



CHAPTER 5
RECOMMENDED
PARK AND FACILITY
IMPROVEMENTS

Recommended Park and Facility Improvements

There are many opportunities to improve Gresham's parks, recreation facilities, and trail corridors. This chapter presents a comprehensive set of recommendations for existing and proposed parks and trails to address current and future community needs, enhance park accessibility, and promote equitable recreation opportunities across the system. These recommendations reflect extensive site evaluations, public engagement, other City planning documents and reports, and existing capital projects already identified by the City.

Many of the recommendations included within this chapter likely cannot be implemented within the Gresham Parks 2035 10-year planning horizon due to limited available resources and funding to achieve them all. Therefore, these recommendations should be understood as a long-term wish list for the future. Along with detailed capital cost information, Chapter 6 of this Plan provides a snapshot of the priority projects to advocate for implementation over the next 10 years. Once these projects are completed and as additional funding and resources become available, the Parks Program should turn to the other projects identified in this chapter for implementation in addition to any other projects that may arise as community or City priorities in the next 10 years.

Appendix E, Underserved Neighborhood and Planned Growth Area Recommendations, includes more detailed recommendations for other strategies to meet park and recreation needs in Gresham's underserved neighborhoods.

OVERVIEW AND ORGANIZATION

The site recommendations on the following pages include proposed projects for existing developed parks and trail corridors, undeveloped parks, and proposed parks and trail corridors. Recommendations are organized around the following broad categories of facilities:

- » Existing Developed Parks and Trail Corridors
- » Existing Undeveloped Parks
- » New Parks and Trail Corridors
- » Additional Opportunities in Underserved Areas

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXISTING DEVELOPED PARKS AND TRAIL CORRIDORS

The following section describes recommended improvements to existing developed neighborhood parks, community parks, special use areas, nature parks, and trail corridors.

COMMUNITY PARKS

GRADIN COMMUNITY SPORTS PARK

Gradin Community Sports Park has sports fields, pickleball courts, plaza, dog park, the Gresham Arboretum, accessible playground, restrooms, picnic shelter, food truck stalls with power hookups, basketball and volleyball court, and a large parking lot. Situated along the perimeter of the sports park, the arboretum features a paved path showcasing tree species that thrive in Gresham.

Due to the presence of an existing groundwater well, this park is recommended as a candidate for designation as a disaster-resilient park—a place where the community can gather during emergencies. Additional infrastructure, such as a generator (noted below), would be required to support the well during a disaster.



Gradin Community Sports Park

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Drinking fountain
- » Kiosk
- » Food establishment
- » Wayfinding signage
- » Dog park benches with shade canopy
- » Playground shade structure
- » Cantilevered shade structures over sports court and amenity plaza
- » Arboretum tree species labels
- » Interpretive signage
- » FOB entry system
- » On-site generator for groundwater well
- » Artificial turf fields to replace existing grass soccer fields
- » Artificial turf fields to replace existing grass ball fields
- » New mural on exterior of restroom
- » Trail mile markers
- » Outdoor fitness equipment

MAIN CITY PARK

Gresham Main City Park is located in the heart of downtown Gresham. Spanning over 21 acres, the park serves as a central gathering place for residents and visitors. The park features sports fields, a skate park, and a playground, making it a popular destination for families and outdoor enthusiasts.

A major draw of the park is the Gresham Japanese Garden. The garden showcases traditional Japanese landscaping elements, including stones, a koi pond, and lush greenery, creating a peaceful retreat within the bustling city center. It serves as both a cultural landmark and a cherished spot for quiet contemplation. The Kyouduo Center, Ebetsu Plaza, and Tsuru Island make up the garden and are managed by a non-profit organization, Friends of Gresham Garden. Turu Island is surrounded by water quality sensitive areas (outfall of Thompson Creek into Johnson Creek) necessitating the need and opportunity to design with nature. For this reason, stewards of the site must be cognizant of environmental regulations and necessary water quality standards.

The park provides a trailhead (parking, signage, restrooms) for the adjacent Springwater Corridor Trail, a regional multi-use trail used for walking, jogging, and cycling. Green spaces and picnic areas provide opportunities for gatherings, while community events and local celebrations further underscore the park's role as a cultural and recreational cornerstone of downtown Gresham. Additional park features include a playground, an off-leash dog area, lawn areas, horseshoe pits, two Little League baseball diamonds, Coho Picnic Shelter, and four parking lots.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » 2008 Master Plan update
- » Open lawn area near Powell Boulevard
- » Fully inclusive and accessible destination playground
- » Viewpoint
- » New pedestrian bridge connecting the two existing baseball fields
- » Pathway around skatepark
- » Enhanced slope below skatepark with landscape design
- » Pathway replacement
- » Existing pedestrian bridge replacement at the end of their lifecycles
- » Grass ball field replacement with artificial turf
- » Lighting upgrades and interior lighting
- » Concession and restroom improvements



Japanese Garden at Main City Park

NORTH GRESHAM PARK

North Gresham Park is a 13.4-acre community park next to North Gresham Elementary School in the North Central Neighborhood. It features on-street parking along NW 217th Avenue. The eastern end of the park has a large grove of Douglas Fir trees that are identified on the City's significant tree list. A path loops around the sloped grassy field west of the school and provides connection to SE 214th Avenue. The park also includes a playground, baseball field, soccer field, and open lawn area.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » New multi-use path (ODOT funded and developed)
- » ADA improvements (playground, trails and pathways)



North Gresham Park

PAT PFIEFER PARK

Pat Pfeifer Park is a 13.3-acre community park, the largest in the Rockwood Neighborhood. The park is surrounded mostly by single-family and multi-family housing. The park has a playground, and several sports fields, including two baseball fields and a soccer field. Other amenities include a restroom and a parking lot. Safety concerns have been raised previously at this park. In response, the City has promoted several programs and partnerships to increase active use of the park.

A non-profit organization, Friends of the Children (FOTC), owns and operates a youth service center within the park. FOTC serves youth in the area by empowering those who are facing obstacles through relationships with professional mentors. Their building has a gym, computer room, art room, and instructional kitchen. The indoor space is maintained by the organization, and the City maintains the exterior of the facility, all landscaping, and the park features. FOTC makes the gym and rooms available to use by other community members as well through reservations. The site has a formal shared use agreement for the parking lot.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » ADA improvements (baseball field dugouts, pathways, signage, parking lot, restroom)
- » New restroom and concession building
- » New park lighting installation

RED SUNSET PARK

Red Sunset Park is a 14.2-acre community park in the North Central Neighborhood. The park is surrounded by single-family housing and multi-family housing. The park features a one-acre pond and fountain on the southwest corner of the property. A walking path wraps around the perimeter of the park. Other amenities include picnic shelters, a playground, and two gazebos.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » New 8-unit restroom
- » Basketball court resurfacing
- » ADA improvements (pathways, parking lot, restroom)
- » Replacement of pedestrian bridges at end of lifecycle



Red Sunset Park

ROCKWOOD CENTRAL PARK

Rockwood Central Park is a 9.4-acre park in the Rockwood Neighborhood with a nine-hole disc golf course, basketball court, play area, soccer and softball fields, picnic tables, community garden, and a restroom.

