan Element..... 8
 - 2.2.2. Transportation System Plan 9
 - 2.2.3. Central Point Parks and Recreation Master Plan 10
 - Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement..... 10
 - 2.3. Statewide Planning Goal 8 – Recreational Needs..... 10
 - 2.4. Jackson County Comprehensive Plan..... 10
 - 2.5. Oregon Trails 2016: A Vision for the Future..... 11
- 3. Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory 11
 - 3.1. Park Classifications..... 11
 - 3.1.1. Community Parks..... 11
 - 3.1.2. Neighborhood Parks..... 12
 - 3.1.3. Pocket Parks..... 12
 - 3.1.4. Open Space Lands..... 12
 - 3.1.5. Special Use Facilities 13
 - 3.1.6. Trails 13
 - 3.2. Facility Inventory 13
 - 3.3. OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS..... 17
 - 3.3.1. Jackson County 17
 - 3.3.2. Medford..... 17
 - 3.3.3. Phoenix 17
 - 3.3.4. Talent 18
 - 3.3.5. Oregon State Parks..... 18
 - 3.3.6. Bureau of Land Management..... 18
- 4. Park & Recreation Needs Assessment 18

4.1.	Community Demographics	19
4.2.	Parkland Gap Analysis: Level of Service, Proximity & Distribution	20
4.2.1.	Level of Service	21
4.2.2.	Proximity.....	22
4.2.3.	Distribution	29
4.2.3.1.	New Community Parks	31
4.2.3.2.	New Neighborhood Parks	31
	33
4.3.	Priorities.....	35
5.	Goals & Policies	35
5.1.	Goals & Policies	35
5.1.1.	Community Engagement and Communication	35
5.1.2.	Recreation Programming	36
5.1.3.	Parks & Open Space	37
5.1.4.	Trails & Pathways.....	38
5.1.5.	Design, Development & Management.....	38
5.1.6.	Facilities Development Plan:	39
6.	Implementation Strategies.....	40
6.1.	Acquisition Guidelines.....	40
6.2.	Design and Development Guidelines.....	40
6.3.	Funding Options.....	40
6.4.	Project-Level Options	41
6.5.	System-Wide Options	41
6.6.	Enhancing Communications & Outreach	41
6.7.	Capital Improvement Planning	41

1. Introduction and Summary

The Parks Element (Parks Element) was prepared in collaboration with city residents, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, and the City Council. The Parks Element inventories and evaluates existing parks and recreation areas, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development and operations, and sets goals and policies necessary to achieve the community’s parks and recreation long-term objectives. The Parks Element is a twenty-year (2018-2038) plan for managing and enhancing the City’s parks, trails and recreation services, including goals and policies necessary for the attainment of high-quality recreation opportunities to benefit residents of Central Point.

The City of Central Point’s park system currently contains approximately 130 acres of developed and undeveloped park and open space lands distributed among 31 parks, special facilities and open space areas. This system of parks supports a range of active and passive recreation experiences, including a skate park and access to approximately 4.9 miles of trails within its parks and along the Bear Creek Greenway. As part of its recreation services the City also offers a variety of general recreational and educational programs, which vary from cultural arts to fitness, education and outdoor recreation. The majority of the City’s current recreation programming focuses on the City’s youth.

1.1. Community Engagement

Community engagement and feedback played an important role in establishing a clear planning framework that reflects current community priorities. Throughout this planning process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about the needs and priorities for parks, trails and recreation facilities, including recreational programs in Central Point. A variety of public outreach methods were used; including community surveys, community meetings, stakeholder discussions, online engagement and emails, and Parks and Recreation Commission sessions. Feedback from the community outreach efforts played a crucial role in updating policies and prioritizing capital investments.

The City’s residents are generally satisfied with the parks, trails and recreation opportunities in the City. Most residents care deeply about the future of the City’s parks, recreation and trail system and appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback in the development of the Parks Element, including a strong interest in additional or expanded services and facilities. Specific recommendations are included in the Needs Assessment chapter and the results from surveys, meeting notes and major findings are included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a ten year parks and recreation development program.

1.2. Strategic Objectives

Preparation of the Parks Element is based on six strategic objectives intended to guide City decision-making necessary to ensure that the City’s parks and recreation system meets the long-term needs of the community. These strategic objectives are:

1. **Community Engagement and Communication:** Encourage meaningful public involvement in park and recreation;

2. **Recreation Programming:** Establish and maintain a varied and inclusive suite of recreation programs that accommodate a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities and promote the health and wellness of the community;
3. **Parks & Open Space:** Acquire and develop a high-quality, diversified system of parks, recreation amenities and open spaces that provide equitable access to all residents;
4. **Trails & Pathways:** Develop a high-quality system of multi-use trails and bicycle and pedestrian corridors that connects to regional trails and provides access to public facilities, neighborhoods and businesses;
5. **Design, Development & Management:** Plan for a parks system that is efficient to maintain and operate, while protecting capital investment; and
6. **Facilities Development Plan:** Maintain and implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a ten year parks and recreation development program.

1.3. Service Standards

A parks standard of 10 acres per 1,000 population is a common standard used by many cities. This standard includes all elements of a parks system from active core parks to open space and trails systems. The City's 1980 Parks and Recreation Element referred to use of this standard¹ as a reasonable objective to achieve all the City's future parks and recreation needs. Currently, the City's ratio is 6.8 acres per 1,000 population.

For the current planning period (2018-2038) the Parks and Recreation Department follows a set of service standards in order to provide quality recreational opportunities and to achieve community parks and recreation goals. The standards are applied to the three (3) main components of the Parks and Recreation system:

- **Community, Neighborhood & Pocket Parks:** The City classifies three (3) types of parks (Core Parks); community parks, neighborhood parks, and pocket parks. To emphasize the importance of the need for Core Parks within its park system the City uses an acreage standard of 3.5 acres per 1,000 people for its Core Parks. The City currently provides Core Parks at a rate of 1.95 acres per 1,000 people.
- **Open Space & Trails:** In addition to its Core Parks the City provides approximately 82 acres of open space within the UGB. The Parks Element does not include a numeric standard for open space areas and the acreage of open space is not included in the acreage standard for Core Parks. Open Space areas protect sensitive natural areas through existing regulations and provide recreation, including trail corridors as a secondary objective. The area protected along Bear Creek accounts for all of the City's open space acreage and provides a corridor for the Bear Creek Greenway multi-use path.

Acquisitions of open space focus on properties necessary to fill crucial connections in the greenway and trail system. Similarly, trail acquisition and development priorities are

¹ City of Central Point 1983 Parks and Recreation Element, p. VII-13

designed to provide a comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle system, connecting neighborhoods to commercial areas and other key destinations, rather than toward meeting a population-based mileage standard. As a benchmark the City currently provides open space and trails at an approximate rate of 4.31 acres per 1,000 people.

- **Specialized Recreation Facilities:** The Parks Element does not include a numeric standard for special use facilities. Special use recreation facilities are, by their nature, unique and do not translate well to a population based numeric standard. Special use facilities within the City include the Joel Tanzi Skate Park, Skyman Arboretum and Civic Field.

1.4. Future Improvements

The Parks Element includes a detailed needs assessment identifying the City's parks and recreation needs throughout the twenty year planning period. Within the Parks Element the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, and other factors necessary to identify gaps in the parks system are identified. Understanding the known gaps in the park system will provide a foundation for the continued strategic planning ensuring that tomorrow's residents have convenient access to a system of parks and trails to stay healthy and active.

The City of Central Point is anticipated to add approximately 6,832 additional residents by the year 2038². Serving existing and future residents will require improvements to, and expansion of, the City's park, trail and recreation system. The implementation strategy includes acquisitions of additional parkland, development and improvement of existing facilities and funding and investment options.

- **Parks and Recreation Master Plan.** The application of the goals in the Parks Element is detailed by the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with specific actions in order to ensure existing parks provide desired recreational amenities and opportunities. The Master Plan is a 10-year guide that includes investments for development and improvement of core parks. For example, the proposed development of Community Park near Central Point Elementary in the south-central portion of the City will expand recreational resources for the community. The Master Plan also includes smaller improvements throughout the parks system to enhance accessibility, safety and usability.
- **Capital Improvement Plan.** Investments in the acquisition, development and renovation of the park system are prioritized in the City's Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP lists all parks and facilities projects considered for the next 20 years, with an estimated need for approximately \$16.5 million for future improvements.

The City does not have a multi-purpose community recreation center, and the number and types of activities the Department can offer in its current facilities are limited by a lack of capacity. Given the interest in establishing a community recreation center, it is recommended to continue the review of funding alternatives, as well as updating the modeling of user demand and analyzing options for community center facility development and operations revenues and costs.

² Based on Portland State University's Interpolation Table for 2038 with the 2018 PSU Coordinated Forecast (2018-2068) population as the base year.

New investments in parks and recreation will be necessary over the next twenty years to meet the growing needs of the community, support youth development, provide options for residents to lead healthy, active lives, and foster greater social and community connections.

