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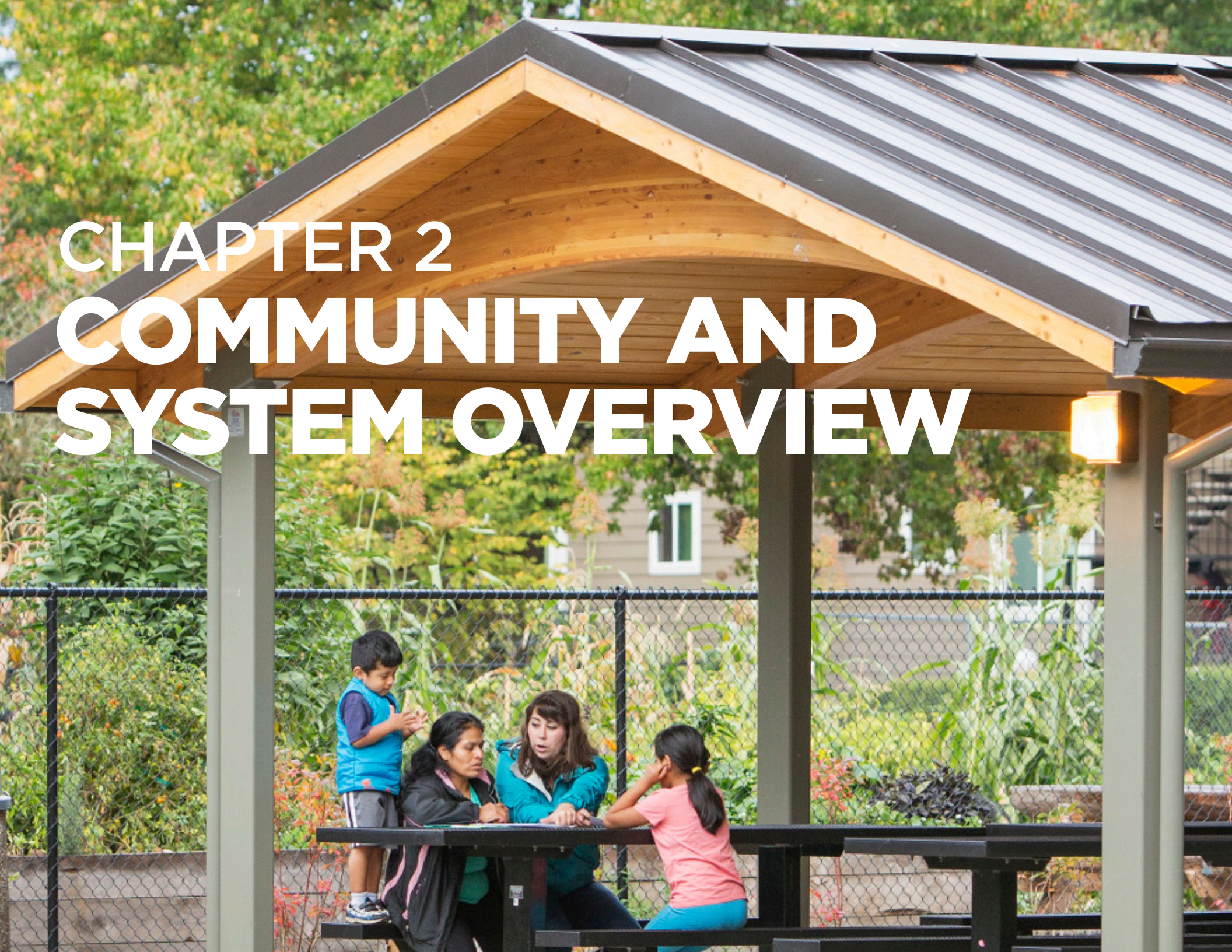


CHAPTER 2
COMMUNITY AND SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Community and System Overview

Parks and recreation opportunities play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for individuals and communities. These spaces and programs offer a wide range of physical, mental, and social benefits—from promoting healthy lifestyles through exercise and outdoor activities to supporting mental well-being through connections with nature, to fostering social connections, and encouraging community engagement.

This chapter provides an overview of the City of Gresham's current park and recreation system, including Gresham's unique setting and context, existing parks and facilities, and the Parks Program's supported recreation programs and partnerships.

SETTING AND CONTEXT

Situated south of the Columbia River and at the gateway to Mt. Hood, the City of Gresham is located approximately eight miles east of downtown Portland in Multnomah County. The city is surrounded by the communities of Troutdale, Wood Village, Fairview, and the Columbia River to the north, unincorporated areas of Multnomah County to the east, the City of Happy Valley and Clackamas County to the south, and the City of Portland to the west (Figure 2-1). According to Portland State University Population Research Center 2024 estimates, Gresham is the second largest city in the Portland metropolitan region and the fourth largest city in the State with a population of approximately 115,233 people.

