PARKS, ARTS, RECREATION, CULTURE, AND CONSERVATION

Future Vision for Redmond - Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation

In 2030 Redmond has a park and open space system that provides a natural area or recreational opportunity within walking distance of every resident. Neighborhood and community parks contribute to a high quality of life in Redmond by providing a full array of opportunities ranging from active recreation, such as sports and games, to more restful and reflective activities, such as walking and viewing wildlife.

The City is framed within a beautiful natural setting, with a system of open spaces and parks with diverse natural resources that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, and serve environmental functions. Lake Sammamish, the Sammamish River, and Bear Creek, historically surrounded by farmland, are present in the heart of Redmond. These are key focal points of Redmond's park system, with many miles of trails and a variety of parks located alongside. Public access to shorelines along these water bodies are enhanced, while maintaining protection for the natural environment.

Green spaces and interconnected trails and paths support active, healthy living. Redmond has an excellent and readily accessible system of paths and trails used by walkers, cyclists, equestrians, and others as they recreate and commute, both within the City and to other parts of the region.

Parks and indoor recreation facilities are vibrant gathering places where recreation and cultural events attract a wide range of ages and cultures. Recreation programs are continuously updated to reflect the changing needs of a diverse population and to make Redmond an active and interesting place to live and visit.

Public art and cultural and arts events are also integral to the City for community building, connecting people with arts and culture, and as a catalyst for creativity within the community. Redmond is recognized for its outstanding visual and performing arts programs. It is an inviting place for artists to live and work, contributing to the overall desirability and charm of the community. A center to showcase performing and visual arts will be sited in a conveniently located, highly visible and active part of the City.

Other indoor recreation facilities provide unique recreational opportunities, such as aquatics, indoor field sports, classrooms for recreation and arts programs, gymnasiums, and dedicated fitness and dance spaces. Collaboration with other communities and agencies helps Redmond reach its goal to have year-round facilities to serve its residents and employees. This is cost efficient and enables each community to achieve more than might be possible independently.

The City's parks, innovative recreation services, unique art and cultural experiences continue to provide a high quality of life in Redmond. Community members are able to improve their health and education, appreciate art, enjoy great parks, and celebrate the cultural diversity of Redmond.

Organization of this Element

Introduction

A. ***Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation (PARCC) System Policies***

B. ***Levels of Service***

C. ***Park and Recreation Facility Development***

D. ***Coordination***

E. ***Acquisition and Funding***

F. ***Recreation, Arts and Cultural Programs***

G. ***Trails***

Introduction

One of Redmond's most attractive features is the large number of high quality recreational opportunities in the area. The City of Redmond, in cooperation with other public and private agencies, provides exemplary parks, open space areas, recreational and cultural facilities and programs for the Redmond community.

Redmond's park, recreation, arts, and open space system, guided by the policies in the Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture, and Conservation Element, has the following basic functions:

- To serve existing and future demand for a variety of park types and a multitude of recreation activities;
- To provide recreational programs for the entire community, including all ages, physical capabilities, and cultural backgrounds;
- To provide for the cultural needs of the community, by providing facilities used for performing arts and arts exhibits, arts education and programming, and other facilities such as informal gathering places; and
- To provide for the conservation of important environmental resources, such as shorelines and wetlands, which might otherwise be lost to development.

The Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture, and Conservation Element helps achieve Redmond's vision for the future by helping to maintain the community's high quality of life, and meeting the City's recreational, social, and cultural needs for a diverse population with changing interests and needs.

This Element is coordinated with the Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture, and Conservation Plan (PARCC Plan), which provides specific implementation strategies to carry out these policies. The PARCC Plan is hereby incorporated by reference into this document. The PARCC Plan is updated every six years to comply with requirements for funding from the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

A. Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture, and Conservation System (*PARCC)*

PR-1 Provide a system of parks, recreation, arts, trails, and open space to serve existing development and planned growth.

PR-2/3 Maintain a PARCC Plan that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, is flexible, and addresses diverse recreational needs, accessibility, cultural and arts program requirements, and park, trail and recreation levels of service requirements.