2. Planning Context

Although the Parks Element represents the community's interests and needs for park and recreational facilities, trails and programming, there are numerous other documents that were used and referred to in preparation of the Parks Element. To appreciate the thoroughness of the Parks Element, it is necessary to acknowledge these collaborating documents.

As previously noted, current community interests in the City's parks and recreation programming surfaced through a series of public outreach efforts that included mail and online surveys, open house meetings, stakeholder meetings, online engagement, website content and Parks and Recreation Commission meetings. An assessment of the park inventory became the basis for determining the City's current level of performance (1.95 acres per 1,000 people). An overarching needs analysis was conducted for recreation programs and facilities, parks and trails to assess current demands and project future demand accounting for population growth.

Past Central Point community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks, trails and recreation opportunities in Central Point. The development of each involved public input and adoption by their respective responsible legislative body.

2.1. Central Point Forward, A City Wide Strategic Plan

The City maintains a strategic plan, the purpose of which is to envision a preferred future for the City and to "...formulate a way to make this future happen through community teamwork and actions. It is a document that records what people think – the blueprint for positive change that defines the vision, goals and outcomes that must occur to realize the future." ³ The community's mission, vision and values as set forth in the Strategic Plan serve as the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan, including this Parks Element. The guidance from the Strategic Plan that is carried forward in the Parks Element is to provide high quality facilities that attract users and provide high quality, age appropriate programs that benefit all residents.

2.1.1. City Mission Statement

The City's mission statement reads as follows:

It is the mission of the City of Central Point to build and maintain a highly livable community by working in harmony and being a catalyst for partnership with all the members of the community, public and private.

³ City of Central Point Strategic Plan, pp 3, May 24, 2007, Resolution No. 1143

2.1.2. City Statement of Values

The Strategic Plan contains a set of five values as follows:

- **Growth:** *We value planned growth that will retain our small town atmosphere.*
- **Public Safety:** *We value a professional service oriented public safety policy that promotes a sense of safety and security in our city.*
- **Transportation:** *We value a system of transportation and infrastructure that is modern, efficient and sensitive to the environment.*
- **Community:** *We value a clean and attractive city with parks, open space and recreational opportunities.*
- **Service:** *Provide highest level of service possible in the most efficient and responsible manner.*

These citywide value statements provide a foundation for the policies and recommendations within the Parks Element.

2.2. Central Point Comprehensive Plan

The Central Point Comprehensive Plan is the guiding policy document for land use and growth-related planning for the City. The Comprehensive Plan consists of ten mandatory elements, one of which is the Parks Element. The Parks Element relies heavily on the Population Element, Land Use Element, Transportation Element, and Regional Plan Element to identify the communities changing demographics, future population growth, and the physical direction of future growth.

2.2.1. The Regional Plan Element

The City's Comprehensive Plan elements must be consistent with the Regional Plan Element⁴ adopted in 2012, which addresses the long-term urbanization needs (2060).

The City's Regional Plan Element includes eight (8) urban reserve areas totaling 1,721 gross acres set aside for future development⁵. The Regional Plan provides a general distribution of land uses for each URA. Prior to an amendment to include a URA, or any part of a URA, into the UGB, a conceptual land use plan (Concept Plan) must be completed demonstrating that the proposal is consistent with the land use distribution⁶ for each URA. The Concept Plans, when approved become part of the City's Regional Plan.

⁴ Regional Plan Element, City of Central Point Comprehensive Plan, Ordinance No. 1964, August 9, 2012.

⁵ City of Central Point Regional Plan Element, Section 3.3 Urban Reserve Areas and Land Uses

⁶ City of Central Point Regional Plan Element, Section 4.1.8 Conceptual Land Use Plans

Figure 2.2. Summary Acreage by Urban Reserve Area

Urban Reserve Area	Reasonably Developable Acreage	Acreage as Parks/Open Space	Percentage of Acreage as Parks/Open Space
CP-1B	441	0	0%
CP-1C	60	0	0%
CP-2B	282	17	6%
CP-3	27	16	58%
CP-4D	52	51	99%
CP-5	19	2	9%
CP-6A	386	77	20%
CP-6B	162	0	0%
Total	1,492	163	

At such time as lands are included in the City’s Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), the Concept Plans are further refined and the dedication of parkland must be consistent with the needs for future parkland as shown in the acknowledged Concept Plans⁷, including the Parks Element, the Land Use Element and the Regional Plan. The Parks Element establishes an inventory of parkland needs for future growth. The amount of needed parkland is then used by the Land Use Element to further refine the geographic distribution of land uses provided in the Regional Plan’s Concept Plans.

2.2.2. Transportation System Plan

The Transportation System Plan (TSP) provides specific information regarding transportation needs to guide future transportation investment across the City for vehicular, rail, transit, bicycle and pedestrian travel modes. A component of the TSP is the Bicycle and Pedestrian System. The goal of the Bicycle and Pedestrian System is to develop more diverse transportation options that are safe and convenient travel. The TSP also maps specific priority improvements for bicycle and pedestrian facilities to enhance connectivity throughout the City, including to parks and recreation sites.

The focus of the bicycle system is on the use of the bicycle as a means of transportation, with the recreational use of bicycles a secondary consideration⁸. A systematic approach to filling gaps in sidewalks will provide a safe pedestrian system, with primary focus on connection to schools and transit stops.

⁷ City of Central Point Regional Plan Element, Performance Indicators Section 4.1.21 “Park Land.”

⁸ City of Central Point, Transportation System Plan, pp 84, December 8, 2008, Ordinance No. 1922.

The Transportation Planning Rule requires that a local government ensure that any plan amendments, including comprehensive plan elements, would not affect an existing or planned transportation facility⁹. While improvements will enhance connectivity to parks and/or recreation sites, the Parks Element does not include proposed development on specific parcels and would not have an effect on the transportation system.

2.2.3. Central Point Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Central Point Parks and Recreation Master Plan¹⁰ (Parks Master Plan) is an adjunct document to the Parks Element, the purpose of which is to outline the goals, community needs, and implementation strategies to be achieved within a ten year program period. The Parks Master Plan outlines capital improvement, and lists and prioritizes projects across the city. Major recommendations include the acquisition of additional parkland, development of a swimming pool, development of a community center and the development of additional walking and bicycle paths throughout the city.

Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement

The Parks and Recreation Department mission is to “...provide safe, high quality parks, open space and recreational facilities that encourage residents and visitors to live, invest and play in the community, and develop recreation programs that promote memorable experiences in people’s lives.”

2.3. Statewide Planning Goal 8 – Recreational Needs

Statewide Planning Goal 8 requires that communities plan for “*The requirements for meeting such needs, now and in the future, shall be planned for by governmental agencies having responsibility for recreation areas, facilities and opportunities: (1) in coordination with private enterprise; (2) in appropriate proportions; and (3) in such quantity, quality and locations as is consistent with the availability of the resources to meet such requirements. State and federal agency recreation plans shall be coordinated with local and regional recreational needs and plans.*”¹¹.

The City of Central Point has addressed these requirements in the Parks Element. City residents are proud of Central Point for its small town character and for what has been accomplished in the park system with modest resources, but they are also interested in certain facility improvements. This Plan documents those desires and provides a framework for addressing capital development and funding in the near-term.

2.4. Jackson County Comprehensive Plan

The Recreation Element of the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan¹² includes the continuation of the Bear Creek Greenway program, some of the objectives of which include cooperation with affected public agencies and other land owners in planning an interconnecting trail system between the county’s

⁹ OAR 660-012-0060(1)

¹⁰ City of Central Point, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, March 23, 2017, Ordinance No. 2035.

¹¹ OAR 660-015-0000(8)

¹² Recreation Element, Jackson County Comprehensive Plan, Ordinance No. 2007-4, September 16, 2007.

population centers, evaluating future recreation needs within urban growth boundaries in cooperation with the incorporated cities, and continuing to offer technical assistance to the cities. The Parks Element reflects the goals and policies of the County's Recreation Element to further access to the Bear Creek Greenway in order to expand its use for non-motorized transportation and pedestrians.

2.5. Oregon Trails 2016: A Vision for the Future

The Statewide Trails Plan is a ten-year plan (2016-2025) completed by the Oregon Parks in order to maintain the state's eligibility to participate in the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The intent of the plan is to provide information to assist recreation planners and land managers with trail planning, including All-Terrain Vehicle, snowmobile, non-motorized, water trail and Scenic Waterways planning components. The plan segments the state into planning regions and identifies the southwest region to include Coos, Curry, Josephine, Jackson and Douglas Counties. With regard to non-motorized trail needs, the plan stresses the need for trail connectivity in the region including making trail connections within urban areas, providing connections between existing trails and providing connections to parks, open spaces and other natural areas outside of urban areas.

3. Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

3.1. Park Classifications

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The Central Point park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreation and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system will serve the full range of community needs. Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses.

The Parks Element categorizes the City's parkland into five (5) classifications based on characteristics addressing the intended size and use of each park type. The classifications include the three (3) types of core parks; community parks, neighborhood parks, and pocket parks, along with Open Space Lands, Special Use Areas and Trails.

