



HARRISBURG PARKS SYSTEM PLAN

OCTOBER 2022

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ADOPTED OCTOBER 25, 2022





ES

Executive Summary

- INTRODUCTION
 - PARKS SYSTEM
 - NEEDS ASSESSMENT
 - VISION
 - RECOMMENDATIONS
 - IMPLEMENTATION
- 

INTRODUCTION

The Harrisburg Parks System Plan is a guiding vision for the parks system and provides direction for both short- and long-range planning. The Plan documents the research, analysis, and community involvement processes specifically designed to identify system assets and needs, and includes the resulting goals, policies, recommendations, and implementation measures to guide the future development and management of the parks and recreation system over the next 20 years. The Plan was prepared in collaboration with City of Harrisburg staff, the Harrisburg City Council, and community residents.

Specifically, the Plan includes:

- Inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities owned and operated by the City, including an assessment of general conditions and needed maintenance or improvements for each;
- Assessment of community needs through identification of key indicators from demographic data, recreation trends, population projections, and community input;
- Long-range planning framework, including a vision, goals, and recommendations;
- 20-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) to guide the City toward achieving Plan goals;
- Implementation actions and strategies, including project prioritization and the identification of potential funding sources.

The Executive Summary highlights key takeaways from the inventory, needs assessment, vision and goals, recommendations, and implementation components of the Plan.

PARKS SYSTEM

Parks system planning begins with a comprehensive inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities. The inventory process reveals system-wide strengths, needs, opportunities, and constraints, which are then used to guide recommendations and capital improvement planning efforts.

The City of Harrisburg currently owns or maintains six developed parks and recreation facilities which comprise 7.39 acres. In addition, the City owns 132.58 acres of undeveloped park land. Table ES.1. City Facility Inventory Summary lists these existing facilities by their associated classifications and acreage within the parks system.

TABLE ES.1 PARKS INVENTORY SUMMARY

EXISTING PARKS	ACRES
Mini Parks	2.40
Burlington Northern Park	0.46 ¹
Heritage Park	1.62
Arrowleaf Park	0.32
Neighborhood Parks	2.63
Priceboro Park	2.63
Community Parks	2.11
Riverfront Park	2.11
Special Use Parks	0.25
Harrisburg Skatepark	0.25
TOTAL EXISTING PARK ACREAGE	7.39
UNDEVELOPED	ACRES
Eagle Park	132.42
Tadpole Park	0.16
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED ACREAGE	132.58

¹ Harrisburg Parks Plan, 2004

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In order to understand how well the current parks system is meeting the needs of the Harrisburg community, a comprehensive demographic analysis was conducted alongside a variety of public engagement activities, including stakeholder interviews, targeted conversations, pop-up events, and an online community survey. Findings from these processes were used to identify the following system needs:

- Additional facilities to accommodate multi-generational play and gatherings
- Improved accessibility of trails, bathrooms, and play structures
- Age-appropriate play structures and recreation facilities
- Additional nature trails, restrooms, vehicle parking, and covered shelters

VISION

The Parks System Plan vision represents the needs and desires of the Harrisburg community and guides the development of strategic goals and actions.

Vision Statement

Through parks, Harrisburg strives to be a livable city providing attractive and accessible recreation spaces for residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy.

The following goals and actions represent the general end toward which organizational efforts should be directed in order to achieve the Parks System Plan vision:

1. COMMUNITY ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

Improve physical connections between, to, and within recreation facilities while promoting a fair distribution of facilities across the City.

2. ACTIVATE EAGLE PARK

Develop Eagle Park as a community recreation area offering passive outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

3. FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Evaluate and establish new mechanisms for funding existing and future parks and recreation facilities and programs while strengthening relationships between Harrisburg and other partners.

4. COMMUNITY CULTURE AND HISTORY

Promote restoration, preservation, and incorporation of Harrisburg's historical and cultural amenities into recreation opportunities to encourage education, civic pride, and locations for multi-generational community gathering.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Plan recommendations propose balancing existing facility upgrades with park land development and acquisition to improve park distribution and level of service for the City of Harrisburg. Based on a thorough assessment of Harrisburg's park facility and recreation needs, the recommendations focus on developing underutilized assets, expanding capacity to accommodate future growth, and adding new amenities to support existing uses. Specific facility recommendations were identified through the community involvement process and input from City staff. Recommendations are organized into the following categories:

- Park improvements
- Park development
- Park acquisition
- System improvements

Park Improvements

Park improvement recommendations include specific projects identified in the 2012 System Development Charge Methodology and Capital Improvement Plan Updates and 2004 Parks System Master Plan that have not been completed; projects identified in subsequent planning studies that have not been completed; new projects identified through the 2022 Parks System Plan Needs Assessment; and new projects that expand existing capacity.

Park Development

Park development recommendations focus on the City's undeveloped park land. Eagle Park is planned to be developed as a Community Park and Natural Area, and Tadpole Park is planned to be developed as a Mini Park. Recommendations specific to Eagle Park are based on the implementation of the Conceptual Development Plan in the 100-acre Park Feasibility Study, completed in 2016 by Cameron McCarthy and adopted by the Harrisburg City Council.

Park Acquisition

The Parks System Plan is designed to promote the equitable distribution of park land for all residential neighborhoods in Harrisburg. Recommendations include the acquisition of one future neighborhood park in the east area of the City, which is not currently served by existing park facilities.

System Improvements

Parks system recommendations focus on bicycle and pedestrian access and connectivity, as well as development charge methodology and capital improvements. In order to better connect parks with schools, civic areas, and the regional trail system, the Plan recommends the preparation of a bicycle and pedestrian system plan component as part of a subsequent update to the City's Transportation System Plan. In addition, the City's System Development Charge Methodology and Capital Improvement Plan was last updated in 2012 and should be revisited to incorporate planned projects outlined in the Parks System Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION

The following section identifies potential sources and strategies for funding the recommendations outlined in the Plan. Funding requirements are based on park improvements, park development, and park acquisition projects as detailed in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). A project prioritization schedule was developed based on the City's level of service targets, geographic distribution of parks, existing facility maintenance needs, and potential fee or grant funding opportunities. Proposed project funding responds to an ongoing assessment of capital assets, as well as assessments of current and future parks and recreation service delivery needs.

Each project is assigned a Level based on the prioritization schedule:

- Level 1 priority projects are planned for the first 5-year planning period, years 1-5, extending through 2026.
- Level 2 priority projects are planned for the second 5-year planning period, years 6-10, extending through 2031.
- Level 3 priority projects are planned for the third planning period, years 11-20, which begins in 2032 and extends to 2041.

Detailed cost estimates were prepared for each project. Additional detail is provided in the 2022-2041 Capital Improvements Plan. Table ES.2 presents a summary of the proposed projects categorized by site and priority level. Total costs for planned projects are estimated to be approximately \$4,978,960. The Plan includes:

- \$2,412,400 in funding for Level 1 projects (2022-2026)
- \$1,647,560 in funding for Level 2 projects (2027-2031)
- \$919,000 in funding for Level 3 projects (2032-2041)

Parks system improvement actions have been historically funded from General Fund and Parks System Development Reserve Fund expenditures. The Plan includes additional details on anticipated funding sources for parks system improvement actions as well as associated recommendations for leveraging sources.

- Grants
- Donations
- Partnerships
- Performance Measures

TABLE ES.2 PLANNED PROJECTS AND PRIORITIZATION SCHEDULE

PROJECT ID	PROJECT TITLE	LEVEL 1 FY 2022-2026	LEVEL 2 FY 2027-2031	LEVEL 3 FY 2032-2041
P1	BURLINGTON NORTHERN PARK	\$-	\$8,600	\$-
P2	ARROWLEAF PARK	\$2,000	\$3,600	\$33,000
P3	PRICEBORO PARK	\$23,600	\$363,960	\$-
P4	RIVERFRONT PARK	\$216,000	\$-	\$-
P5	HARRISBURG SKATEPARK	\$2,000	\$-	\$132,000
D1	EAGLE PARK	\$1,970,800	\$1,271,400	\$754,000
D2	TADPOLE PARK	\$198,000	\$-	\$-
A1	FUTURE EAST PARK	\$-	\$-	\$-
	TOTAL	\$2,412,400	\$1,647,560	\$919,000

CONCLUSION

The 2022 Harrisburg Parks System Plan is a guiding document based on a collective local vision for maintaining and improving the quality of life for Harrisburg residents through parks and recreation facilities. The Parks System Plan synthesizes a series of goals, recommendations, and strategies for implementing specific projects over a 20+ year planning period.

The City of Harrisburg recognizes that the community relies on park and recreation opportunities to support their health and well-being. The Parks System Plan builds upon the City's existing assets to ensure that current and future residents easily enjoy accessible and connected facilities that support the needs of their growing and evolving community.



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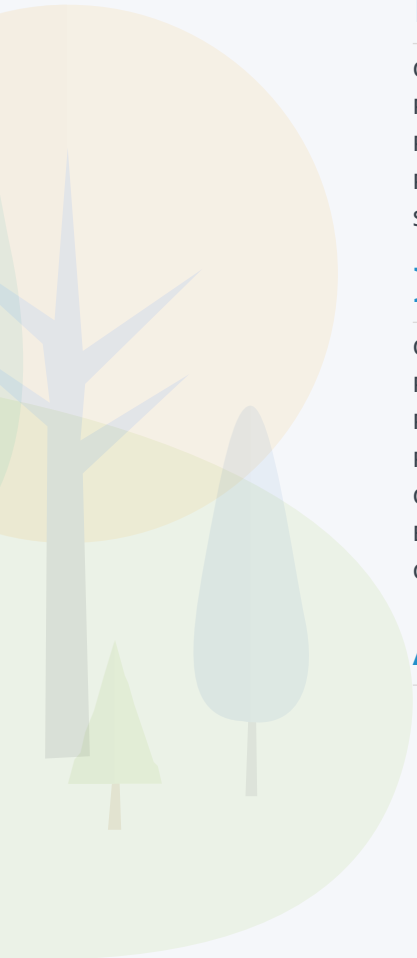
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Introduction

- PLANNING PROCESS
- RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

PLANNING PROCESS

The Harrisburg Parks System Plan is a guiding vision for the parks system and provides direction for both short- and long-range planning. The Plan documents the research, analysis, and community involvement processes specifically designed to identify system assets and needs; and to form resulting goals, policies, recommendations, and implementation measures that guide strategic direction and development of the parks system over the next 20 years. The Plan was prepared in collaboration with City of Harrisburg staff, the City of Harrisburg City Council, and community residents.

The Parks System Plan follows a systems approach for the planning process, as recommended by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). A systems approach places local values and needs first and provides a framework for creating a parks system that physically meets those values and needs. The planning process is organized in five phases:

Phase 1 Inventory & Analysis:

This phase involves an inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities owned and operated by the City. School District facilities have also been included as an asset that can be used by the public at specific times. Facilities are identified and assessed for general conditions and needed maintenance or improvements.

Phase 2 Needs Assessment:

This phase involves assessing community needs through demographic data and public input. Population projections are used to determine the current and future level of service provided by the park system. Level of service is typically expressed as a ratio of developed parks per 1,000 residents.

Phase 3 Vision and Recommendations:

This phase involves the development of a planning framework for the Plan, including a vision, goals, actions, and recommendations. The recommendations include specific park development and improvement projects identified through the needs assessment and public involvement processes.

Phase 4 Implementation and Funding Strategies:

This phase involves the prioritization of the recommended projects and land acquisition goals, as well as the identification of potential funding sources and strategies. Operations and maintenance considerations are also included.

Phase 5 Plan Refinement and Adoption:

This phase incorporates feedback and refinement from City staff based on a review of the Draft Plan, which is used to prepare the Final Plan for adoption by the City Council. Components of this Plan are intended to be adopted in order to update the Comprehensive Plans of the City of Harrisburg and Linn County.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

The Parks System Plan joins a collection of several other planning documents that oversee the planning and policy decisions in Harrisburg. The shared vision across these documents influences the planning process, goals, and recommendations of this Plan. Highlighted below are elements of these plans relevant to the Parks System Plan.



Harrisburg Comprehensive Plan (2000)

The Comprehensive Plan provides a working framework to guide planning and policy decisions regarding City development and operations. The Comprehensive Plan spans two volumes and was originally adopted in 2000 and amended in 2022. Goal 8. Parks and Recreation Facilities was amended to align with the 2022 Parks System Plan more strongly. All goals and policies relevant to the Parks System Plan are listed below.

VOLUME 2. GOAL 5: OPEN SPACES AND HISTORICAL AREAS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

To conserve open space and protect natural and scenic resources

Goals:

Conservation and protection of Harrisburg's open spaces, natural, and scenic resources. Recognition, protection, and enhancement of Harrisburg's historic resources and heritage, and, promotion of public awareness and participation in historic preservation.

Policies:

1. Integrate the protection and enhancement of Open Space into Goal 8, Recreation
2. Develop and maintain a current map and inventory areas of significant environmental concern including:
 - a. Floodway boundaries identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - b. Historic buildings and landmarks identified in the Linn County Historic Register and Harrisburg's Register of Historic Resources.
 - c. Wetlands, as identified by the National Wetlands Inventory Maps and the Local Wetlands Inventory.
 - d. Fish and wildlife in the riparian zone.
 - e. Significant riparian corridors as

identified by the City's Safe Harbor Ordinance and boundary map.