The disc golf course is Oregon's first disc golf course established in 1979. The historic 9-hole course is located on the west side of the park. It features concrete tee pads and Silver Mach 2 targets, set within a flat, grassy park adorned with tall conifer trees. The parking area is currently on the south side of the park along SE Main Street. The current parking configuration requires visitors to back out onto a busy street when leaving the park. Access from the parking area to the main pathways in the park does not meet ADA requirements. Capital improvements to the frontage of the park are planned for SE Main Street, which is identified as a project in Gresham's Transportation System Plan (TSP). SE Main Street will be classified as a Gresham Greenway based on the Bicycle System Plan in the TSP.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Picnic shelter near old baseball diamond
- » Monument near disc golf to commemorate the course's historical significance as the first disc golf course in Oregon
- » Safety signs near disc golf course to improve visitor awareness and minimize risks
- » ADA improvements (disc golf course pathway, playground, other pathways, parking lot, restroom)

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

ASPEN HIGHLANDS PARK

Aspen Highlands Park is a 3.7-acre neighborhood park next to Highland Elementary School in the North Central Neighborhood. It is surrounded by single-family housing. Mature trees shade most of the park. The major trail loops around the park and connects to the parking lot at Highland Elementary as well as to SE Main Street. Two new pickleball courts, picnic tables, benches, drinking fountain, and planting areas with irrigation were constructed in 2024. This site is informally used as a dog park.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » New two-unit restroom
- » New community garden
- » New off-leash dog park



Pickleball Courts at Aspen Highlands Park

BELLA VISTA PARK

Bella Vista Park is an 8.1-acre neighborhood park located in the Northwest Neighborhood. It is one of the first parks built in Gresham, and it was opened to the public in 1975. The park is surrounded by single-family housing and has multiple access points connecting to surrounding local roads. The Northwest Neighborhood Association (NWA) adopted this park through the former City's Adopt-A-Park program, and the neighbors have since helped with maintaining the park. Major features include a basketball half-court and playgrounds. The park is not intended to be used as an off-leash dog area, but it is popular with dog walkers.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » ADA improvements (Playground ramp, pathways, trail sign)
- » New off-leash dog park
- » New two-unit restroom
- » New picnic shelter

BUTLER CREEK PARK

Butler Creek Park is an approximately 4-acre neighborhood park in the Southwest Neighborhood. The park is surrounded by single-family housing and is bounded by Bear Creek on the west side and by Butler Creek on the east. The park has a single asphalt pathway loop around the park with trail connections to Butler Creek Greenway Trail, the adjacent Butler Creek Reservoir, and Binford Reservoir.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » New two-unit restroom
- » New picnic shelter
- » Playground equipment replacement
- » Pedestrian bridge replacement at the end of their lifecycle

CEDAR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Cedar Neighborhood Park is a 0.3-acre neighborhood park in the Central City Neighborhood next to the TriMet parking structure and across from the Multnomah County Building. The park is in the Downtown Transit Mid-Rise Zone with easy access to buses and MAX light rail. Park amenities include picnic tables and benches.

While the park requires regular maintenance, no new facilities, replacements, or enhancements are recommended.

DAVIS PARK

Davis Park is a 2.6-acre neighborhood park next to Davis Elementary School in the Rockwood Neighborhood. It has open lawn areas with pathways to a futsal court, skatepark, half-court basketball area, playground, and picnic tables. A new traffic playground – a kid-size version of real streets to provide a safe place to walk, bike, and roll – was also installed in 2024. Several trees were also planted in collaboration with Friends of Trees and Multnomah County. The park experiences some level of vandalism as graffiti can be seen on picnic tables, the futsal court, light poles, and trash cans. The park sign is scratched as well. The park requires regular maintenance due to vandalism.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Park sign repairs

HALL PARK

Hall Park is an approximately 4-acre neighborhood park in Gresham's Northeast Neighborhood, next to Hall Elementary School. The park is surrounded by mostly single-family housing. It features a soft-surfaced jogging path around its perimeter, soccer and softball fields, expansive green lawns, and benches for seating. To the north is a large green open space owned by Legacy Health.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » ADA improvements (trails and pathways)
- » New playground

HOLLYBROOK PARK

Hollybrook Park is a 4.8-acre neighborhood park located next to Hollybrook Elementary School in Gresham's Hollybrook Neighborhood. It is surrounded by single-family housing with major access at SW Birdsdale Drive and SW Riverview Avenue. The parking lot is shared with the school. Once a commercial holly farm, the park retains several rows of mature holly trees. It features a large lawn, soccer field, numerous trees, and a perimeter walking path.

While the park requires regular maintenance, no new facilities, replacements, or enhancements are recommended.

JOHN DEERE FIELD

John Deere Field is a 7-acre neighborhood park with sports fields. The park is located in the North Gresham neighborhood within a general industrial zone. It is surrounded by industrial buildings and has an abandoned railroad track north of the field. In addition to a few trees, the park contains two soccer fields and a cricket field, both non-irrigated.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

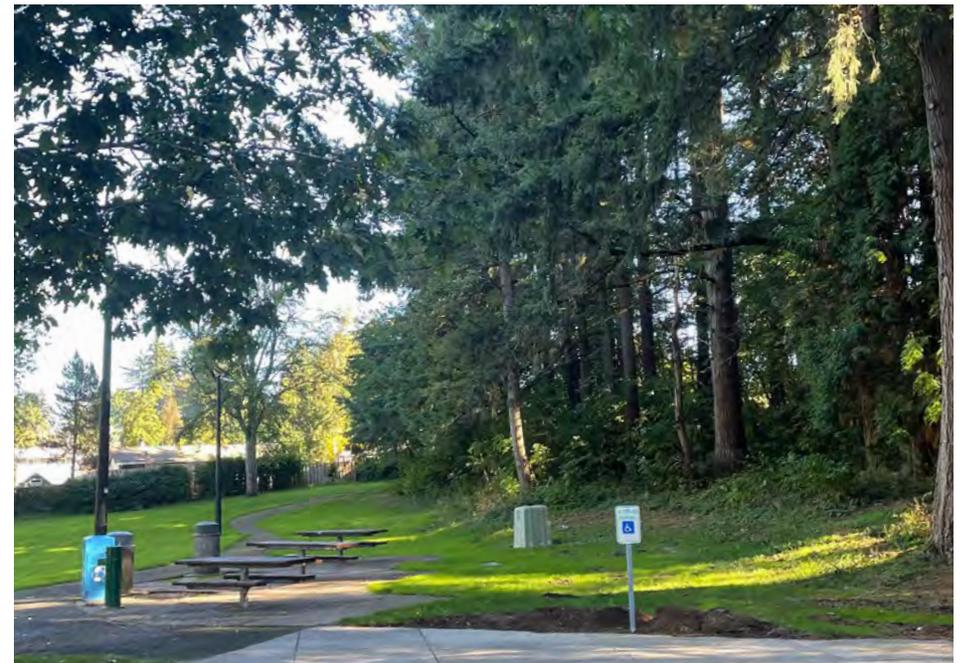
- » Park master plan development to determine how best to enhance this park in the future to serve surrounding businesses and workers.