3.1.1. Community Parks

Community parks are large sites developed for organized play, contain a wide array of facilities and appeal to a diverse group of users. Community parks are generally 10 to 40 acres in size and serve residents within a 2-mile drive, walk or bike ride from the site. In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks. Don Jones Park is an example of a community park.

In general, community park facilities are designed for organized or intensive recreational activities and sports, although passive components such as pathways, picnic areas and natural areas are highly encouraged and complementary to active use facilities. Developed community parks typically include

amenities such as sport courts (basketball, tennis), covered activity areas, soccer and/or baseball fields and bike and pedestrian trails. Since community parks serve a larger geographic area and offer more facilities than neighborhood parks, parking and restroom facilities should be provided. Often community parks contain specialized facilities such as boat launches, river front, historic structures or access to other significant natural landscape features.

3.1.2. Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are small parks designed for unstructured, non-organized play and limited active and passive recreation. Neighborhood parks generally are considered the basic unit of traditional park systems and range from 0.25-5 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 (up to ½-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the City. Since access to neighborhood parks is mostly pedestrian, they should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and provide sidewalks or other safe pedestrian access. To accommodate a typically desired amount of recreational amenities and open areas a minimum size of 1.5 acres is recommended.

Developed neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as pedestrian paths, picnic tables and benches; play equipment, a multi-use open field for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas and landscaping. Restrooms are typically not provided due to high construction and maintenance costs. When neighborhood parks contain amenities that result in longer visits, such as tennis courts and picnic shelters, restrooms could be an asset to provide services that are conducive to extended playing times. Depending on the size and function of a neighborhood park parking is usually not provided; however, on-street, ADA-accessible parking stall(s) may be beneficial.

3.1.3. Pocket Parks

Pocket parks are small parks that provide limited opportunities for active play and passive recreation. They are generally less than 0.5 acres in size and provide modest recreational amenity to residents within a ¼-mile walking distance. Due to their small size, pocket parks are discouraged and the Parks Element recommends against pursuing additional pocket parks due to the higher maintenance costs and lower recreational value. The existing pocket parks have limited to no opportunity for expansion.

3.1.4. Open Space Lands

Open spaces are undeveloped lands primarily left in a natural state with recreation use as a minor objective. These lands are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency, which may or may not accommodate public access. Open space lands protect sensitive natural areas, and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. The Land Use Element identifies the areas protected along Bear Creek as open space lands that also accommodate the Bear Creek Greenway trail corridor.

No standards currently exist or are proposed for open space lands. Potential acquisition of open space land is typically evaluated for its significant merits beyond outdoor recreation value, with an emphasis on preservation of unique natural features.

3.1.5. Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. This classification includes stand-alone sport field complexes, arenas, community centers, community gardens or sites occupied by buildings.

3.1.6. Trails

Trails are non-motorized recreation and transportation corridors generally separated from roadways. Trails can be developed to accommodate a single use or shared uses, such as pedestrians and bicyclists. Recreation trail alignments aim to emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment and may not provide the most direct route from a practical transportation viewpoint. Trails may be developed in conjunction with various recreational activities, such as jogging, cycling and nature observation.

Trails should be sufficiently wide enough to accommodate the intended type of trail user(s), preserve the features through which the trail is traversing and buffer adjacent land use activities. Trails are classified by use type and function, including regional trails, park trails, community trails and bike routes. Trail should be developed based on the trail standards in the Parks Master Plan¹⁰.

3.2. Facility Inventory

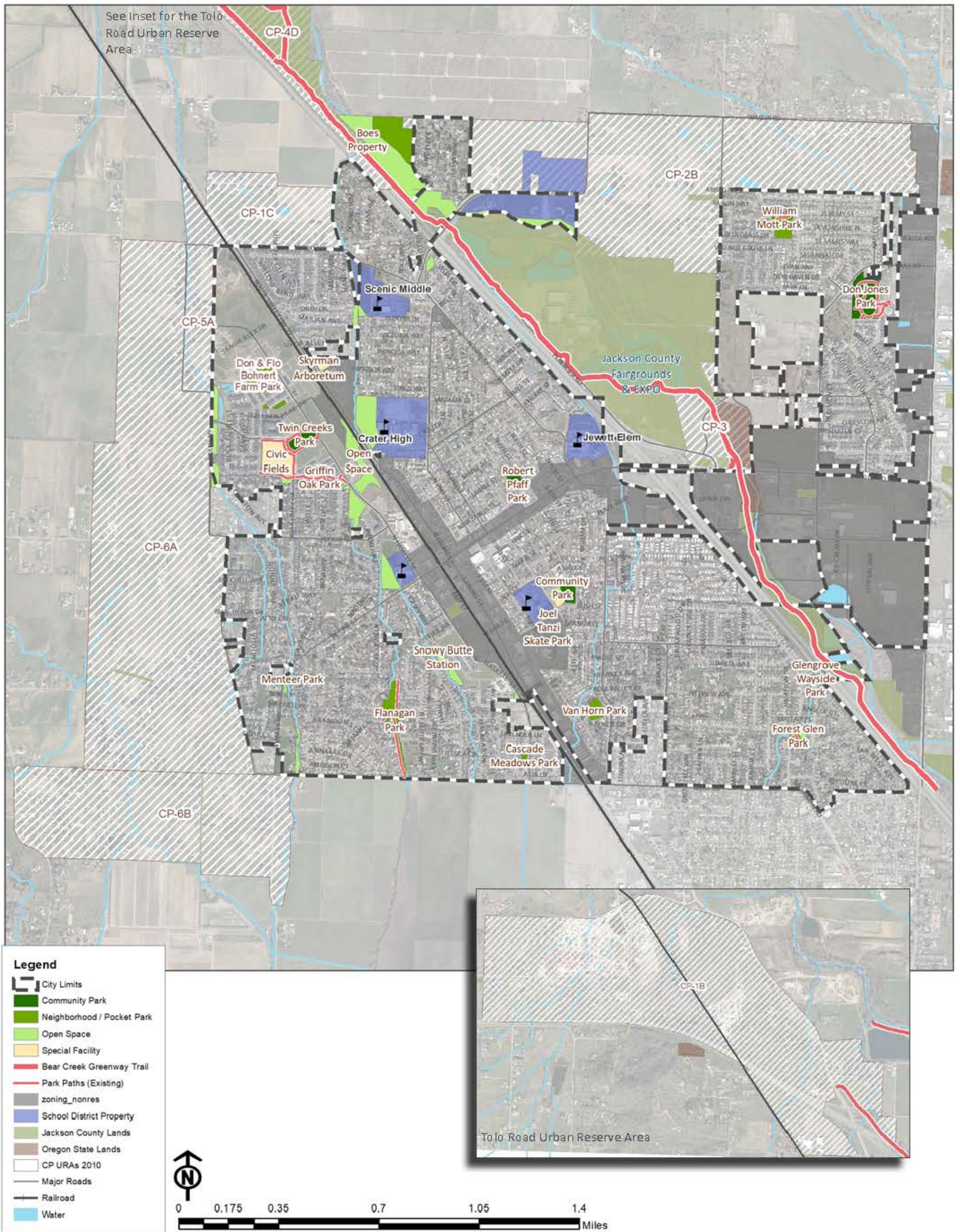
The City’s Park and Open Space Inventory identifies the City’s recreational assets The City owns and maintains approximately 130.5 acres of developed and undeveloped park and open space lands within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and an additional 22.29 acres outside the UGB (i.e. Boes Park). Additionally, the City Hall houses the library and indoor spaces for recreation programs and activities.

Figure 3.2. Existing Inventory: Park & Open Space Lands by Type

Community Park Name	Status	Acreage
Community Park	Developed	2.85
Don Jones Park	Developed	10.67
Robert Pfaff Park	Developed	1.48
Twin Creeks Park	Developed	3.26
<i>Total Community Park Acreage</i>		<i>18.26</i>

Neighborhood Park Name	Status	Acreage
Flanagan Park	Developed	5.34
Forest Glen Park	Developed	1.91
Griffin Oak Park	Developed	1.53
Snowy Butte Station Park	Undeveloped	2.22
Summerfield Park	Undeveloped	1.34
Van Horn Park	Developed	2.15
William Mott Park	Developed	3.58
Total Neighborhood Park Acreage		18.07
Pocket Park Name	Status	Acreage
Cascade Meadows Park	Developed	0.23
Glengrove Wayside Park	Developed	0.24
Mentee Park	Developed	0.49
Total Pocket Park Acreage		0.96
Special Facility Use Park Name	Status	Acreage
Civic Field	Developed	7.9
Joel Tanzi Skate Park	Developed	0.69
Skyrman Arboretum	Developed	1.79
Total Special Facility Acreage		10.39
Open Space / Natural Area	Status	Acreage
Bear Creek Greenway	Developed	28.58
WQ Detention/Swale Areas	Developed	4.96
Other Open Space/Natural Areas	Undeveloped	52.37
Total Open Space Acreage		82.37
Total Park System Acreage		130.05

The following map shows the location of existing parks, and trails and open spaces within the City's UGB (see Map 1). **A detailed description of each park is included in the Parks Master Plan.**



Map I: Existing Parks, Trails & Open Space



[Page intentionally left blank]

3.3. OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

Although the City of Central Point is the major provider of parks, open space and recreation opportunities within the Central Point planning area, other providers also contribute recreation opportunities. Several other parks, recreation and open space areas are located within close proximity to Central Point and provide city residents opportunities for a wider array of outdoor activities. Providers of these facilities include the following.