3. Promote the development of recreational trails and interpretive opportunities along the Willamette River consistent with Harrisburg's Park and Recreation Master Plan and Heritage River Guidelines.
4. Encourage Willamette River enhancement programs through coordination between civic, school, and natural resource agencies.
5. Preserve the scenic qualities of the Willamette River.

Implementing Measures:

3. The City of Harrisburg shall protect natural scenic resources by encouraging the conservation of significant riparian areas, open space, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation trails. These resources shall be protected to the maximum extent feasible as set forth in the City's Safe Harbor Ordinance.
4. Prepare development and landscape standards for areas of significant environmental concerns. The City shall:
 - a. Maintain an inventory and map related to these sites which delineate their boundaries and other pertinent data relating to the resource.
 - b. Review development proposals to minimize negative impacts on the resource. Procedures shall be designed to mitigate any lost values to the greatest extent possible.
5. The City shall designate and map additional areas having special public value, and of significant environmental concern in terms of one or more of the following:
 - a. Economic value, e.g. tourist attraction, agricultural business, job retention;
 - b. Recreation value, e.g. rivers, streams, trails, wetlands, play fields;
 - c. Historic values, e.g. buildings, sites or landmarks;
 - d. Public safety, e.g. municipal water supply storage or watersheds, flood plains, and stream bank erosion areas;
 - e. Scenic value, e.g. areas valued for their special character or specific natural features;
 - f. Archeological value, e.g. areas valued for their historical, scientific and cultural value.

VOLUME 2. GOAL 8: PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

To satisfy the recreational needs of the citizens of the state and visitors and, where appropriate, to provide for the siting of necessary recreational facilities including destination resorts.

Goals:

To acquire, develop and maintain parks and recreational opportunities and open spaces, for the use and enjoyment of Harrisburg's residents and visitors.

To provide for recreation needs through joint use of schools and other public facilities, private facilities, and other means, and by requiring park dedication or contribution as part of the development process.

Objectives:

1. To maintain and enhance the unique character of Harrisburg's recreational resources.
2. To promote the preservation of open space in suitable areas within the City of Harrisburg and the Urban Growth Area.
3. To equitably spread the costs of maintaining and developing recreational opportunities in Harrisburg.
4. To encourage implementation and maintenance of the trails and interpretive area north of the boat ramp that is in public ownership.
5. To ensure that river front recreation be resource-based and not degrade river front resources.
6. To promote coordination and consistency with other policies and programs to assure availability of grants for continued river front enhancement projects.
7. The Harrisburg Parks Master Plan (August 2004) will serve as the guiding document for park acquisition and development.

8. Harrisburg's Master Bike Plan, *when developed*,² shall guide the city's efforts to develop future bikeways.

9. Each new subdivision shall provide recreation areas or an assessment to be retained in the Parks Development Fund and to be used toward neighborhood recreation development. Expenditures of the park development funds will be consistent with the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

10. The City will continue to work with residents and community groups to identify recreation needs, location of future park properties, to develop neighborhood parks, and to identify uses for undeveloped or underdeveloped park lands.

Implementation Measures:

1. The City shall continue acquisition and development of parks and open space to meet the needs of residents as documented in Harrisburg's Parks Master Plan.
 - The City shall take action to include approximately 18 acres of the Knife River site south of town in the UGB for use as a community or regional park. The City plans to develop a park with urban amenities on the portion of the park within the UGB. These amenities may include: restrooms, parking lots, sports fields, picnic tables and shelter, playground equipment, and lights.
 - The City shall prepare a master plan for the Knife River park site that details the types of activities, facilities and uses for the park. The master plan shall include a capital improvements plan that outlines anticipated costs, dates, and funding sources of proposed improvements.
2. The City shall encourage dedication of right-of-ways/easements necessary for trail development by those developing property along the Willamette River.
3. The City shall coordinate with lead agencies to provide public access to the Willamette River and in trail development and facilities.
4. The City shall coordinate with the City's Transportation System Plan to add emphasis on development of bike routes as connections

to the Riverfront Trail and to ensure alternative transportation or multi-purpose use of trail systems wherever possible.

5. The City shall encourage developers to set aside park lands/open spaces through flexible zoning techniques such as cluster zoning which permits building of houses on smaller lots provided the space saved is dedicated for community purposes.

Harrisburg Strategic Plan (2021)

Adopted in 2021, the Harrisburg Strategic Plan strives to achieve the City's vision through a series of goals, objectives, and actions. There are four themes in the plan which organize the goals, objectives and actions. The relevant theme to the Parks System Plan is Great Neighborhoods. The pertinent goals, objectives and actions from that theme are listed below.

THEME I. GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

Goal 2:

Provide diverse recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities for citizens and visitors.

Objective 4:

Achieve and maintain total City park land inventory at a minimum of 7 acres per 1,000 residents.

Actions:

Purchase of 100-acre parcel from Knife River now accomplished. Develop existing and future park lands. Revise/Update Parks Master Plan, with the next step being Parks Development.

Objective #4 is also flagged as one of seven Council Priorities in the Strategic Plan.

Goal 3:

Provide a functional transportation system that supports all modes of transportation.

Objective 5:

Review and update the Transportation System Plan (TSP), and Transportation SDC's.

Actions:

Grant funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Transportation Growth Management (TGM) program for the plan update was approved in 2021.² The plan update is needed to address the UGB expansion and other changing conditions, and to detail a prioritized project list of needed transportation improvements.

Linn County Park and Recreation Master Plan (2009)

As a guide for parks and recreation, the Linn County Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a vision and recommendations for County park and recreation facilities. The needs assessment identifies maintaining existing parks and facilities and protecting natural areas and historic resources as high priorities. High-priority facility needs include developing play areas, picnic areas and shelters, and swimming areas. Additional park and recreation needs are identified in Appendix C Community Needs Assessment. The plan reviews County population projects and highlights an increased growth rate for Linn County and notes Harrisburg is expected to have one of the fastest growth rates in the County. While recommendations emphasize improving existing parks, the plan also proposes new parks and facilities. Existing facility improvements include play areas, picnic areas, boat ramps, and camping areas. Additional recommendations propose the development of new parks and recreation facilities including 800 acres of new parkland and new boat launches that enhance access to local water bodies.

² Updated text shown in italics



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Parks System

- REGIONAL CONTEXT & PLANNING AREA
- FACILITY INVENTORY
- LEVEL OF SERVICE

REGIONAL CONTEXT AND PLANNING AREA

Prior to the arrival of settlers, the lands that became the City of Harrisburg were stewarded by the Kalapuyan people, the original inhabitants of this land. The City of Harrisburg was incorporated in 1866, after William Forgery, a local settler, petitioned to establish a formal town-site after an increase in population in what was known as Prairie Precinct, the first settlement that resided near the foothills. Forgery named the new area Thurston, but that name was rejected by the post office since there was already a Thurston in Oregon.

Forgery envisioned the start of something new near the Willamette River, given its location in the Valley. Harrisburg was then formed in 1866, 11 years after the first post office was established. To encourage business development, the first ferry landing was incorporated in 1854, bringing transportation to passengers across the river. Soon after, Harrisburg experienced an increase in commercialization and business through the introduction of steamboats in 1856, railroads in 1871, and a bridge in 1925.

According to A Walk Through Historic Harrisburg, there were harness and hardware stores, a flouring mill, wagon and blacksmith shops, a sawmill, grocery store, farm machinery store, furniture store, planning mill, hospital, pharmacy, dentist practice, theater, telephone office, apartments, offices, and an automobile dealership.

Today, the City of Harrisburg has nearly 4,000 residents, and encompasses a contiguous area of approximately 1.6 square miles. Harrisburg has five zoning districts (Residential, Commercial, Limited Industrial, General Industrial, Public Facilities and Parks and Open Space) and one special purpose overlay zone (Greenway). The planning area boundary is coterminous with Harrisburg's Urban Growth Boundary.

A City Council and mayor govern the City of Harrisburg. The City owns and manages eight park properties and a community museum that contributes to the local park and recreation facility portfolio.

FACILITY INVENTORY

Effective parks system planning requires identifying and assessing existing park facilities and amenities through an inventory process. The inventory process highlights system-wide strengths, needs, opportunities and constraints, and reveals underserved areas and services. Knowledge of the activities that occur in each park and the condition of facilities and amenities helps guide recommendations and capital improvement projects. The inventory includes all developed and undeveloped park facilities owned by the City, as well as school facilities that offer recreation opportunities to the public. A detailed inventory and assessment of existing conditions for each facility is included in Appendix B.

Classification

The inventory process involves categorizing existing park facilities in Harrisburg based on the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) classification system. For this Plan, the NRPA park classifications are used to evaluate the current park system based on individual park functions, size, services area, and amenities. Careful review of these classifications against current and future park system needs ensures a balanced park system capable of offering accessible and diverse recreation services to the community. The park classifications selected for the City of Harrisburg consist of the following categories:

- Mini Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Park
- Undeveloped Park land

TABLE 2.1 PARK CLASSIFICATION CATEGORIES

CLASSIFICATION	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	LOCATION CRITERIA	SIZE CRITERIA
Mini Parks	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Parks	Serve adjacent neighborhoods and allow for informal active and passive recreational activities such as organized sports, group picnics, and playgrounds.	¼-½ mile distances and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is minimum size. 5-10 acres is optimal.
Community Parks	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ - 3-mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Regional Parks	Open spaces and facilities designed to serve a broad area that includes several local government jurisdictions. Regional Park facilities are owned and maintained by a county, state, or regional park district. Regional parks feature natural areas and active recreation facilities.	Determined by quality and size of the site. Usually serves multiple neighborhoods and whole jurisdictions.	Larger than 40 acres.
Special Use Parks	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Variable.



CITY FACILITIES

The City of Harrisburg currently maintains eight parks and recreation facilities, including six developed and two undeveloped facilities, which comprise 139.97 total acres of park land. With three mini parks, one neighborhood park, one community park, one special use park, and the anticipated dedication of two undeveloped areas, the existing parks system provides a range of park types and recreation opportunities.

Mini Parks

The City operates three mini parks. Mini parks are small outdoor spaces, usually no more than ¼ of an acre. They are most often located in an urban area surrounded by commercial buildings or small residential lots. Successful mini parks are accessible and comfortable spaces where people can gather to socialize or engage in passive recreation activities.

BURLINGTON NORTHERN PARK

Located on the corner of Smith & 4th Street in a mixed industrial and residential area, Burlington Northern Park supports the surrounding neighborhood with a small, informal parking area, shade structure, picnic benches, established trees, recycling receptacle, and an open lawn. The City leases the park property from Burlington Northern Railroad.

HERITAGE PARK/ HARRISBURG AREA MUSEUM

Harrisburg Area Museum, also known as Heritage Park, is located behind Harrisburg Fire & Rescue Station 41. The museum is less than one block east of Burlington Northern Park. The park is situated in a mixed industrial/residential area of Harrisburg. The Harrisburg Area Museum has a collection of local historical artifacts such as farm equipment, a fully renovated Victorian-era home, rentable chapel, rentable pavilion, caboose, and depot. The park serves as an educational experience for community members and is completely run by local volunteers. This park was established in 1993 and is a winner of the 2007 Oregon Heritage Excellence Award.

ARROWLEAF PARK

Situated within a residential neighborhood, Arrowleaf Park is located off Arrow Leaf Avenue with additional pedestrian access from North 7th Street. Arrowleaf Park supports the surrounding neighborhood with a play structure, picnic bench, half basketball court, recycling receptacle, bike parking, and an open lawn.

Neighborhood Parks

The City operates one neighborhood park. Neighborhood parks are small parks located within biking and walking distance to the surrounding neighborhood. They provide access to basic recreation and social opportunities such as ball fields, basketball courts, exercise stations, pickleball/tennis courts, playgrounds, walking paths, picnic pavilions, and benches. With dedicated park amenities, neighborhood parks can enhance neighborhood identity and preserve open space. The service area radius is ideally ¼ to ½ mile distance in a residential setting. Neighborhood parks may range in size from five to ten acres.