KANE ROAD PARK

Kane Road Park is a 10.3-acre neighborhood park in the Powell Valley Neighborhood on NE Kane Drive. The neighborhood is comprised of mostly single-family and multifamily housing. The park is a densely forested area with Kelly Creek running through the park. The open lawn area and the playground are close to the parking lot. Fire Station #72 is located within the park by the entrance west of the park's parking lot area.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Pathway replacement
- » Playground equipment replacement



Kane Road Park

KIRK PARK

Kirk Park is a 7-acre neighborhood park located adjacent to Hartley Elementary School in Gresham's North Gresham Neighborhood. The park is surrounded by single-family housing, with a single path connecting NE Multnomah Street and NE 188th Avenue. Outside of Kirk Park and Hartley Elementary, there are no community gathering spaces in the neighborhood. The park features a blend of tall trees, a playground, open lawn, and sports fields—including a ball field and soccer field. In 2020, the North Gresham Neighborhood Association raised funds to purchase and install an inclusive multi-user swing and sensory panels for the playground.

While the park requires regular maintenance, no new facilities, replacements, or enhancements are recommended.

MAYOR CHARLES BECKER PARK

Mayor Charles Becker Park is a 1.7-acre neighborhood park located in the Gresham Pleasant Valley Neighborhood. It includes amenities and facilities such as open lawns, a half-court basketball court, playground, and picnic shelter. The park was developed by the City of Gresham, and the accompanying trail was constructed by a private developer, as required by the City, to support access for the surrounding residential development.

While the park requires regular maintenance, no new facilities, replacements, or enhancements are recommended.

NADAKA NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Nadaka Nature Park is located in the Wilkes East Neighborhood on NE Glisan Street. It is divided into a neighborhood park and nature park. The neighborhood park consists of 1.9 acres featuring nature-based play structures, a community garden, picnic shelter, and restroom. The Nature Parks section later in this chapter includes site recommendations for the forested area of the park.

The park currently attracts unhoused individuals, and homeless use has been reported at the water pump in the sand play area and the shelter area. The parking lot is currently shared with St. Aidan's Episcopal Church through a formal agreement.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » ADA improvements (trails and pathways)
- » Restroom replacement/upgrades
- » Playground replacement/upgrades
- » Siting of new facilities and maintenance that incorporates Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.



Nadaka Neighborhood Park

THOM PARK

Thom Park is a 5.5-acre neighborhood park in the Historic Southeast Neighborhood. The park is next to East Gresham Elementary and Dexter McCarthy Middle School, across Thom Creek via a pedestrian bridge. Amenities include a playground, picnic area, community garden, and a lawn on the west end.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Playground equipment replacement
- » Pedestrian bridge replacement at end of its lifecycle
- » ADA improvements

YAMHILL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Yamhill Neighborhood Park is a 0.6-acre park in the Rockwood Neighborhood, located next to the Yamhill Housing Early Head Start facility. Amenities include a half basketball court, community garden, playground, and picnic tables.

While the park requires regular maintenance, no new facilities, replacements, or enhancements are recommended.



Yamhill Neighborhood Park

VANCE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Vance Neighborhood Park is an approximately 16-acre park in the Rockwood Neighborhood. This partially forested park is owned by Multnomah County and maintained and operated by the City of Gresham. The park features a futsal court, playground, disc golf course, softball and soccer fields, and a restroom. Unauthorized camping, drug use, and vandalism are frequent challenges at this park, requiring regular maintenance.

Since 2017, a significant amount of effort has been put into re-envisioning 90 acres of Multnomah County-owned land in this area, which includes Vance Neighborhood Park. In 2022, the Vance Vision Plan was completed to guide the transformation of the properties into an enhanced and expanded neighborhood that will better serve the surrounding historically underserved community. The plan proposes a significant expansion of the park to the east, towards the existing gravel pit and 190th Avenue, increasing the park's size from 16-acres to more than 44-acres in the future. For more detailed information, refer to the Vance Vision Plan 2022. A number of these recommendations are not included here, since project planning is still in progress and some elements of the project are anticipated to begin after the 10-year planning horizon for Gresham Parks 2035.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » New basketball courts
- » New open turf areas
- » New playground

PIPER RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Piper Ridge Neighborhood Park is a 2.1-acre neighborhood park located in the Piper Ridge Subdivision within the Pleasant Valley area. The neighborhood park is under development and is planned to include a walking path around the perimeter of the site, open space, active lawn areas, picnic area, dog park, playground, and general use shelter.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Open turf areas
- » Picnic area
- » Playground
- » Pathways around the site
- » Off-leash dog park
- » General use shelter

SPECIAL USE AREAS

ARTS PLAZA

Arts Plaza is located in the heart of historic downtown Gresham. It is a popular open-air community venue for summer concerts and events featuring high quality design and amenities, such as splash pads and art pillars. The park also has lawn areas, benches, shade structures, and restrooms.

While the park requires regular maintenance, no new facilities, replacements, or enhancements are recommended.

CITY HALL COMMUNITY GARDEN

The City Hall Community Garden includes a community garden near the MAX (Metropolitan Area Express Light Rail) tracks across the parking lot from the Gresham Civic Center. The site benefits from a high level of visibility, perceived safety, and easy access.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » New formal site identification signage

LINNEMANN STATION TRAILHEAD

The Linneman Station Trailhead is a small access point to the Springwater Trail, featuring the original train station building and an adjacent parking lot. The site presents future opportunities for public-private partnerships, such as a small café or bakery that could activate the space and serve trail users. Additionally, collaboration with the Gresham Historical Society and the 40-Mile Loop Land Trust could help celebrate the site's heritage and enhance its identity within the regional trail network.

While the site requires ongoing maintenance — particularly addressing vandalism of the drinking fountain on the west side of the building — no major facility replacements or enhancements are currently recommended.



Historic Zimmerman House at Zimmerman House Park

ZIMMERMAN HOUSE PARK

Zimmerman House Park is an approximately 6-acre remnant parcel of the once 600+ acre Zimmerman Dairy Farm, a good example of a restored 1900's Columbia River dairy farm. The Zimmerman House is on the National Register of Historic Places. As the site continues to be evaluated, there is potential to expand its community value by introducing a community garden. Such a use would honor the agricultural heritage of the Zimmerman property while providing hands-on educational and recreational opportunities for residents. A community garden or small-scale demonstration farm could complement the historic character of the site, foster local stewardship, and serve as a unique public amenity within Gresham's park system.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Update of the 1999 Master Plan to reevaluate current uses, explore additional opportunities for the site, and identify community priorities.
- » New community garden

NATURE PARKS

NADAKA NATURE PARK

The Nadaka Nature Park forested area consists of 9.7 acres of forest with an extensive trail system. Homeless use is reported in the forested areas of the park.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Existing trail repairs

SHANE T. BEMIS NATURE PARK

Shane T. Bemis Nature Park is a 52-acre nature park on top of Hogan Butte in the Gresham Butte Neighborhood. The park was renamed Shane T. Bemis Park in 2025, in honor of the former Gresham mayor. The site is part of the Boring Lava Field and “East Buttes,” a cluster of buttes stretching from southeast Portland to Damascus. At the top elevation of 930 feet, the “Volcanic Viewpoint” offers a panoramic view of Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Adams, Mt. Rainier, the Columbia River Gorge, and the City of Gresham. The Clackamas tribe once used Hogan Butte’s nearby Johnson Creek watershed for fishing and hunting. Eli Hogan, a turn-of-the-century pioneer, forested land from the butte that formerly bore his name. Wood harvested from Hogan Butte’s forests helped build Mt. Tabor’s reservoirs in Portland from 1894–1911.