3.3.1. Jackson County

Jackson County has ten parks with facilities that include a multi-use sports park, RV parks, campgrounds, cabin rentals, meeting space and facility rentals, picnic areas, gardens, boat launches, boat rentals, fishing platforms, swimming areas, a water slide, trails and playgrounds. Jackson County's Expo Park is home to the Jackson County Fair and includes the Bob and Phyllis Mace Watchable Wildlife Memorial Center and the Seven Feathers Event Center. The fairgrounds are used 365 day a year by community groups, private promoters, and organizations that plan special events and private functions. Facilities include the 57,600 sf Isola Memorial Arena, the 7,381 sf Padgham Pavilion, the covered Olsrud Arena, along with livestock barns, horse stalls, a sale pavilion and lawn areas. Overnight RV parking for large recreational vehicles is complete.

3.3.2. Medford

The City of Medford, contiguous on the south and east edge of Central Point, is Southern Oregon's largest provider of recreation services. The City currently provides over 2,500 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among 36 park sites and numerous open space parcels. This system of parks supports a range of active and passive recreation experiences. Medford's Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance and programming of the U.S. Cellular Community Park and the Santo Community Center providing over 300 programs, services and events each year.

3.3.3. Phoenix

The City of Phoenix, located approximately six miles south of Central Point, has 35 acres of park land. Facilities at their three parks include playgrounds, a softball field, concession stand, picnic area, community garden, nature paths and wetland observation platforms. Colver Road Park and City Hall Park have localized service areas, which would not likely attract Central Point residents. However, the 24-acre Blue Heron Park is connected to Central Point via the Bear Creek Greenway.

3.3.4. Talent

The City of Talent, located approximately nine miles south of Central Point, manages 19 acres as parks and recreation facilities. The facilities for their eight parks include playgrounds, sports fields, picnic areas and shelters and trails. The Downtown Park has a multi-use facility for skateboarders, in-line skaters and BMX bikers that may attract Central Point users. Also, Lyn Newbry Park is connected to Central Point via the Bear Creek Greenway.

3.3.5. Oregon State Parks

Seven state parks and recreation sites are located in the Central Point vicinity. These include day-use sites, waysides, campgrounds, scenic viewpoints, and state heritage sites. These diverse sites provide recreational opportunities for picnicking, fishing, boating, swimming, bicycling, hiking, bird and wildlife watching and cultural and environmental interpretation. Touvelle State Recreation Site, 8 miles north of Central Point, provides water-based recreation opportunities on the Rogue River. Touvelle is a popular site for picnicking, boating, swimming and fishing. Next to the park, Denman Wildlife Refuge teems with local and migratory wildlife. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks Rainbow trout in this section of the river.

3.3.6. Bureau of Land Management

The BLM has a number of campgrounds, day use areas, trails, and snow parks within their Medford District. Some sites have specific functions, such as hiking trails. Some sites, such as the Hyatt Lake Recreation Complex, provide many different recreation opportunities, such as camping, fishing, swimming and hiking. The Upper and Lower Table Rocks are an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) co-managed by the BLM and the Nature Conservancy. They are located approximately 10 miles north of Central Point. The Nature Conservancy manages about 3,600 acres of Lower Table Rocks, and the BLM manages 1,280 acres on Upper and Lower Table Rocks. The area provides outstanding opportunities for hiking and environmental education.

4. Park & Recreation Needs Assessment

This chapter assesses Central Point's needs for park and recreation facilities and programming, based on the community's vision, input and priorities. The needs and recommendations presented here are based on public input – including survey results, stakeholder discussions, and public meetings – as well as information gathered through site inventories and state and national recreation trends.

4.1. Community Demographics

In 2018, an estimated 19,101 people reside in Central Point, according to the Portland State University Population Research Center¹³. The city has been growing steadily for the past four decades, with a 329% increase in population from 1970 to 2010 (see Figure 4.1A). Much of this increase occurred between 1990 and 2000, when the city grew by nearly 5,000 people, an annual rate of approximately 6.6%. While the rate of population growth has slowed since - to approximately 2.7% annually over the past 15 years, it remains three times faster than population growth in Jackson County as a whole. Today, Central Point is the third largest city in Jackson County and is expected to continue to grow over the coming decades.

Central Point is home to many families with children, which represent over one-third of households.

Residents are relatively young, particularly when compared to the remainder of Jackson County.

However, this may be changing. The city is experiencing growth in the percentage of residents over 45 and a decline in the number of young children.

Figure 4.1A. Population Characteristics: Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon (2015)

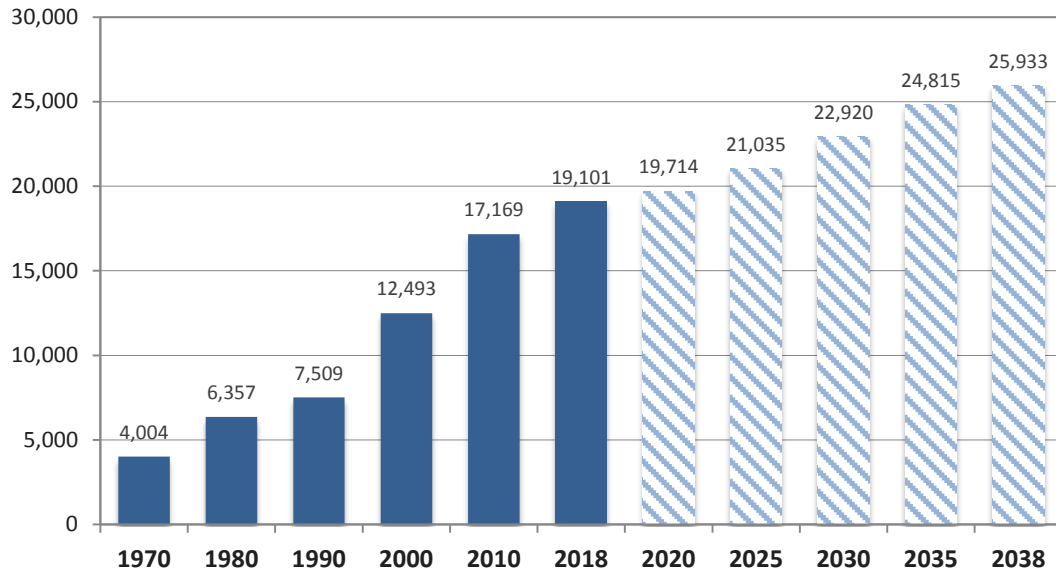
Demographics	Central Point	Jackson County	Oregon
Population Characteristics			
Population (2015)	17,485	210,975	4,013,845
Population (2010)	17,169	203,206	3,831,074
Population (2000)	12,493	181,269	3,421,399
Percent Change (2000 - 2015)	40.0%	16.4%	17.3%
Persons w/ Disabilities (%)	15.6%	16.9%	14.2%
Household Characteristics			
Households	6,637	82,977	1,522,988
Percent with children	31.4%	24.6%	26.9%
Median HH Income	\$46,765	\$44,086	\$50,521
Average Household Size	2.61	2.44	2.5
Average Family Size	3.04	2.96	3.05
Owner Occupancy Rate	61.8%	62.4%	61.5%
Age Groups			
Median Age	36.5	42.1	38.4
Population < 5 years of age	7.5%	5.9%	6.2%
Population < 18 years of age	26.5%	21.8%	22.6%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	58.7%	60.6%	63.5%
Population > 65 years of age	14.8%	17.6%	13.9%

The population forecast projects continued growth over the coming 20 years. It estimates the population of the urban area will grow to 21,035 people by 2025 and 25,933 by 2038. This growth represents a 36%

¹³ Based on Portland State University's Interpolation Table for 2038 with the 2018 as the base year per PSU's 2018-2068 Coordinated Population Forecast.

increase in total population between 2018 and 2038 and an Average Annual Growth Rate of 1.7 percent¹⁴.

Figure 4.1B. Population Change – 1970 – 2038



As the population of Central Point grows, the City will need to acquire and develop additional parkland to meet community needs. The City’s recreational facilities and programs will be in increasing demand. The City of Central Point can also expand into urban reserve areas through annexation. These areas fall to the west of the city and to the north, along Interstate 5. Growth in these areas will require the City to plan for and provide parks to serve existing and new residents.