PR-NEW1 Provide opportunities to improve health by encouraging use of the parks and recreation facilities and participation in recreational and educational programs.

PR-NEW2 Encourage conservation and sustainability throughout the Redmond parks and recreation system by preservation of significant natural areas, protection of health and natural resources, and sustainable design, construction, renovation and maintenance of facilities.

PR-NEW3 Ensure a community inspired and connected by arts and culture through the City's arts program.

B. Levels of Service

Level of service standards are used to determine the demand for facilities and services. The State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has requirements for local jurisdictions to develop levels of service in order to be eligible for grant funding.

The level of service standards are also used to calculate impact fees that development pays for improvements needed due to the increased demand for parks, open space, and recreational programs generated by more people living and working in Redmond.

Redmond will continue to work with other local governments in the County to prepare coordinated level of service standards for parks and open space. Redmond has worked with other jurisdictions in the area to develop its parks and recreation facility guidelines and level of service standards.

The PARCC Plan defines the categories of parks as follows:

> **Neighborhood Parks (NP)** provide space for active and/or passive recreation. These parks are accessible to nearby residents and business people primarily by walking and bicycling. Neighborhood parks are the smallest parks and vary in size from pocket parks to 20 acres, and typically have fewer activities or amenities than community parks.
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> **Community Parks (CP)** provide diverse active recreation opportunities with some passive recreation uses. Community parks generally range in size from 20 acres to 40 acres and have a more regional draw than neighborhood parks. Community parks typically include a variety of active amenities that use more than half of the park for active uses while the remainder of the park may be reserved for passive uses.
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> **Resource Parks (RP)** include natural areas or open space areas that are under City control and will not be developed for active recreation use. Development is typically limited to trails and interpretive and educational opportunities. The Growth Management Act requires local governments to designate open space corridors. Open space corridors can preserve a connected system of urban forested areas, fish and wildlife habitat and unique recreational opportunities that have limited impact on these resources. Open space

corridors will be managed through the use of Redmond's critical areas regulations and the Natural Environment Element contains policies on managing critical areas and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.

Private Parks (PP) are created in a residential development and are usually small neighborhood parks or native growth protection areas. In most cases, this land is controlled by the homeowners' association and is private property. These parks are recognized in this plan and counted toward parks level of service (LOS) because they serve a portion of the population or protect sensitive habitat, just as a public park does. State law limits the liability of private land owners for public use of their property to encourage land owners to allow public use, where appropriate.

The City of Redmond has established the following level of service standards:

Neighborhood Parks - 1.00 acre per 1,000 people (neighborhood population) [1]

Community Parks - 3.00 acres per 1,000 people (citywide population) [1]

Resource Parks - 2.50 acres per 1,000 people (citywide population) [1]

Trails - 0.35 miles per 1,000 people (neighborhood population) [1, 2]

Recreation - 7.6 hours of programmed recreation per person annually

[1]*The population is 100 percent of the residential population and 25 percent of the employment population to account for the high demand on the parks system from people who work in Redmond, but don't live in Redmond.*

[2] *The trail level of service standard will increase to 0.45 miles per 1,000 neighborhood population in 2017.*

Based on the level of service standards, the City's projected 2030 needs include 28 acres of additional neighborhood park property and more than 32 miles of additional trails. This provides a 29% increase in neighborhood park property and a 55% increase in trail mileage. The following policies relate directly to the development of the level of service standards.

PR-4/68 Distribute parks and recreation and cultural facilities throughout Redmond to improve walkability and provide an equitable distribution of parks based on population density. Encourage this type of planning by calculating neighborhood park and trail level of service standards based on neighborhood populations.

PR-75 Provide level of service credits for school properties and non-Redmond parks within the City and within walking distance of the City, where appropriate for park use.

PR-20 Provide for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that meet level of service standards such as, but not limited to, meeting rooms, facilities to serve special populations, classrooms, picnic shelters, sports fields, an aquatics facility, an arts facility, and gymnasiums.

C. Park and Recreation Facility Development

One of the functions of the City is to develop and maintain parks and recreation facilities. Parks include the three categories of parks described in the previous section and recreational facilities include buildings used for recreational purposes, such as community centers, field houses, gymnasiums, and pools. This includes planning, programming, designing and constructing or reconstructing facilities. These facilities must meet a wide range of community needs.