TABLE 2.2 CITY FACILITY INVENTORY SUMMARY

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Mini Parks	2.40
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³ Harrisburg Parks Plan, 2004

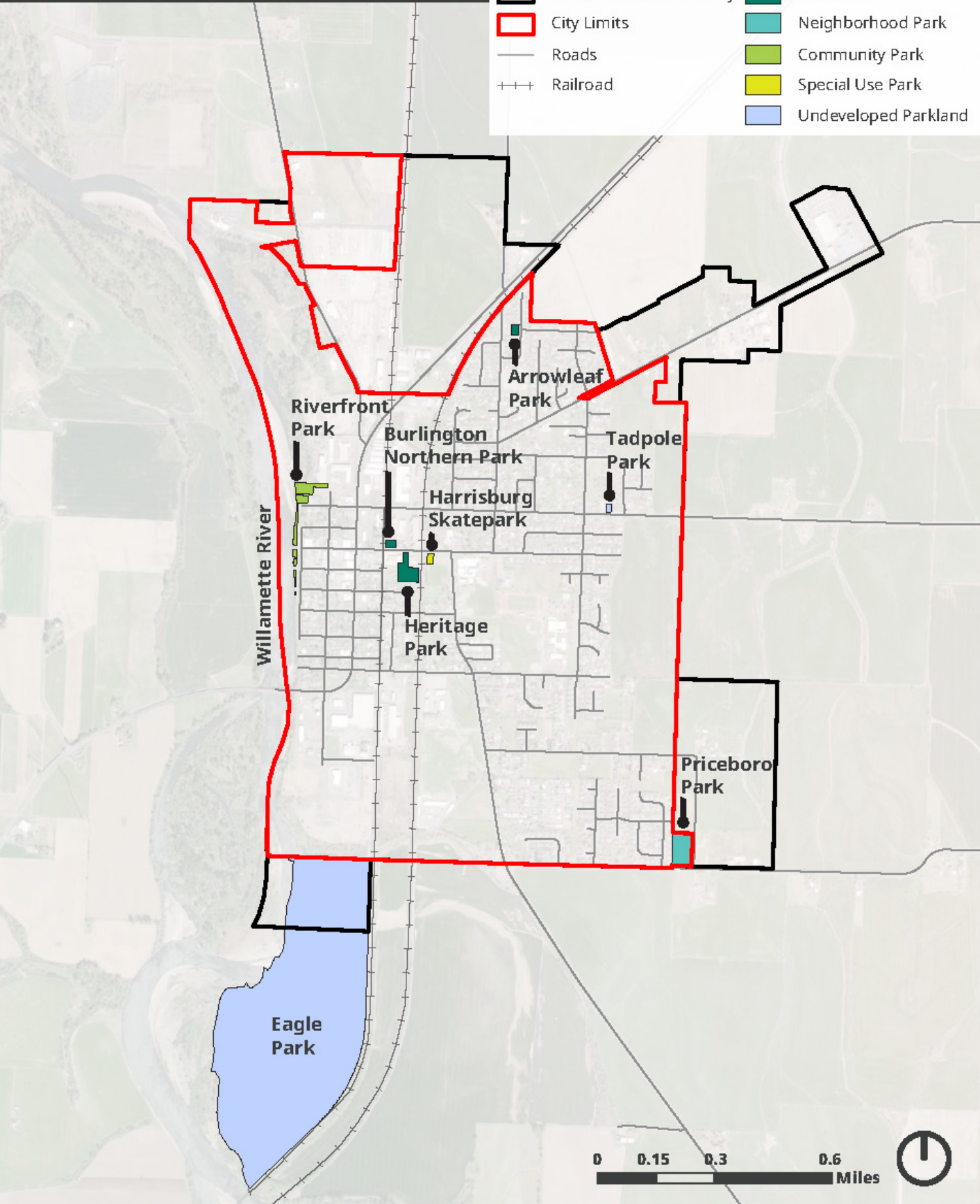
Map 2.1

Existing Parks System

Harrisburg Parks System Plan

LEGEND

 Urban Growth Boundary	 Mini Park
 City Limits	 Neighborhood Park
 Roads	 Community Park
 Railroad	 Special Use Park
	 Undeveloped Parkland



PRICEBORO PARK

Priceboro Park is located on the southeastern portion of Harrisburg between Priceboro Drive and Kramer Avenue. There is a second formal paved entrance from the west side on 11th Street. Priceboro Park amenities include benches, picnic tables, recycling receptacles, newly planted trees, parking, public restrooms, a mini rock-climbing wall, a play structure, swings, a dog waste station, and an open lawn.

Community Parks

The City operates one community park. Community parks provide a variety of structured, active, passive, and informal recreation opportunities for all age groups. Community parks are generally larger in size and serve a wide base of residents. They typically include facilities that attract people from the entire community, such as sports fields, pavilions, picnic shelters, and water features, and require support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. These parks may also include natural areas, unique landscapes, and trails. Community parks may range in size from 30 to 50 acres.

RIVERFRONT PARK

Situated along the Willamette River between Fountain Street and Territorial Street, Riverfront Park offers spectacular views of the river and established tree vegetation. This park is home of the Old-Fashioned 4th of July Celebration. The park is located near existing commercial businesses and adjacent neighborhoods. Riverfront Park amenities include the Harrisburg Gazebo, memorial benches, recycling receptacles, parking, public restrooms, a play structure and swings, access to the Willamette River, and an open lawn. The Harrisburg Gazebo serves as a wedding rental venue, as well as a home for summer concerts and events.

Special Use Parks

There is one special use park in the City of Harrisburg. Special use parks are recreation sites or park land occupied by a specialized facility designed to serve a specific function. Facilities typically included in this classification are sports field complexes, community centers, community gardens, skate parks, aquatic centers, and amphitheaters.

HARRISBURG SKATEPARK

Located along Smith Street, the 11,000 square foot skatepark was opened in 2008 and is situated in an industrial setting adjacent to the railroad tracks and Harrisburg Middle School. The park is used by BMX and skateboard users from the surrounding residential neighborhood. The park includes a viewing area, recycling receptacles, a picnic table, benches, lighting, and a surrounding fence.

Undeveloped Park Land

There are two identified areas of undeveloped park land in the City. Undeveloped park land refers to land that is or has the potential to be owned by the City. Undeveloped sites can become developed park land through the addition of facilities, amenities, or other recreation infrastructure.

EAGLE PARK

Situated on the south end of Harrisburg and adjacent to the Willamette River, Eagle Park is a former gravel mine site that is currently undergoing reclamation. The land was purchased by the City in 2020 and is currently undeveloped. The site has three large ponds and an expanse of greenway along the river. In 2016, the City adopted the 100-acre Park Feasibility Study which guides future development and recommendations included in this Plan.

TADPOLE PARK

Situated at Territorial Street and 10th Street in a residential setting, Tadpole Park is an undeveloped site adjacent to mitigation wetlands. This 7,000-square-foot property sits between two single-family homes, and has the potential to become a formal mini park with educational opportunities embracing its small-scale natural features.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

School playgrounds and recreational facilities provide a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities designed to serve a certain age group within the community. Residents in the community have the potential to utilize school facilities for active and passive uses during non-school hours. Elementary and middle or junior high schools may offer playgrounds and sports facilities. High schools tend to offer solely sport facilities. There are three school facilities in Harrisburg.

Harrisburg Elementary School

Located at 642 Smith Street, Harrisburg Elementary School is at the intersection of Smith Street and 6th Street. The school serves over 715 students and has a play structure, swing set, covered basketball courts, picnic tables, portable restroom, and open lawn area.

Harrisburg Middle School

Located at 201 S. 6th Street, the school is adjacent to Harrisburg Elementary School. The school has a play structure, swing set, picnic tables, half-size basketball courts, junior baseball field, and open lawn area.

Harrisburg High School

Located at 400 S. 9th Street, Harrisburg High School is adjacent to Harrisburg Elementary & Middle School. The school has a track facility, football field, baseball field, softball field, and open lawn area.

LINN COUNTY PARKS

The community of Harrisburg enjoys access to several nearby Linn County Parks, which supplement local amenities. The Linn County Parks Department maintains boat ramps, cabins, campgrounds, disk golf courses, dog parks, fishing spots, group shelters, hiking trails, moorages, picnicking areas, playgrounds, and RV spots at 13 recreation sites across the county.



LEVEL OF SERVICE

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) publishes an annual report that summarizes key findings generated by the NRPA Park Metrics, a benchmarking tool that evaluates an agency's performance. Two benchmarks analyzed in the 2020 NRPA Performance Review report are the ratio of residents per park and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents. These benchmarks are used to evaluate potential service gaps in the City of Harrisburg's park system.

Map 2.2 illustrates the recommended NRPA walkability service area for parks in Harrisburg.

The current 2020 population estimate for Harrisburg is 3,804 people. Since the Harrisburg Parks System Plan update is meant to guide the city for the next 20 years, all population projections provide service analysis extrapolated out to 2040. This analysis seeks to identify current service needs and potential needs based on projected population growth.

Residents Per Park

The ratio of residents per park is calculated based on the current population estimate (3,804 people) and the number of existing parks (8 parks). Based on this equation, the ratio of residents per park in Harrisburg is 475.5 residents per park. For this benchmark, a lower ratio of resident per park (lower quartile ratio) is preferred, meaning that parks are less crowded. The higher the ratio (upper quartile), the more crowded the existing parks. In Table 2.3, this ratio is compared to national ratios for jurisdictions surveyed with populations under 20,000 residents to be a viable comparison to Harrisburg. The national ratios are presented as the median ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, lower quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, and upper quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed.

As shown in Table 2.3, the ratio of residents per park for the City of Harrisburg is lower than the national lower quartile ratio and significantly lower than the national median ratio.

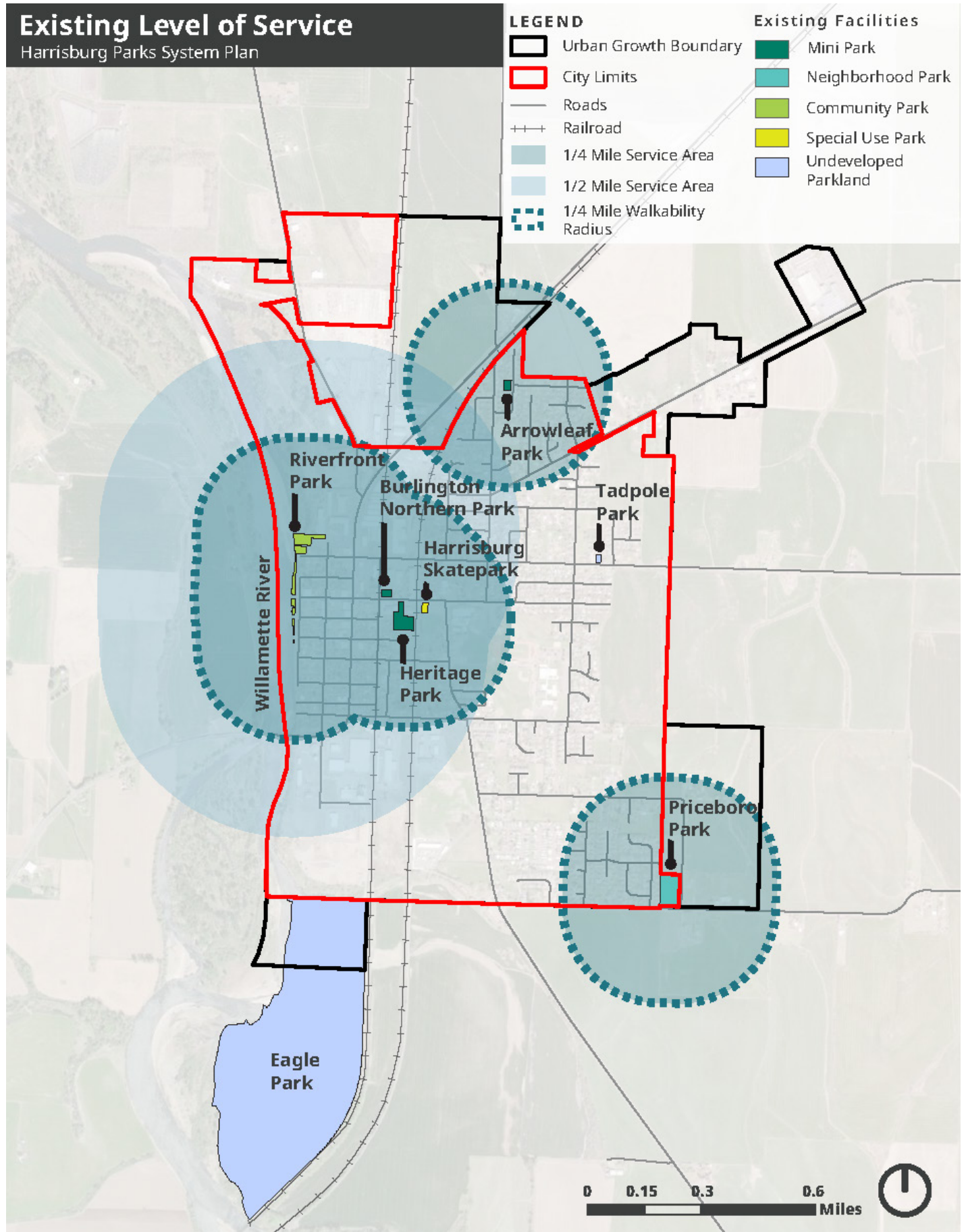
Gauging the ratio of residents per park in the future is also beneficial to ensure the provision of an appropriate level of service over time. Based on data from the Population Research Center at Portland State University, Harrisburg is projected to increase in population over the next 20 years. In order to accommodate this growth, the number of parks owned by the City of Harrisburg will need to increase in order to continue to provide a quality level of service. The number of parks needed to at least maintain the current level of service over the next 20 years with the forecasted population increases are calculated in Table 2.4.

Acres of Park Land Per 1,000 Residents

The ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is calculated based on the current acreage of park land (139.97 acres) and the current population estimate divided by 1,000. Based on this equation, the acres of park land per 1,000 residents in Harrisburg is 36.8 acres. For this benchmark, a higher ratio of acres per resident (upper quartile ratio) is preferred, meaning that parks are less crowded. The lower the ratio (lower quartile), the more crowded the existing parks. In Table 2.5, this ratio is compared to national ratios for jurisdictions surveyed with populations under 20,000 residents. The national ratios are presented as the median ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, lower quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed, and upper quartile ratio of jurisdictions surveyed.

