

GRESHAM PARKS 2035



PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS PLAN

PUBLIC DRAFT - NOVEMBER 2025





GRESHAM PARKS 2035

PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS PLAN



GRESHAMPARKS
2035



A Message to Our Community

Parks are the heart of Gresham. Over the past decade, Gresham has added new parks, trails, and sports fields, and expanded recreation opportunities for residents of all ages and backgrounds. Yet, many of our parks were built in an earlier era, and maintaining and improving them amid increasing demand requires renewed focus, investment, and collaboration.

Gresham Parks 2035 sets a clear direction for the next decade, one that centers accessibility, equity and safety. The Plan identifies strategies to improve existing parks, expand recreation opportunities, protect natural areas, and ensure that every resident lives within walking distance of a welcoming public space.

This Plan reflects the voices, ideas, and energy of hundreds of residents who shared their hopes for Gresham's future. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, the Parks and Recreation Community Advisory Group, and our many community partners for helping shape a vision that truly belongs to all of us.

The goals of the Parks Program are simple but powerful: to create and care for vibrant, welcoming, and sustainable public spaces that foster community well-being, connection, and resilience. We are proud stewards of clean, safe, and accessible

parks that invite activity, reflection, and gathering, shared spaces where nature, recreation, and community thrive together.

We are also committed to advancing equity and inclusion across our park system, ensuring that every visitor feels considered, welcomed, and represented in the spaces we care for. As we look toward 2035, we are excited to continue working together to care for and invest in the parks that make Gresham vibrant, connected, and resilient. I invite everyone to stay engaged as we bring this shared vision to life.

With appreciation,

Astrid Dragoy
Gresham Park Program Manager

Acknowledgements

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Community Festival at Nadaka Nature Park

THE GRESHAM COMMUNITY

We would also like to acknowledge the participation of the many individual community members that provided valuable input in creating Gresham Parks 2035.

CONSULTANT TEAM



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Nadaka Nature Park

Executive Summary

Parks, trails, and recreation spaces play a central role in fostering a vibrant, well-connected, resilient, and healthy community. These spaces will remain vitally important as Gresham continues to grow and evolve, highlighting the importance of a shared vision to maintain, enhance, and invest in these assets moving forward.

Gresham Parks 2035: Parks, Recreation and Trails Plan (Gresham Parks 2035 or the Plan) represents a multi-year effort by the City of Gresham to establish a renewed vision to guide development, improvements, and management of parks, recreation, and trails for the next 10 years and beyond. Building upon the 2009 Parks

& Recreation, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan and aligning with recent and current City initiatives, Gresham Parks 2035 addresses shifts in community needs, demographics, planned growth, budget realities, and priorities to guide the City and the Parks Program in making sound decisions regarding the investment, management, and operations of its park and recreation system.

Rockwood Central Park



PLAN PURPOSE

Gresham Parks 2035 represents a multi-year effort by the City of Gresham to establish a renewed vision to guide development, improvements, and management of parks, recreation, and trails for the next 10 years and beyond. The Plan provides priorities to guide the City and the Parks Program in making sound decisions regarding the investment, management, and operations of its park and recreation system.

Through a robust community engagement process, Gresham Parks 2035 identifies new key directions for parks, recreation, and trails along with an investment strategy to improve existing parks and develop existing undeveloped park properties as well as new parks and facilities to serve community needs and future growth.

Gresham Parks 2035:

- » Aligns the Plan with recent and current City initiatives while building on the 2009 Parks & Recreation, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan;
- » Addresses shifts in community needs, demographics, planned growth, and budget realities;
- » Identifies site-specific improvements to existing develop and undeveloped parks, as well as trail corridors;
- » Includes broader strategies to meet park and recreation needs in underserved areas and future growth areas;
- » Highlights priority actions to address short-term (one to five-year) initiatives;
- » Recommends a practical and achievable approach to funding park improvements; and
- » Provides the Parks Program with the flexibility needed to achieve City goals and priorities.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Much has been accomplished since adoption of the 2009 Parks & Recreation, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan, paving the way for Gresham Parks 2035:

- » **Developed new parks**, including Nadaka Nature Park and Hogan Butte Nature Park (renamed to Shane T. Bemis Nature Park);
- » **Added a range of new amenities**, such as the Children's Fountain at Arts Plaza and new amenities associated with the Spur Trail project at Main City Park;
- » **Completed enhancements at key cultural sites**, including Gresham's Japanese Garden with Ebetsu Plaza, Kyoudou Center, and the addition of accessibility and cultural enhancements to Tsuru Island;
- » **Added or expanded several parks and properties**, including acquisition of the Shaull property which expanded Southwest Community Park by 24% and final development of Gradin Community Sports Park;
- » **Increased park offerings** with development of new futsal courts, pickleball courts, community gardens, as well as a new playground and sensory play at Kirk Park;
- » **Completed plans or designs** for Gresham's six undeveloped park sites, two new community parks, and Gabbert Butte Nature Park;
- » **Expanded recreation programming and City events** such as Gresham's Lilac Run and Movies in the Park; and
- » **Established the Gresham Parks and Recreation Community Advisory Group** that developed the core values of Equity, Safety and Accessibility for the park system.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The Gresham Parks 2035 planning process was driven by a robust and inclusive community engagement process to understand unique and evolving community priorities. Ranging from in-person meetings facilitated in multiple languages to online questionnaires, as well as meetings with a Parks Task Force and pop-up activities at numerous community events, the engagement approach strived to gather and reflect the diverse voices, needs, and aspirations of the Gresham community.

Community members affirmed the core values of this Plan – safety, accessibility, and equity. They also voiced a number of other priorities for Gresham Parks 2035:

- » The need to improve the maintenance and condition of existing parks, including addressing routine maintenance, park cleanliness, broken amenities and facilities, and worn or outdated equipment.
- » Access to and stewardship of nature parks and natural areas, including the importance of nature parks in promoting climate resilience and environmental sustainability.
- » Development of more trails and better connectivity and wayfinding for recreation, improved park access, and active transportation to reach other destinations.
- » Additional recreational programming for youth and teens (e.g. summer camps, afterschool programs, teen club, etc.) and older adults, as well a greater variety of recreation activities.
- » Development of Gresham’s existing undeveloped park properties.

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



CORE VALUES

Gresham Parks 2035 is centered around three core values that will guide Gresham's provision of parks, recreation, and trails for the next 10 years and beyond. The City formed a diverse group of community members and institutional representatives (The Parks & Recreation Community Advisory Group) that evaluated the City's recreation services and recommended strategies to improve community outcomes in preparation for the Gresham Parks 2035 process. They identified accessibility, equity, and safety as core values that should serve as the foundation for considering park and recreation investments and the prioritization of programs and projects.



Nadaka Nature Park

CORE VALUE DEFINITIONS

Accessibility

"Capable of being used or accessed. Often in parks and recreation, accessibility means at its basic level, legally accessible to people as determined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Accessible is not the same as inclusive."

Equity

"As a function of fairness, equity implies ensuring that people have what they need to participate. Equity ensures that essential programs, services, activities, and technologies are accessible to all. Equity treatment involves eliminating barriers that prevent the full participation of all individuals."

Safety

"The physical characteristics which park users associate with high-risk environments. Some of which include poor lighting, confusing layout, areas of concealment, poor maintenance, no access to help, vandalism, physical and aural isolation, and the presence of illegal activities."

SOURCE: City of Gresham Parks & Recreation Community Advisory Group

KEY DIRECTIONS

In addition to directly informing recommendations for specific improvements, the Core Values also support seven Key Directions as shown on the next page that will further guide how the Gresham Parks Program manages, develops, and enhances parks, recreation facilities, and trails over the next 10 years and beyond. These Key Directions reflect the recommended focus areas for the strategic use of Gresham's resources.

1

Provide safe, welcoming, and well-maintained parks and trails.

2

Develop undeveloped neighborhood and community parks.

3

Ensure equitable park access and distribution.

4

Improve existing parks and trails.

5

Strengthen programming, engagement, communication and coordination efforts with partners, volunteers, and community groups.

6

Identify sustainable funding sources.

7

Promote a sustainable and resilient system.

- 1** It is essential that the City prioritizes adequate maintenance resources and safety initiatives, and that when building or renovating sites, that the City focuses on selecting materials that require minimal maintenance and promote longevity.
- 2** Development of these parks is a highly cost-effective way to leverage existing properties to expand community access to park and recreation experiences. At the same time, development of these parks should only be undertaken if the City expects to have adequate resources to effectively maintain and operate these new facilities without compromising operation and maintenance of existing facilities. Development of two of these parks is assumed within the Plan's planning horizon.
- 3** Equitable access both to and within parks and facilities are equally important to ensure that all Gresham residents can experience the many economic, social, and health benefits that parks provide.
- 4** Improving old and worn park features and providing diverse and varied amenities and experiences at Gresham's existing parks and facilities was identified as a top community priority throughout Gresham Parks 2035 engagement efforts.
- 5** Community partnerships are crucial to the current and ongoing success of the Gresham park and recreation system, offering numerous benefits beyond increasing resources. They enhance program offerings and create opportunities to leverage shared interests and resources.
- 6** Implementation of the Gresham Parks 2035 vision and recommendations will depend on the availability of funding sources to improve and maintain the existing system as well as support future investments.
- 7** Gresham's parks can play a central role in achieving a sustainable and resilient future. This includes opportunities to use parks to adapt to current and future climate conditions; enhance user comfort, promote systemwide ecological health; and increase resilience to hazards such as wildfires and extreme heat.



INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Gresham Parks 2035 provides a clear and prioritized action plan for investments in the park system over the long-term future, with projects that range from capital maintenance projects to needed improvements to aging amenities or equipment to new ideas generated during the planning process. Gresham Parks 2035 includes a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that provides a comprehensive list of capital projects that support future community needs based on results of the planning and engagement process.

HOW ARE WE TAKING CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE?

Improving old and worn park features and providing diverse and varied amenities and experiences at Gresham's existing parks and facilities was identified as a top community priority. Below is a snapshot of some of the ways that the CIP recommends investment in the existing system:

- 6** Playground Replacements or Upgrades
- 15** Pedestrian Bridge Replacements
- 2** Grass Soccer Field Grass Replacements with Artificial Turf
- 3** Grass Ball Field Replacements with Artificial Turf
- ADA Improvements at **8** Sites (including trail and path upgrades)
- 6** New Restrooms in Existing Parks

Given the extent of projects recommended in the Plan, not all of the CIP projects will be completed over the Plan's 10-year period, given limited funding available or reasonably projected during this period. As a result, the Plan also includes a prioritized list of projects anticipated to be achievable the 10-year planning period. Priorities are based on community engagement priorities, discussions with City staff, current CIP priorities, and the core values identified through conversations with the City's Parks & Recreation Community Advisory Group.

PRIORITY PROJECT SUMMARY

Park Classification	Total Projects	Total Planning-Level Costs
Existing Parks and Facilities		
Community Parks	18	7,978,020
Neighborhood Parks	15	7,023,920
Special Use Areas	0	-
Nature Parks	0	-
Trail Corridors	0	-
Undeveloped Parks	3	\$6,750,000
Proposed New Parks and Facilities		
New Park & Facility Development	3	\$7,000,000
TOTAL	39	\$28,751,940