4.2. Parkland Gap Analysis: Level of Service, Proximity & Distribution

Central Point residents are fortunate to have access to great parks and the Bear Creek Greenway. Through thoughtful planning, the City has secured several new park sites over the years, and a strong core system of parks and open spaces exist today. However, the continued and projected growth of the city will place further pressure on access to new lands for parks. While about half of residents believe the City currently has enough parks, just over 20% feel that there are not enough park and recreation opportunities in the City.

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be directed, the Parks Element examines and assesses the current distribution of parks throughout the city through a gap analysis. The gap analysis reviews the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. Understanding the

¹⁴ Average Annual Growth Rate is the average increase in the value of population over the 20-year planning horizon. It is calculated by taking the arithmetic mean of the growth rate over the 20-year time period.

known gaps in the park system will provide a foundation for strategic planning to ensure that tomorrow’s residents have access to a distributed system of parks and trails to stay healthy and active.

4.2.1. Level of Service

Central Point’s existing community, neighborhood and pocket parks make up approximately 37.29 acres of parkland, of which 30 acres are developed, resulting in a current level of service of 1.95 acres per one thousand residents (see Figure 4.2). Given a level of service target of 3.5 acres per thousand residents, the City currently faces a deficit of 30 acres of core parkland in the UGB. The above parkland acreage calculations do not include the undeveloped acreage of the Boes property in the CP-4D urban reserve area. Per state parks planning requirements, urban parks outside the UGB cannot be counted in the inventory. It is noted here because once Boes Parks is included in the UGB and is developed to serve as a new neighborhood park, the current parkland deficit will be approximately 7 acres.

Central Point’s population is anticipated to grow by approximately 6,832 residents by 2038. In order to serve future residents, the City would need to acquire and develop an additional 24 acres of parkland, in addition to current needs. Accordingly, the City should aim to acquire 31.7 acres of parkland, and develop 53 acres, between 2018 and 2038 to fully meet the desired level of service standard (3.5 acres/1,000 residents). The 53 acre parkland needs for 2038 do not account for 9.35 acres of planned parks or the 22.29 acre Boes property. When the planned parkland is acquired and developed, and the Boes property is added to the UGB, the 2038 parkland deficit will decrease to approximately 22 acres.

Figure 4.2. Level of Service and Parkland Needs – 2018 and 2038

Metric		Measurement			
Existing Level of Service (LOS) Standard		3.5 acres per 1,000 residents			
2018 Population		19,101 residents			
2038 Population Forecast		25,933 residents			
Parkland Acreage (Core Parks - City Only)		Total		Developed	
City-owned & maintained		37.29 acres		33.73 acres	
Total		37.29 acres		33.73 acres	
Level of Service		2018	2038	2018	2038
Effective Level of Service based on total acreage (<i>acres/1,000 residents</i>)		1.95	1.44	1.77	1.30
Net LOS to Standard (<i>acres/1,000 residents</i>)		(1.55)	(2.06)	(1.73)	(2.20)
Performance to Standard		56%	41%	50%	37%
Parkland Need in Acres (3.5 acres * (Population/1000 residents))		66.85	90.77	66.85	90.77
Acreage surplus (deficit)		(29.56)	(53.48)	(29.56)	(53.48)

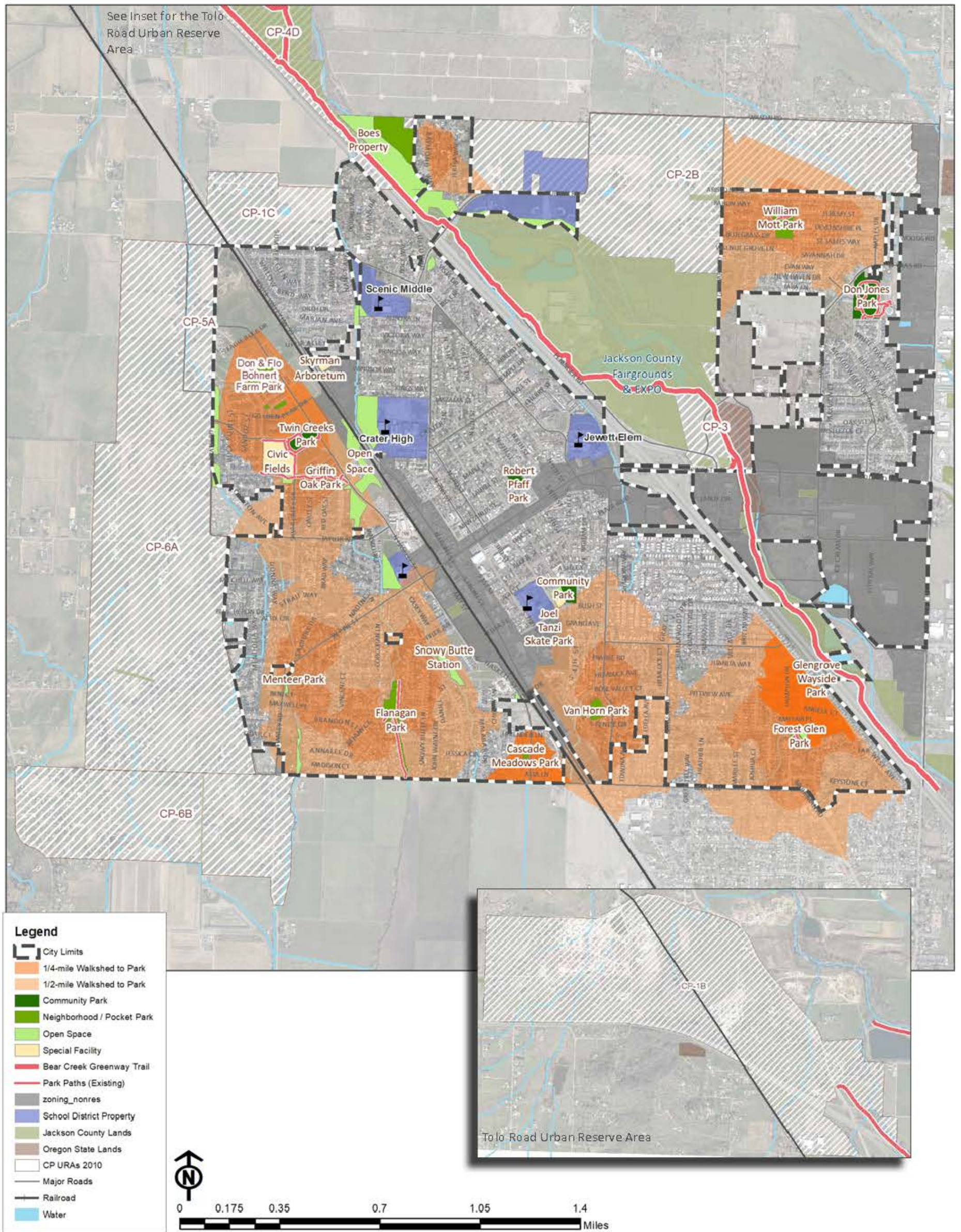
Source: PSU Population Research Center Coordinated Population Forecast 2018-2068.

4.2.2. Proximity

In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were targeted, since neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, primary and secondary service areas were used as follows:

- Community parks: ½-mile primary & 1-mile secondary service areas
- Neighborhood parks: ¼-mile primary & ½-mile secondary service areas