The historic Brite House sits at the base of Shane T. Bemis Nature Park. Built in 1928, it was once a Prohibition-era speakeasy. The park also features educational panels and kiosks throughout the site to share its history with visitors.

Hogan Butte is also a thriving habitat for a diverse array of wildlife, including red-tail hawk, deer, fox, and bobcat, making the park a vibrant sanctuary for wildlife in the region.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Improvements to the historic Brite House as a nature education center, including structural upgrades and a teaching greenhouse.



Shane T. Bemis Nature Park

TRAIL CORRIDORS

BUTLER CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL

Located in southwest Gresham along scenic Butler Creek, the soft-surfaced trail was initially constructed in 1987 by volunteers. The 2.3-mile Butler Creek Greenway Trail continues north from Butler Creek Park and connects with the Springwater Corridor Trail. The trail is owned and managed by the City of Gresham.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Planned trail development (Gresham Parks Program, 0.7 miles)

BUTLER BUTTE TRAIL

This approximately one-mile soft-surface trail provides access to Gabbert and Butler Buttes. It is owned and managed by the City of Gresham.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Planned trail development (Gresham Parks Program, 0.3 miles)

EAST BUTTES POWER LINE CORRIDOR TRAIL

The East Buttes Powerline Trail connects to the Springwater Trail Corridor and follows a powerline corridor over Jenne Butte and down into Happy Valley and the Clackamas River. The trail is owned and managed by the City of Gresham.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Planned trail development (Gresham Parks Program, 2.3 miles)

GRESHAM/FAIRVIEW TRAIL

The Gresham-Fairview Trail is a paved 3.3 mile trail that provides access from the Springwater Trail to Northeast Halsey Street at 201st Avenue. It includes a pedestrian bridge over Powell Blvd and is used for walking, bicycling, jogging and skateboarding, as well by wheelchair users. It is owned and managed by the City of Gresham.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Planned trail development (Gresham Environmental Services Department or Transportation Division, 1.8 miles)

HOGAN BUTTE TRAILS

This approximately half-mile paved trail connects the parking area in Shane T. Bemis Nature Park to the top of Hogan Butte, providing outstanding view of the surrounding area and access to a gathering space at the top of the butte.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Planned trail development (Gresham Parks Program, 0.6 miles)

KELLY CREEK TRAIL

This soft-surfaced 0.75-mile trail is located in the Kelly Creek Natural Area, a dense forest of Western Red Cedars and mixed-Deciduous trees in southeast Gresham. The existing trail is owned and managed by the City of Gresham.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Planned trail development (Gresham Parks Program, 1.3 miles)



Kelly Creek Trail

GRESHAM BUTTE TRAIL

This 1.24-mile gravel trail was constructed on a former logging road in 1998 and is set in an upland forest setting and crosses several small stream tributaries. It is accessed from SW 19th Drive at Towle Avenue and Regner Road. It is owned and managed by the City of Gresham.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Planned trail development (Gresham Parks Program, 4.2 miles)

SE HOGAN ROAD PATH

This short (0.1 mile) concrete pathway parallels Hogan Road along the southern edge of the city in the Gresham Butte neighborhood. It is owned and managed by the City of Gresham.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Planned trail development (Gresham Environmental Services Department or Transportation Division, 2.6 miles).

SPRINGWATER CORRIDOR TRAIL

A 5.2-mile portion of the Springwater Corridor Trail is located in the City of Gresham, providing access to the full Springwater Corridor Trail which stretches from the Willamette River in Portland on the west to the City of Boring on the east. This paved trail is heavily used by a wide variety of users for walking, hiking, jogging, cycling, picnicking, bird- and animal-watching and horseback riding. It is owned by the City of Portland and maintained by the City of Gresham within the Gresham city limits. There are currently no planned trail extensions.

TROUTDALE TO GRESHAM TRAIL

The Troutdale to Gresham Trail is adopted as part of the Transportation System Plan (TSP) and is a proposed north/south multi-use corridor aligned along 282nd Avenue in Gresham and north along Troutdale Road to the Sandy River.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Planned trail development (Metro, 2.2 miles)

WY 'EAST WAY PATH

This 2-mile long, 12-foot wide multi-use trail runs along the MAX light rail line from the Ruby Junction Station in Rockwood to the Cleveland Station in historic downtown Gresham. This paved path connects with both the Springwater and Gresham-Fairview trails to make a 6-mile loop through Gresham. It is owned and managed by the City of Gresham.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Planned trail development (Gresham Environmental Services Department or Transportation Division, 0.6 miles)

[Troutdale to Gresham Trail Alignment Study, 2016 \(Metro\)](#)



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNDEVELOPED PARKS

Gresham's existing undeveloped parks include community parks, neighborhood parks, and a nature park. Each site has a recent master plan or concept plan that inform proposed site recommendations. Development of all undeveloped sites should align with the Gresham Parks 2035 core values of access, equity, and safety. Concept plans for Southeast Community Park, Southwest Community Park, Columbia View Park, East Gresham Park, Jenne Butte Park, and Southeast Neighborhood Park were completed in 2020. More detailed site planning for Southeast and Southwest Community Parks is currently underway. The Gabbert Butte Nature Park Master Plan was completed by Metro and City of Gresham in 2019.

SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Southeast Neighborhood Park is a 6.5-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the Kelly Creek Neighborhood. It is heavily forested, with wetlands on site.

The concept plan concentrates new facilities and future park features near the park's primary entrance at the eastern end of the site to minimize impacts on natural habitat. Main proposed features include a nature play area, open lawn area, picnic shelter, and wetland viewpoint.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Open lawn area near primary access point
- » Picnic shelter west of the open lawn area
- » Nature-inspired play area
- » Wetland viewpoint in the center of the site
- » Park entrance and trail signage
- » Existing natural area enhancements based on existing habitat types



Southeast Neighborhood Park (Undeveloped)

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY PARK

Southeast Community Park is a 15.7-acre undeveloped park in the Kelly Creek Neighborhood. The park contains Kelly Creek, a wetland, steep rolling slopes, and riparian forest. In 2020, the City of Gresham facilitated a robust public engagement process, resulting in the creation of a concept plan for the park.

The concept plan concentrates new facilities and future park features in the existing upland meadow zone along the western edge of the site. The primary access will be located on the northwest corner, and the secondary access is proposed for the south side of the site. The main trail network will connect the two access areas with an accessible path. Accessible crushed rock trails will meander along the western edge of the riparian area and through a proposed grove of oaks. A viewpoint proposed for the western edge of the site provides views of mountains and buttes to the east.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Open lawn
- » Picnic shelter
- » Nature-inspired play area
- » Sports court
- » Community garden
- » Dog park
- » Viewpoint
- » Trails and pathways for access throughout the park
- » Parking lot
- » Restroom
- » Park entrance and trail signage
- » Existing natural area enhancements based on existing habitat types



Southeast Community Park (Undeveloped)

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY PARK

Southwest Community Park is a 42-acre undeveloped park in the Centennial Neighborhood. The site is partially wooded and slopes east towards 19 acres of the Fairview Creek Headwaters. Views include Grant and Jenne buttes and Mount St. Helens. The park contains a large Western Red Cedar/Mixed Tree grove and a Douglas Fir grove, both of which are identified on the City's significant tree list.