PR-10 Encourage parks, beautification areas, art, and gathering places throughout the City by coordinating planning efforts with other City departments and private businesses early in the development review process.

PR-59 Design and construct park facilities in a manner that is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and is sensitive to the environment.

PR-31/36/60/62/64/65 Preserve natural areas, open space corridors, and sensitive habitats throughout the community whenever feasible to retain Redmond's character, create neighborhood linkages, protect habitat, maintain urban forest canopy and access to water bodies, and allow utilization of these areas at a level that will not compromise the environmental integrity of the area.

PR-66/67 Manage open space corridors through Redmond's critical areas regulations and by using sustainable management practices such as enhancing habitat through use of native plant materials.

PR-11 Continue to promote Redmond as a Tree City through the urban forestry program, the Green Redmond Partnership, the street tree program, and other restoration and beautification programs throughout the City.

PR-NEW4 Integrate art and landscape design from the onset of facility planning to create dynamic and interesting public places.

PR-21/54 Design new and renovated facilities utilizing appropriate construction and maintenance technologies to gain cost efficiencies and conserve resources and integrate technology into park design, as appropriate, to accommodate diverse uses and increase capacity through extended and expanded uses.

PR-26 Encourage the development of outdoor plazas and squares within public and private developments in the Downtown and Overlake urban centers for community events and informal gatherings.

PR-22 Provide facilities for un-programmed active recreation such as, but not limited to: indoor court or field sports, rollerblading, skateboarding, and bicycling.

PR-28 Develop facilities and acquire land for environmental education, including a Citywide interpretative sign program for shorelines, streams, native growth areas,

aquifers, and other important natural systems, by the appropriate agencies or City departments. (SMP)

PR-23 Encourage development of community gathering places with interactive recreational, sensory, and contemplative elements, such as water features, public art, community gardens, and picnic areas into public and private projects.

PR-19 Create a balanced system of recreation opportunities for all ages by providing:

- A community center or centers for indoor and outdoor recreation programs, including provisions for the following programs: youth or teen center, meeting rooms, social services, facilities to serve special populations, recreation classes, athletics and gymnasiums.
- Athletic facilities for competitive, organized sports (e.g., practice and tournament regulation softball and practice and regulation baseball fields, soccer fields, and tennis courts). When impacts on adjacent properties can be minimized, fields and courts should be lighted to provide for extended hours of use.
- Facilities for competitive or noncompetitive, nonorganized, active recreations (e.g., rollerblading, skateboarding, bicycling). Consideration should be made to provide safe, legal facilities for recreation enjoyed by youths and teens (and where such needs have been demonstrated).
- Facilities to support the cultural arts (e.g., program rooms, performing arts theater, and outdoor concert space). Additionally, designated facilities to encourage freedom of artistic expression should be City sponsored (e.g., graffiti art wall).
- Facilities and land for contemplative and sensory recreation (e.g., picnicking, benches for sitting, views for enjoying).
- A linkage system (e.g., bicycle lanes and multiuse trails which connect the park system, schools, and other important public facilities in the City).
- Outdoor plazas and squares within the Downtown Neighborhood for community and civic events, public gatherings, programmed activities and entertainment. (SMP)

PR-52 Design and renovate all parks and recreational facilities in a manner that will, where feasible, provide safe and accessible use by the physically impaired. (SMP)

PR-22a/53 Assess and appropriately manage risk at parks and recreation facilities.

PR-27 Allow concessions within parks where such uses support the enjoyment of the park and do not have adverse effects on neighboring property.

PR-37 Support and enhance the historic resources within the park and recreation system including Historic Landmarks. Maintain the historic character of the farmsteads in Redmond through preservation, design, and interpretive areas.

PR-NEW5 Develop signature parks in the Downtown and Overlake urban centers that serve as destinations for the entire City and can accommodate events, informal gatherings, and public art.