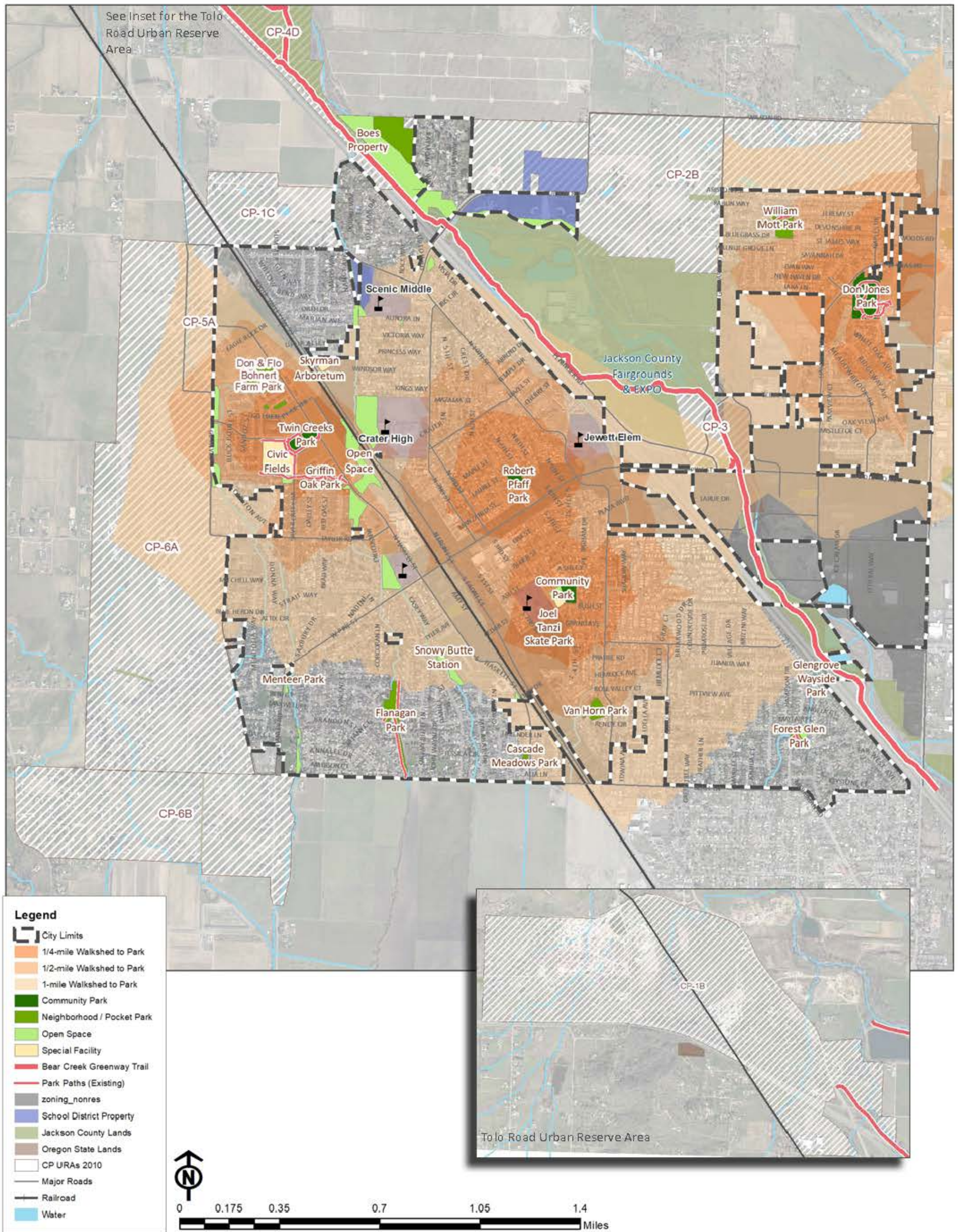
Map 2, 3 and 4 on the following pages illustrate the application of the distribution standards from existing, publicly-owned neighborhood and community parks. These maps show that the eastern portion of the city (east of I-5) is well served with reasonable access to public parkland. The portion of the City west of Highway 99 is also reasonably well served, though a gap exists in the southern portion of this area. The majority of the City's park needs exist in the central portion of the city, between I-5 and Highway 99.



Map 2: Park Walkshed Map (Neighborhood & Pocket Parks)



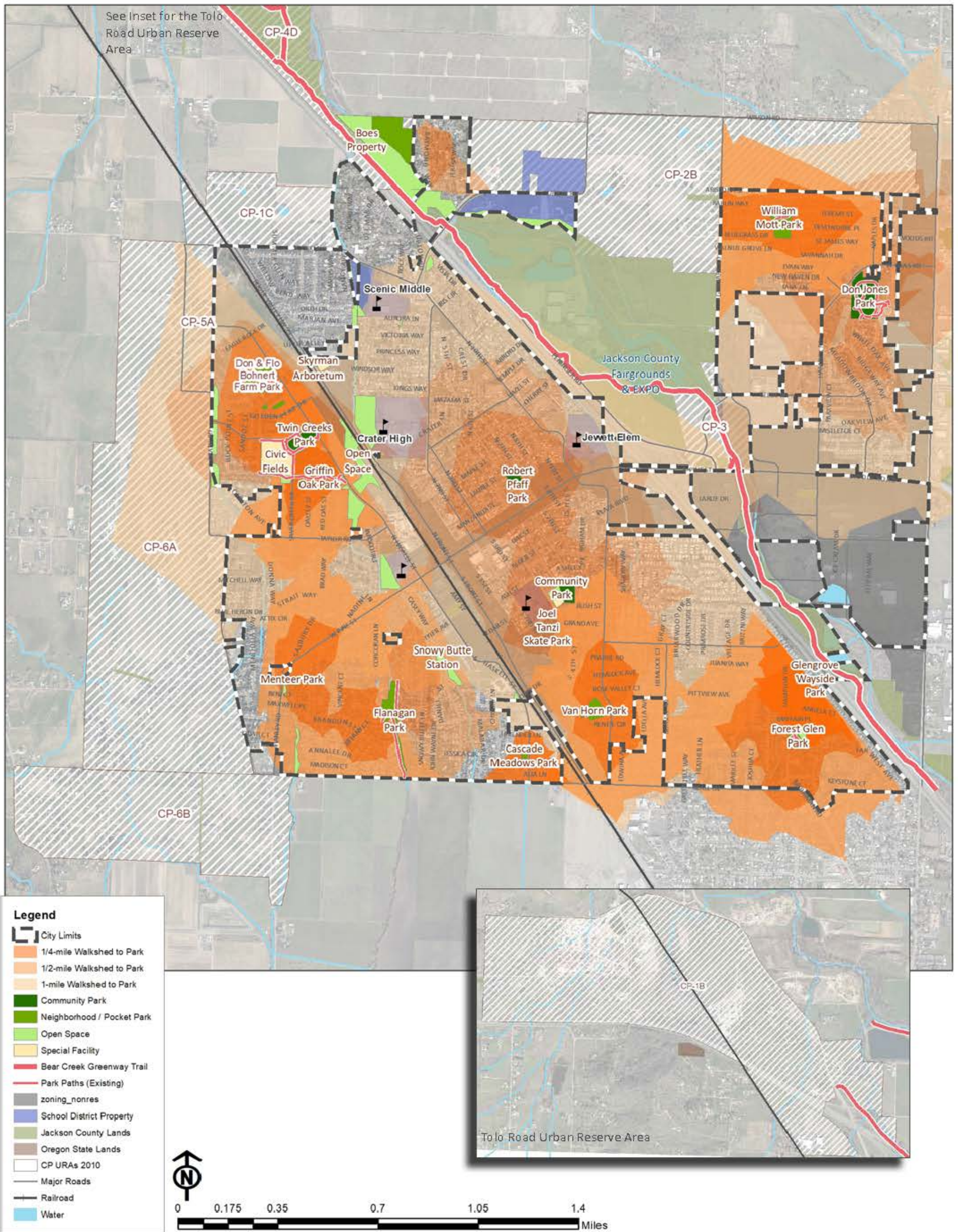
[Page intentionally left blank]



Map 3: Park Walkshed Map (Community Parks)



[Page intentionally left blank]



Map 4: Composite Park Walkshed Map



[Page intentionally left blank]

4.2.3. Distribution

Based on the parks need assessment, the Proposed Parkland Target Acquisition Areas, as shown on Map 5, highlights those areas of the City that will require special focus for park acquisition and development in the coming years. A total of three potential acquisition areas are identified within current city limits and include one proposed community park and two proposed neighborhood parks (see Figure 5).

The greatest documented land need is for additional community park sites to provide the land base for a blend of passive and active recreation opportunities, such as sport fields, picnicking and walking. Secondly, new neighborhood parks are needed to improve overall distribution and equity throughout the City, while promoting recreation within walking distance of residential areas. The acquisition and development of the community and neighborhood parks necessary to meet the geographic distribution goals described above would meet, or significantly address, the current and future level of service needs.

Figure 4.2.3A. Parkland Service Gap Areas by District & Park Type

Gap Area	Location	Park Type
1	North Central Near 10 th St. and Upton Rd.	Neighborhood
2	Near Beebe Road Rd. and Hamrick Road.	Community

Additionally, a number of future parkland acquisition target areas are identified within urban reserve areas. As annexations and/or new residential development occur within these urban reserve areas, the City should be prepared to purchase or negotiate for the protection of developable lands for recreational uses. Efforts to secure future parklands in these urban reserve areas may require developer incentives, such as density bonuses, to entice landowners into cooperating to set aside appropriately-sized areas for future use as parks (see Appendix E for other acquisition tools).