The concept plan concentrates new facilities and proposed features in the existing meadow zone along the northern edge of the site. The primary entrance will be on the south corner of the site. The main trail network will connect the parking lot to multiple secondary access points with accessible crushed rock trails that will meander through the existing conifer forest. A dog park and community garden are proposed near the north secondary access point and away from the main area of the park to reduce potential user conflicts. A viewpoint in the northeast corner of the site will provide views of the valley while a wetland viewpoint will provide ample bird watching opportunities.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Open lawn area in the northwest area
- » Picnic shelter north of the nature play area
- » Nature-inspired play area
- » Sports court
- » Community garden
- » Dog park
- » Viewpoint
- » Trail and pathways for access throughout park
- » Parking lot
- » Restroom near nature play area
- » Park entrance and trail signage
- » Existing natural area enhancements

Southwest Community Park (Undeveloped)



COLUMBIA VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Columbia View Park is a 7.5-acre undeveloped neighborhood park next to H.B. Lee Middle School in the Wilkes Neighborhood. The natural area features a large, sloping, grassy field and a forested area.

The concept plan concentrates activities and proposed features outside of the tree canopy area. The primary access point is planned for the northwest corner of the site. The proposed nature play area and sports courts will be located close to the primary entrance for ease of access. The trail network is proposed as an accessible path loop around the park along with an accessible crushed rock trail meandering through the trees. A path will also connect NE Hassalo Street to NE 172 Avenue.

A viewpoint in the northwestern corner of the site will provide views towards the Columbia River Gorge. The picnic shelter and dog park are proposed close to a secondary entrance to separate the two heavy-use areas and community garden. Lastly, a second picnic shelter is proposed in the southern lawn area close to the eastern secondary access point to provide neighbors with easy access, and to gather the most sunlight.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Basketball courts
- » Picnic shelter
- » Nature-inspired play area
- » Community garden
- » Dog park
- » Viewpoint
- » Trails and pathways
- » Park entrance and trail signage
- » Existing natural area enhancements based on existing habitat types



Columbia View Neighborhood Park (Undeveloped)

EAST GRESHAM NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

East Gresham Park is a 7.3-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the Powell Valley Neighborhood. This site features a heavily forested natural area, with the northeast fork of Kelly Creek running through its western edge. The concept plan emphasizes low-impact recreation and nature-based features within the existing forest. The primary entrance will be located at the eastern end of the site, while a secondary access point on the southern edge will provide entry to a nature play area and picnic shelters—set back from the main trails to offer a quiet, contemplative walking experience. The main trail network will consist of accessible crushed rock paths, with bike routes running along the northern edge of the forest, separate from pedestrian trails. Additional secondary access points at the northwest corner of the site will create clear trail connections across the site. The Powell Valley Neighborhood Association has demonstrated ongoing stewardship through annual volunteer work parties, reflecting strong community support for the park’s development.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Three picnic shelters east of nature play area
- » Nature-inspired play area
- » Trails and pathways for access throughout park
- » Park entrance and trail signage

JENNE BUTTE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Jenne Butte Park is an 11-acre undeveloped neighborhood park in the Southwest Neighborhood. The site includes significant springs, wetlands, and the Jenne Creek headwaters at the park. The concept plan concentrates activities and proposed features outside of the wetland area. The primary access point is proposed at the northern end of the site in close proximity to a nature play area, community garden, and dog park. The trail network will include paths connecting to multiple neighborhood access points and accessible crushed rock trails meandering around the edge of the wetland. A viewpoint in the northeastern corner of the site will provide views of the wetland and Jenne Butte. The picnic shelter and dog park are proposed in the hillside meadow to bring heavy visitation farther from the wetland. Due to planned future development to the south, an additional primary access point is proposed along the southern edge of the park.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

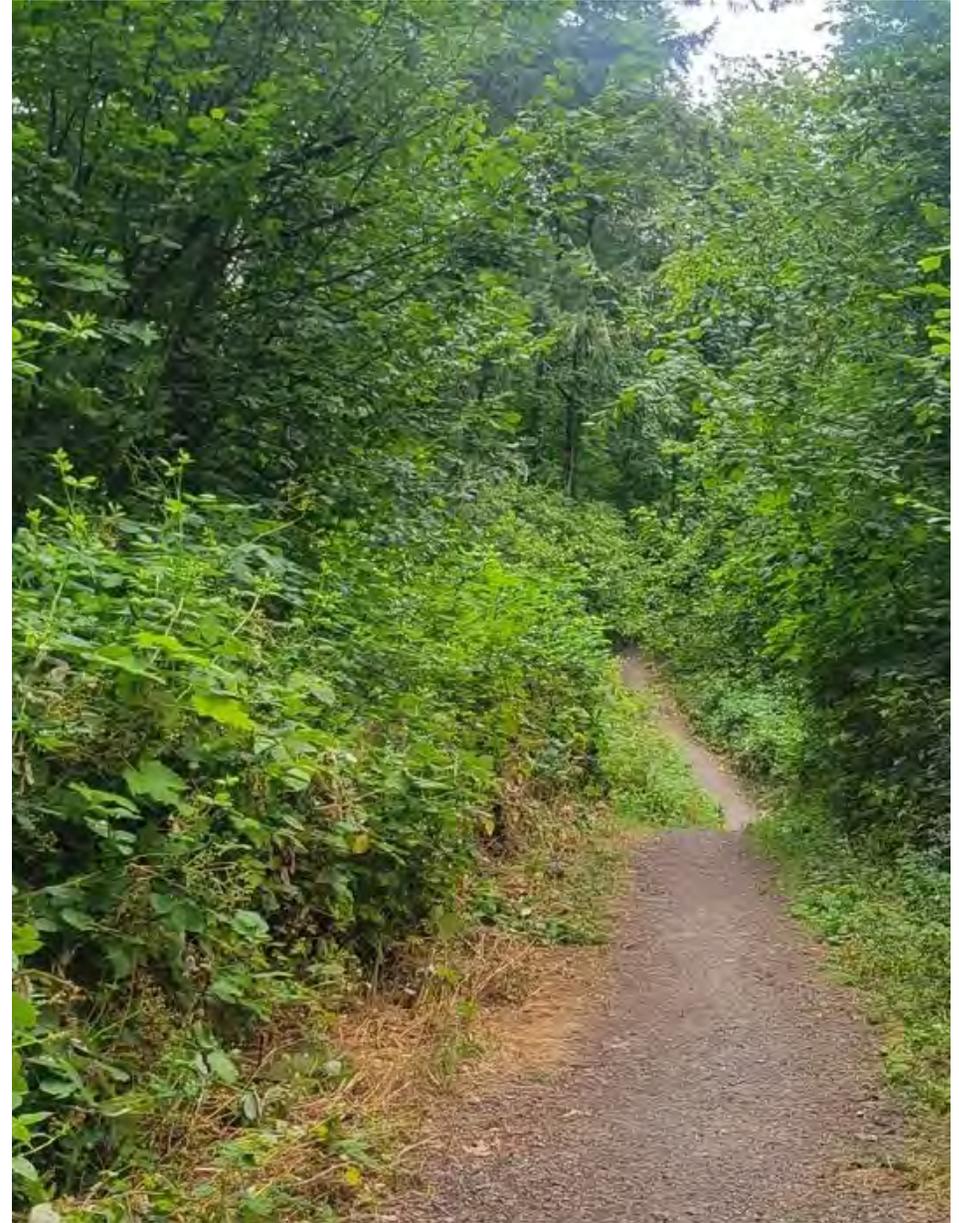
- » Picnic shelter on the northeast corner of the property
- » Nature-inspired play area
- » Community garden north of the nature play area
- » Dog park on the eastern edge of the property
- » Viewpoint at the northeast corner of the property
- » Wetland viewpoint on the south side near the wetland
- » Trails and pathways for access throughout the park
- » Park entrance and trail signage

