

Main City Park Revitalization Project



PROJECT SUMMARY

With Community Initiated Project funding, the City of Gresham will revitalize its flagship community park to attract visitors from around the region while supporting its broader economic development goals. The revitalization project is centered on construction of the city's first fully inclusive and accessible park – creating a “destination” amenity that would also provide more equitable park access for an increasingly diverse, young, and economically challenged population. This goal is particularly important considering the demographic changes that have occurred in Gresham, including an increase in poverty.

PROJECT LOCATION

Located on Main Avenue between the Springwater Trail and the historic downtown business district, Main City Park is considered the “flagship” of Gresham’s parks system. Investment in the park’s outdated equipment will attract new park visitors, boost downtown Gresham businesses, and contribute to overall community livability.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Besides the boost to the small businesses that are within walking distance from Main City Park, the proposed project is an important element to the City’s broader economic development goals. Traded sector companies like Microchip agree that community vibrancy and livability are crucial for attracting and retaining a quality workforce.



111,634
Gresham’s total population

50%+
More than half of Gresham students are eligible for free and reduced lunch

38%
Gresham residents are non-white

\$39,580
Gresham’s per-capita income

22%
Gresham residents under the age of 18

100+
Number of small businesses in downtown Gresham



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PROJECT FUNDING

Funding Request \$2,000,000

Local Match \$853,400

Total Project Cost \$2,853,400

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COMMUNITY INITIATED

In 2007, the Parks and Recreation Department led a 10-month planning effort for improvements to Main City Park. This identified a variety of needs including a vision for a “destination playground” that would serve Gresham residents while attracting visitors from around the region. Over the last 15 years, the City has addressed several of the needs identified in that community planning process, including:

- Addition of an off-leash dog area
- Construction of a skate park
- Improvements to the regional Springwater Trail park entrance

With federal funding support, this final piece of the park’s revitalization will move forward.

ACCESSIBLE AND ALL-INCLUSIVE

Designed to be enjoyed by children and caregivers of all ages and abilities, inclusive parks eliminate barriers to play.

For instance, synthetic accessible surfaces take the place of bark chips, curbs are minimal, and structures, slides, sandboxes and features are easily accessed. In addition to physical play, inclusive parks feature sensory elements to engage and nurture, including interactive music installations and tactile elements. When parks are built with everyone in mind, it sends the message to the community that everyone is meant to be there, that everyone matters and everyone is meant to play.