FIGURE 2-1: REGIONAL CONTEXT

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Gresham is located at the confluence of numerous major transportation routes that connect the city to the broader region while also creating physical barriers between different areas within the city. U.S. Route 26 (US 26 or the Mount Hood Highway) bisects the city, running from east to west following Powell Boulevard. Also running from east to west, Interstate 84 (I-84) creates a physical barrier between North Gresham and other areas of the city. Other major transportation routes include NE Sandy Boulevard (US 30 Bypass) running parallel to I-84, E Burnside Street which turns into NE Burnside Road and eventually converges with US 26, and SE 182nd/Highland Road, SE 223rd Avenue/SW Eastman Parkway, and NE Hogan Drive/SE Hogan Road which each run north to south through Gresham. Running largely along E Burnside Street, the TriMet MAX Blue Line light-rail system connects Gresham to downtown Portland and the broader metro region including Beaverton and Hillsboro. The Springwater Corridor Trail, a 22-mile multi-use trail, provides a major recreational resource that follows a former railway line from Boring through Gresham to Portland.

Major natural features in and around Gresham include the Columbia River along the northern tip of the city and Johnson Creek that generally flows along the Springwater Corridor Trail through Gresham. The city's forested buttes and hillsides also provide wildlife habitat, scenic vantage points, and natural aesthetic amenities. Several of these areas are the site of City or regional natural areas or parks (e.g., Hogan Butte, Gabbert Butte, and Jenne Butte).

Much of the land that Gresham now occupies is the traditional territory of the Chinookan peoples, who lived in villages on the Columbia River and fished in Johnson Creek (Source: City of Gresham website). Prior to incorporation in 1905, Gresham was known as Campground or Powell's Valley, after the City's early Euro American settlers who founded a rural community that would later become Historic Downtown Gresham. Today, Gresham is predominately a residential community, with single-family detached homes comprising the bulk of housing. Commercial uses are concentrated in the relatively small downtown area and along major roads and intersections. Industrial areas are largely located in the northern portion of the City in North Gresham, North Central, Northeast, Rockwood, and Centennial neighborhoods.

Gresham Main Street, 1932 (Oregon Historical Society Research Library)

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Gresham's population and demographic conditions play a major role in planning for parks and recreation. Understanding and responding to the changing needs of the population are essential for the City's future.

FIGURE 2-2: DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

115,233 Residents in 2025

28% of Gresham's population is under 20 years old

19% of Gresham's population is over 60 years old

36% of Gresham's residents identify as a person of color

$61,826 Median Household Income
(lower than Multnomah County average ($76,290) and the State average ($70,084))

SOURCE: Gresham Housing Needs Analysis, US Census, American Community Survey (ACS), Portland State University Population Research Center, Metro Distributed Forecast

POPULATION GROWTH

In March 2021, the City of Gresham prepared a Housing Needs Analysis that identifies future population growth projections sourced from Metro's Distributed Forecast for 2020 to 2045. Between 2000 and 2020, Gresham's population grew by 26% (or 23,204 new residents) with an average annual growth rate of 1.15%, which is in line with Multnomah County's growth. The rate of growth is expected to slow in the coming years with a projected average annual rate (AAGR) of 0.26% between 2020 and 2045. By 2035, at the conclusion of this Plan's planning horizon, Gresham is estimated to have a total population of 120,488.[1] Areas with the largest potential for growth are the Pleasant Valley and Springwater plan areas.

FORECAST OF POPULATION GROWTH, GRESHAM CITY LIMITS, 2035

120,488 Residents in 2035

SOURCE: Metro Distributed Forecast, March 2021.

Although the rate of growth is projected to decrease over the planning horizon, any population changes have significant implications for the parks and recreation system. Growth in some neighborhoods may lead to more residents using parks, increasing the demand for recreation facilities, programs, and services and impacting systemwide staffing and maintenance needs. Population declines—especially if among a specific age group—may change the demand and need for nearby parks.

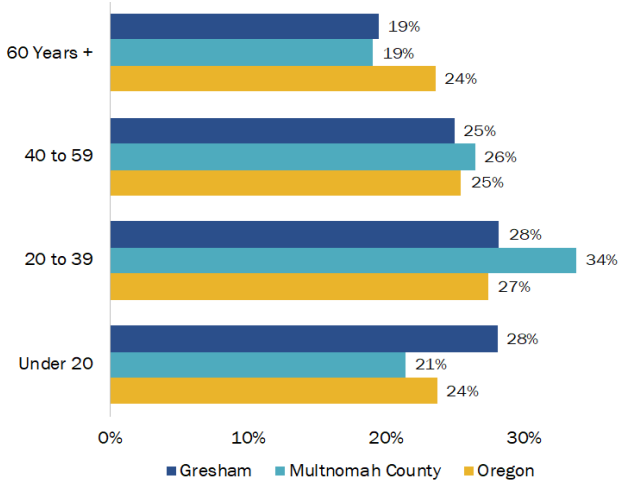
[1]The 2035 population estimate was interpolated assuming a constant annual growth rate between 2030 and 2045.