GABBERT BUTTE NATURE PARK

Located in the Gresham Butte Neighborhood and co-owned with Metro, Gabbert Butte is one of six buttes within Gresham city limits. At over 200 acres, the site is surrounded by residential neighborhoods to the east and west, and natural areas to the north and south. Big leaf maple, Douglas-fir trees, and songbirds greet visitors to the site. Native wildflowers abound in spring. Gabbert Butte offers opportunities to connect with nature in a place that supports clean water and healthy wildlife habitat. Gabbert Butte Nature Park's master plan was adopted in 2019.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Information kiosk
- » Story circle for flexible gathering place
- » Two picnic shelters
- » Trails and pathways including a mix of day use access loop trails and family friendly multi-use trails designed to be used by hikers and off-road cyclists
- » Park entrance and trail signage
- » Restroom



Gabbert Butte Nature Park (Undeveloped) (AllTrails)

PROPOSED NEW PARKS, FACILITIES, AND TRAIL CORRIDORS

This section describes proposed new parks, facilities, and trail corridors to better serve Gresham's underserved neighborhoods and planned growth areas.

EXISTING UNDERSERVED NEIGHBORHOODS

The City of Gresham is home to 16 diverse neighborhoods, each with their own opportunities and challenges relating to parks and recreation. As described in Chapter 3 and Appendices B and D, several neighborhoods in Gresham lack access to neighborhood or community parks within a 10-minute walk. As a result, these areas lack easily accessible city-managed recreation facilities and amenities such as play areas, picnic shelters, gathering spaces, and other facilities identified as priorities by participants in community engagement activities. Chapter 3 and Appendices B and D also highlight areas of the city that lack regional and community connectivity via regional and community trails within a 10-minute walk, which is another priority identified by engagement efforts. To access these park and recreation opportunities, some community members are required to travel to other better served neighborhoods in the city.

There are multiple opportunities to address park and recreation needs in existing underserved neighborhoods. Opportunities to be further evaluated and potentially implemented during the Gresham Parks 2035 10-year planning horizon are highlighted in the recommendations below. More detailed neighborhood-specific recommendations for each of Gresham's existing underserved neighborhoods can be found in Appendix E, although not all recommendations are anticipated to be feasible during the planning period. Rather, they should be used to identify locations for the following recommendations as resources and funding are available.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DEVELOPMENT

Although five existing underserved neighborhoods would benefit from the development of a neighborhood park, available funding and resources are limited for the 10-year planning horizon. In addition, there are relatively few vacant sites in most of these areas that are large enough and available for development as future neighborhood parks. Of the five underserved neighborhoods with low or moderate park access and no existing undeveloped park sites, the Centennial and North Gresham neighborhoods appear to have the greatest opportunity for the acquisition and development of a neighborhood park due to potentially available vacant land in this area. These neighborhoods also have high social vulnerability, population density, and low tree canopy. Beyond these neighborhoods, the Pleasant Valley neighborhood is also prime for future acquisition and development.

For this reason, Gresham Parks 2035 recommends acquiring and developing at least one 5-acre neighborhood park in one of these underserved neighborhoods to support play, active recreation, social gatherings, and greenspace. If funding allows for development of additional parks in other underserved areas and sites are available in those areas in the future, additional parks could be developed beyond the planning horizon of this Plan.

Recognizing that the City lacks the available funding and resources to acquire and develop new parks in each of Gresham's underserved neighborhoods, Gresham Parks 2035 also recommends exploring opportunities to enhance existing City-owned properties such as easements and natural areas where feasible. Potential examples include modest natural area enhancements, landscaping improvements, and addition of limited amenities (e.g. benches, picnic tables, signage, etc.) to create additional recreation properties without necessitating acquisition of additional land or the development of a new park, both of which require extensive funding and resources.

SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » The acquisition and development of one new neighborhood park in an underserved neighborhood.
- » The enhancement and development of one to two City-owned properties with modest natural area enhancements, landscaping improvements, and/or addition of limited amenities (e.g. benches, picnic tables, signage, etc.).
- » If land or funding becomes available or an appropriate property is donated to the City, additional parks could be developed in high-need gap areas but are unlikely to occur within the horizon of this Plan (see Appendix E).

PARK CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Gresham Parks 2035 park and trail access analyses and mapping efforts summarized in Chapter 3 revealed that many sites lack safe pedestrian access routes, largely due to existing sidewalk gaps and the location next to arterial roads. For this reason, the Parks Program should coordinate with the Gresham Transportation Division and advocate for reducing gaps in the City's sidewalk system and adding signalized pedestrian crossings, particularly along arterial streets, to expand safe pedestrian access to parks. Specific sites for these improvements should be determined through additional analysis and further coordination with the City's Transportation Division. Preliminary analysis conducted for this planning process indicated the need for such improvements in vicinity of the following parks:

- » North Gresham Park;
- » Kane Road Park;
- » Piper Ridge Neighborhood Park; and
- » Southwest Community Park.

PROPOSED NEW TRAIL CORRIDORS

Gresham Parks 2035 trail access analyses and mapping combined with community outreach feedback revealed the need and desire for expanded regional and community connectivity. Therefore, in addition to the extension of existing trail corridors, Gresham Parks 2035 proposes the development of the following new trail corridors:

- » Columbia Slough Trail (North Gresham Neighborhood, US Flood Safety Water District, 0.7 miles);
- » Grant Butte Trail (Centennial Neighborhood, Metro or Gresham Parks Program, length to be determined);
- » Jenne Butte Trails (Southwest Neighborhood, Gresham Parks Program, 1.9 miles); and
- » Marine Drive Trail (North Gresham Neighborhood, Gresham Parks Program, 1.9 miles).

The development of additional regional and community trail corridors should be explored if funding allows. Development of trails and paths are also proposed in each of Gresham's planned growth areas as noted in the next section.