As shown in Table 2.5, the ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents in Harrisburg is significantly higher than national ratios. However, the level of service calculation includes undeveloped park land, specifically Eagle Park and Tadpole Park, and a special use park, Harrisburg Park. Eagle Park is planned as a future community park and natural area park and Tadpole Park is planned as a future Mini Park. With special use and natural area

Map 2.2



park land excluded, and undeveloped park land included, the level of service ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is 6.98. The Parks System Plan uses this calculation for subsequent recommendations and adopts a level of service target of 12 acres per 1,000 residents, which aligns with the median benchmark.

Gauging the ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents in the future is also beneficial to ensure the provision of an appropriate level of service over time. Based on data from the Population Research Center at Portland State University, the population of Harrisburg is projected to increase over the next 20 years. In order to accommodate this growth, the acreage of parks owned by the City will need to increase in order to continue to provide a quality level of service. The amount of additional park acreage needed to at least maintain the current level of service over the next 20 years with the forecasted population increases are calculated in Table 2.6.

As shown in Table 2.6, the ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is an inversely proportional relationship: the ratio will decrease as the population increases. Therefore, the City of Harrisburg will need to increase the amount of park acreage in the City's ownership over time to maintain the current level of service ratio. This population increase can be addressed by the acquisition of approximately 1 acre every five years. Without additional acreage acquisition over the next 20 years, Harrisburg will remain national ratios of park land acres per 1,000 residents.

CONCLUSION

Harrisburg can expect a population increase within the next 20 years. This growth prompts the need to consider how the existing levels of service benchmarks, measured both as the ratio of residents per park and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents, can continue to at least be maintained at their current level, if not improved.

The NRPA Park Metrics describe the ratio of residents per park as a proportional relationship (the more residents, the greater the ratio), and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents as an inversely proportional relationship (the more residents, the lesser the ratio). Given the need to have a low ratio of residents per park and a high ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents, Harrisburg should consider acquiring additional parks/ acreage for the community in the next 20 years in order to maintain current levels.

Based on a projected population of 5,096 by 2040, maintaining the current level of service at 6.98 acres of park land per 1,000 residents and increasing to a target of 12 acres per 1,000 residents will require that the City acquire and develop additional park land over the next 20 years. The Level of Service Map (Map 2.2) displays existing park facilities and their associate service areas, as defined by the NRPA classification system and a walkability radius of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, which is the typical distance a user is willing to walk to access a facility, assuming no barriers to access. This analysis informs the recommendations and implementation measures described in Chapters 5 and 6.

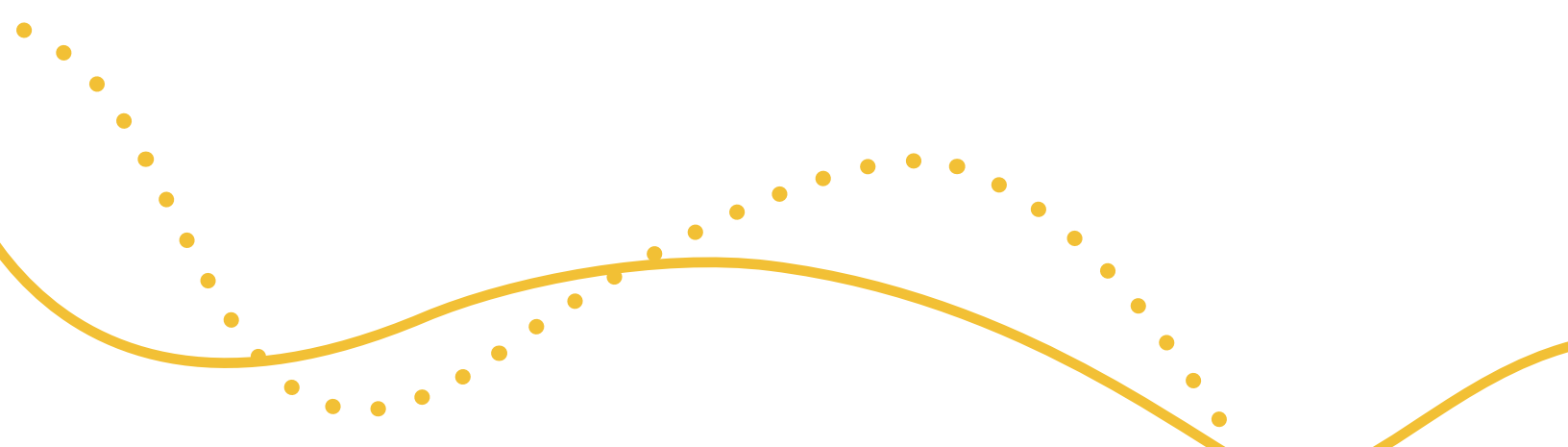


TABLE 2.3 RESIDENTS PER PARK

Population	Number of Residents	Ratio of Residents per Park	Comparison
Harrisburg	3,804	475.5 residents/park	--
Median	--	1,300	-824.5
Lower Quartile	--	908	-432.5
Upper Quartile	--	2,037	-1,561.5

TABLE 2.4 RESIDENTS PER PARK PROJECTION

Population	Ratio (residents/park)	# of Additional Parks Needed to Maintain Current Ratio	Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile	
2020	3,804	475.5	--	1,300	908	2,037
2025	3,944	493	0.30	1,300	908	2,037
2030	4,339	542.38	1.13	1,300	908	2,037
2035	4,717	589.63	2.00	1,300	908	2,037
2040	5,096	637	2.72	1,300	908	2,037

TABLE 2.5 ACRES OF PARK LAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS


Population	Number of Residents	Ratio (acres of park land/1,000 residents)	Comparison
Harrisburg	3,804	36.8 acres	--
Median	--	12.0	+24.8
Lower Quartile	--	5.2	+31.6
Upper Quartile	--	20.8	+16.0

TABLE 2.6 ACRES OF PARK LAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS PROJECTION

Population	Ratio with No Additional Land Acquisition (acres of park land/1,000 residents)	# of Additional Acreage Needed to Maintain Current Ratio	Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile	
2020	3,804	36.80	--	12.0	5.2	20.8
2025	3,944	35.49	1.35	12.0	5.2	20.8
2030	4,339	32.26	5.18	12.0	5.2	20.8
2035	4,717	29.67	8.83	12.0	5.2	20.8
2040	5,096	27.47	12.50	12.0	5.2	20.8



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- COMMUNITY PROFILE
 - PUBLIC OUTREACH & INVOLVEMENT
 - SUMMARY
- 

The needs assessment uses population demographics, growth projections, environmental and socioeconomic data, and public feedback to evaluate how well the current parks system is meeting the needs of the Harrisburg community. Public outreach and involvement activities included stakeholder interviews, targeted conversations, pop-up events, and an online community survey. Together, this data provides an overview of community needs and the facilities, programs, and services that should be prioritized in the Plan. The documents that comprise the needs assessment are summarized in this chapter and detailed in the appendices.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Trends in population growth, age, housing, race, and ethnicity are all key factors in understanding a community's demographic composition. Data referenced in this chapter comes from Portland State University's (PSU) Population Research Center and The United States Census Bureau. Information is drawn from the most current data available, which varies from 2019 and 2020. Due to COVID-19, not all survey data is available from the 2020 Census; therefore, data from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) was used as a supplemental nationwide survey. The ACS collects information such as age, race, and income, and produces 3-year estimates annually for geographic areas with a population of 20,000 or more. In the case of Harrisburg, ACS data is available for the period of 2010-2020, hence referred to as 2020 data.

Population Growth

The City of Harrisburg is the fourth largest city in Linn County, Oregon with a population of 3,804 residents (2020). The City's population has grown 32.5% since the year 2000 and is expected to continue rising at a rate of 34% over the next 20 years—over twice as fast as the County's projected 13.6% population growth. The state's population has risen by 23.8% over the last 20 years and is projected to maintain this steady growth rate over the next 20. With a significantly faster growth rate than other regional jurisdictions, the City of Harrisburg will need to increase the size and capacity of its park system in order to accommodate a larger population in the near future. Tables 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 summarize these past and future population projections.

TABLE 3.1 HARRISBURG HISTORICAL AND FUTURE POPULATION FORECAST

YEAR	POPULATION
2000	2,870
2010	3,693
2020	3,804
2030	4,339
2040	5,096

TABLE 3.2 LINN COUNTY HISTORICAL AND FUTURE POPULATION FORECAST

YEAR	POPULATION
2000	103,069
2010	116,672
2020	128,610
2030	139,090
2040	146,130

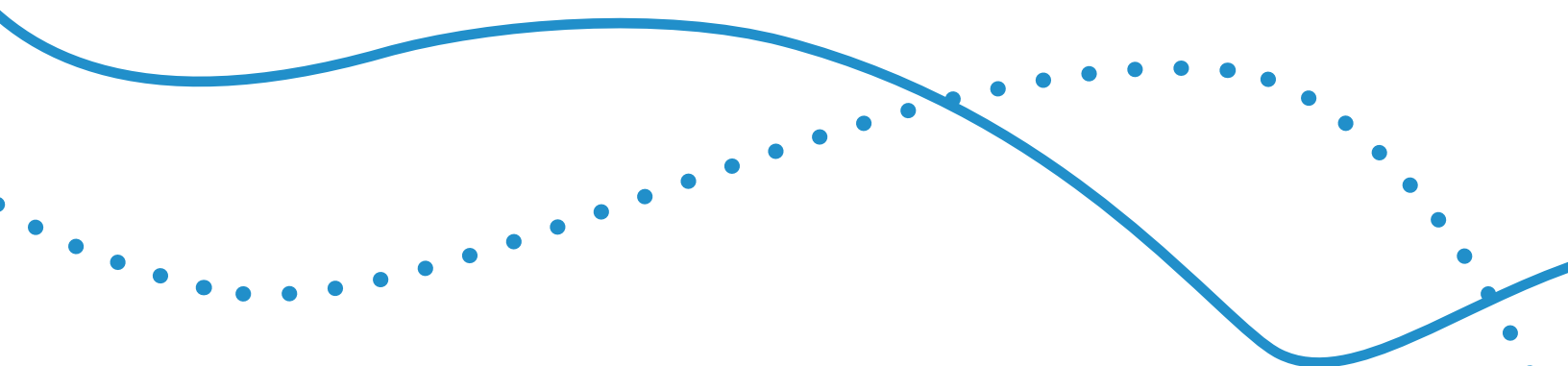


TABLE 3.3 OREGON HISTORICAL AND FUTURE POPULATION FORECAST

YEAR	POPULATION
2000	3,421,436
2010	3,831,074
2020	4,237,256
2030	4,768,000
2040	5,203,000



TABLE 3.4 REGIONAL POPULATION TRENDS, 2000-2040

COUNTY/ CITY	2000 CENSUS	2010 CENSUS	2020 CENSUS	2030 CENSUS	2040 CENSUS	PERCENT CHANGE (2020-2040)
Linn County	103,069	116,672	127,320	139,090	146,130	+14.77%
Albany	36,967	44,690	47,654	53,444	57,435	+20.53%
Brownsville	1,471	1,682	1,746	2,058	2,275	+30.3%
Lebanon	15,981	18,308	20,314	21,588	22,244	+9.5%
Lyons	1,065	1,215	1,248	1,403	1,518	+21.63%
Mill City	1,376	1,680	1,798	2,094	2,231	+24.1%
Millersburg	670	1,329	2,850	3,752	4,772	+67.4%
Sweet Home	8,068	8,978	9,461	10,455	11,010	+16.37%
Tangent	1,066	1,233	1,394	1,431	1,467	+5.24%
Harrisburg	2,870	3,693	3,804	4,339	5,096	+34.0%



92%

Family Households



8%

Non-Family Households



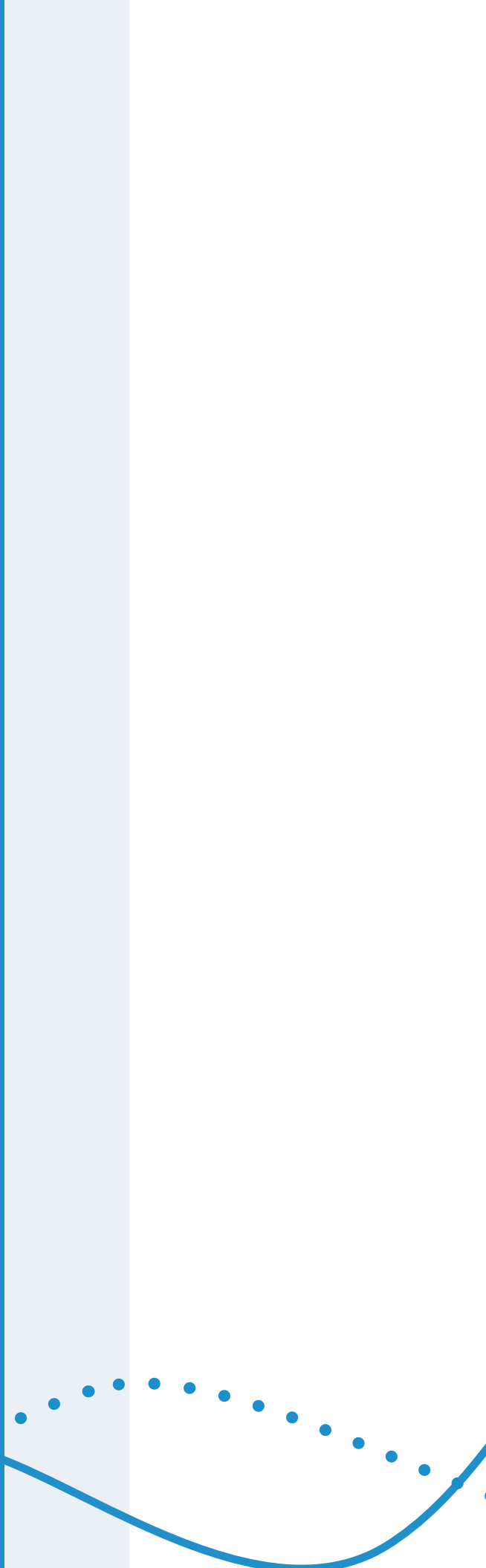
30%

Renters



70%

Home Owners



Households

Review of household type and housing tenure provides critical information for meeting park and recreation needs. This data assists with planning for the development of new parks and identifying potential funding sources, such as System Development Charges (SDCs).