AGE

Two main age characteristics of Gresham's population have implications for future parks and recreation needs and priorities. Providing parks and programs designed for the age groups outlined below will be essential to addressing a diverse range of age-specific needs now and in the future.

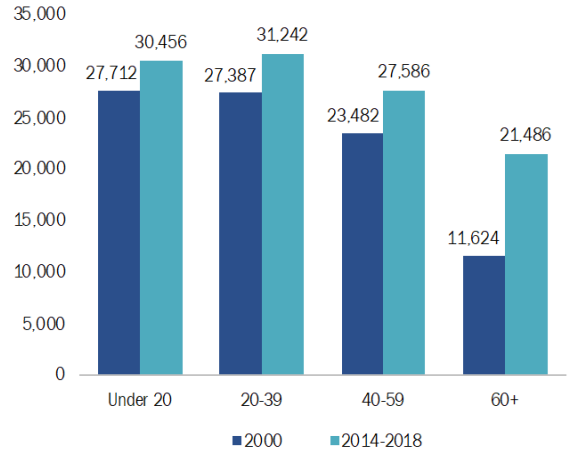
- **Over a quarter of Gresham's population is under 20 years old.** Currently, Gresham has a larger proportion of young people than Multnomah County and Oregon (Figure 2-3). Gresham also has a larger share of households with children than Multnomah County and Oregon at 32% compared to 24% and 26% respectively. Additionally, according to 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates, Gresham has a higher percentage of single-parent households than Multnomah County and Oregon at 24.2% compared to 18.6% and 19.3% respectively. For these reasons, planning for children and teens is a high priority for Gresham's parks and recreation system.
- **Gresham has an aging population.** Although Gresham has a smaller share of residents over 60 than the State of Oregon overall, it has been the fastest-growing age group since 2000 (Figure 2-4). Considering this trend and current conditions, Gresham's park and recreation system needs to plan for and potentially prioritize the programs, services, and amenities needed to address the diverse health and wellness needs of an aging adult population.

FIGURE 2-3: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE, GRESHAM, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, AND OREGON, 2014-2018 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES



SOURCE: Gresham Housing Capacity Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 ACS, Table B01001

FIGURE 2-4: POPULATION GROWTH BY AGE, GRESHAM, 2000 TO 2014-2018 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

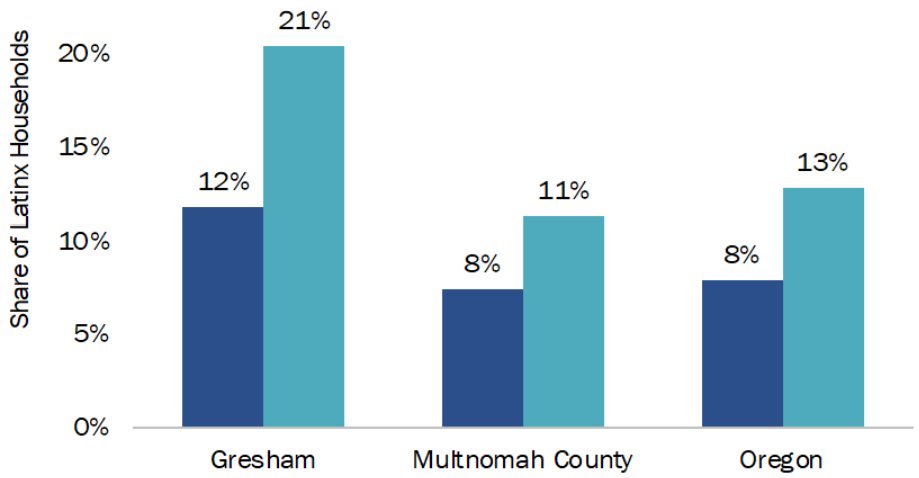


SOURCE: Gresham Housing Capacity Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 ACS 5-Year Estimate, Table DP02

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Considering unique cultural, ethnic, and language characteristics is essential to fostering a welcoming and inclusive park and recreation system that meets diverse community needs. Gresham is more racially diverse than Oregon as a whole, with approximately 36% of residents identifying as a person of color (Gresham Housing Capacity Analysis). The city has a large and growing Hispanic/Latino population that accounts for approximately 21% of the total population. Between 2000 and 2014-2018, the share of Latino households nearly doubled, increasing from 12% to 21% of the total population. This increase was at a faster rate than both Multnomah County and Oregon (Figure 2-5).

