

# Parks, Arts, Culture, Conservation and Recreation (PARCC) Element

**NOTE:** All narrative is new since Draft 1. Narrative is preliminary and will be updated to ensure alignment with PARCC Plan, which is under development.

## Vision Statement

In 2050, Redmond parks will be known regionally for attractive and well-maintained facilities where everyone can play.

Redmond community, neighborhood, and resource parks will be accessible within a short walk for all residents. The network of parks will feature a range of amenities that allow for everything from quiet reflection to active sports and play.

Redmond parks will be connected by an innovative trail network that locally creates a Frederick Law Olmsted-inspired “Emerald Necklace” that allows one to bike, run, walk, or roll around the city without using streets, while also smoothly connecting to regional trail networks and transit systems.

New and renovated community centers provide opportunities to build relationships across cultures, neighborhoods, and generations and make Redmond a highly desirable place to live, work, play, and invest. Flexible spaces inside the facilities help the City adapt to the changing social and recreation needs of users of all ages and abilities.

### Comprehensive Plan requirement:

RCW 36.70A.070(8) states that a city's comprehensive plan shall include:

A park and recreation element that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. The element shall include:

- (a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period;
- (b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and
- (c) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand

These requirements are fulfilled in the PARRC Functional Plan in:

a. section XXX

b. section XXX

c. section XXX

## › REDMOND 2050

Innovative art and cultural events, such as public art spaces and performances, will attract artists from around the world and support the development of emerging local artists.

Partnerships will help meet increasing demand on parks and recreation. These partnerships with public, private, and non-profits provide an opportunity for innovative approaches in acquisition, development, programming, and joint maintenance of the Parks and Recreation system.

In addition, Redmond will continue to identify and acquire critical areas for preservation and passive recreation and work to expand tree canopy coverage citywide. Improving access to Redmond's waterways such as Lake Sammamish and the Sammamish River will support education, conservation, and recreational goals.

The City will continue to provide fun, challenging, and inspiring programs and classes for people of all ages and abilities.

Taken together, Redmond's Parks and Recreation system will be both a destination and source of pride for the community.

## Framework Policies for Element

FW-PR-1 Build strong communities by providing accessible and resilient parks, trails, and community centers that meet current and future community needs.

FW-PR-2 Provide all community members with diverse recreational and cultural arts opportunities that reflect community needs.

FW-PR-3 Maintain and promote a vibrant system of parks and trails that are sustainably designed, preserve various types of habitat, and protect the natural beauty of Redmond.

FW-PR-4 Target investments that allow for affordable, fair, and equitable delivery of services that provide a safe, resilient, efficient, and functional system.

## Comprehensive Plan Guiding Principles

The following policies in this element support the Redmond 2050 guiding principles of equity and inclusion, resiliency, sustainability.

Equity and Inclusion	Resiliency	Sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PR-2</li><li>• PR-4</li><li>• PR-5</li><li>• FW-PR-2</li><li>• PR-7</li><li>• PR-14</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FW-PR-1</li><li>• PR-3</li><li>• FW-PR-4</li><li>• PR12</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FW-PR-3</li><li>• PR-9</li><li>• PR-10</li></ul>

## Existing Conditions

### Background

Having places and opportunities for leisure, recreation and enrichment is vital to a community's well-being and quality of life.

Through the Parks, Arts, Culture, Conservation and Recreation (PARCC) Element and its supporting functional plan, the Parks, Arts, Culture, Conservation and Recreation (PARCC) Plan, the City of Redmond identifies goals, policies, and actions to implement a comprehensive vision for its park system. The City also supports the effort to identify future investments and provide funding mechanisms to do so. As suggested by the acronym, this entails much more than just park facilities. Rather it is a holistic approach that integrates parks and trails, arts and cultural enrichment, conservation of natural areas, and opportunities for active and passive recreation.

Redmond's park, recreation, arts and open space system, guided by the policies in the PARCC Element, has the following basic functions:

- **Parks, Community Centers, and Trails:** Protecting Redmond's natural beauty through a vibrant system of parks and trails that promote a healthy community. Parks and community centers provide space for community connections and both passive and active recreation.
- **Arts and Culture:** Recognizing the City's history and heritage, and celebrating the culture, customs, and creativity of our community members through public art, arts facilities, arts and music performances, events, programs, and classes.
- **Recreation:** Providing residents of all ages and abilities with diverse recreational and cultural opportunities in clean, safe, welcoming, and accessible facilities.
- **Conservation:** Protecting and enhancing sensitive environmental areas and wildlife habitat, preserving significant historical and cultural places, and developing parks using smart growth principles. Parks and conservation spaces are maintained and operated using best practices in sustainability.