GRESHAM PARKS 2035 PRIORITY PROJECTS

Priority Project Site*



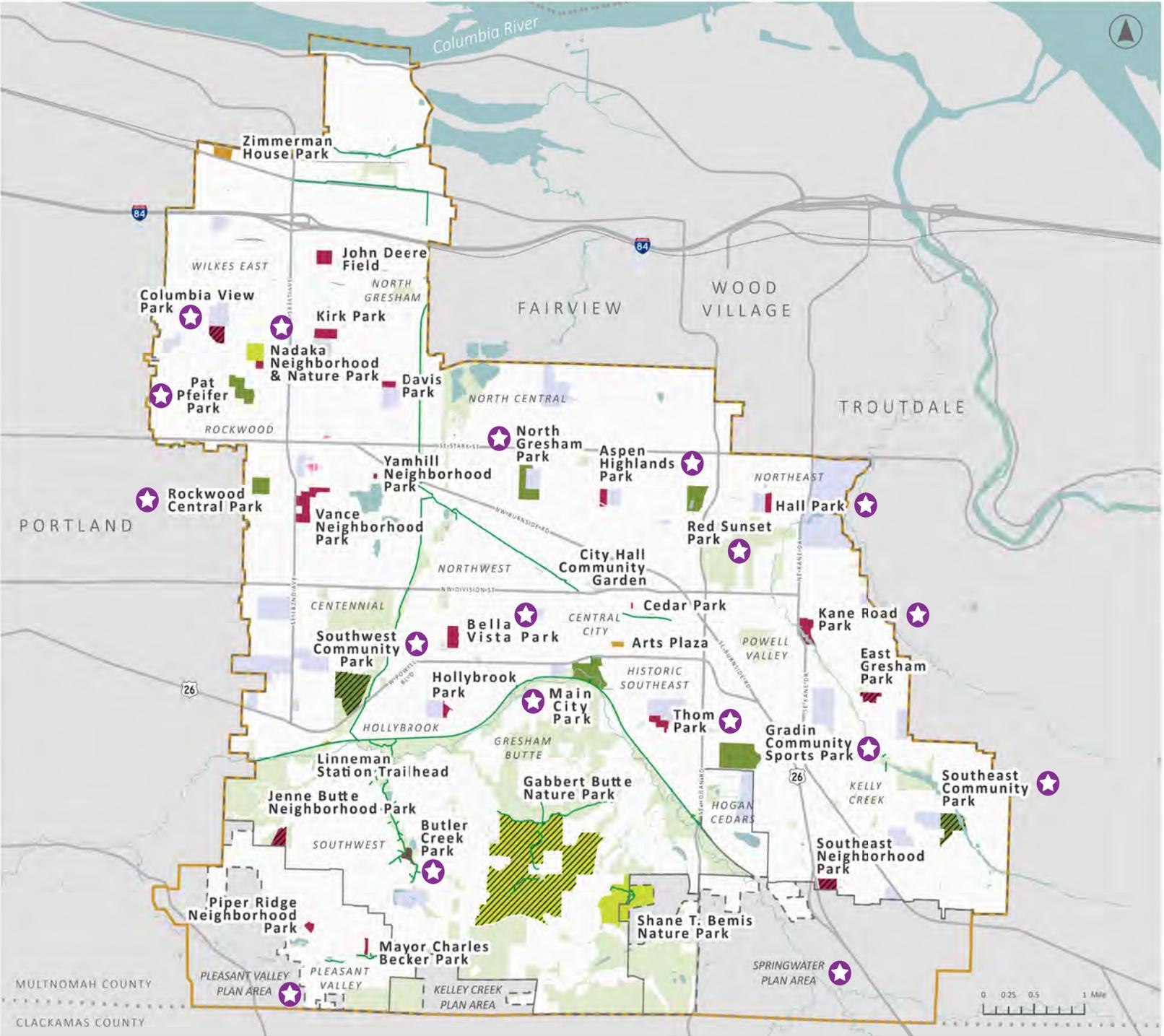
Gresham Parks and Facilities

- 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

*Identifies sites that have projects prioritized for implementation over the 10-year planning horizon. Some sites may have multiple priority projects.



FUNDING TOOLBOX

Paying for Gresham's park and recreation system requires both capital investment (land acquisition, new park development, and major upgrades to existing parks) and operations and maintenance (O&M) (day-to-day upkeep, repairs, and programming support).

Existing funding sources alone are not sufficient to fund the projects noted in the Gresham Parks 2035 CIP. For this reason, the City should consider a variety of potential expanded or additional funding strategies for capital improvements to maximize investment, diversify the City's funding mix, and fund the community's vision for a safe, well-maintained, and accessible parks and recreation system, including the following.

- » Refine the approach for assessing SDCs
- » Continue to strategically pursue grants
- » Explore the use of tax increment financing for parks projects
- » Establish and/or strengthen partnerships with other public agencies and parks providers
- » Solicit donations and establish a donor recognition program
- » Consider a general obligation bond (bond measure)

The City faces a similar issue with funding operation and maintenance (O&M) of its system. Parks maintenance needs will increase as more acres are added and developed, and maintenance level of service may need to increase to address deferred maintenance and community goals. Ongoing fiscal pressures that include rising operational costs, inflation in utilities and materials, and competing public safety needs will mean that other City needs will continue to compete with funding for parks. As a result, additional sources of funding will be needed to adequately maintain the system. Potential funding sources and strategies include the following.

- » Expansion or restructure of the City's Police, Fire, Parks (PFP) Utility Fee
- » Better alignment of sports field and utility rental fees
- » Establishment of a parks maintenance utility fee
- » Expanded use of vendor permits
- » Changes to allocations from the City's Transient Lodging Tax
- » Use of a local option levy
- » Creation of a new dedicated parks and recreation district

PLAN PRIORITIES

Gresham Parks 2035 identifies 10 priority actions needed to implement the key elements of the Plan. These priority actions advance the Plan's core values and key directions as well as many capital projects that will require additional planning and coordination. The actions are intended to be implemented in the short term, ideally over the next three to five years. These actions include:

- » Expand the types and levels of available funding for park maintenance and operations.
 - » Update land dedication requirements and fees to support new park development.
 - » Develop a Park Safety Improvement Strategy and implement park improvements to enhance community safety at City parks.
 - » Develop an asset management plan and replacement schedule with clear guidelines and timelines for facility lifecycles, repair, and replacement.
 - » Develop a maintenance management plan with clear guidelines and timelines for routine maintenance activities, preventative inspections, and corrective interventions.
 - » Begin implementation of the priority projects identified in the Plan's CIP.
 - » Further the development process for Southeast Community Park and Southwest Community Park to improve park equity and access in underserved areas.
- » Coordinate with other City Departments and community partners to identify and implement projects that will support multiple community benefits within City parks such as climate resilience, stormwater management, ecological health, access, and regional trail connectivity.
 - » Enhance existing partnerships and identify new partnership opportunities to expand park access and recreation programming, particularly in underserved areas.
 - » Strengthen public engagement and communications regarding available resources and funding realities to manage community expectations and increase public awareness of funding challenges and needs.