[Marine Drive Trail \(Oregon Live\)](#)

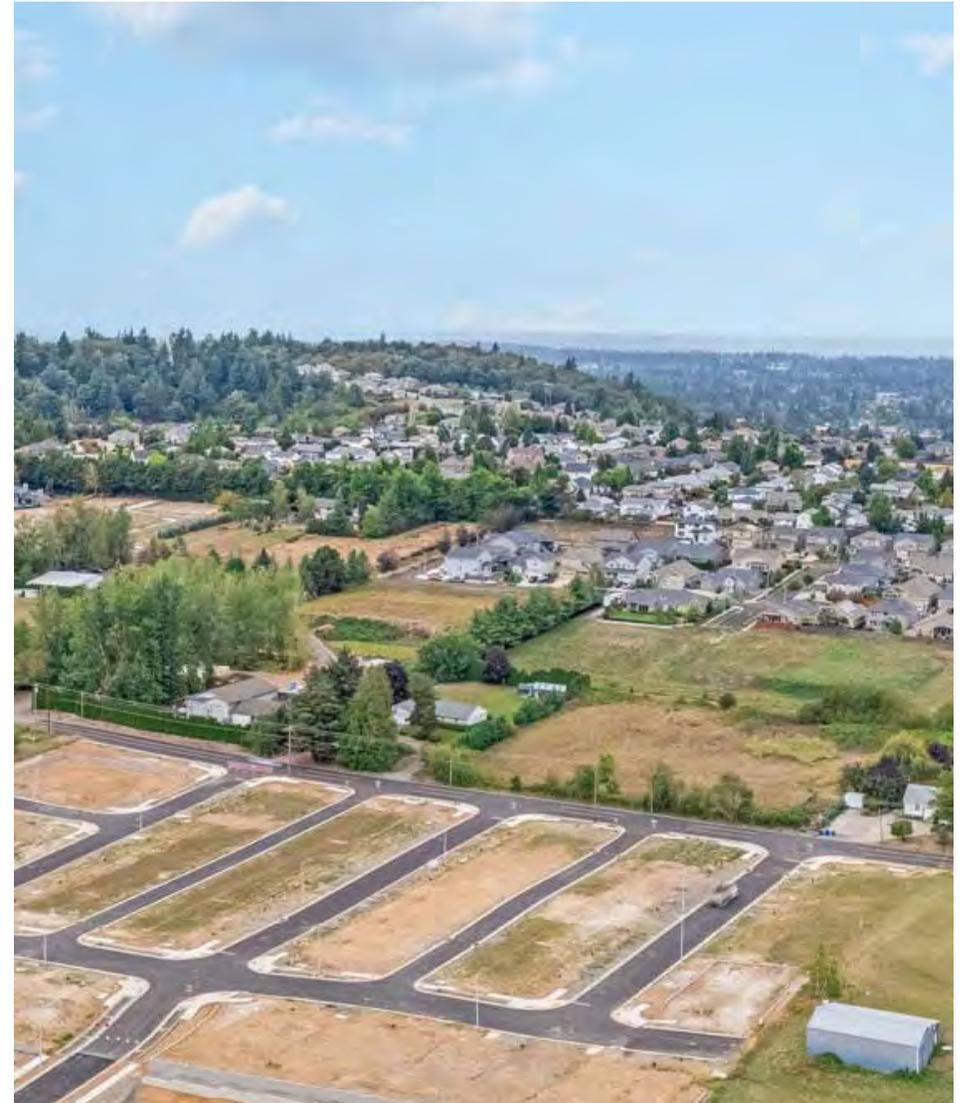


NEEDED NEW PARKS, TRAILS, AND PATHS IN PLANNED GROWTH AREAS

The City of Gresham includes three planning areas that are expected to accommodate future growth and development. These areas include:

- » Pleasant Valley Plan District Area
- » Springwater Plan Area
- » Kelley Creek Headwaters Plan Area

The City has developed concept plans for each of these areas that identify needs for future parks and trails, some of which have already been developed as new growth and development has occurred. The sections below summarize recommendations for each planned growth area. Appendix E includes more information about each of the planning areas, completed park development to date, and planned park and trail development to accommodate future growth.



Pleasant Valley (DR Horton)

PLEASANT VALLEY PLAN DISTRICT AREA

The Pleasant Valley Plan District Area is a 1,532-acre area that has been partially annexed into southwest Gresham. The Pleasant Valley Plan District (the District) was created in 2004 and last updated in 2025. The District is imagined as a new, urban community that supports a quality environment and a unique sense of place. To achieve this vision, the District's implementation includes compact mixed-use neighborhoods, a town center, neighborhood edges and centers, parks, trails, multimodal transportation options, pedestrian friendly urban design, and integration of the area's diverse natural resources.

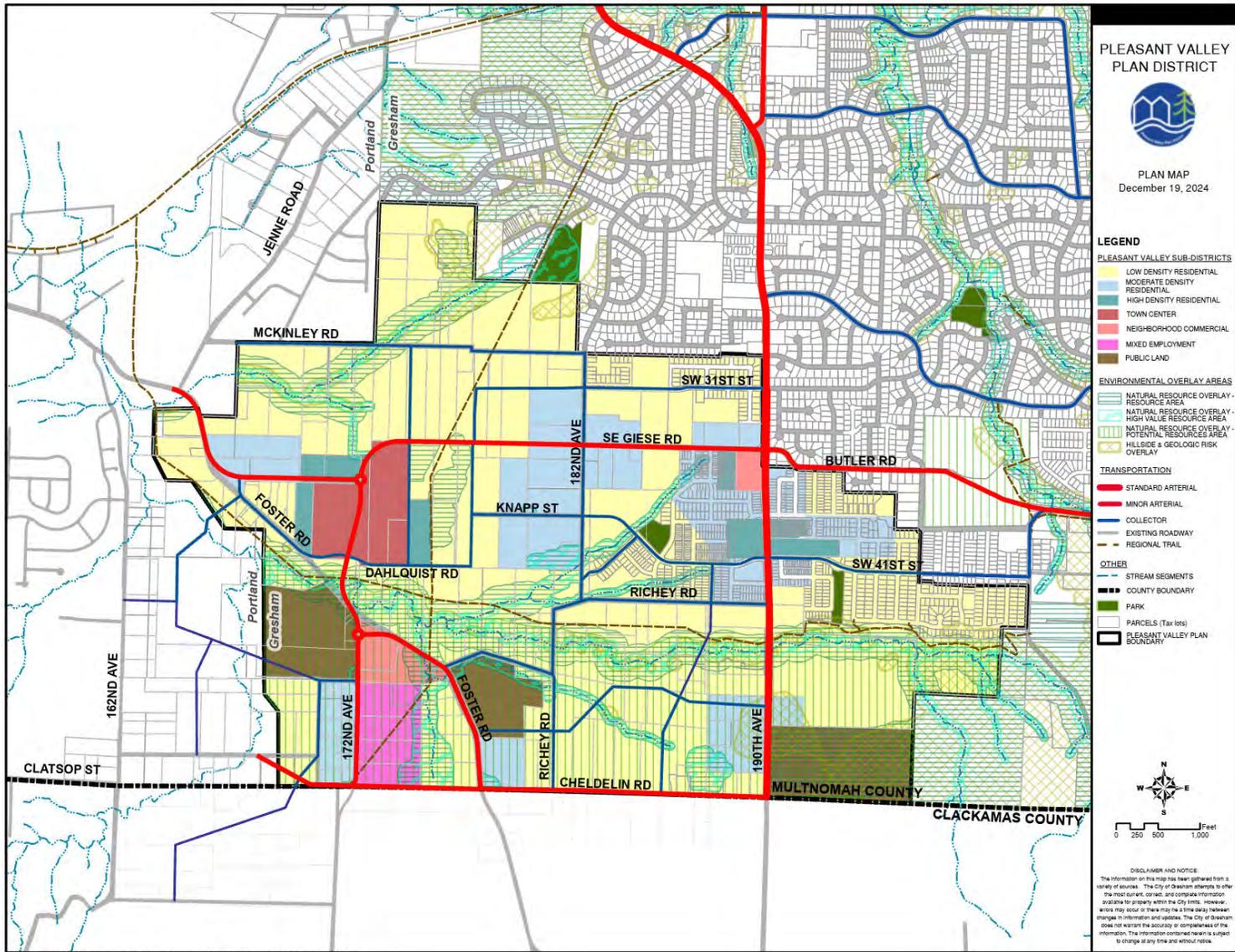
The Pleasant Valley District Plan indicates that parks and natural resources are an integral part of the District and are critical to Pleasant Valley's sense of place and quality of life for people living, working, and spending time in the area, now and in the future. The District currently includes two recently developed parks within Gresham City limits, including Mayor Charles Becker Park and Piper Ridge Neighborhood Park. In addition to these parks (which were described under Recommendations for Existing Parks), the previously adopted District Plan and the City's current System Development Charge Capital Improvements Project list recommended a total of nine new parks in that planning area as described in Appendix E. However, that plan was recently updated and information and recommendations about the specific number and location of those parks were eliminated. Recommendations for future parks in the area were deferred to a subsequent planning process.