FIGURE 2-5: HISPANIC OR LATINO POPULATION AS A PERCENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, GRESHAM, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON, 2000 AND 2014–2018 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES



SOURCE: Gresham Housing Capacity Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census Table P008, 2014–2018 ACS 5- Year Estimates Table B03002

INCOME AND AFFORDABILITY

An equitable park and recreation system is also affordable to the community. Public parks and low-cost or no-cost options for different types of activities are especially important in areas with more low-income households. Income and affordability are additional key determinants that influence park use and participation in recreation programs, among other factors.

Planning for affordable and accessible recreation opportunities is a top priority for Gresham's parks and recreation system and programs. According to ACS 2017-2021 5-year estimates, the median household income in Gresham is lower than both the County and State averages. Income varies by race, with some communities of color having lower average household incomes than the overall city average. Populations over 65 are also likely to have more households with incomes at or below the city average. In addition, Gresham had a poverty level of 14% based on the most recent census reporting period (ACS 2017-2021 data).

Gradin Community Sports Park

OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM

The City of Gresham's park and recreation system includes the City's parks, recreation facilities, trails and paths, and other resources that are managed and maintained by the Parks Program for public use.

The City owns and manages nearly 600 acres of land in its dedicated park system, including 52 different developed and undeveloped parks, special use areas, nature parks, and trail corridors. Of this land, more than 280 acres are primarily intended for recreation use, such as providing places to play and gather. In addition, more than 315 acres are managed as nature parks focus primarily on natural resource management and secondarily for passive recreation. Of these parks and nature parks, more than 340 acres are considered "undeveloped," meaning these spaces are open to the public, minimally developed, but intended for additional facility development in the future to support greater use.

The system also includes over 20 miles of regional and community trails and paths in trail corridors that provide opportunities for recreation, active transportation, as well as connectivity to parks and different parts of Gresham. In addition to these trail corridors, more than 10 miles of internal park trails and paths (within parks and nature parks) provide access to park facilities and support additional opportunities for trail-related recreation and connections with nature. Appendix A provides the complete park and facility inventory. Appendix H provides a detailed map of all of Gresham's trails and paths, boths existing and proposed, to be used for planning purposes. Figure 2-6 shows the distribution of parks across Gresham, including their classification.

Butler Creek Park

WHAT ABOUT THE CITY'S OTHER NATURAL AREAS?

In addition to natural areas within parks, the City of Gresham manages and maintains many other natural areas that provide visual greenspace and other ecological functions. These areas are not included within the Gresham Parks 2035 dedicated park system. Guidance for these areas will be addressed in the Natural Areas Master Plan that is under development as of 2025.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The City of Gresham uses a park classification system to categorize parks and distinguish them by their function. The classifications help the City plan and manage their existing system, as well as make decisions about the right amount of future development, types of facilities, levels of park maintenance, and programming based on the intent of each park site.

TABLE 2-1: PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Park Classification	Count	Acres	Miles
Community Parks	8	161.4	-
Neighborhood Parks	20	113.1	-
Special Use Areas	4	9.4	-
Nature Parks	3	315.3	-
Trail Corridors *(Regional and Community trails and paths, not including other trails and paths in the City's parks and nature parks, refer to Appendix H for a detailed map of Gresham's trails and paths. Note: These values reflect information as of 2024 and updates will continue to occur.)*	18	-	20.1
TOTAL	**53**	**599.2**	**20.1**

Gresham classifies its parks and facilities based on physical attributes such as size, geographic location, and natural features. The classifications also explain how each site should function, what types of facilities and recreation opportunities it should provide, what types of recreation activities may be compatible, and who (or what area) the site is intended to serve. The City of Gresham classifies its parks and recreation facilities into five categories. These classifications are defined and summarized on the following pages.

Mayor Charles Becker Park (Lennar Resource Center)