D. Coordination

The City works with many organizations to coordinate facilities and programming and will continue to look for ways to collaborate with existing and new partners. Some new partnerships might include co-development of sports fields and recreational centers.

PR-9/16/38/56/61/70/71 Coordinate short-term and long-terms plans for the acquisition, planning, development, use, and programming of the PARCC system, and adjacent non-City park facilities, with City departments and other agencies to maximize resources and avoid duplication of facilities and services.

PR-72 Develop a long-term strategy with King County to enhance opportunities for the City to develop facilities or utilize county parks within or adjacent to Redmond to the City of Redmond.

PR-73 Develop a strategy to annex all City of Redmond parks that exist within King County or develop an interlocal agreement with King County to allow the City to provide permits for the development of City parks within unincorporated King County.

E. Acquisition and Funding

The City acquires land and easements for the parks and recreation system within and adjacent to Redmond. There are a variety of methods to acquire and fund these properties. The following policies describe approaches that the City uses to optimize public resources for these purposes.

PR-NEW6 Acquire land and develop parks in areas that are experiencing or expected to have significant growth, such as the Downtown and Overlake urban centers, or areas identified as having a deficiency.

PR-7 Actively pursue private dedication, improvement, and maintenance of land through a variety of methods to facilitate public access to a continuous system of parks, trails, walkways, plazas, open space, community gardens and public art.

PR-69 Develop an operating and capital program finance strategy for parks, trails, recreation, and arts that meets the needs of the community and preserves the level of services of these facilities and programs.

PR-14 Prepare, as part of the PARCC Plan, six-year, ten-year and twenty-year capital project improvement plans for a parks and recreation system that serves existing

development and planned growth, is financially feasible, and can be funded at a level which allows for a reasonable implementation schedule.

PR-31 Encourage the acquisition of property which will provide access to shorelines and local streams, with emphasis on areas where current and anticipated development patterns are unlikely to provide access, or where there are significant access needs. Promote the creation of open space corridors along these water resources to provide for passive recreation and wildlife habitat. (SMP)

PR-5/58 Encourage the acquisition of resource park land to protect environmental resources; represent significant natural and visual assets; provide circulation linkages, wildlife corridors, and habitat; and ensure adequate separation and buffers between various land uses.

PR-13 Seek funding opportunities from a variety of sources (federal, state, and private) for the acquisition and development of parks, trails, open space, and the arts.

F. Recreation, Arts and Cultural Programs

These policies describe how the City of Redmond will provide for the recreation and cultural needs of the community. These services are provided for the people of Redmond to enjoy all of the aspects that make up the parks, recreation, arts, and open space system.

PR-18 Provide recreation, arts, and leisure programs that are comprehensive, enriching, and affordable, and are offered at a variety of locations in the City.

PR-74 Foster a healthy community by providing additional active recreation programming to underserved populations and adding more health education programs.

PR-NEW7 Partner with businesses and community organizations to provide programming and events that further the vision expressed in the Comprehensive Plan.

PR-NEW8 Provide educational and hands-on recreational opportunities that explore the history of Redmond through historic parks, farms, structures and artifacts.

PR-30 Continue to support priority for City residents in registration for parks and recreation programs.

G. Trails

There are many existing trails throughout Redmond and the surrounding area which citizens enjoy for a variety of recreational as well as alternative transportation purposes. The PARCC Plan shows the existing and proposed trails in the Redmond area. (Please refer to Proposed and Existing Trail map in the PARCC Plan - Figure 8-5). Most trails are City owned and maintained; however, the Sammamish River Trail is owned and maintained by King County and the SR 520

Bikeway is owned and maintained by the Washington State Department of Transportation. The Redmond/Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Trail is owned by PSE and maintained by the City. There are some trails through private developments that allow public access. In addition, the Sammamish River is designated as a "blue trail" that is part of the regional Lakes to Locks water trail system for low impact, non-motorized watercraft.

This trail network provides for a system of trails which link public lands with residential, employment, and shopping areas throughout the neighborhoods and community. In addition, Redmond's trail network provides connections with the regional trail system, linking Redmond with surrounding communities and unincorporated King County.