Southwest Community Park (Undeveloped)

MOVING FORWARD

Gresham Parks 2035 is the result of City staff, elected leaders, community partners, and residents coming together to shape the future of Gresham's park and recreation system. The Gresham community deeply values the parks, trails, and recreation spaces that the Parks Program provides. The Plan delivers focused and much-needed direction for the investment, management, and operations of Gresham's parks, recreation facilities, and trails over the next 10 years and beyond.

Gresham Parks 2035 is a living document, intended to be flexible and responsive as community needs, funding opportunities, and City priorities shift. Regular updates and ongoing evaluation will help ensure the Plan remains relevant and effective over time. Successful implementation of Gresham Parks 2035 will require continued leadership, investment, and collaboration among City departments, community partners, and residents. As Gresham continues to grow and evolve, this Plan will help the City ensure that the system remains a central part of community life, promoting the core values of equity, accessibility, and safety.







CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION



Introduction

Parks, trails, and recreation spaces play a central role in fostering a vibrant community; they connect people to nature and to each other, promote environmental and climate resilience, support physical and mental wellbeing, and breathe life into the local economy. City leadership and community members recognize the vital importance of parks, recreation, and trails for Gresham's future and have a shared vision to maintain, enhance, and invest in these assets moving forward.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Gresham Parks 2035: Parks, Recreation and Trails Plan (Gresham Parks 2035 or the Plan) represents a multi-year effort by the City of Gresham to establish a renewed vision to guide development, improvements, and management of parks, recreation, and trails for the next 10 years and beyond. Building upon the 2009 Parks & Recreation, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan and aligning with recent and current City initiatives, Gresham Parks 2035 addresses shifts in community needs, demographics, planned growth, budget realities, and priorities to guide the City and the Parks Program in making sound decisions regarding the investment, management, and operations of its park and recreation system.

The plan provides guidance on Gresham's dedicated park and recreation system which includes the City's parks, recreation facilities, trail corridors, and other resources that are managed and maintained by the Parks Program for public use. Parks range from large community parks that support play and gathering, such as Main City Park to smaller neighborhood parks that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities such as Butler Creek Park. The system also has numerous nature parks that support connections with nature and passive recreation such as Nadaka Nature Park. Connecting the system is a series of trail corridors that provide regional and community connectivity to the City's parks and recreation facilities, other city destinations, and neighboring jurisdictions. Beyond these sites, the city is home to a large network of natural areas that provide visual greenspace and other ecological functions rather than active recreation. These areas are not included within the Gresham Parks 2035 dedicated park system.

Through a community-wide engagement process, Gresham Parks 2035 identifies an investment strategy to improve existing parks and develop existing undeveloped park properties as well as new parks and facilities to serve community needs and future growth. Altogether, Gresham Parks 2035 will serve as a framework for future decision making, priority setting, and annual budgeting. The key directions included in the Plan are intended to support the desired future for the community, while providing the Parks Program with the flexibility needed to achieve City goals and priorities.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Much has been accomplished since adoption of the 2009 Parks & Recreation, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan, paving the way for Gresham Parks 2035. Some key highlights include:

- » Development of Nadaka Nature Park;
- » Development of Hogan Butte Nature Park (renamed to Shane T. Bemis Nature Park);
- » Addition of the Children's Fountain at Arts Plaza;
- » New amenities associated with the Spur Trail project at Main City Park;
- » Expansion of Gresham's Japanese Garden with Ebetsu Plaza, Kyoudou Center, and the addition of accessibility and cultural enhancements to Tsuru Island;
- » Acquisition of the Shaull property;
- » Development of new futsal courts;
- » Development of a new playground and sensory play at Kirk Park and updates to the site's Master Plan;
- » Concept Plans for Gresham's six undeveloped park sites;
- » Adoption of the Gabbert Butte Nature Park Master Plan;
- » Addition of new community garden installations;
- » Expansion of recreation programming and City events such as Gresham's Lilac Run and Movies in the Park;
- » Development of new pickleball courts;
- » Creation of the 30-person Gresham Parks and Recreation Community Advisory Group that developed the core values of Equity, Safety and Accessibility for the park system;
- » Completion of phase 2 development of Gradin Community Sports Park;
- » Safety enhancements at Vance Park; and
- » Design of two new community parks.



Nadaka Neighborhood and Nature Park Grand Opening



Kirk Park

PLANNING PROCESS

The City of Gresham led a nearly two-year planning process for Gresham Parks 2035, beginning in Winter 2023 and concluding in Winter 2025. The Plan was organized around a four-phase process that combined extensive community engagement with data-driven technical analysis to identify community needs and inform key directions and projects. In addition, this process was preceded by and built on the Parks and Recreation Community Advisory Group process conducted in 2021-2022. That process established core values for the park system (Safety, Access, and Equity); evaluated financial conditions and potential funding sources for parks; developed conceptual plans for several undeveloped park sites; and studied the feasibility of a new community center.