## › REDMOND 2050

The PARCC Element lays out the vision and policy framework to support the work needed to fulfill the vision of Redmond 2050, while providing flexibility to respond to rapidly changing needs and conditions.

### Current Conditions

Redmond's first park, now known as Anderson Park, dates to 1938, when a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project built two log cabins and a picnic shelter on land acquired from the Redmond School District and the Sikes family. Since then, as the community has grown, so has its parks system. It has also grown to include arts, cultural and recreational programs and facilities.

As of 2024, Redmond's PARCCS system and programs consisted of:

- 47 City-owned parks totaling 1,351 acres
- 11 sports fields
- More than 59 miles of trails within city limits, of which 39 miles are owned by Redmond
- 5 community centers, with more than 20,000 hours of usage by community members & events
- More than 30 pieces of outdoor public art.
- Almost 200,000 yearly participants in programs and events.

### Future projections

Redmond's future growth and diversity will increase demand for park facilities and recreational opportunities. Changing tastes in recreation, as well as the popularity of multiple types of mobility on trails, including the use of ebikes and scooters, will mean the City will need to be flexible in how it builds out its system.

The continued focus on growth in the Downtown, Overlake, and Marymoor centers will demand the continued investment and addition of amenities and facilities in those areas. At the same time, the City will prioritize equity: ensuring all parts of the city have safe and locally accessible parks and amenities to use and enjoy, and that park system amenities reflect Redmond's cultural diversity.

Another high priority for the City will be the need for more community spaces as the community grows. In addition, to fulfill the City's vision to position itself and as arts and cultural hub, the need to invest in a regionally renowned cultural/performance center will become a high priority.

In the future, there will be even less opportunity to acquire land for parks, so the sound fiscal management and maintenance of existing parks and facilities will be important, as will exploring opportunities for partnerships with public and private partners.

Figure 1 (see last page) shows an overview of existing and planned parks, trails and facilities. More detail can be found in the PARCC Plan.

### Policies<sup>1</sup>

The policies provide the framework for the city to fulfill its vision for its PARCC system:

- Building strong communities,
- Providing recreational and cultural enrichment,
- Promoting conservation and protecting natural areas, and
- Ensuring sound management and maintenance of the existing system.

#### FW-PR-1

**Build strong communities by providing accessible and resilient parks, trails, and community centers that meet current and future community needs.**

*[introductory narrative for this section to be added after PARCC Plan is drafted]*

**PR-1** Develop distinctive parks and community centers that respond to the unique needs of the community it serves.

**PR-2** Prioritize Parks and Recreation investments in underserved communities to improve equitable access to public amenities.

**PR-3** Increase connectivity and resiliency by developing safe trails and pathways that are easily accessed by a variety of trail users.

**PR-4** Expand access to Parks & Recreation opportunities through partnerships with public, private, and non-profits that will pursue innovative approaches in acquisition, development, programming, and joint maintenance.

**PR-5** Encourage development of publicly accessible open space amenities within public and private developments in the Urban Centers.

**FW-PR-2 Provide all community members with diverse recreational and cultural arts opportunities that reflect community needs.**

*[introductory narrative for this section to be added after PARCC Plan is drafted]*

---

<sup>1</sup> Red text indicates changes from Draft 1

## › REDMOND 2050

**PR-6** Support the growth of Redmond’s creative economy, create opportunities for the local arts and culture community, champion equitable access to the arts for all residents and a more vibrant city.

**PR-7** Provide inclusive, comprehensive, and quality events, arts, enrichment activities, **educational**, and recreational programs that accommodate the needs and interests of all community members.

**PR-8** Provide opportunities to improve physical and mental health by encouraging use of parks and recreation facilities and participation in recreational and enrichment programs.

### **FW-PR-3 Maintain and promote a vibrant system of parks and trails that are sustainably designed, preserve various types of habitat, and protect the natural beauty of Redmond.**

*[introductory narrative for this section to be added after PARCC Plan is drafted]*

**PR-9** Preserve and enhance natural areas within parks to protect wildlife habitat and corridors, enhance urban forest canopy, and support climate action goals.

**PR-10** Encourage the public’s connection to the natural world by providing access to natural areas and waterways in ways that will not compromise the environmental integrity of the area.

**PR-11** Preserve and enhance the historic **and cultural** resources within the park and recreation system

### **FW-PR-4 Target investments that allow for affordable, fair, and equitable delivery of services that provide a safe, resilient, efficient, and functional system.**

*[introductory narrative for this section to be added after PARCC Plan is drafted]*

**PR-12** Proactively manage and maintain park assets in a way that results in replacement or renovation in advance of need.

**PR-13** Proactively manage and maintain park assets in a way that results in replacement or renovation in advance of need.