Based on 2019 data, Harrisburg has 1,365 housing units within its city limits. Roughly 70% of residents own their homes, while about 30% are renters, 92% of these households are family households (individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption), while 8% are non-family households (individuals living alone or with non-relatives). Of the 8% of non-family households, 92% live alone. The percentage of family households in Harrisburg is higher than that of the county and state, highlighting the need to provide gathering and recreation opportunities for a wide range of ages.

Age

Based on 2019 data, residents ages 25 to 44 make up the largest percentage of the Harrisburg population at 32%, with residents ages 5 to 19 making up the next 22%. An additional 10% of residents are age 65 or older. Age trends show that since 2010 the population of people between the ages of 5 to 19, 45 to 64, and 65 and over has decreased, while the number of residents between the ages of 25 and 44 and under 5 years old has increased. These trends are generally mirrored in Linn County as a whole, but Harrisburg has a small percentage of residents 65 and older (10%) compared to the overall makeup of Linn County (19%).

Race & Ethnicity

Harrisburg's racial composition is shifting. Between 2010 and 2020, the City experienced a 7.3% increase in the number of residents who identify as two or more races, and a 2.9% increase in the number who identify as Hispanic or Latino. During the same time frame, the percentage of white residents decreased by 8.1%. The number of residents who identify as Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander remained constant, each making up $\leq 1\%$ of the City's population. Harrisburg's racial and ethnic composition is expected to continue diversifying over the next 20 years, following national, statewide, and regional trends. This data suggests that the City of Harrisburg will need to consider the unique ways in which different groups use parks and recreation services in order to serve the entire community.

Income Analysis

A community's support of, desire for, and willingness to pay for park and recreation services are directly related to the strength of its economic base. Understanding Harrisburg's socioeconomic characteristics is a critical step in determining priorities for parks and recreation services. This data will also aid the City in preparing grants and applying for alternate funding sources to help pay for park projects.

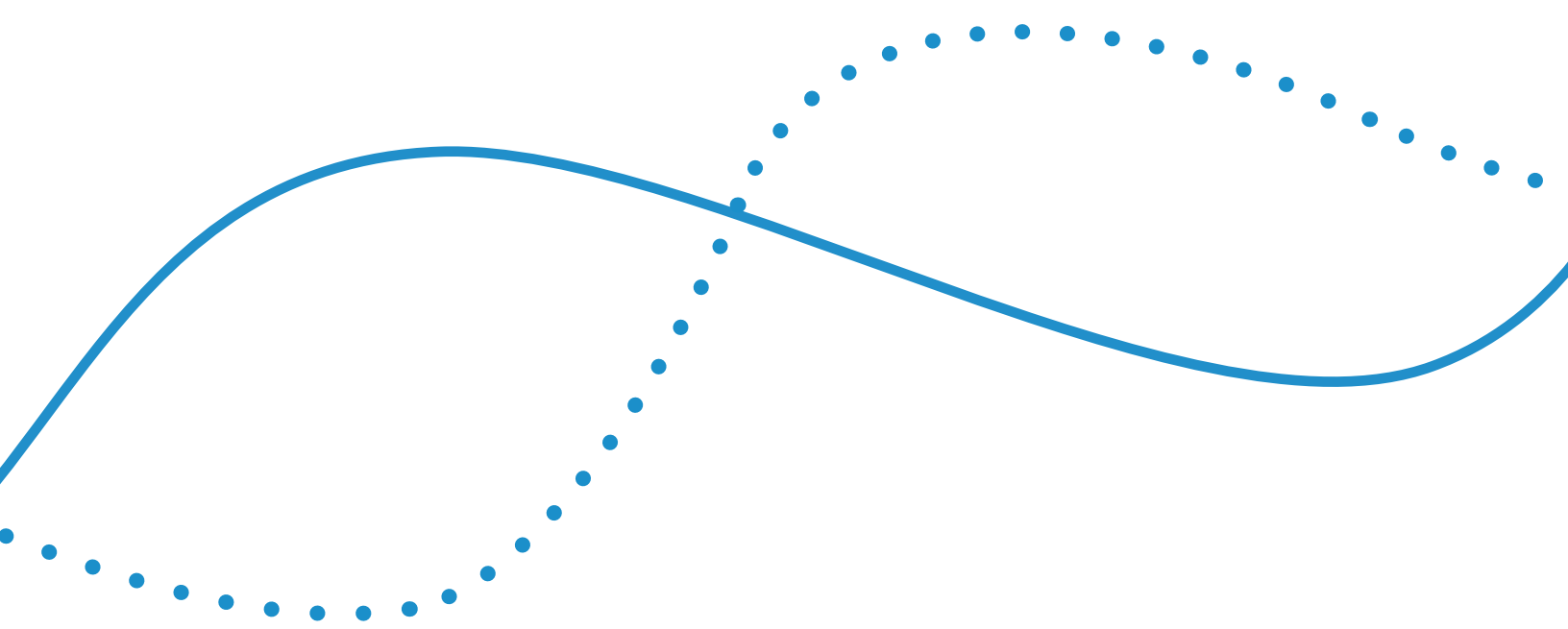


TABLE 3.5 INCOME AND POVERTY; HARRISBURG, LINN COUNTY, AND OREGON

	HARRISBURG	LINN COUNTY	OREGON
Median Household Income	\$41,870	\$55,893	\$62,818
Median Family Income	\$44,069	\$76,343	\$82,540
Per Capita Income	\$18,543	\$27,345	\$33,763
Percent of Families Below Poverty Level	16.6%	12.6%	11.4%
Individuals 18 and Older Below Poverty Level	13.3%	9.2%	8.5%

In 2019, Harrisburg's median household income (\$41,870), median family income (\$44,069), and per capita income (\$18,543) were lower than both Linn County and Oregon. Harrisburg also has a higher percentage of families living below the poverty level (16.6%) than in Linn County and Oregon (12.6% and 11.4% respectively). The percentage of individuals 18 and over living below poverty level is also greater in Harrisburg (13.3%) than in Linn County (9.2%). Poverty and income are important considerations in the parks planning process, as they influence residents' willingness and ability to pay for higher levels of service and new facilities.

Education Analysis

Educational attainment and subsequent earning potential also influence residents' ability to pay for park system improvements. In 2019, 53% of Harrisburg's adult residents had a high school diploma, and 8% had a bachelor's degree or higher, the latter of which is lower than Linn County and significantly lower than the State of Oregon. High school diploma attainment rates were also lower for Harrisburg than for the county and the state.

TABLE 3.6 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT; HARRISBURG, LINN COUNTY, AND OREGON

	HARRISBURG	LINN COUNTY	OREGON
High School Diploma	53%	64%	67%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	8%	14%	25%

Transportation Analysis

Local transportation trends offer important insight into how residents of Harrisburg move through their community, and can be used to guide decisions around facility accessibility and connectivity within the parks system.

According to the 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 46.3% of Harrisburg's working population has access to three or more vehicles, 36.1% have access to two vehicles, and 16.6% have access to one. Although only 1% of Harrisburg's residents lack access to personal vehicular transportation, having green space within walking distance is important for improving accessibility of recreational facilities and reducing reliance of motorized vehicles across the entire community.

Disability Analysis

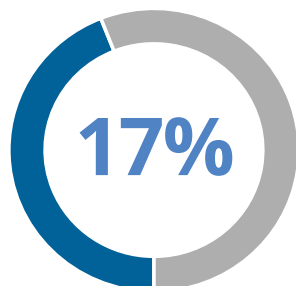
In order to better understand how the people of Harrisburg interact with their environments, four disability categories were examined: ambulatory, hearing, vision, and cognitive.

Ambulatory disabilities are defined as impairments that prevent or impede walking. The findings indicate that there are equal numbers of Harrisburg residents experiencing ambulatory, vision, and cognitive disabilities, and some additional residents experiencing hearing disabilities. Considering these trends during the parks system planning process helps to ensure that all residents can access and enjoy Harrisburg’s recreation facilities.

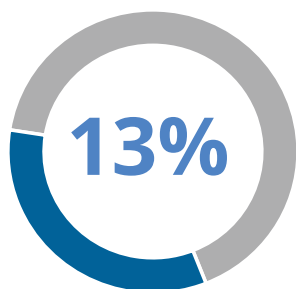
PUBLIC OUTREACH & INVOLVEMENT

In addition to demographic analyses, the needs assessment also included a collection of public and stakeholder feedback from a variety of community outreach and involvement activities. Findings from these processes provide insight into how the City can better serve residents and visitors now and in the future, and can guide the prioritization of future capital projects. Summaries of key findings from the outreach processes are provided as follows.

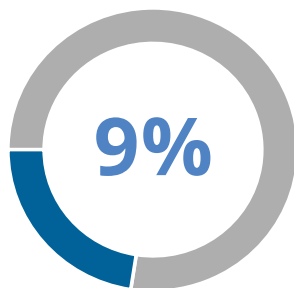
CHART 3.1 FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN HARRISBURG, LINN COUNTY, AND OREGON



HARRISBURG

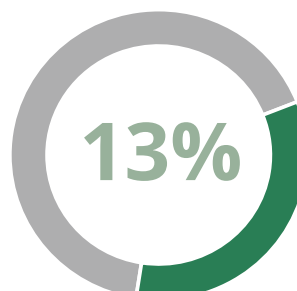


LINN COUNTY

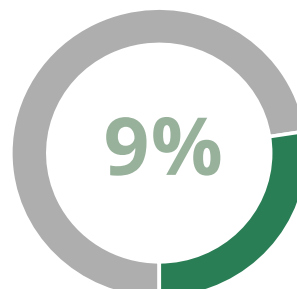


OREGON

CHART 3.2 INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18 BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN HARRISBURG, LINN COUNTY, AND OREGON



HARRISBURG



LINN COUNTY



OREGON



Stakeholder Interviews



Cameron McCarthy interviewed nine members of the public representing Harrisburg park users, City staff, and community members. Interviews were conducted by

phone and documented information on the background of each stakeholder, their feedback on existing facilities, amenities, maintenance, and accessibility. Interviewees were also asked about their ideas and suggestions for future parks and recreation needs. The interview transcripts were then coded and analyzed for themes, key commonalities, and concerns. A list of organizations represented in the interviewees is included in the appendices.

KEY FINDINGS

- Need additional amenities to meet current and future demand.
- ADA play equipment and park accessibility improvements are needed city-wide.
- Add more visible park signage.
- Expansion of the trail system into Eagle Park is a priority along with improved connection to existing trails.
- Communication on existing platforms is working well. The City could add signage on 3rd St., information on the library bulletin board, and information on school flyers.
- Overall park maintenance is satisfactory.
- Consider adding multi-generational spaces for family gatherings.
- Consider adding sidewalks where appropriate on neighborhood streets.
- Consider adding accessible entries into Eagle Park.
- Consider adding emergency river access points for safety vehicles.



Focus Group



In April 2022, a focus group workshop was held with 10 Harrisburg residents ranging in age from high school students to senior adults. Participants were walked through a hands-on visioning activity and asked to

share their interests, concerns, and ideas for the future of the parks system.

KEY FINDINGS

- More educational opportunities are desired, such as butterfly gardens, botanical gardens, art installations, and community gardens.
- Active recreation facilities are desired, including swings, basketball courts, and rock climbing facilities.
- Additional basic park amenities are desired, including picnic tables, lighting, covered patios, and off-leash dog areas.
- More facilities and services should be provided for youth, such as a youth center.

Community Events



General public input was gathered at two tabling events in February and May 2022. The first event took place at Harrisburg Municipal Court and involved engaging members of the public through

dot board surveys and direct conversations. The second event involved a booth at the Tri-County Business Expo and included gathering feedback. Display boards at the event included boards with each individual park and a system-wide prioritization board.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE KEY FINDINGS

- Desire for potential park amenities that include playground equipment, children's playground, disc golf, and baseball/softball.
- Desire for restrooms, park structures (pavilion, shelter, etc.), non-motorized boat launches, and a bicycle pump track.
- Strong preference on incorporating more nature trails, walking/hiking trails, a dog park, and public art murals.