As noted in Figure 1-1 on the next page, the Gresham Parks 2035 planning process included:

- » Updating the City's park and facility inventory and analyzing the existing system;
- » Identifying community needs based on technical analysis and community outreach;
- » Developing updated core values and key directions;
- » Creating site-specific recommendations and strategies for existing and new parks; and
- » Preparing Gresham Parks 2035 for community review, refinement, and adoption.

Throughout the process, an array of community outreach activities and advisory and community meetings contributed to the development of the Plan. These included formation of and meetings with the Parks Task Force (PTF) and Technical Advisory Team (TAT); meetings with Gresham City Council; multilingual targeted community member meetings; two online questionnaires; and pop-up activities at various City events. These activities helped identify key themes and priorities which were carried forward throughout the development of the Plan. Outreach findings are described in Chapter 3.



Rockwood Plaza Gresham Parks 2035 Pop-Up

FIGURE 1-1: GRESHAM PARKS 2035 PLANNING PROCESS



PLAN INPUTS

The Gresham Parks 2035 planning process was driven by a wide range of inputs ranging from qualitative community outreach findings to information from other citywide and site-specific planning efforts to data from multiple different technical analyses. Figure 1-2 summarizes the various inputs that informed creation of the Plan.

FIGURE 1-2: GRESHAM PARKS 2035 INPUTS





Nadaka Neighborhood Park

PLAN ORGANIZATION

Gresham Parks 2035 is organized into seven chapters with additional supportive documentation in seven appendices.

- » **Chapter 1. Introduction** introduces Gresham Parks 2035, describing the planning process, related planning efforts, recent accomplishments, as well as opportunities and challenges for the future of parks and recreation in Gresham.
- » **Chapter 2. Community and System Overview** describes Gresham's setting and context, community profile, park classification system, recreation facilities, park conditions, as well as programming and partnerships.
- » **Chapter 3. Community Needs** summarizes the Gresham Parks 2035 community engagement process, identifies key themes, and identifies community needs for parkland, trails, recreation facilities, and accessibility as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- » **Chapter 4. Systemwide Key Directions** presents the core values and key directions that will guide the parks and recreation system over the next 10 years.
- » **Chapter 5. Recommended Park and Facility Improvements** details the recommendations for existing, undeveloped, and proposed parks, facilities, and trail corridors.
- » **Chapter 6. Capital Improvement Plan** outlines a 10-year list of capital projects and associated maintenance costs, including the priority projects for implementation.
- » **Chapter 7. Implementation and Funding** describes the 10-year action plan and funding strategy for maintenance, improvements, and other capital projects identified in Gresham Parks 2035.

APPENDICES

Appendices provide additional background information and provide a snapshot of the key deliverables provided throughout the planning process. Many of these documents serve as “point-in-time analysis documents” created in early phases of the planning process. As a result, the appendices may include different data counts or other information in comparison to this final Plan document. Where this is the case, the data included in the body of Gresham Parks 2035 represents the most current data and information.

- » **Appendix A. Park and Facility Inventory** provides an inventory of parks, trail corridors, and recreation facilities within Gresham.
- » **Appendix B. Maintenance and Operations Analysis** provides an analysis of Gresham’s current maintenance budget, an itemized cost model for developed parks, and potential approaches for improving the operation and maintenance of existing and future park facilities.
- » **Appendix C. Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Facility Assessment Report** assesses the physical barriers to accessibility in seven of Gresham’s parks and provides recommendations to address these barriers.
- » **Appendix D. Community Engagement Activities** includes individual summaries of numerous community outreach and engagement opportunities.
- » **Appendix E. Underserved Neighborhood and Planned Growth Area Recommendations** summarizes recommendations for new park acquisition and development in underserved neighborhoods and planned growth areas in Gresham. These recommendations directly informed the development of Appendix F, although not all identified recommendations are included in the Gresham Parks 2035 Capital Improvement Project List.
- » **Appendix F. Capital Improvement Project List** presents the planning level cost estimates, site maintenance costs, and cost assumptions for all Gresham Parks 2035 capital projects.
- » **Appendix G. Revenue Projections and Funding Strategy** summarizes Gresham’s current funding sources and anticipated revenues for the park and recreation system, along with a discussion of potential strategies to increase available funding for capital projects and operations and maintenance.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS

Gresham Parks 2035 builds on findings from several previous plans, planning efforts, and studies. It also was developed simultaneously as several other City efforts. This coordination and consultation with other planning efforts is described below.