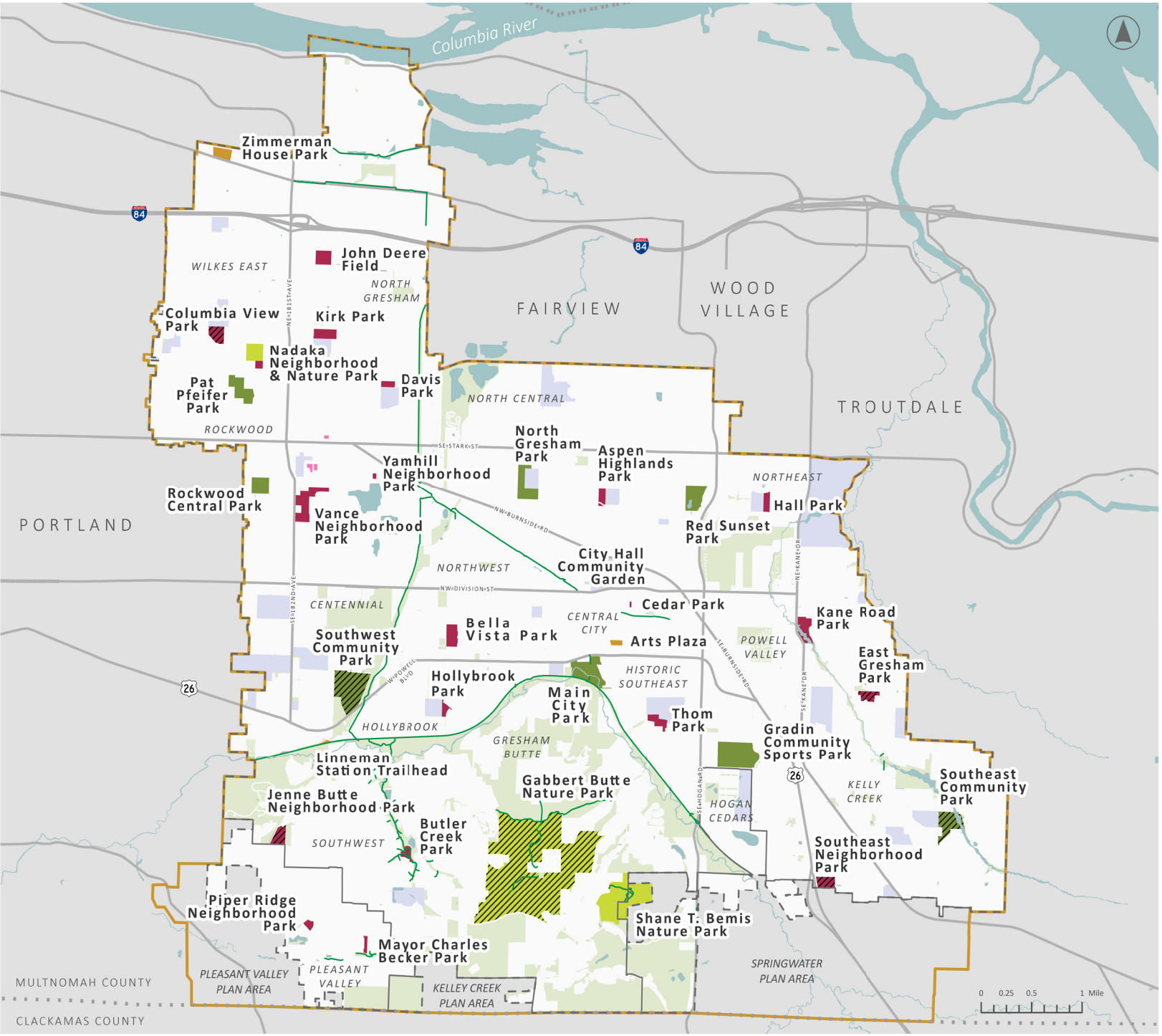


FIGURE 2-6: EXISTING PARK SYSTEM

Gresham Parks and Facilities

- Community Park
- Nature Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Special Use Area
- Undeveloped Park
- Trail Corridor

Base Map Features

- City Boundary
- County Boundary
- Urban Services Boundary
- Non-City Owned Park
- Other Green Space
- School
- Water Body
- Major Arterial

COMMUNITY PARKS

8 Parks / 161.4 Acres Total

Examples: Main City Park, Pat Pfeifer Park, Gradin Community Sports Park

Community Parks accommodate larger group activities, provide a variety of recreation opportunities for all age groups, typically include more specialized facilities, and/or create opportunities for organized and informal recreation, both active and passive. These sites attract visitors from several neighborhoods or a portion of the city. These parks may also include significant natural areas and trails.

Size Range: 9.4-42.0 acres
Typical Service Area: Citywide
Typical Facilities: Sports fields, gardens, large play areas, pools, or recreation centers.

Main City Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

20 Parks / 113.1 Acres Total

Examples: Aspen Highlands Park, Cedar Park, Vance Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Parks are designed primarily to provide informal, nonorganized recreation opportunities and greenspace serving nearby neighbors. Neighborhood parks provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents, enhance neighborhood identity, and preserve neighborhood open space. Located within walking and bicycling distance of most users, these parks generally provide play areas and family or neighborhood gathering spaces for residents within a half-mile radius.

Size Range: 0.3-16.0 acres
Typical Service Area: Nearby residents
Typical Facilities: Playgrounds, turf areas, picnic tables, restrooms, and benches.

Cedar Park

SPECIAL USE AREAS

4 Sites / 9.4 Acres Total

Examples: Arts Plaza, Linnemann Station Trailhead, Zimmermann House Park

Special Use Areas are stand-alone specialized use facilities that are not provided as part of a larger multi-use park. In Gresham, parks in this category include a plaza, a historic farm, former railway station/trailhead, and community garden.

Size Range: 0.4-6.0 acres
Typical Service Area: Citywide or beyond
Typical Facilities: Support facilities such as restrooms and parking.