BUSINESS EXPO KEY FINDINGS

- Consider future park improvements that are passive, such as the addition of paths/trails, a dog park, a pavilion/shelters, a youth center, and nature interpretation.
- Consider adding and improving bathrooms, lighting, and access to garbage/recycling stations.

Community Survey



The online community survey was designed to gather widespread community input on the City's parks and recreation facilities. The survey provided

parks users with the opportunity to comment on the current state of park facilities and suggest improvements. The input collected through the survey helps to ensure that the issues and recommendations outlined in the Plan are relevant to current conditions.

METHODOLOGY

The digital survey was administered through Qualtrics to collect perceptions of the Harrisburg Parks System. The survey contained 30 questions. The City distributed the survey through email, social media, the City's website, and shared the survey with interviewed stakeholders. The survey remained open from the end of January 2022 to the beginning of March 2022.

The survey received 40 responses, although not all respondents completed all questions to the survey. Since the survey was not administered using a random sample, the responses should not be considered directly representative of the views of all Harrisburg park users. However, it does provide insight into the preferences of some residents who use the park system (92.5% of respondents indicated they had visited a Harrisburg park or recreation facility in the past year).

COMMUNITY SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

Existing Conditions

The planning process included an online survey designed to gather community perspectives about the City's parks and recreation facilities. The survey provided parks users with the opportunity to comment on the current conditions of existing facilities and suggest improvements. Additional information was gathered to analyze how often Harrisburg residents visit parks, how many people they visit parks with, and what types of activities they engage in.

An equal number of respondents reported visiting parks in groups of 2 (48.7%) and groups of 3-5 people (48.7%). The most common activity reported was exercise, such as walking or running, (67.5%), followed by dog walking (42.5%) and entertainment (attending special events sponsored by the City) (32.5%).

The majority of respondents reported being "satisfied" with the availability and conditions of existing park amenities and facilities. However, the lowest levels of satisfaction were reported for bathrooms, parking, and benches/tables, respectively. Raw data show varying numbers of respondents for each park, which is likely indicative of respondents only evaluating facilities with which they are familiar.

- Arrowleaf Park: The majority of respondents were satisfied (42%) with the quality of facilities/structures. Forty percent reported being neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.
- Burlington Northern Park: The majority of respondents were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (42%) with the quality of facilities/structures. There was an

even split between respondents feeling somewhat satisfied (16%) and dissatisfied (16%).

- Heritage Park: The majority of respondents were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (34%) with the quality of facilities/structures. Twenty-eight percent of respondents reported being satisfied.
- Priceboro Park: The majority of respondents were satisfied (41%) with the quality of facilities/structures. Thirty-two percent of respondents reported being somewhat satisfied.
- Riverfront Park: The majority of respondents were satisfied (54%) with the quality of facilities/structures. Twenty-three percent of respondents reported being somewhat satisfied.
- The Skate Park: The majority of respondents were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (36%) with the quality of facilities/structures. Thirty-three percent of respondents reported being somewhat satisfied.

Overall, most respondents reported being satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the quality of facilities/structures at all parks: Riverfront Park (77%), Priceboro Park (73%), the Skate Park (55%), Arrowleaf Park (52%), Heritage Park (38%), and Burlington Northern Park (29%). Burlington Northern Park (29%) and Heritage Park (28%) were the only parks where respondents reported a higher rate of being dissatisfied.



More picnic tables and or benches"

-Survey Responder



I feel like Priceboro Park needs to have the phase 2 we used to talk about at parks meetings although I'm happy we have a park. That park gets used a lot and it would be great if phase two included a court of some sort like basketball or pickle ball."

-Survey Responder

Facility Improvements

To better gauge the ways in which Harrisburg's parks system can be improved, the survey asked respondents to consider the potential addition of new parks, park features, facilities, upgrades, and trails. The majority of respondents reported satisfaction with the current maintenance level across all parks. However, 80% of respondents suggested the need for additional parks and recreational facilities in Harrisburg. A strong emphasis was given to parks, yet in slightly higher concentrations centrally and in the southwest part of town. There is also a desire for increased access and park user activity at the north entrance of Eagle Park.

When asked which populations are underserved by the City's parks and facilities, forty-two percent indicated adults (20-64) and thirty-six percent indicated seniors (65+). Suggestions for better serving these groups included adding more nature walking trails; age-appropriate play structures for ages zero to five; disc golf; updating old structures; providing covered shelters, food prep areas,

fire pits and parking; addition of a recreation center; more drinking water and restroom facilities; horseshoe locations; archery stations; and a dog park.

Survey participants also had the opportunity to rank a list of potential general park features by importance. Amenities ranked as "Extremely Important" included children's play areas (65%), restrooms (64%), walking/hiking trails (57.5%), and site furnishings (e.g., tables, benches, etc., 57.5%). Other high priorities included vehicle parking (55%) and park structures (e.g., pavilion, shelter, etc., 47%). Important amenities specific to outdoor recreation facilities included playground equipment (50%), natural areas/green space (41%), and paved/unpaved trails (31%). Preferred amenities for indoor facilities included a community youth center (27%) and running or walking tracks (25%).



Priorities for the Future

When asked how the City should prioritize its efforts over the next ten years, the majority of respondents (50%) believe the City should focus on building new parks and new recreational facilities followed by upgrading existing facilities and equipment (22.5%).

OVERALL FINDINGS

The needs assessment considers the City's demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, current conditions of the parks system, and desires expressed by the Harrisburg community. Based on the findings from this comprehensive assessment, a summary of key factors considered in the Plan's recommendation and implementation measures is included below.

- From 2000 to 2020 Harrisburg experienced a 32.5% population increase. Based on coordinated county/city population projections, Harrisburg's population is expected to increase by 34% over the next 20 years. This population growth will drive an increased demand for new park facilities.
- In 2019, the largest percentage of Harrisburg residents (32%) was between the ages of 25 and 44. An additional 22% were between the ages of 5 to 19, and 10% were age 65 or over. This age distribution suggests that future facility upgrades and service additions should offer a diverse range of activities to accommodate multiple generations of park users.
- In the past 10 years, Harrisburg has experienced a 7.3% increase in residents identifying as two or more races, and the Hispanic or Latino population has grown by 2.9%. The recreation needs and preferences of an increasingly diverse community should inform parks planning recommendations.
- With a high rate of family households (92%), there is an increasing demand for parks and recreation facilities to support family gatherings and recreation participation from multiple generations including children, youth, and adults.
- In 2019, Harrisburg's median household income (\$41,870), median family income (\$44,069), and per capita income (\$18,543) were lower than both Linn County and Oregon. These data suggest that the City should explore ways to target parks and recreation services toward medium to lower-income residents.





These factors offer key insight into the City's needs for the future of the parks system. This chapter concludes with a list of specific amenity and facility goals expressed by the community through the public input process.

Recreation Needs

- Visible park signage

Facility Needs

- Additional facilities to accommodate multi-generational play and gathering, such as picnic shelters and pavilions.
- Additional special use facilities, including a bicycle pump track, a dog park, sports fields, and non-motorized boat launches.
- Expanded trail facilities and connections from Eagle Park to Riverfront Park.
- Improved accessibility of trails, bathrooms, and play structures.
- Age-appropriate play structures and recreation facilities, including children's play areas and a youth center.
- Experiential learning and education opportunities, such as a botanical or butterfly gardens, art installations, and a community gardens.
- Improved and additional park amenities, including restrooms, lighting, garbage/recycling stations, parking, and signage.
- Emergency river access points for safety vehicles.





Vision

- VISION STATEMENT
- GOALS
- ACTIONS

This chapter describes the vision, goals, and actions established through the planning process. The vision represents the needs and desires expressed by the Harrisburg community through the public outreach and involvement process, and guides the development of strategic goals and actions. Goals represent the general end toward which organizational efforts should be directed. Actions describe how the stated goals may be achieved. Recommendations, as detailed in Chapter 5, are the specific steps needed to implement these goals and actions.

VISION STATEMENT

A vision statement draws on the strengths, needs and values of a community to identify an ideal outcome for future of the parks system. The vision statement is then used to guide both long-term and short-term planning decisions. The goals and actions to follow support and align with the vision statement.

Vision Statement:

Through parks, Harrisburg strives to be a livable city providing attractive and accessible recreation spaces for residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy.



GOALS

▶ Foster Community Access and Connectivity

The Harrisburg parks system is a foundation for connectivity. While parks and trails can serve as transportation corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, connectivity between parks and trails also helps facilitate fair access for all members of the community. All neighborhoods in Harrisburg should have a park within a ¼-mile walking distance of residences and be connected to the larger system. The City plays a vital role in supplementing local transportation options and providing recreational access by strategically acquiring and maintaining properties that can provide for a range of ages, abilities, and interests to develop an interconnected system of parks and trails.

▶ Activate Eagle Park

The development of Eagle Park is a new opportunity for the City of Harrisburg to expand existing recreational opportunities and preserve open space for residents and visitors alike. The space has the potential to offer access to water, wildlife, scenic vistas, and walking trails within Harrisburg. The City can strategically develop this property in order to increase the amount of land in the City's parks inventory and improve local passive recreation options.



Secure Funding and Partnerships

The vision for the Harrisburg parks system cannot be fully realized without sufficient resources. When planning accordingly, acquiring funds or offsetting project costs through partnerships allows the City to remain financially solvent while building mutually beneficial relationships. Potential partnerships include the School District, land trusts, and other private organizations. Partnership opportunities can help the City meet its funding needs while building its role as a provider of integral community resources.

Celebrate Community Culture and History

The Harrisburg parks system should reflect and support the qualities that make the surrounding community a desirable place to live and play. Parks serve a crucial role in communities as a means of providing local entertainment, education, and friendship opportunities. Facilitating connections in this way fosters community resiliency and grounds residents in the past, present, and future of Harrisburg. Outside of school and work, parks, trails, and recreational facilities serve as a premier way for children and adults to interact with their neighbors and other residents. For Harrisburg, this means caring for existing parks through regular maintenance, improvements, and upgrades; fostering park environments that are safe and accessible; and encouraging and supporting the ability of the community to enjoy the park system at every stage of their lives.



I would like to see open areas, maybe BBQ areas covered and walking trails, as well as river access.



Goals & Actions

FOSTER COMMUNITY ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

Improve physical connections between, to, and at recreation facilities while promoting a fair distribution of facilities within the community.

- As part of facility development, incorporate design elements and wayfinding/signage that create and reinforce a unique and unified brand for the parks system.
- Develop existing and future parks to provide amenities that support multi-generational gathering, such as the inclusion of shade, benches, and access to even walking paths at all parks.
- Prioritize the development of passive recreation opportunities, specifically walking and biking trails.
- Plan parks and recreation facilities as inclusive spaces that provide for all residents regardless of age, gender, ability, economic status, and ethnicity.

ACTIVATE EAGLE PARK

Develop Eagle Park as a natural outdoor community recreation area offering passive recreation opportunities for residents.

- Develop Eagle Park to provide passive recreation opportunities, such as wildlife viewing, hiking/walking, and boating or fishing.
- Develop park rules and policies that support appropriate use of the space and reduce wildfire risk.
- Partner with appropriate City departments to provide safe and accessible water recreation opportunities that also serve emergency service needs, most notably a new boat launch.
- Develop a Friends of Eagle Park organization (or similar) to support local volunteering and stewardship of wildlife areas within the park.

SECURE FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Evaluate and establish new mechanisms for funding existing and future parks and recreation facilities and programs while strengthening relationships between Harrisburg and other partners.

- Work together with civic and non-profit organizations to collocate facilities and share in acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance costs.
- Encourage the development of stable funding mechanisms for short- and long-term park maintenance, acquisition, and development projects.
- Develop partnerships with land trusts, private entities, and other public entities that have an interest in providing recreation opportunities and/or natural resource protection and preservation, especially for Eagle Park.

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY CULTURE AND HISTORY

Promote restoration, preservation, and incorporation of Harrisburg's historical and cultural amenities into recreation opportunities to encourage education, civic pride, and locations for multi-generational community gathering.

- Identify and highlight key locations and amenities of historical significance and develop signage or programming around these elements.
- Prioritize the development of programs and facilities that support all-ages community gathering, including but not limited to sport fields, or a youth center.
- Provide opportunities for volunteering and stewardship to maintain and improve Harrisburg facilities.



5

Recommendations

- OVERVIEW
 - PARK IMPROVEMENTS
 - PARK DEVELOPMENT
 - PARK ACQUISITION
 - SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
- 

OVERVIEW

Healthy communities are sustained and strengthened by an adequate supply and variety of accessible parks and recreation facilities. This chapter outlines recommendations for improving and expanding Harrisburg's parks system to maintain current facilities and accommodate new growth. The recommendations are an extension of the goals and actions described in the previous chapter. They identify specific projects that can be developed to support existing community recreation trends, improve existing facilities, expand and diversify recreation services, and adapt to changing needs. The projects listed were identified through the community involvement process with input from City staff. Each recommendation is assigned a letter that is correlated to its reference in Chapter 6, organized into the following categories:

- Park Improvements (P)
- Park Development (D)
- Park Acquisition (A)
- System Improvements (S)

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Park improvement recommendations in Table 5.1 include: specific projects identified in the 2012 System Development Charge Methodology and Capital Improvement Plan Updates and the 2004 Parks System Master Plan that have not been completed; projects identified in subsequent planning studies that have not been completed; new projects identified through the Needs Assessment; and new projects that expand existing capacity.

