

# PARKS & RECREATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

## Summary Report

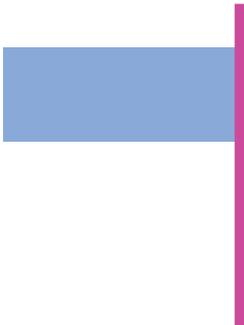
CITY OF  
GRESHAM



Report Prepared by:



December 2022

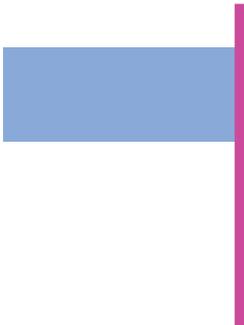


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# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In 2021, the City established a Parks & Recreation Community Advisory Group task force. Council President Morales served as the liaison to the City Council, and staff provided support and direction to the group.

The Community Advisory Group brought together a diverse group of community members and institutional representatives for a limited duration to evaluate Gresham's Parks & Recreation services and recommend strategies to improve community outcomes.

In developing the 2022 Council Work Plan, the Gresham City Council established three key objectives relating to parks. These objectives are integral to a city-wide effort to provide a robust parks system that is representative and is responsive to the needs and desires of the community and provides equitable recreational opportunities for all.

The Council objectives are:

### IDENTIFY

**Identify core values** based on diversity, equity and inclusion to guide decision-making.

### INVENTORY

**Inventory** existing public and private park and recreation assets and partnership opportunities to **develop** an asset map and **identify** recreation program gaps.

### EXPLORE

**Explore partnerships and other strategies** to achieve a comprehensive park and recreation system.

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

The Community Advisory Group was composed of 30 members who expressed their desire to participate through an application process. Members were selected through an evaluation process, with the aim of achieving a diverse and broad range of perspectives, including:

- Age, gender, sexual identification, race/ethnicity
- Geographic representation
- Neighborhood representation
- Parks experience
- Organizational affiliations



The 30-person group was led by Chair, Maria Velez and Vice-Chair, Teo Ramirez.



Chair, Velez



Vice-Chair, Ramirez

## Community Members

Christine Bierman  
Garrin Black  
Christian Burgess  
Stella Butler  
Edward Chin  
Tara Finnegan  
Yaquelin Garcia

Brian Goodrow  
Michael Idowu  
Anna Mar  
Kate McQuillan  
Natalie Mitchell Fuller  
Catherine Nicewood  
Sheena Raab

Matt Riding  
Cindy Rounds  
Josh Stratman  
Philip Svabik-Seror  
Quinn Diane Thereaux  
Maria Velez (Chair)  
Kayla Viramontes



## Institutional Members

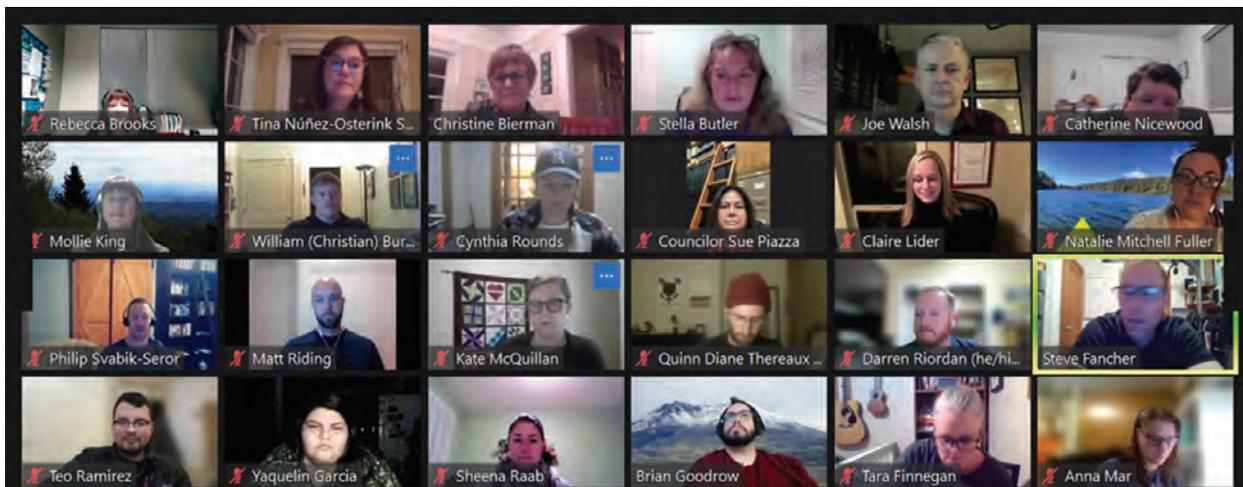
The group included representatives from Gresham’s Planning Commission, surrounding cities along with local school districts and Mt. Hood Community College.