As part of Gresham Parks 2035, the planning team evaluated the area in terms of the goal of providing parks within a half-mile walk for future residents in the area, similar to the analysis conducted for the rest of the City. Based on that broad assessment, Gresham Parks 2035 recommends developing parks and trails in the area as planned to meet local needs as this area grows. This will include the development of one additional neighborhood park (Town Center Park), one community park, and the area's planned regional and community trails to meet the City's desired service area goals. Smaller plazas in the town center of the area also may be developed but are not included in the CIP for Gresham Parks 2025. Proactive identification and acquisition of sites for such parks will be important, particularly if parks are needed outside the District's designated public space sub-district areas. That effort is identified as a priority action in Chapter 7 of this Plan.

PLANNED GROWTH AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Town Center Park (to be determined location and exact size within Pleasant Valley Public Land Subdistrict – estimated 3 acres)
- » Community Park (to be determined location and exact size within Pleasant Valley Public Land Subdistrict – estimated 3 acres)
- » Planned trails and paths (estimated 3.4 miles)

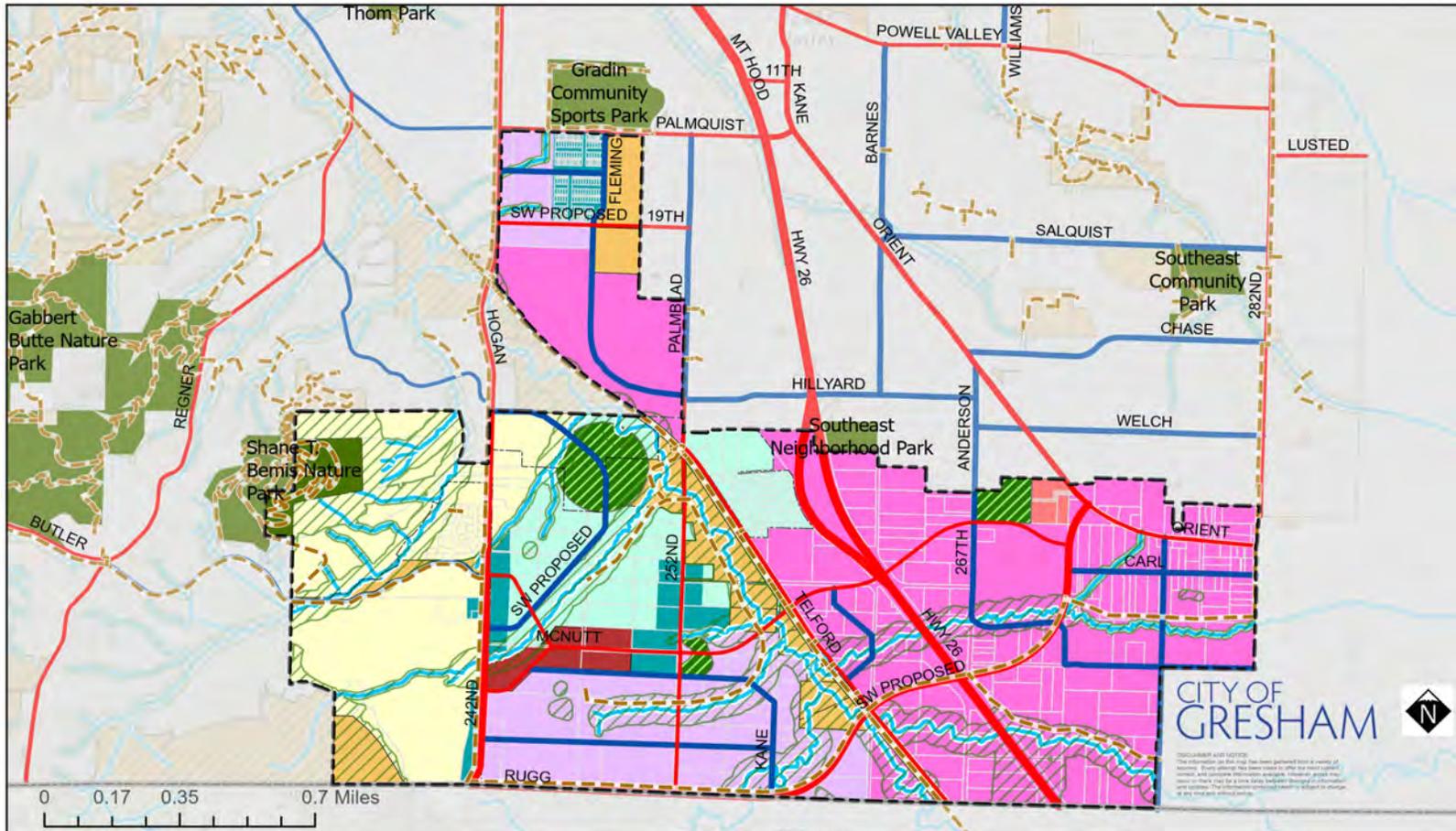
FIGURE 5-1: PLEASANT VALLEY PLAN DISTRICT MAP



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SOURCE: City of Gresham

FIGURE 5-3: SPRINGWATER PLAN DISTRICT MAP



Springwater Plan District

- Springwater Plan District
- County boundary
- Parks
- Potential Springwater Parks
- Trails and Paths
- Gresham City Limits Line
- NRO Resource Area
- Publicly Owned Land

Streets Functional Class

Descriptor

- Principal Arterial (ODOT)
- Major Arterial; Proposed Major Arterial
- Standard Arterial; Proposed Standard Arterial
- Minor Arterial; Proposed Minor Arterial
- Major Collector; Proposed Major Collector
- Standard Collector; Proposed Standard Collector

Springwater Landuse Adopted

- Very Low Density Residential - SW
- Low Density Residential - SW
- Townhouse Residential - SW
- Neighborhood Commercial - SW
- Village Commercial - SW
- Industrial - SW
- Industrial (Office Bldg) - SW

SOURCE: City of Gresham