

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Master Plan

Parks and recreation services are valuable in a community by providing healthy, fun, and family-oriented opportunities for residents. A master plan is a tool that is used to provide a ten-year plan of action for meeting a community's parks and recreation goals. The 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an update to the 2005 Capital Facilities Master Plan. Through this Plan, the Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District (HRVPRD) intends to continue improving the quality of its parks and facilities to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Plan Overview

The Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District (HRVPRD) planning boundary includes all of Hood River County, minus Cascade Locks City Limits. Currently, the HRVPRD is one of several park service providers in this boundary. This Plan guides future development and management efforts for parks and facilities within HRVPRD's planning boundary for the next 10 years (2012 – 2022). It includes information primarily about the HRVPRD and City of Hood River properties, but also includes some information about parks & facilities owned by partnering agencies in the District. Specifically the Plan includes:

- A parks and recreation needs analysis based on extensive resident involvement—including a community workshops, stakeholder interviews, a Latino focus group and a community survey;
- Review of the current District Master Plan and City, County and State planning references;
- An analysis of US Census data for the Parks District;
- An inventory of existing park and recreational facilities in HRVPRD planning area, including those owned by District partners;
- Goals and objectives to guide the District for the next 10 years; and
- A funding analysis that addresses costs for operation and maintenance within the District.

Park Inventory

A critical aspect of planning for the future of a region’s park system is conducting an inventory and condition assessment of existing parks and open space. HRVPRD currently owns four developed parks and one undeveloped Community Park, they maintain one trail system, and provide improvements and maintenance at three additional parks.

HRVPRD has numerous partners that provide parks and recreation services for the community; these include: the City of Hood River, Hood River County, the Port of Hood River and the County School District. The inventory, included in Chapter 4, provides information about all parks and facilities within the HRVPRD planning area, regardless of ownership. Table ES-1 shows parkland acreage by service provider.

Table ES-1. Park Inventory: Park acreage by service provider

Table ES-1. DISTRICT PARKLAND BY PARK OWNER				
Park Provider	Acres in City of HR	Acres outside City of HR	Total Acres	Miles of Trail
HRVPRD	10.21	34.1	44.3	3.3
City of Hood River	41.5	0	41.5	0.16
Port of Hood River	64.1	0	64.1	2.4
Hood River County	1.5	621.5	623	60.6
State	108.3	6.8	115.1	8.5
Federal Land	0	122,744.5	122,744.5	526.9
School District	23.9	70.3	94.2	0
Other	21	3.5	24.5	0
TOTAL	270.5 ac.	123,480.7 ac.	123,751 ac.	601.86 mi.

Parks & Recreation Needs Analysis

The Plan includes an analysis and assessment of community needs based on local demographic trends, a household survey, a community workshop, a Latino Focus Group, and nine stakeholder interviews. After reviewing results from these outreach efforts, several key park system needs emerged. These include the need for:

- Park Improvements, but not necessarily more parkland
- Maintenance
- Connectivity
- More Operations & Maintenance Funds

- Improved Community Relations

The following user groups, identified in the demographics analysis, will be especially important for the HRVPRD to plan for in the next 10-years: Baby Boomers, Teenagers, and Latinos. It is also important to acknowledge the opportunities that seasonal recreation tourists bring to parks and recreation development.

District Mission & Goals

The Plan includes a 10-year vision for parks and facilities within the HRVPRD planning area. This is guided by the HRVPRD mission, and will be achieved through guiding principles, goals and objectives that were created through the parks planning process. The mission, guiding principles and goals are provided below. Objectives and additional details can be found in Chapter 5 of the Plan.

HRVPRD Mission: *“The Mission of the Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District is to provide recreational opportunities to the citizens of the Parks District, with focus on the youth of our community. Facilities and programs will be developed and maintained to provide safe and economical recreational environments for all users.”*

Guiding Principles:

- Maintaining the current inventory of parks within the District above actively pursuing the acquisition of new parkland
- Developing and maintaining good relationships with partners
- Striving for a high quality park system that serves youth and families
- Coordinating planning, development and maintenance efforts with partners to maximize local recreation resources
- Developing parks and recreation services to serve a diverse range of user needs within the Valley

Goal A: Existing Facilities

Maintain a state-of-the-art aquatic facility and world-class facilities that meet the recreational and competitive needs of the Hood River Valley community.

Goal B: Sports Facilities

Develop and improve sports fields and courts to meet the evolving demands of the community.

Goal C: Trails

Continue to develop multi-use trails that provide users safe opportunities to recreate and to connect to major destinations throughout the greater Hood River Valley.

Goal D: Parkland Development

Develop and maintain quality parks distributed throughout the Hood River Valley that provide for a diverse range of recreational opportunities.

District Funding

The HRVPRD currently obtains funds from System Development Charges (SDCs), the Capital Improvements Fund, Grants, and their General Fund. Operation and maintenance of parkland and improvements to the system will be one of the main expenditures for the District over the next 10 years. The General Fund, which makes up nearly half of their revenue, is the only funding source that is currently available for operation and maintenance costs.

The District's goals and objectives become meaningless if the City cannot secure the funds to achieve their mission. HRVPRD needs to identify and pursue a variety of short and long term funding strategies to fulfill its park system goals, especially related to operation and maintenance of facilities. A list of funding strategies to consider are included in Chapter 6.

Summary

Completion of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan update is an important step toward the fulfillment of the HRVPRD's Mission and Goals. With careful attention, the Hood River Valley parks system will continue to improve local residents' quality of life while adequately planning for the future park needs of the community.