Trails consist of in-park amenities (e.g., the trails at Farrel-McWhirter Park) and the City's trail network. Various elements of the trail network hierarchy are defined as: regional, connector, local trails, and blue trails as defined further below:

> **Regional trails** pass through the City, connecting to other jurisdictions and other trails and trail systems. In general, regional trails are physically separated from roads by distance or barriers and should be a minimum of 12 feet wide, with a minimum two-foot wide graded shoulder.
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> **Connector trails** are the key linkages between regional trails and other facilities. These trails can be paved or soft surface trails, and are typically narrower than regional trails, due to more limited use and constraints.
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> **Local trails** are typically soft surface trails that range from two feet to six feet wide. The trails may be used as neighborhood linking trails, park trails, and hiking, off-road bicycling, and equestrian trails.
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> **Blue Trails** are water trails along navigable waters within the city such as the Sammamish River and Lake Sammamish.

The Parks and Recreation Department and Transportation Division collaborate on the development of trails throughout the City. The trail network complements the City's Bicycle System Plan and Pedestrian Plan in the Transportation Master Plan, which focus on bicycling and walking as a means of transportation. The trail network is a combination of paved and unpaved surfaces and, wherever possible, they are separated from streets.

PR-29 Develop and promote an interconnected community through trails and pathways easily accessed by a variety of trail users.

PR-29.1 Identify and develop a hierarchy of trails and trail design standards, based on function.

PR-29.2 Provide a well-designed signage and way finding system.

PR-40 Promote the concept and use of the Blue Trails by coordinating with jurisdictions and other organizations in the region.

PR-42 Coordinate planning of trails, bike lanes, and other nonmotorized modes of transportation among City departments and with surrounding jurisdictions to:

- Ensure safe and efficient use of all types of trails and other non-motorized facilities;
- Encourage convenient travel between and within neighborhoods and local activity centers;
- Reduce car trips within the City; and
- Encourage convenient access and connectivity between trails, trailheads, and public transit.

PR-39 Cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies and private organizations in development of the local and regional trail system.

PR-63 Encourage property owners to grant permission for the public use of informal trails where such trails will provide connections between neighborhoods or other destinations and where natural resources will not be adversely affected.

PR-44 Encourage the development of trails that are separated from traffic, with an emphasis on safety and minimizing conflicts between various trail users.

PR-33 Encourage King County to develop and maintain the trail on the west side of the Sammamish River to enhance access to and views of the Sammamish River.

PR-34 Design development along the Sammamish River to orient toward the river and reinforce its identification as a community gathering place and recreation area in a manner that is sensitive to and protects the natural environment.

PR-35 Coordinate with King County, Sound Transit, and other regional partners on the planning and development of the Redmond Central Connector, along the former Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad corridor as a regional trail with opportunities for community gathering, art, culture, and historic interpretation, as well as for light rail transit, options for other transportation connections and utility placement.

PR-43 As a complement to the Citywide pedestrian pathway system, the City should develop a visual system for enhancing connections to the shoreline and identifying shoreline areas, considering such elements as street graphics, landscaping, street furniture or artwork. (SMP)

PR-49 Develop trailheads, where appropriate, for the intended type of trail use that may include parking, trail information, and restrooms.

Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture, and Conservation Element

The following policies are proposed for deletion:

PR-12 Encourage the development of smaller, local parks in locations throughout the City when feasible. Support efforts for private developments to provide shared open space and the development of "pocket" or "mini" parks when feasible.
Covered in revised park definitions (mini parks in included in neighborhood parks) and City is not encouraging smaller parks, but will accept them when no other land is available.

PR-24 Encourage the development of special purpose recreation facilities, such as ice arenas, swimming pools, and golf courses.
All special uses are covered in existing policies, those deleted are no longer a priority for the City.

PR-50 Develop equestrian trails with the following characteristics whenever possible:

- Separate and provide buffer areas between equestrian trails and multi-use trails;
- Construct trails to be soft-surface, preferably fine crushed rock;
- Design road crossings to acceptable safety standards;
- Connect local trails with regional trails;
- Provide looped trail systems; and
- Construct trails to withstand all-weather use.

Covered in PR-43 (trail design standards)