The recommendations include general modernizations, upgrades, and expansions to Burlington Northern Park, Arrowleaf Park, Priceboro Park, Riverfront Park, and the Harrisburg Skatepark.

Burlington Northern Park

Install pedestrian connections in park, new signage, and site furnishings.

Arrowleaf Park

Resurface basketball court to improve drainage and surfacing color. Install a new park identification sign, site furnishings (benches), and shade trees.

Priceboro Park

Install new park identification sign, one small picnic shelter, and additional site furnishings (benches). Construct two multi-sport courts (basketball, tennis, and pickleball) including equipment, court striping, perimeter fencing, and walkway extending from main access to multi-sport courts.

Riverfront Park

Upgrade children's playground with new play equipment and engineered wood fiber play surfacing.

Harrisburg Skatepark

Install new park identification sign. Rehabilitate skatepark with new coping, concrete repairs, and general maintenance.

PARK DEVELOPMENT

Park development recommendations listed in Table 5.2 focus on the development of undeveloped land owned by the City, specifically the properties referenced as Eagle Park and Tadpole Park on Map 2.1 Existing Parks



TABLE 5.1 PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
MINI PARK PROJECTS		
P1.1	BURLINGTON NORTHERN PARK	Install new park identification sign.
P1.2	BURLINGTON NORTHERN PARK	Install new site furnishings (picnic tables, benches).
P1.3	BURLINGTON NORTHERN PARK	Install landscape plantings at east and south perimeter.
P2.1	ARROWLEAF PARK	Resurface basketball court to improve drainage and with vibrant color surfacing.
P2.2	ARROWLEAF PARK	Install new park identification sign.
P2.3	ARROWLEAF PARK	Install new site furnishings (benches).
P2.4	ARROWLEAF PARK	Install shade trees at east and south perimeter.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROJECTS		
P3.1	PRICEBORO PARK	Install new park identification sign.
P3.2	PRICEBORO PARK	Install one small picnic shelter.
P3.3	PRICEBORO PARK	Install additional site furnishings (benches).
P3.4	PRICEBORO PARK	Construct two multi-sport courts (basketball, tennis, and pickleball) including equipment, court striping, perimeter fencing, and walkway extending from main access to multi-sport courts.



TABLE 5.1 PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (CONT.)

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
COMMUNITY PARK PROJECTS		
P4.1	RIVERFRONT PARK	Upgrade children's playground with new play equipment and engineered wood fiber play surfacing.
SPECIAL USE PARK PROJECTS		
P5.1	HARRISBURG SKATEPARK	Install new park identification sign.
P5.2	HARRISBURG SKATEPARK	Rehabilitate skatepark with new coping, concrete repairs, and general maintenance.

TABLE 5.2 PARK DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS		
D1.1	EAGLE PARK	Design, permit, and construct Phase 1 of the conceptual plan including site preparation, grading, road and parking improvements, boat launch, multi-purpose field, dog park, utilities, and site furnishings and is concentrated in the northern portion of the site.
D1.2	EAGLE PARK	Design, permit, and construct Phase 2 of the conceptual plan including additional road and parking improvements, trails, children's playground, natural area restoration, and additional site furnishings in the northern and middle portions of the site.
D1.3	EAGLE PARK	Design, permit, and construct Phase 3 of the conceptual master plan including additional trails, dog park, bike skills course, disc golf, pedestrian bridge, and natural area restoration.
D2.1	TADPOLE PARK	Design and develop a new mini park.

TABLE 5.3 PARK ACQUISITION RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
PARK ACQUISITION PROJECTS		
A1.1	FUTURE EAST PARK	Acquire 2-5 acres for future development of a neighborhood park to serve residents in acquisition area A1.

System and Map 5.1 Proposed Parks System. Eagle Park is planned to be developed as a community park and natural area and Tadpole Park is planned to be developed as a mini park.

Recommendations specific to Eagle Park are based on implementation of the Conceptual Development Plan in the 100-acre Park Feasibility Study, completed in 2016 by Cameron McCarthy and adopted by the Harrisburg City Council. The City has since completed acquisition of the property and the undeveloped site is available for public access and recreation.

Eagle Park

Design, permit, and construct Phase 1 of the conceptual plan including site preparation, grading, road and parking improvements, boat launch, multi-purpose field, dog park, utilities, and site furnishings concentrated in the northern portion of the site. Design, permit, and construct Phase 2 of the conceptual plan including additional road and parking improvements, trails, children's playground, natural area restoration, and additional site furnishings in the northern and middle portions of the site. Design, permit, and construct Phase 3 of the conceptual master plan including additional trails, dog park, bike skills course, disc golf, pedestrian bridge, and natural area restoration.

Tadpole Park

Design and develop a new mini park.

PARK ACQUISITION

The Parks System Plan is designed to promote the equitable distribution of park land for all residential neighborhoods in Harrisburg. The acquisition strategy considers the recreational needs of current underserved areas and the anticipated needs of future residential development. Map 5.1 identifies the recommended area for land acquisition and its relationship to the existing parks system. Park acquisition recommendations are based upon community input, data analysis, and other planning documents.

Recommendations include the acquisition of one future neighborhood park in the east area of the City, which is currently underserved by parks. Map 2.2 indicates that the northeast, east, and southeast areas of the City are planned for future residential growth and are park-deficient based on the recommended service area of ¼-mile for neighborhood parks. Map 5.1 identifies one acquisition area (A1). Supporting recommendations focus on the acquisition of one undeveloped site, approximately 2-5 acres in size, and the phased developed of a neighborhood park.

Future East Park

Acquire and develop 2-5 acres for a neighborhood park to serve residents in acquisition area A1.



SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

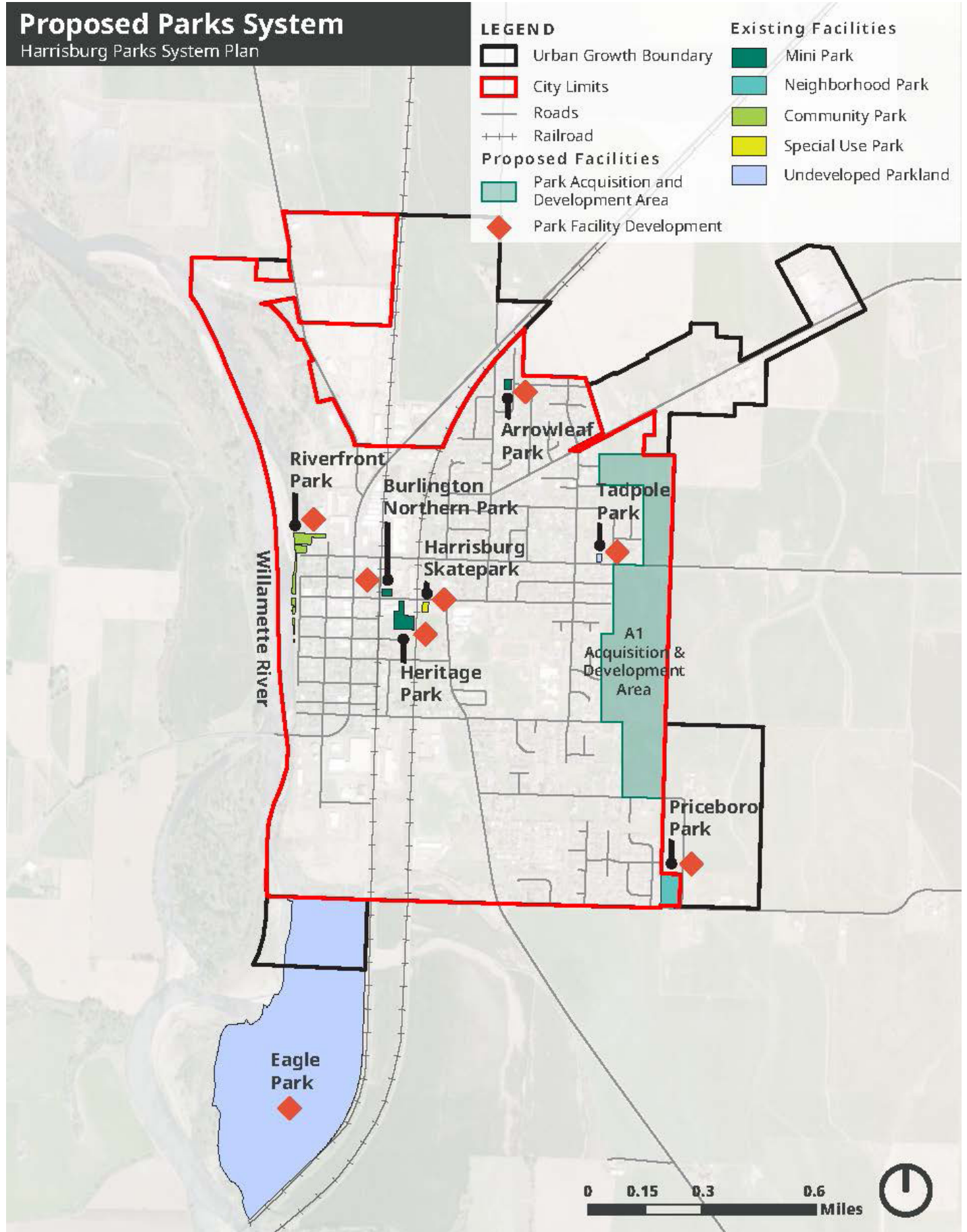
Parks system recommendations focus on improving bicycle and pedestrian access and connectivity, as well as updating system development charge methodology and capital improvement projects for consistency with the Parks System Plan. Shared-use paths and trails improve system-wide connectivity and enhance quality of life in communities by providing residents options for traversing the City and accessing park system facilities.

To better connect parks with schools, civic areas, and the regional trail system, the Plan recommends the preparation of a bicycle and pedestrian system plan component as part of a subsequent update to the City's Transportation System Plan. In addition, the City's System Development Charge Methodology and Capital Improvement Plan was last updated in 2012 and should be revisited to incorporate planned projects outlined in the Parks System Plan.

TABLE 5.4 SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECT	SITE	DESCRIPTION
SYSTEM PROJECTS		
S1.1	SYSTEM	Prepare bicycle and pedestrian system plan in coordination with the TSP update that includes existing and planned shared-use paths connecting parks to the riverfront, schools, civic areas, and the regional path system.
S1.2	SYSTEM	Update the City System Development Charge Methodology and Capital Improvements Plan to include planned parks and recreation projects for consistency with the Parks Master Plan.

MAP 5.1 PROPOSED PARK SYSTEM



Implementation

- OVERVIEW
- PRIORITIZATION
- PLANNED PROJECTS
- FUNDING REQUIREMENTS & STRATEGIES
- OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS
- BUDGET ANALYSIS
- CONCLUSION

OVERVIEW

This chapter identifies the requirements and potential sources and strategies for funding the recommendations outlined Chapter 5. Funding requirements are based on park improvements, park development, and park acquisition projects as detailed in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). Operations and maintenance considerations have also been included to ensure the effectiveness and longevity of existing and future parks facilities. Proposed projects included in the Parks System Plan and the 2022-2041 Capital Improvements Plan were identified and selected based on information from:

- Quantitative results from the Needs Assessment;
- Qualitative findings from community input;
- City staff input;
- Geospatial analysis;
- 2012 SDC Methodology and Capital Improvement Projects Update;
- 2004 Parks Master Plan; and
- Other relevant plans and policies.

A project prioritization schedule was developed based on the City's level of service targets, geographic distribution of parks, existing facility maintenance needs, and potential fee or grant funding opportunities. Proposed project funding responds to an ongoing assessment of capital assets, as well as assessments of current and future parks and recreation service delivery needs.

PRIORITIZATION

A prioritization schedule for recommended projects developed using the following resources and information:

- **Planning documents and tools:** The City uses a variety of planning documents and tools to determine service level needs for the development of parks and recreational facilities. These documents include but are not limited to the Parks System Plan; the Strategic Plan, Transportation System Plan; the 100-acre Park Feasibility Study; and various population and demographic forecasting resources.
- **Level of Service (LOS):** The Parks System Plan defines a level of service target of 36.8 acres of park land per 1,000 residents based on the amount of acreage currently available to Harrisburg residents. Using this LOS ratio as a target in relation to projected population growth helps the City evaluate how well existing facilities are meeting current needs, identify what investments are needed in the future to maintain LOS, and support the use of other tools such as system development charges and park land dedication to increase LOS as the population grows.
- **Geographic Distribution:** The Parks System Plan and CIP consider the appropriate location for specific parks based on the facility type and their overall geographic distribution throughout the City, as well as the recommended distance of certain types of parks and facilities to residents.
- **Maintaining existing facilities:** The Parks System Plan places a high priority on maintaining and improving existing facilities prior to developing new facilities.