GRESHAM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2023)

Last updated in August 2023, Gresham's Comprehensive Plan identifies goals, policies, and action measures to guide future decision-making, growth, and development across a wide range of topic areas, including parks and recreation. Gresham Parks 2035 responds to the Comprehensive Plan's long-range goals to align with the community's overarching vision.

PARKS & RECREATION, TRAILS AND NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN (2009)

The 2009 Parks & Recreation, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan established goals, objectives, and recommendations for the maintenance, conservation, and development of high-quality parks, facilities, trails, and natural areas. Gresham Parks 2035 builds on the 2009 Master Plan, while integrating renewed community values and key directions along with recommended improvements that align with broader City goals and priorities, as well as current conditions, opportunities, and challenges.

"Parks and recreation is an essential service that enhances the quality of life in the Gresham community..." —Parks & Recreation, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan

GRESHAM STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-25

The City's Strategic Plan acts as a blueprint to implement the City Council and community's shared vision for the future. Driven by a series of guiding principles, the Strategic Plan focuses City resources on five strategic priorities through 2025, including financial sustainability, community safety, thriving economy, housing for all, and community vibrancy. These guiding principles and strategic priorities act as a foundation for Gresham Parks 2035. The community vibrancy priority is particularly relevant to Gresham Parks 2035 as the primary goal of this topic area is to provide community members and visitors with a wide choice of activities and opportunities to enjoy recreation and nature with an emphasis on celebrating the City's many cultures and neighborhoods.

GRESHAM PARKS CONCEPT PLAN REPORT (2022)

The Gresham Parks Concept Plan Report was developed to identify potential recreation improvements for six undeveloped parks in the city. The central goal of this Report was to help the City explore and better understand costs, maintenance needs, and prioritization of improvements to prepare for future funding opportunities. Through this planning effort, two community parks and four neighborhood parks were identified for future improvements. The sites reviewed included: Southwest Community Park, Southeast Community Park, Columbia View Neighborhood Park, Jenne Butte Neighborhood Park, East Gresham Neighborhood Park, and Southeast Neighborhood Park. Recommendations from this report are incorporated into and refined as part of the Gresham Parks 2035 Plan process. Ongoing and future individual master planning efforts for these sites also will be used to continue to refine the concepts.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY REPORT (2022)

In 2021, the City established the Parks & Recreation Community Advisory Group task force, a group of 30 diverse community members and institutional representatives to evaluate Gresham's Parks & Recreation services and to recommend strategies for improved community outcomes. This summary of their findings revealed untapped community resources that could be leveraged with existing assets and additional funding to make modest improvements to the system. The ultimate goal for this task force and the work they completed was to create a more equitable, accessible, and safe park system for all community members. Strategic guidance and recommendations from this process directly informed the Gresham Parks 2035 planning process.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) TRANSITION PLAN (LAST UPDATED 2024)

To make Gresham more accessible to people with disabilities and a broader range of users, the City adopted the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan in 2020, last updated in 2024. The ADA Transition Plan guides the City in making its buildings, parks, programs, and public right-of-way accessible to all. An ADA Facility Assessment Report was conducted as part of the Gresham Parks 2035 planning process for select park facilities to support the City in fulfilling the requirements of federal civil rights legislation and to support the City's ADA Transition Plan update (Appendix C). An assessment of other parks and trails will be completed in 2026.

CITY OF GRESHAM NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (TBD)

The City of Gresham's Parks Program manages a diverse portfolio of developed parks, trails, sports fields, and natural areas. While the Program maintains an active operations program for developed parks and recreation facilities, it does not currently have a dedicated natural areas management program. Gresham's natural areas are open to the public and provide valuable opportunities for access to nature; however, maintenance activities are limited to addressing safety concerns and essential infrastructure needs, such as responding to hazard trees, repairing failing culverts, and maintaining basic trail access. The City does not perform ecological restoration or active habitat management within these areas. Establishing a formal natural areas management program remains a long-term goal to support ecological health, habitat stewardship, and safe public enjoyment of these spaces. As of 2025, the Gresham Watershed Division is in the process of developing a Natural Areas Master Plan which will provide guidance for some of these areas.