Arts Plaza (GreenWorks)

NATURE PARKS

3 Sites / 315.3 Acres Total

Examples: Shane T. Bemis Nature Park, Gabbert Butte Nature Park, Nadaka Nature Park

Nature Parks are undeveloped or minimally developed sites that are currently managed for both their natural value and for activities such as nature-based recreation, nature play, and trail use. These areas may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as unique and native plant species. In some cases, portions of these parks may be developed to become neighborhood or community parks in the future when resources are available to make improvements within these areas.

Size Range: 11.7-253.6 acres
Typical Service Area: Citywide or beyond
Typical Facilities: Trails or pathways; support amenities such as parking, restrooms, signage, and/or seating.

Shane T. Bemis Nature Park (GreenWorks)

Springwater Corridor Trail Entrance at Main City Park

TRAIL CORRIDORS

18 Sites / 20.1 Miles Total

Examples: Springwater Corridor Trail, WyEast Way Path, Butler Creek Trail

Trails Corridors are linear regional or community paths or trails, both soft-surfaced and hard-surfaced. As with greenways, trail corridors often follow abandoned railroad rights-of-way, power lines, or waterways. Gresham manages or maintains several significant regional or community trail corridors, while others are managed or maintained by regional partners such as Metro. Appendix H provides a detailed map of all of Gresham's trails and paths, both existing and proposed, to be used for planning purposes.

Size Range: 0.02-5.2 miles
Typical Service Area: Citywide or beyond
Typical Facilities: Seating, parking, and interpretive signage.

Gresham Fairview Trail (BikePortland)

RECREATION FACILITIES

Gresham's parks offer a range of recreation facilities and amenities supporting play and gathering, sports/athletics, outdoor recreation, specialized uses, and connections to nature. Parks also typically include amenities such as seating, trash receptacles, picnic shelters, and restrooms supporting park functionality and user comfort. Figure 2-7 summarizes key facilities in Gresham's park and recreation system. A complete inventory of existing recreation facilities and amenities is found in Appendix A.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation facilities are areas designed for either active or passive activities, supporting a wide range of community use. *Examples include playgrounds, soccer fields, picnic shelters, dog parks, and community gardens.*

PARK AMENITIES

Park amenities are essential features that support park, use, comfort, and access for park users. Examples include restrooms, bike racks, parking areas, benches, lighting, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, barbecues, signage, and public art.

FIGURE 2-7: RECREATION FACILITY SNAPSHOT

- **7** Basketball Courts
- **12** Baseball/Softball Fields
- **14** Soccer Fields
- **5** Picnic Shelters
- **2** Disc Golf Cours
- **2** Gazebos
- **3** Futsal Courts
- **6** Community Gardens
- **12** Horseshoe Courts
- **19** Playgrounds
- **2** Skateboard Areas
- **1** Splashpad

Nadaka Neighborhood Park

Gresham Japanese Garden at Main City Park

Seeker the Raven at Nadaka Nature Park (Gresham Outdoor Public Art)

WHAT MAKES GRESHAM PARKS UNIQUE?

Our parks are the ecological, cultural and economic hub of Gresham.

- The system is **strategically located** on the way to the Columbia River Gorge, Mount Hood, and the scenic Sandy River delta.
- The system provides **views of the Cascades**.
- The system's neighborhood and community parks offer **access to nearby nature** and a **unique natural resource experience** in a suburban and growing urban setting.
- The system is supported by long-term park and open space **community advocates** that care for their parks and enhance public spaces such as, The Gresham Japanese Garden and Nadaka Nature Park.
- The system is strengthened by a unique collaboration with **Gresham Outdoor Public Art (GOPA)** to integrate art into public spaces.

"I applaud the work that GOPA is doing to bring public art to our community. Each unique piece reflects Gresham's love of the arts while enhancing the flavor and feeling of our community." *—Past Mayor Shane Bemis*

Rockwood Plaza at Rockwood Market Hall (Rockwood Market Hall, Picture That Property)

OTHER PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The City also partners with other property owners to provide public access to recreation in these two facilities:

- **Rockwood Plaza at Rockwood Market Hall:** Located in Downtown Rockwood, this public plaza is privately owned and features a splash pad and play structure adjacent to the SE188th Ave MAX Station.
- **Rockwood Village Neighbors Park:** Located in the Rockwood Village apartment complex, this 1.7-acre open space area includes community gardens and a community building for events, classes, and celebrations.

In addition to park, trail, and recreation spaces owned and/or managed by the City of Gresham, a variety of other organizations provide parks and recreation facilities that help meet the needs of the Gresham community. This includes playgrounds, playing fields and other facilities owned by public and private schools, regional open spaces and trails, and other similar facilities.

The City is also planning for future park development within the Civic Neighborhood to help meet the recreational needs of current and future residents. A future Civic Neighborhood Park is envisioned on approximately 2 acres of City-owned property located west of Gresham City Hall. The park's exact location, design, and amenities have not yet been determined and will be established through a future master planning process.

PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The project team conducted a series of assessments of selected facilities as part of the Gresham Parks 2035 planning process to discuss and identify site specific issues, opportunities, and challenges:

- **Site Tour:** In December 2023 and January 2024, City staff and the consultant team toured representative parks and facilities to assess site-specific conditions.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Facility Assessment:** In July 2024, the consultant team conducted an ADA assessment for select park facilities to support the City in making public facilities and programs accessible. Detailed accessibility surveys were conducted at seven park facilities, including identification of physical barriers present at those locations. The seven sites were selected based on several evaluation criteria, such as prevalence of underserved populations, presence of known ADA deficiencies, park type, and results of previous facility visits. The assessment uncovered a variety of needs that the City must address to comply with the law and to also provide a more enjoyable experience for community members. An additional ADA assessment is planned for Winter 2025 to assess the park and recreation facilities not included in the 2024 assessment.

The following key findings emerged from these assessments.

CURRENT PARK MAINTENANCE AND CONDITION

Parks are generally well-maintained, mowed, and clean, showcasing diligent efforts by the Parks Program maintenance team. Most amenities, facilities, and landscaping are in fair to good condition, reflecting commitment to repairing and replacing these assets to support public enjoyment.

ADA FACILITY ASSESSMENT SITES

The seven facilities included in the assessment were:

- **Bella Vista Park**
- **Hall Park**
- **Nadaka Neighborhood and Nature Parks**
- **North Gresham Park**
- **Pat Pfeifer Park**
- **Red Sunset Park**
- **Rockwood Central Park**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Some parks benefit from strong community involvement, such as the maintenance of Bella Vista Park by the local Neighborhood Association and volunteer work at Gresham Japanese Garden in Main City Park. This engagement fosters a sense of ownership and pride among residents. Collaborations with organizations such as Friends of the Children and Outgrowing Hunger enhance the offerings of parks like Pat Pfiefer Park and Nadaka Nature Park, enriching the community with additional programs and amenities. The involvement of residents and local organizations in park maintenance, programming, and advocacy underscores the importance of community engagement in shaping the present and future of Gresham's park system.

DIVERSE RANGE OF PARKS

Gresham boasts a wide variety of parks, from historic sites such as Zimmerman House Park to destination parks such as Arts Plaza and Gradin Community Sports Park, and nature-focused spaces such as Shane T. Bemis Nature Park and Nadaka Nature Park. This diverse range of parks caters to different interests and recreational activities within the city.

MAINTENANCE AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE CHALLENGES

Some parks require additional maintenance, facility repair, replacement, and/or natural resource restoration to address issues that may need immediate or ongoing attention and resources. However, the current budget is insufficient to address these needs, as well as specific issues such as post-storm cleanup and nuisance response. These and other challenges such as vandalism and littering/dumping demand consistent monitoring and proactive measures to ensure the safety, cleanliness, and aesthetic appeal of parks are maintained at satisfactory levels. Additionally, many of these issues occur in the City's nature parks and natural areas. Maintenance strategies for the City's natural areas will be addressed in the Natural Area Master Plan.

NATURAL HAZARDS

Parks such as Kane Road Park and Southwest Community Park face natural hazards including erosion and laminated root rot, requiring additional attention and mitigation efforts.

ADA ACCESSIBILITY

Some parks lack accessible routes, surfacing, and signage, creating access barriers for those who have limited mobility.

PLAYGROUNDS

Some playgrounds in the parks have worn and outdated playground equipment and include engineered wood fiber or artificial turf surfacing. These will need to be replaced with more durable materials.

PARK SAFETY AND CLEANLINESS

A handful of parks have experienced a range of challenges, such as vandalism, graffiti, and unauthorized camping, that affect the overall quality of the park experience. In some sites, these issues will require a significant level of resources to address.

UNDEVELOPED PARKS

Several of the City's undeveloped and minimally developed parks have received little or no maintenance since acquisition. As a result, many have issues such as tree health, erosion, litter, and the impacts of unauthorized social paths and uses. At a few sites slated for future development, the site tour helped identify issues such as poor access from surrounding streets, barriers to ADA accessibility, grading, drainage, and similar issues that will affect costs for future development.

Southwest Community Park (Undeveloped)

PROGRAMMING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Gresham's Parks Program also provides the parks and facilities that support a variety of programs and activities for residents and visitors. Since the 2021-22 Fiscal Year, the City has significantly increased and expanded programs and activities that take place in their parks from four to 15. While the City doesn't directly provide most of these programs and activities, staff maintain most of the facilities where programs are offered and help schedule or coordinate activities in City parks. Most of these programs and activities are led by external community-based organizations or in conjunction with other City departments and divisions.

City parks currently support programs and activities within three categories: Access to Nature, Community Gathering, and Sports. Table 2-3 includes a sample of current programs and individual parks being used for programming or organized activities, as well as the names of the organizations who administer each program.