- **SDC fees:** The City's System Development Charge (SDC) fees are a primary CIP funding source. These funds are collected based on a methodology adopted by City Ordinance. The methodology determines the SDC rate that is assessed based on new residential development. SDCs help sustain the park and recreation service levels as the population increases.
- **Grants:** Grants provide an opportunity to seek alternative funding sources for a project. If the project matches the grant requirements and meets the needs of the City, the project may be moved up in priority to take advantage of the funding opportunity, or to match the grant funding cycle.

Priority Levels

Each project is prioritized as Level 1, 2 or 3 in the prioritization schedule.

- Level 1 priority projects are planned for the first 5-year planning period, years 1-5, extending through 2026.
- Level 2 priority projects are planned for the second 5-year planning period, years 6-10, extending through 2031.
- Level 3 priority projects are planned for the third planning period, years 11-20, which begins in 2032 and extends to 2041.

Cost estimates have been prepared for each project, with additional detail provided in the 2022-2041 Capital Improvements Plan.

TABLE 6.1 PLANNED PROJECTS

PROJECT	SITE	PHASE	COST	PRIORITY
PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS				
MINI PARK PROJECTS				
P1.1	BURLINGTON NORTHERN PARK	Signage and wayfinding	\$2,000	Level 2
P1.2	BURLINGTON NORTHERN PARK	Site furnishings	\$6,600	Level 3
P1.3	BURLINGTON NORTHERN PARK	Landscape plantings	\$-	Level 3
P2.1	ARROWLEAF PARK	Court resurfacing	\$33,000	Level 3
P2.2	ARROWLEAF PARK	Signage and wayfinding	\$2,000	Level 1
P2.3	ARROWLEAF PARK	Site furnishings	\$3,600	Level 2
P2.4	ARROWLEAF PARK	Landscape plantings	\$-	Level 2



PLANNED PROJECTS

Planned projects listed in Table 6.1 include project and site information, which corresponds to the recommendations listed in Chapter 5, project phasing, estimated cost, and priority level based on the prioritization schedule.

Improvement Costs

Capital improvement project costs are estimated based on timing and design, construction, and land acquisition. Improvement costs vary widely based on local conditions, economic factors, environmental constraints, and application of specific funding sources. The following land acquisition and development parameters are used for estimating costs and are based on current market conditions in the City, past projects, and other local information.

- Land acquisition costs are based on a conservative estimate of \$125,000 per acre for undeveloped land within the UGB.
- Development costs for new park land are estimated at \$300,000 per acre for mini and neighborhood parks. Eagle Park development costs are estimated in the 2016 Feasibility Study and escalated to reflect current economic conditions.

TABLE 6.1 PLANNED PROJECTS (CONT.)

PROJECT	SITE	PHASE	COST	PRIORITY
PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS				
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROJECTS				
P3.1	PRICEBORO PARK	Signage and wayfinding	\$2,000	Level 1
P3.2	PRICEBORO PARK	Small picnic shelter	\$18,000	Level 1
P3.3	PRICEBORO PARK	Site furnishings	\$3,600	Level 1
P3.4	PRICEBORO PARK	Sport courts	\$363,960	Level 2
COMMUNITY PARK PROJECTS				
P4.1	RIVERFRONT PARK	Children's playground	\$216,000	Level 1
SPECIAL USE PARK PROJECTS				
P5.1	HARRISBURG SKATEPARK	Signage and wayfinding	\$2,000	Level 1
P5.2	HARRISBURG SKATEPARK	Skatepark rehabilitation	\$132,000	Level 3

TABLE 6.1 PLANNED PROJECTS (CONT.)

PROJECT	SITE	PHASE	COST	PRIORITY
PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS				
D1.1	EAGLE PARK	Design and development (Phase 1)	\$1,970,800	Level 1
D1.2	EAGLE PARK	Design and development (Phase 2)	\$1,271,400	Level 2
D1.3	EAGLE PARK	Design and development (Phase 3)	\$754,000	Level 3
D2.1	TADPOLE PARK	Design and development	\$198,000	Level 1
PARK ACQUISITION PROJECTS				
A1.1	FUTURE EAST PARK	Land acquisition	\$-	Level 1



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND STRATEGIES

Table 6.2 presents a summary of the proposed projects categorized by site and priority level. Total costs for planned projects are estimated to be approximately \$4,978,960. The Plan includes:

- \$2,412,400 in funding for Level 1 projects (2022-2026)
- \$1,647,560 in funding for Level 2 projects (2027-2031)
- \$919,000 in funding for Level 3 projects (2032-2041)

Parks system improvement actions have been historically funded from General Fund and Parks System Development Reserve Fund expenditures. Details on anticipated funding sources for parks system improvement actions as well as associated recommendations for leveraging sources can be found below.

System Development Charges

The 2012 System Development Charge Methodology and Capital Improvement Plan Updates provides a foundation for a review and increase of the SDC rate to fund park improvements, system-wide improvements, and land acquisition and development associated with implementing the goals and objectives of this Plan. The current SDC rates are not sufficient to allow the City to expand and develop its parks system while meeting its park goals and actions. Additionally, the SDC methodology does not consider inflation, nor does it take into account acquisition or development costs. The City should update the SDC rate methodology based on the eligible projects identified in Plan. As part of the update, the City should evaluate the effect of an SDC rate increase on the General Fund budget and housing development in Harrisburg, particularly affordable housing.

TABLE 6.2 PLANNED PROJECTS AND PRIORITIZATION SCHEDULE

PROJECT ID	PROJECT TITLE	LEVEL 1 FY 2022-2026	LEVEL 2 FY 2027-2031	LEVEL 3 FY 2032-2041
P1	BURLINGTON NORTHERN PARK	\$-	\$8,600	\$-
P2	ARROWLEAF PARK	\$2,000	\$3,600	\$33,000
P3	PRICEBORO PARK	\$23,600	\$363,960	\$-
P4	RIVERFRONT PARK	\$216,000	\$-	\$-
P5	HARRISBURG SKATEPARK	\$2,000	\$-	\$132,000
D1	EAGLE PARK	\$1,970,800	\$1,271,400	\$754,000
D2	TADPOLE PARK	\$198,000	\$-	\$-
A1	FUTURE EAST PARK	\$-	\$-	\$-
	TOTAL	\$2,412,400	\$1,647,560	\$919,000

Grants

The City should pursue grants, both state and federal, for parks and trail-related capital improvements. Planned projects such as improvements to Eagle Park, Tadpole Park, and Priceboro Park are good candidates for future grant funding opportunities including Land and Water Conservation Grants, Federal Transportation Grants, State of Oregon Local Government Grants, Urban Forestry Grants, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Grants. State, regional, and federal grants can provide funding for a variety of park, open space, and trail projects. The City should balance the potential application's competitiveness with required outlays of staff time when applying for grant funds.

General Obligation Bond

This type of bond is a tax assessment on real and personal property. The City can levy this type of bond with majority voter approval during a general election held on an even year. This fund can supplement SDC revenues and is more widely distributed. The City should evaluate the feasibility of a bond measure with a defined development plan.

Partnerships

The City should work to develop partnerships with local recreation service providers, specifically the School District, to improve operational efficiencies and leveraging of funds. Land trusts also provide an opportunity for collaborative efforts to contribute to the open space and natural areas of the parks system.

Relationships

The City should cultivate relationships with landowners, developers, and employers who may be interested in donating land or services to the City or allowing purchase at a reduced cost. Private landowners and donors have contributed to the parks system in the past and may continue to do so in the future.

Performance Measures

The City should explore measures to reduce acquisition, development, and operational costs through the use of volunteers and donations; cost-efficient design and facilities; and by exploring alternative means of acquiring land.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS

As the Parks System Plan recommendations and projects are realized, the parks system will increase in size, number of facilities, and distribution. The City will need to obtain additional funds to cover operations and maintenance costs associated with the parks system. Significantly fewer revenue sources are available for funding operations than for capital projects. Following are options for funding operations and maintenance.

Local Option Levy (or Serial Levy) for Park Operations

This type of levy is established for a given rate or amount for a specific period of time, generally from one to five years. However, voter approval is required and is historically less likely to be approved when the levy is earmarked for operations.

Grants and Donations

Grants are typically harder to secure for operations than for capital projects. However, mechanisms such as endowment funds can be set up for park operations or the operation of a specific park facility.

Operating Efficiency

Improve operating efficiency by examining possible ways to reduce costs, such as additional outsourcing, additional cost-sharing with other public agencies, avoiding duplication of services, and improving efficiency in specific maintenance tasks.

Volunteers

Utilize volunteers to offset some maintenance costs, while acknowledging that it takes staff time to coordinate volunteer programs.

Park Services Revenue

Increase park services revenue by expanding rental facilities, charging for maintenance services that benefit specific groups rather than the whole community, and charging for other services at highly used parks. Many of the planned parks have shelters and other amenities that have rental capabilities.

BUDGET ANALYSIS

Current Operating Budget

This section presents the current operating budget for the Harrisburg Parks System. The City budget uses sixteen Fund types. Two funds are used for park maintenance and planning: the General Fund and the Systems Development Reserve Fund.

RESOURCES (REVENUE)

Within the General Fund, the Materials & Services Fund includes resources for park maintenance, the parks master plan update, and Systems Development Charge (SDC) update.

The Parks Systems Development Reserve Fund includes SDCs to fund park improvements. SDCs are one-time fees imposed on new development to help fund infrastructure improvements. Legally, SDCs can only be utilized for land acquisition and capital improvements to transportation, water, sewer, storm water, and park facilities; operation and maintenance expenses do not qualify. A park SDC is based upon the projected per person cost for acquiring new parkland and the development of facilities.

Table 6.3 presents proposed (FY 22/23) revenue totals. SDCs provide the greatest source of revenue for the parks system.

TABLE 6.3 FY 2022-2023 REVENUE

	Revenue (Resource) Total
Parks System Development Reserve Fund: Beginning Fund Balance	\$233,965
Parks System Development Reserve Fund: Park SDC Assessments Parks Administrative Fees	\$430
Parks System Development Reserve Fund: Park SDC Assessments Parks Improvement Fees	\$10,365
Parks System Development Reserve Fund: Parks SDC Interest	\$475
TOTAL	\$245,235

EXPENDITURES (REQUIREMENTS)

The General Fund and the Parks Systems Development Reserve Fund provide for planning, design and construction of park improvements, as well as operations and maintenance. Funding for parks includes materials and services and capital outlay. Parks Capital Improvements make up the greatest expenditure.

The City has proposed Park and Recreation fund expenditures of \$310,735 for fiscal year 2022-2023 for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements. Table 6.4 presents current (FY 22/23) Parks System expenditure allocations.

TABLE 6.4 FY 2022-2023 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	Expenditure (Requirements) Total
General Fund: Materials & Services – Buildings & Grounds Park Maintenance	\$20,000
General Fund: Materials & Services – Buildings & Grounds Parks Master Plan & SDC Update	\$45,500
Parks System Development Reserve Fund: Parks SDC Capital Outlay Parks Capital Improvements	\$235,235
Parks System Development Reserve Fund: Parks SDC Capital Outlay OPRD Planning Grant	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$310,735



Comparison

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) generates the annual NRPA Agency Performance Review that summarizes key budget findings. These 2022 findings were used to compare the budget of Harrisburg to other budgets of agencies across the country serving populations under 20,000 people. Table 6.3 presents these comparisons using the median, lower quartile, and upper quartile for agencies serving populations under 20,000 people. Overall, Harrisburg operates below the median values in annual operating expenditures and expenditures per park acre and above the median in expenditures per capita. These findings correlate with Harrisburg's population being in the lower quartile of the NRPA data. As the City continues to grow, it is reasonable to expect that annual, per capita, and per park acre operation expenditures will increase and trend toward meeting or surpassing the median values in Table 6.5.

CONCLUSION

The 2022 Harrisburg Parks System Plan is a guiding document based on a collective local vision for maintaining and improving the quality of life for Harrisburg residents through parks and recreation facilities. The Parks System Plan evaluates existing levels of service and facility conditions to propose parks system improvements and development projects based on the needs of current and future residents.

The Plan synthesizes a series of goals, actions, and recommendations for implementing specific projects over a 20+ year planning period. These recommendations seek to address key community needs and interests, including maintenance and improvement of existing parks, activation of undeveloped park land, and acquisition and development of new neighborhood parks in underserved areas.

The City of Harrisburg recognizes that outdoor recreation opportunities provide a foundation for a healthy community. The Parks System Plan builds upon the City's existing assets to ensure that current and future residents can enjoy welcoming and accessible facilities that support the needs of an increasingly diverse and growing community.

TABLE 6.5 OPERATING EXPENDITURES COMPARISON

	Annual Operating Expenditure	Δ	Expenditure per Capita	Δ	Expenditure per Park Acre	Δ
Harrisburg	\$310,735	-	\$85.09	-	\$2,066	-
Median	\$1,200,000	-\$889,265	\$117.36	-\$32.27	\$8,188	-\$6,122
Lower Quartile	\$551,925	-\$241,190	\$67.73	\$17.36	\$3,950	-\$1,884
Upper Quartile	\$2,443,647	-\$2,132,912	\$226.43	-\$141.34	\$24,015	-\$21,949

