

NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Monday, November 10, 2025

TIME: 6:00-7:00 PM

LOCATION: Online Meeting

OVERVIEW

The City of Gresham is in the final stages of developing the Gresham Parks 2035: Parks, Recreation and Trails Plan (Gresham Parks 2035 or the Plan), 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. On November 10, 2025, the City of Gresham provided a presentation to the Gresham Neighborhood Coalition at the group's regular November meeting. City staff and MIG team member Matt Hastie provided information about the following:

- Update on the project and key deliverables and community engagement conducted to date
- Key directions, site recommendations, and priority actions
- Timeline for upcoming release of the Gresham Parks 2035 Public Draft Plan for community review and feedback

The team provided this information via a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the group. Following is a summary of the discussion.

Planning Process and Overview

- What is the connection between the 2022 Parks Advisory Commission work and this current planning process?

Response: That group developed a set of core values that helped define direction for the Parks

System Plan and guided how to achieve those values. The 2022 work also included funding strategy discussions and concept plans for six undeveloped parks.

Park Improvement Priorities

- Does the list of projects in the plan represent a set of prioritized projects or just a general list?
Response: Prioritization is based on several factors, including:
 - *Alignment with Gresham Parks' core values (safety, equity, accessibility)*
 - *Projects already underway or in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)*
 - *Community feedback, particularly regarding repairs to aging or heavily used assets*
- How were "starred" projects on the plan maps were selected?
Response: Projects with stars were chosen because they:
 - *Are included in the City's current CIP*
 - *Align with the Parks core values*
 - *Reflect community priorities identified through outreach*
- What is the status of recommendations for East Gresham Park? Does it have a master plan and are improvements planned there. It was a priority for earlier committees; it is disappointing that it isn't identified as a higher priority here.
Response: East Gresham Park is one of the City's undeveloped parks. While it is not currently starred, it could be improved through partnerships or future grant funding. Concept plans exist for Jenny Butte, Columbia View, SE Neighborhood Park, and East Gresham Park, which helps make these sites more competitive for future funding. Those recommendations have not been lost but the City doesn't have the resources to build all of those facilities in the next 10 years.
- There is a noted lack of starred (priority) projects in the Gresham Butte neighborhood and this should be identified as a potential gap.

Funding

- What are the sources of money to fund future projects and expenses?
Response: Matt described funding sources and elaborated on that later in the presentation.
- Are there opportunities to save money within the \$100 million identified need. Are there ways to spend money on less costly things like maintaining open space and natural areas?
Response: Expensive to maintain parks. Example \$15K/year just to mow at John Deere Park. Sustainability and efficiency are key goals. Examples include using "nature patches" in areas that are challenging or expensive to mow/maintain due to root protrusion or wet areas.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Management

- How does this plan address access to wildlife and does it include goals for ecological management rather than purely recreational use.
- *Response: We manage our natural areas for ecological health. Wildlife will be there if the habitat is there and we will use best management practices to maintain or enhance that habitat at those sites.*

Additional Questions and Comments

- Shane Bemis Park should remain a mountain vista point, emphasizing the importance of maintaining tree management to preserve views. (agreement from multiple participants)
- How does the plan addresses parks not owned by the City, such as Vance Park.
Response: The Plan includes information about previously proposed improvement projects at Vance Park and also recognizes that future improvements are being planned through a collaborative process with the City of Gresham, Multnomah County, and other partners. Specific plans for Vance Park may be identified in the future and incorporated in subsequent planning documents.
- Project team members noted the Equity Map remain visible in future meetings to help illustrate how project decisions relate to the Metro Social Vulnerability Tool.
- One participant requested that this presentation be shared or repeated for additional community access, including for neighborhood groups that may have conflicting meetings during this week's public open house. She noted that virtual engagement is fine.
- Participants expressed appreciation for the Parks team's work and acknowledged the challenges of maintaining parks with limited resources.
- Upcoming dates: Work Session – January 20; Plan Adoption – February 17