

## PUBLIC EVENT SUMMARY

**DATE:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025

**TIME:** 5:30-7:30 PM

**LOCATION:** City Hall Conference Center

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### 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 12, 2025, the City of Gresham hosted a public event to:

- Provide an update on the project and key deliverables and community engagement conducted to date;
- Gather community input on Gresham Parks 2035's key directions, site recommendations, and priority actions;
- Share information about the upcoming release of the Gresham Parks 2035 Public Draft Plan for community review and feedback; and
- Answer questions about the project and share next steps.

The event was held in-person at Gresham City Hall and structured as an open house, family-friendly event where meeting participants could spend time reviewing and commenting on project information and talking with the project team. Nine informational boards, four of which included interactive activities, along with comment cards were placed around the room for attendees to provide input on the Plan's key directions, site recommendations, and priority actions (summarized further below). Members of the consultant team and City staff attended the event to answer community questions and facilitate the interactive exercise stations.

To reach as many community members as possible, the event was promoted through numerous outreach pathways including social media posts, Neighborhood NextDoor post, the Gresham Parks 2035 Engage Gresham website, Neighborhood Connections e-newsletter, and direct invites to the parks interested parties list, Cultural Community Based Organizations, Neighborhood Coalition, Parks Task Force, and other Council Advisory Committees such as the Urban Forestry Subcommittee and Youth Advisory Committee.

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Findings for each interactive activity are summarized below.

### Interactive Activity 1: Key Directions

This station summarized the seven Gresham Parks 2035 key directions that will guide how the Gresham Parks Program manages, develops, and enhances parks, recreation facilities, and trails over the next 10 years and beyond. The station also asked attendees to use a “dot exercise” to indicate what key direction(s) they think will be the most important for the future of Gresham’s parks, trails, and recreation spaces. As shown in Table 1, Key Direction 6, “Identify sustainable funding sources” was the top result followed by Key Direction 2, “Develop undeveloped neighborhood and community parks.”.

*Table 1: Key Direction Exercise Results – “Which key direction do you think will be the most important for the future of Gresham’s parks, trails, and recreation spaces?”*

Key Direction	Number of Dot Stickers
1. Provide safe, welcoming, and well-maintained parks and trails.	3
2. Develop undeveloped neighborhood and community parks.	6
3. Ensure equitable park access and distribution.	2
4. Improve existing parks and trails.	2
5. Strengthen programming, engagement, communication, and coordination efforts with partners, volunteers, and community groups.	4
6. Identify sustainable funding sources.	8
7. Promote a sustainable and resilient system.	1

### Interactive Activity 2: Priority Actions

This station summarized the Gresham Parks 2035 priority projects for implementation over the next 10 years and asked attendees if they think there are any other projects that should be prioritized for implementation. Community ideas included:

- Neighborhood skate spots;
- Connected bike paths;
- More amenities and better access at Kane Road Park;
- Trail bollards and regulatory signage, pet waste stations, and kid-friendly amenities at Jenne Butte Park;
- Small green spaces in Downtown Rockwood using vacant GRDC land;
- Development of East Gresham Park and SE Community Park;
- Dog park upgrades, playground and picnic table replacement, and sport courts at Main City Park;
- Playground and picnic table replacement at Thom Park;
- Small play area at Arts Plaza;
- Basketball courts in Pat Pfeifer Park;

- Dog runs in Rockwood; and
- Pocket parks in new developments.

### Interactive Activity 3: Short-Term Implementation Strategy

This station summarized the 10 Gresham Parks 2035 priority actions that are recommended to implement key elements of Gresham Parks 2035 in addition to the priority capital projects. The station also asked attendees if they think there are any other actions that should be prioritized for implementation. Community ideas included:

- Partnering with the Port of Portland or Metro to design another fee-based use project that brings equity to neighborhoods; and
- More skateparks, especially smaller skate spots.

### Interactive Activity 4: Other Comments

The last interactive station shared next steps for the project and provided space for attendees to provide any last ideas or feedback. Comment cards were also distributed throughout the room that provided additional space for attendees to share their ideas. Community input included:

- Leveraging GRDC assets in Rockwood and planned acquisitions in Downtown Gresham to create city serving parks and resources;
- Employing creativity, boldness, and innovation for future park planning and activation of underutilized sites across the city;
- Prioritizing quality over quantity and park maintenance; and
- Improving volunteer coordination.