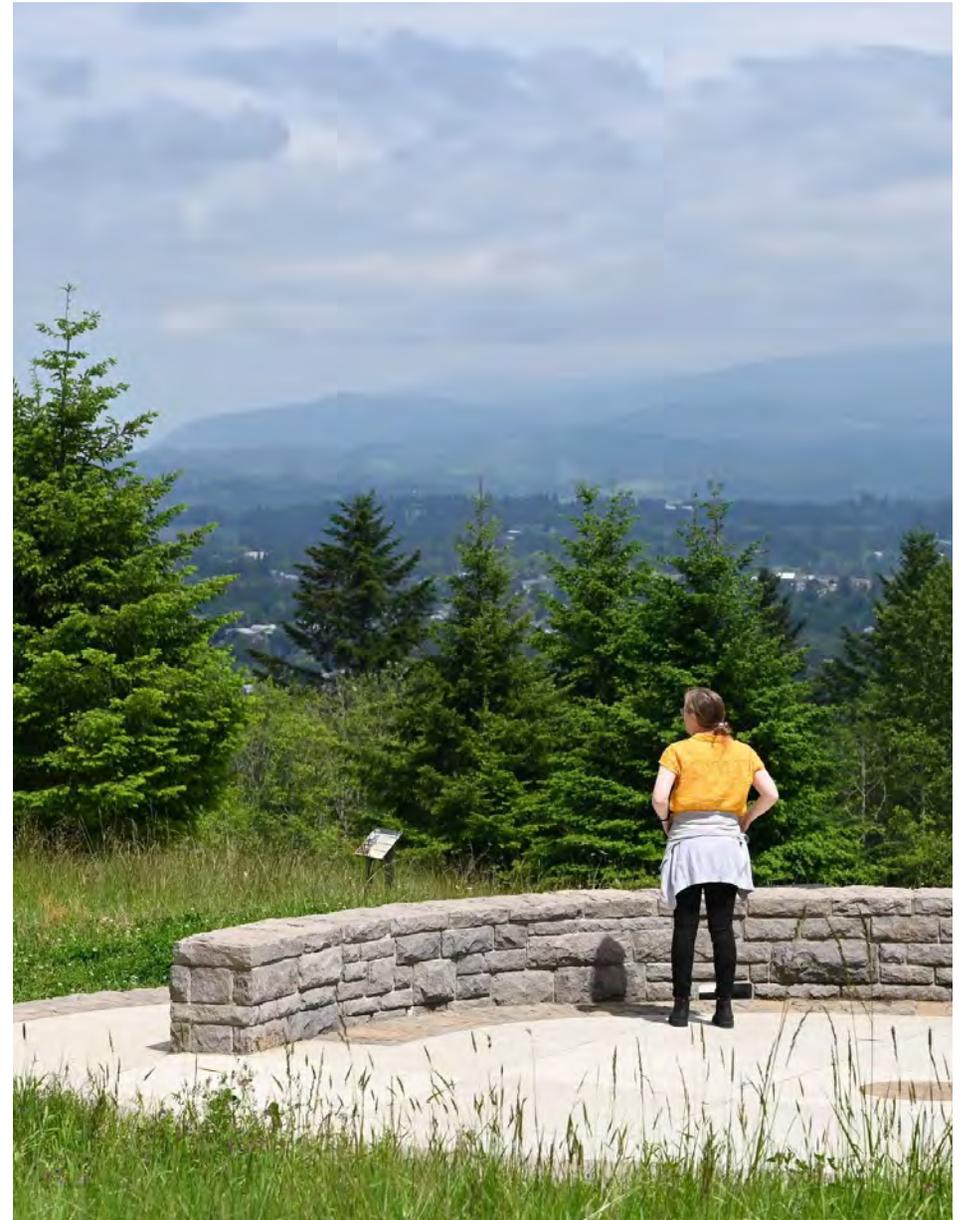


Gabbert Butte Nature Park (Metro)

OTHER RELATED PLANS

In addition to the plans described in detail here, several additional systemwide, specific area, and facility master plans were considered through the planning process.

- » City of Gresham Housing Needs Analysis (2022)
- » City of Gresham Housing Production Strategy (2023)
- » City of Gresham Red Sunset Park Detention CDs (2010)
- » City of Gresham Transportation System Plan (2024-2025)
- » Columbia View Park Path Map and Rendering (2024)
- » Gabbert Butte Nature Park Master Plan (2019)
- » Hogan Butte Environmental Education Center Concept Plan
- » Hogan Butte Nature Park (now Shane T. Bemis Nature Park) and Regner Road Neighborhood Park Master Plan Report (2008)
- » Kirk Park Master Plan (1988)
- » Kirk Park Master plan Revisions (2019)
- » Main City Park Master Plan (2008)
- » Mayor Charles Becker Park Rendering (2017)
- » Nadaka and Nelson Property Master Plan (2010)
- » Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Park (now Piper Ridge Neighborhood Park) Concept Plan
- » Rockwood Central Park Proposed Improvements (2023)
- » Vance Vision Plan (2022)
- » Zimmerman Heritage Farm Master Plan (1999)



Shane T. Bemis Nature Park (GreenWorks)