SKIP Digital Media Camp, Nadaka Neighborhood Park

Yamhill Park Community Garden

Gresham Senior Center

TABLE 2-3: SAMPLE OF RECREATION PROGRAMS

Recreation Category	Program Name	Program/Event Description	Hosted or Supported By	Location(s)
Access to Nature	Community Gardens	~200 community garden plots for rent	Outgrowing Hunger	City Hall, Nadaka, Vance, Central City, Yamhill, Thom
	SKIP	Summer Kids In the Park, youth-oriented activities	YMCA / Play Grow Learn	Nadaka, Red Sunset, Main City Park, Rockwood Village
	Pruning Program	Courses on pruning and plant knowledge and skills	Friends of Gresham Japanese Garden	Kyoudou Center
	Bonsai Program	Workshop to explore the art of growing and creating Bonsai displays	Friends of Gresham Japanese Garden	Kyoudou Center
	Ikebana for Every Season Workshop	Workshop to learn about the basic concept techniques, tools and equipment, and plant care for Ikebana	Friends of Gresham Japanese Garden	Kyoudou Center
	Cleanups	Residents within NWNA perform cleanups at the park	Northwest Neighborhood Association	Bella Vista Park
Community Gathering	Gresham Senior Center	Senior oriented activities	Gresham Senior Center	Multnomah County East Building
	Lilac Run	Fun Run - 5K/10K/Half Marathon	City of Gresham - led	Springwater Corridor Trail
	Movies in the Park	Free community movies in rotating parks	Portland Event Productions	Various Parks
	Wag n Walks	Group dog walking and training tips	Hounding Around	Various Parks
	Explore Gresham	Explore Gresham parks, optional backpack checkout program for kids	City of Gresham - led	Various Parks
	Reindeer in Rockwood	Free holiday event with live reindeer	City of Gresham - led	Rockwood Plaza
	Hidden Snow Globes	Snow globes hidden in parks	City of Gresham - led	Various Parks
	Live Music	Free concert series featuring live music	Center for Arts Foundation	Arts Plaza
	Spirit of Christmas	Free holiday event with family-friendly activities	Center for Arts Foundation	Arts Plaza

TABLE 2-3: SAMPLE OF RECREATION PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Recreation Category	Program Name	Program/Event Description	Hosted or Supported By	Location(s)
Sports	Fri/Sat Night Baseball	Free open gym for MS/HS youth	POIC	HB Lee Middle School and Friends of the Children
	PlayEast	Soccer, lego, art, basketball, parkour, summer camps	City of Fairview	City Hall, East Gresham Elementary, Various Parks
	Playball	Youth baseball clinics	Friends of Baseball	Pat Pfiefer Park
	Saturday Hoops	Free basketball practices, skill building, and game play for MS/HS youth	Friends of the Children	Pat Pfiefer Park
	Youth Rock Climbing	Free weekly community rock climbing days	Rock Haven	Rock Haven Climbing Gym
	Holton Basketball Camps	Free basketball camps during school breaks	Holton Basketball Academy	Oliver and HB Lee Middle Schools

Youth Rock Climbing at Rock Haven (Rock Haven Climbing Gym)

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Maintenance and operations are key to a clean, safe, and sustainable park and recreation system. The Parks Program is responsible for the management and maintenance of the City's 53 parks, nature parks, and special use areas, as well as some trail corridors. Today, the Parks Program has an annual maintenance budget of approximately $2.5 million, including 12 full-time equivalent (FTE) park maintenance staff members. This is equivalent to a maintenance cost of approximately $13,200 per developed park acre, of which the annual staffing cost is $8,500 per acre and materials and supplies (M&S) cost is $4,700 per acre. More detailed information about the City's maintenance and operations can be found in Appendix B, Maintenance and Operations Analysis.

EXISTING MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

The Maintenance and Operations Analysis described the tasks and sites that require the most maintenance support in Gresham's park and recreation system. Findings include:

- Maintaining community parks require significantly more staff hours than any other park type, both because community parks are larger (more acreage) and because a higher level of maintenance is needed to support programs and sports held in those types of parks.
- Red Sunset Park requires the most maintenance staff hours within the park system due to the site's size, pond, fountain, vegetation, and other amenities.
- Litter/garbage, landscape, and parking lot maintenance tasks require the most maintenance staff hours of all tasks performed. Does not include hours for Downtown maintenance.

MAINTENANCE COMPARISONS

To further analyze Gresham's maintenance and operations, a series of maintenance comparisons between Gresham and a comparable local park district, Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District, were conducted for the Maintenance and Operations Analysis completed as part of the Gresham Parks 2035 planning process (Appendix B). The comparison found:

- Gresham's maintenance expenditures are significantly lower by nearly 50%;
- Gresham has fewer maintenance staff per population served than the park district, and each maintenance staff person is responsible for maintaining more acres; and
- Maintenance staff are spread over a much larger geographic area, adding further challenges and costs to maintaining the City's facilities.