Figure 4.2.3B. Parkland Service Gap Areas within the URA by Location & Park Type

Gap Area	Location	Park Type
3	CP-6A – South of Scenic Av.	Neighborhood
4	CP-6A – Near Taylor Rd.	Community
5	CP-6A – North of Beall Ln.	Neighborhood
6	CP6-B – Southwest of Beall Ln. & Hanley Rd.	Community
7	CP-2B- Southeast of Upton Rd. and Wilson Rd.	Community

While the targeted acquisition areas do not identify a specific parcel(s) for consideration, the area encompasses a broader area in which an acquisition would be ideally suited. These acquisition targets

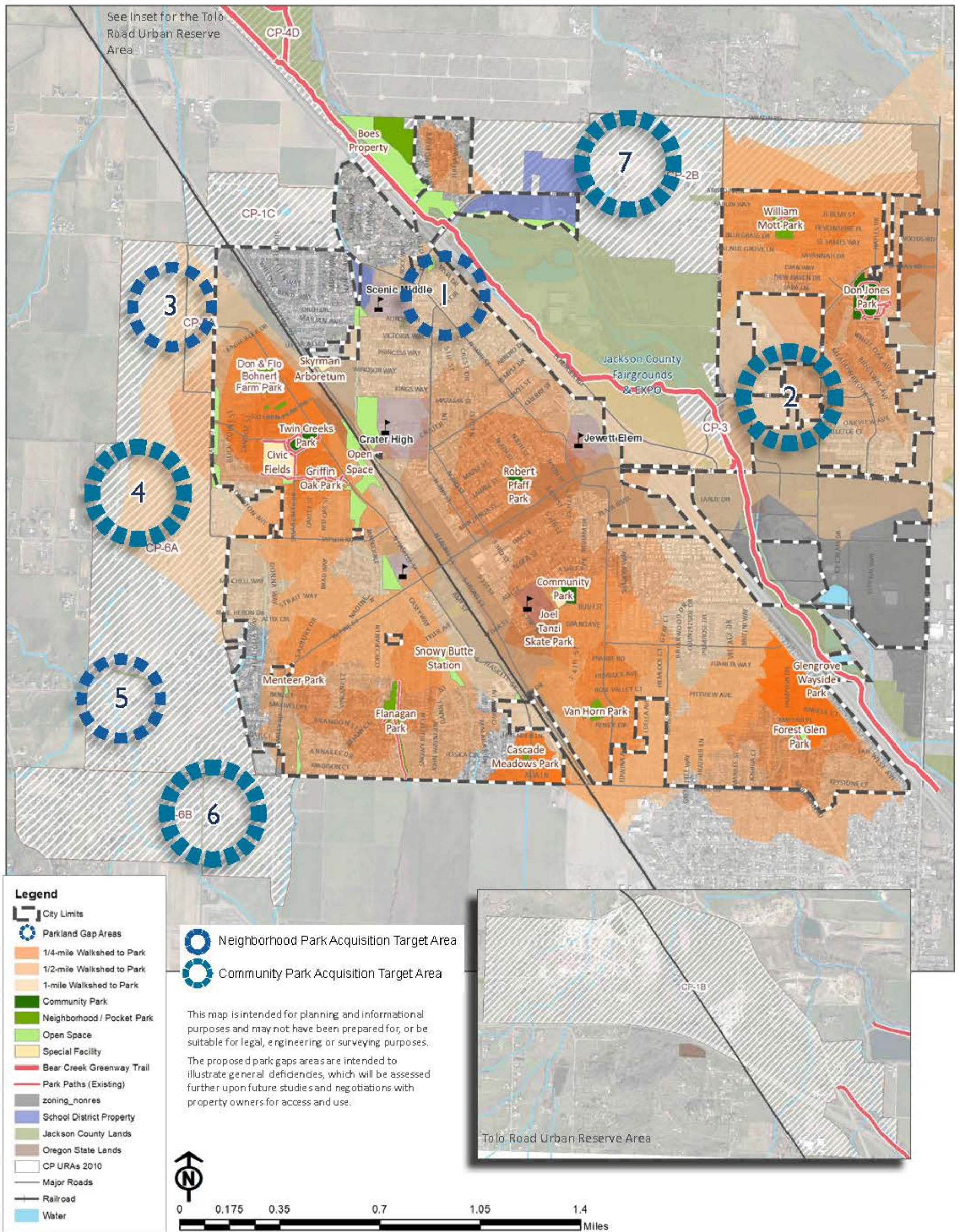
represent a long-term vision for improving parkland distribution throughout Central Point, and guidelines are provided in the Master Plan¹⁰ for size ranges and recreational amenities for future community and neighborhood parks.

4.2.3.1. New Community Parks

Central Point should acquire and develop two new community parks (of 10 to 30 acres in size) to provide adequate space for needed community recreation amenities, improve geographic distribution, and help meet the desired park level of service. One community park should be located in the northern portion of the city, to the east of Highway 99 (see Map 5) to serve residents of neighborhoods near Scenic Avenue and Dobrot Way. A second community park should be located to the east of Interstate 5, northeast of the intersection of Beebe Road and Gebhard Road to serve residents in the eastern portion of the city. Due to size requirements for community parks, and areas of the city that are heavily developed, it will be difficult to locate new community parks within existing developed sections of the city.

4.2.3.2. New Neighborhood Parks

Central Point's neighborhood park system goal is to provide a neighborhood park within walking distance (¼-mile) of every resident. Achieving this goal will require acquiring new neighborhood park properties in currently underserved locations. Within the current city limits, Central Point should acquire and develop two new neighborhood parks of 3 to 5 acres to serve local neighborhoods. A new neighborhood park, Summerfield Park, is scheduled for construction in the north-central portion of the city, near the intersection of N 10th Street and N 3rd Street, see Map 5. A second neighborhood, Don and Flo Bohnert Farm Park, is currently under construction in the north-west portion of the city, near Stone Pointe Drive. A third neighborhood park should ideally be located near the intersection of Glenn Way and Timothy Street to serve residents in the southeastern portion of the city. Other proposed neighborhood park locations are identified on Map 5 and aim to address parkland distribution needs within the urban reserve areas.



Map 5: Proposed Parkland Acquisition Target Areas



[Page intentionally left blank]

4.3. Priorities

As opportunities to acquire large park sites may be limited, the City should prioritize available opportunities to secure large sites and/or multiple adjacent properties and should consider acquisition partnership opportunities with the Central Point School District or other education and recreation providers. The City will need to take advantage of opportunities in strategic locations to better serve residents. The City should look to proactively acquire neighborhood and community park sites in newly incorporated areas, should the City's urban growth boundary and city limits expand in the future. Such acquisitions would help ensure the City can adequately provide parks in future neighborhoods.

New parks should be developed with walking paths, play areas, shade trees, picnic areas and benches, spray-grounds or other water features, and other appropriate amenities as desired by the local community. For example, the City could consider adding half-court basketball courts, small skate park elements and other recreation features in the development of new or existing neighborhood parks to expand recreational opportunities.

In general, Central Point residents believe parks and recreation are essential to the quality of life in the city. This value holds whether or not residents actually use available park and recreation services. Residents are also generally satisfied with the number of existing parks and recreation opportunities and the condition of local parks.

5. Goals & Policies

5.1. Goals & Policies

Taken together, the goals and policies provide a framework for the city-wide Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Element. A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Policies are more specific, measurable statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Policies may change over time. Recommendations are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and objectives and are contained in other chapters of the Plan.

The Parks Element supports those policies addressing Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 5: Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas and Natural Resources, and Goal 8: Recreation Needs. The Parks Element also complies with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's 2013-2017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

5.1.1. Community Engagement and Communication

Goal 1: Encourage meaningful public involvement in park and recreation planning and inform residents through department communications.

Policies

- 1.1 Support the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) as the forum for public discussion of parks and recreation issues and conduct joint sessions as necessary between the Commission and City Council to improve coordination and discuss policy matters of mutual interest.
- 1.2 Involve residents and stakeholders in system-wide planning, park site facility design and recreation program development and continue to use a diverse set of communication and informational materials to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- 1.3 Support volunteer park improvement and stewardship projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, faith organizations and businesses to promote community involvement in parks and recreation facilities.
- 1.4 Continue to promote and distribute information about recreational activities, education programs, community services and events, and volunteer activities sponsored by the City and partner agencies and organizations.
- 1.5 Prepare and promote an updated park and trail facilities map for online and print distribution to highlight existing and proposed sites and routes.
- 1.6 Implement a comprehensive approach for wayfinding and directional signage to, and identification and interpretive signage within, park and trail facilities.
- 1.7 Survey, review and publish local park and recreation preferences, needs and trends periodically to stay current with community recreation interests.

5.1.2. Recreation Programming

Goal 2: Establish and maintain a varied and inclusive suite of recreation programs that accommodate a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities and promote the health and wellness of the community.

Policies

- 2.1 Expand and enhance the diversity of programs offered, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users.
- 2.2 Enable programming and services to meet the needs of diverse users, including at-risk communities or those with special needs.
- 2.3 Maintain and enhance program scholarships, fee waivers and other mechanisms to support recreation access for low-income program participants.
- 2.4 Continue to pursue development of a multi-use community center that provides additional space for recreation programs.
- 2.5 Pursue opportunities to develop an indoor aquatic facility and recreation center, potentially in partnership with other organizations or agencies. Consider financial feasibility and long term operations needs prior to design or construction of any new facility.
- 2.6 Implement and support special events, festivals, concerts and cultural programming to promote arts, health and wellness, community identity and tourism, and to foster civic pride.

- 2.7 Leverage city resources by forming and maintaining partnerships with public, non-profit and private recreation providers to deliver recreation services; coordinate with the school district for access to existing facilities (e.g. schools gymnasiums, tracks, fields) for community recreational use.
- 2.8 Explore partnership opportunities with regional healthcare providers and services, such as Providence, Asante and the Jackson County Health and Human Department, to promote wellness activities, healthy lifestyles and communications about local recreation facilities and the benefits of parks and recreation.
- 2.9 Periodically undertake a comprehensive evaluation of existing recreation program offerings in terms of persons served, customer satisfaction, cost/subsidy, cost recovery and availability of similar programs via other providers.