**PR-14** Develop and maintain level of service standards to monitor equitable access to opportunities that improve quality of life and address current and past inequities.

## › REDMOND 2050

**PR-15** Maintain and periodically update a PARCC functional plan that addresses Growth Management Act requirements for Parks and Recreation capital facilities, as well as other state and federal requirements.

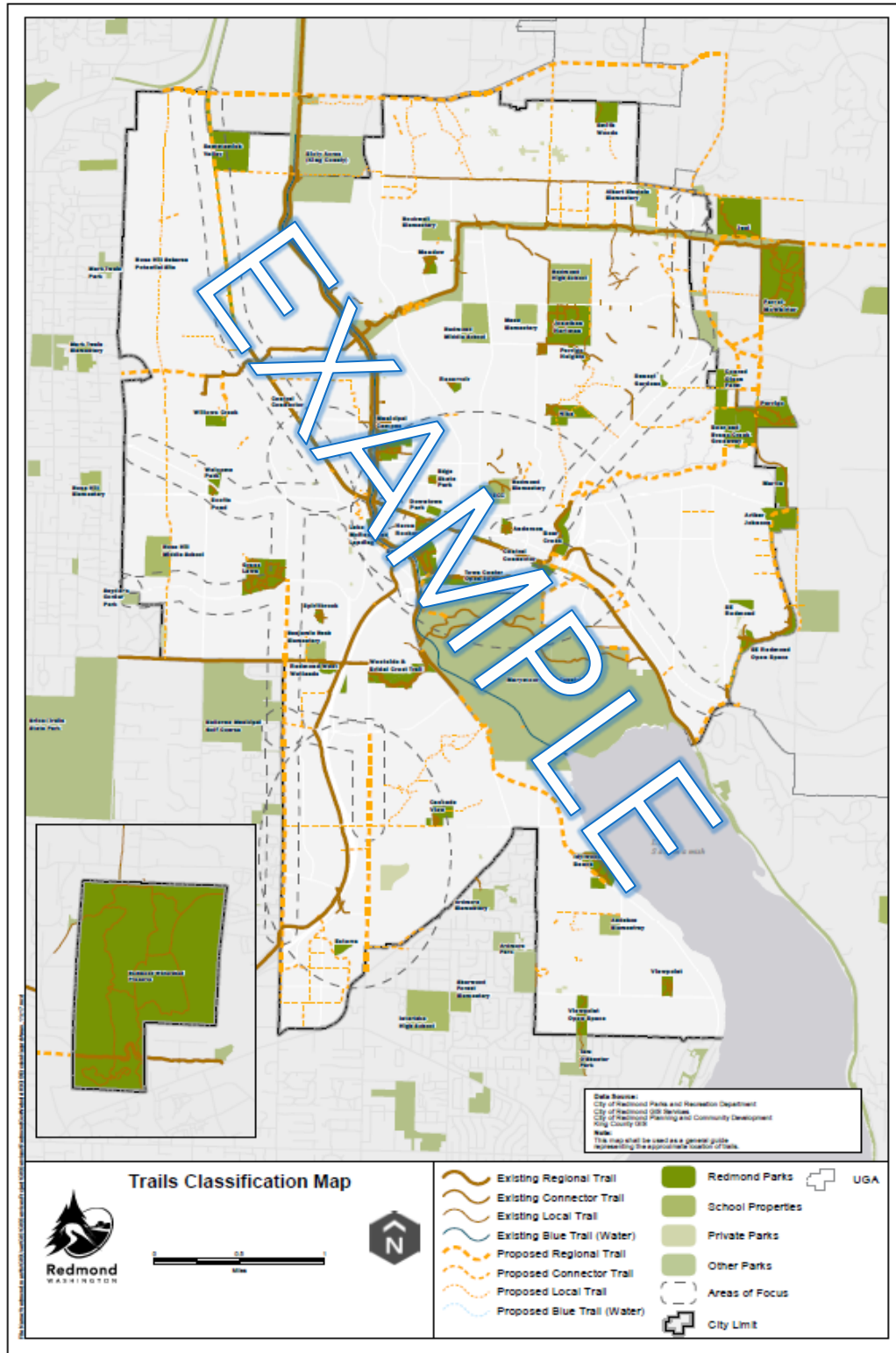
### Policies incorporated as part of the Shoreline Master Program

*These are referenced in the 2009 SMP Ordinance 2486 and shall be maintained.*

**PR-16** 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-17** 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)

FIGURE 1 - DRAFT - EXISTING AND PLANNED PARK FACILITIES<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> This map is for demonstration purposes only and will be updated to reflect current and planned facilities identified as part of Redmond 2050 and PARCC plan (2023) updates.