5.1.3. Parks & Open Space

Goal 3: Acquire and develop a high-quality, diversified system of parks, recreation amenities and open spaces that provide equitable access to all residents.

Policies

- 3.1 Provide a level of service standard of 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents of developed core parks (community, neighborhood and pocket).
- 3.2 Strive to provide equitable access to parks such that all city residents live within one-half mile of a developed neighborhood park.
- 3.3 Prioritize park acquisition and development in underserved areas where households are more than ½-mile from a developed park.
- 3.4 Explore partnership with local utilities, public agencies and private landowners for easements for parkland, trail corridors and recreation facilities.
- 3.5 Pursue low-cost and/or non-purchase options to preserve open space, including the use of conservation easements and development agreements.
- 3.6 Continue to provide community gardens at suitable sites to provide opportunities for gardening, healthy eating and social connections.
- 3.7 Provide and maintain facilities for alternative or emerging sports, such as pickle-ball, disc golf, climbing and parkour, to offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences.
- 3.8 Coordinate with public agencies and private landowners for the protection of valuable natural areas and sensitive lands through the purchase of development rights, easements or title and make these lands available for passive recreation as appropriate.
- 3.9 Maintain and apply annually for Tree City USA status.
- 3.10 Manage vegetation in natural areas to support or maintain native plant species, habitat function and other ecological values; remove and control non-native or invasive plants as appropriate.

5.1.4. Trails & Pathways

Goal 4: Develop a high-quality system of multi-use trails and bicycle and pedestrian corridors that connects to regional trails and provides access to public facilities, neighborhoods and businesses to promote exercise, walking and biking.

Policies

- 4.1 Coordinate recreational path and trail system planning and development with the City's and Jackson County's Transportation System Plan to provide a comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle network. Coordinate with Medford's pathway plans for improved connectivity. Create an updated Pedestrian and Bike Trails Plan.
- 4.2 Facilitate and provide improved pedestrian and bicycle connectivity from major shared-use paths, such as the Bear Creek Greenway, to parks and other destinations.
- 4.3 Coordinate with the Planning Department and integrate the siting of proposed path and trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated routes to be designed to incorporate path and trail segments as part of the project.
- 4.4 Expand the system of off-street trails by utilizing greenways, parks, utility corridors and critical areas as appropriate; purchase rights-of-way or easements as necessary.
- 4.5 Partner with local utilities, public agencies and private landowners to secure easements and access to open space for path and trail connections.
- 4.6 Implement trail, route and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities, informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities.
- 4.7 Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, signage, restrooms and other amenities.
- 4.8 Promote the planning, design and implementation of safe pedestrian and bicycle routes during development review to encourage connectivity to parks, trails, schools and local goods and services. Safe connections should be required for new construction and retrofitted into older neighborhoods to promote community health and safe routes to destinations.

5.1.5. Design, Development & Management

Goal 5: Plan for a parks system that is efficient to maintain and operate, while protecting capital investment.

Policies

- 5.1 Develop and maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition. Repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification. Maintain and update an inventory of assets including condition and expected useful life.
- 5.2 Establish and utilize design standards to provide continuity in furnishings (e.g., signage, trash cans, tables, benches, fencing) and construction materials to reduce inventory and maintenance costs and improve park appearance.

- 5.3 Update the comprehensive Parks and Recreation Parks Element periodically to ensure facilities and services meet current and future community needs.
- 5.4 Formulate illustrative master plans for the development or redevelopment of each City park, as appropriate, to take advantage of grant or other funding opportunities.
- 5.5 Design parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels and age, as appropriate.
- 5.6 Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities.
- 5.7 Estimate the maintenance costs and staffing levels associated with the acquisition, development or renovation of parks or open spaces, and pursue adequate long-term maintenance, life-cycle replacement and operation funding.
- 5.8 Develop and maintain minimum design and development standards for park and recreation amenities within private developments to address community facility needs, equipment types, accessibility, and installation procedures.
- 5.9 Update the comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan periodically to ensure facilities and services meet current and future community needs.
- 5.10 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the skills and engender greater commitment from staff, Commission members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) and the Oregon Recreation & Parks Association (ORPA).

5.1.6. Facilities Development Plan:

Goal 6: Develop and implement a comprehensive facilities plan in cooperation and coordination with surrounding cities/county and school district.

Policies

- 6.1 Pursue and maintain effective partnerships with public, private and non-profit organizations to maintain parks and recreation facilities.
- 6.2 Formalize partnerships through inter-governmental agreements to meet mutual goals and objectives of all parties.
- 6.3 Coordinate program efforts with the School District for joint facility development and maintenance for parks, special event venues, athletic fields and other major facilities to increase availability of recreational opportunity to nearby residents.
- 6.4 Collaborate with key stakeholders, land owners and other jurisdictions to identify appropriate and community-supported trail routes that improve park access and link parks, green space, recreation facilities and other community destinations.
- 6.5 Work in partnership with user groups and project proponents to identify and test new recreational facilities.
- 6.6 Encourage and pursue mutual cooperation and a “good neighbor” policy with residents and businesses located adjacent to park facilities, trails and natural open space areas.

- 6.7 Maintain a strong and active volunteer program with opportunities for citizens to become actively involved in programs to develop a sense of community pride.

6. Implementation Strategies

The Parks Element (Policy 3.1) establishes a minimum service standard of 3.5 acres of core parks per 1,000 residents. The Parks Element also sets a park and open space goal to strive to provide equitable access to parks that city residents have access to a neighborhood park within one-half mile. Due to size requirements for community parks, and areas of the city that are heavily developed, it will be difficult to locate new community parks within existing developed sections of the City. As annexations and/or new residential development occur within these urban reserve areas, the City should be prepared to purchase or negotiate for the protection of developable lands for recreational uses. Efforts to secure future parklands in these urban reserve areas may require developer incentives, such as density bonuses, to entice landowners into cooperating to set aside appropriately-sized areas for future use as parks.

6.1. Acquisition Guidelines

As Central Point continues to grow, the park system will need to expand through the acquisition and development of new parkland to support the growing population. As opportunities to acquire large park sites may be limited, the City should prioritize available opportunities to secure large sites and/or multiple adjacent properties. The Parks Master Plan defines specific criteria for parkland acquisition that includes distribution equity, site suitability and site-specific concerns, such as environmentally sensitive areas or hazards¹⁵.

6.2. Design and Development Guidelines

The establishment of park design and development standards with predetermined requirements for consistency and quality of site amenities creates a unifying identity and enhance park maintenance efficiencies. Shared design standards and amenities, such as signage, helps unify the park system, but each park should retain its own unique character. The shape and size of the land, the layout of circulation and location of key features, the styles, types and colors of play equipment, and design of park structures should be park specific and highlight the character of the park in its local context. The Parks Master Plan provides minimum site design considerations for core parks, open space and natural areas, special use facilities and trails¹⁶.

6.3. Funding Options

The goals and policies that guide the identification of proposed future projects for future park and recreation service delivery the City will require significant resources for successful implementation. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Department is limited, additional resources will be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed policies, programs and

¹⁵ Central Point Master Plan, pp 165, Appendix F: Site Acquisition & Development Standards.

¹⁶ Central Point Master Plan, pp 169, Appendix F: Site Acquisition & Development Standards.

projects. The Parks Master Plan provides detailed list of acquisition tools and methods that include local funding options, grants, donations, bonds and partnerships¹⁷.

6.4. Project-Level Options

Project-level options are discrete actions in support of individual parks, projects or programs. Actions at the project-level are most effective through coordination and partnerships that leverage resources to the benefit of the community. Project-level actions include acquisition of individual parcel(s) for park development, maintenance of park facilities, volunteer and community-based activity, and monetary support through donations, grants or sponsorship.

6.5. System-Wide Options

Although a variety of approaches exist to support individual projects or programs, the broader assessment of community needs suggests that additional, dedicated system-wide funding may be required to finance upgrades to and growth in the parks system. The inventory and assessment of the park system identified a backlog of deferred maintenance and ADA enhancements that must be addressed to ensure the provision of a safe, secure and accessible park system.

6.6. Enhancing Communications & Outreach

Many of the Parks Element recommendations will require the continued execution of effective communications and outreach. Promoting the City's park, recreation and trail system will require broader marketing and outreach that entails a combination of better signage, more public news coverage, enhanced wayfinding, enhanced user maps and information, expanded use of engaging social media, and intuitive website/online resources.

6.7. Capital Improvement Planning

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) lists all park and facility projects considered for the next 20 years. The majority of these projects entail the development of parks and facilities, renovating or repairing existing park amenities and improving ADA access to amenities. Based on survey results and other feedback, Central Point residents have indicated an interest in park upgrades and trails as near-term priorities, and the proposed CIP is reflective of that desire.

¹⁷ Central Point Master Plan, pp 153, Appendix E: Funding Options & Other Tools.