Sue Ruonala	Planning Commission
John Hartsock	Planning Commission
Claire Lider	Finance Committee
Teo Ramirez (Vice-Chair)	Youth Advisory Committee
Dr. Kim Hyatt	Mt. Hood Community College
Charles George (Alternate)	Mt. Hood Community College
Dan Dalzell	Gresham-Barlow School District
Dr. Angela Freeman	Reynolds School District
Stephanie Field	Reynolds School District
Dante Gouge	Centennial School District
Terry Schloth	Centennial School District
Mike Abbate	City of Fairview
Councilor Darren Riordan (Alternate)	City of Fairview
Mollie King	City of Troutdale
Councilor Jairo Rios-Campos	City of Wood Village

## Facilitation

Traci Simmons, MHCC Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion served as a ‘content neutral’ group facilitator skilled in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) values and led the group to ensure all community voices were heard.

*Photo of Committee Advisory Group virtual meeting*



## Gresham Staff

Steve Fancher, Assistant City Manager  
Joe Walsh, Parks & Recreation Manager, Staff Liaison  
Rebecca Brooks, Senior Administrative Supervisor  
Tina Núñez-Osterink, Parks Planner  
Ricki Ruiz, Community Services Specialist  
Tam Driscoll, Community Outreach Specialist  
Erika Michaud, Parks Program Technician

## City Council Members

Mayor Travis Stovall  
Council Position 1 - Councilor Dina DiNucci  
Council Position 2 - Council President Eddy Morales  
Council Position 3 - Councilor Vincent “Vince” Jones-Dixon  
Council Position 4 - Councilor Mario Palmero  
Council Position 5 - Councilor Sue Piazza  
Council Position 6 - Councilor Janine Gladfelter

## Support

Dave Elkin, Juncus Studio provided technical parks programming and design consulting services.

# MEETINGS OVERVIEW

In order to address the Gresham City council objectives of IDENTIFY, INVENTORY, and EXPLORE, the Community Advisory Group met over a twelve month period beginning November 2021 and concluding October 2022, for a total of 12 meetings. These meetings covered a wide variety of topics which addressed each of the three Council objectives. This report is a summary of the yearlong process.



For the purposes of this report, we have grouped the various meeting topics by council objective. Identify, inventory and explore.



# IDENTIFY

## CORE VALUES EXERCISE

As a foundation building exercise, the Community Advisory Group participated in a core values exercise that was guided by principles identified in the 2021 City of Gresham [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resolution](#). DEI Facilitator, Traci Simmons, led this exercise to determine where shared values for Gresham's Parks and Recreation system exist, setting the foundation and framework for an equitable and inclusive park system.

This included Traci presenting a historical account of early Gresham, past population shifts, and current socio-economic demographics outlined in the 2010 and 2020 US Census. Along with other insightful information, data showed that for the ten-year period from 2010 to 2020, there was a 16% increase in people of color living and recreating in the City of Gresham.

The Community Advisory Group discovered and discussed the following regional trends and observations:

- The westside of Multnomah County enjoys a much more robust level of investment in parks programming than that of the east.
- There is a lack of parks programming, investment, and opportunity on the eastside of Multnomah County, and
- There is a significant need to evaluate and respond to the evolving needs of Gresham's changing community.

The socio-economic data and regional trends are summarized in the [East County Marginalization Map](#).

Using this foundational information and the following key DEI questions, Traci facilitated multiple discussions with the Community Advisory Group to help them refine group agreement on the core values. The prompts for those discussions were:

- How will we center equity as we move forward?
- What should we prioritize?
- How will we make sure we take into consideration those within our community in most need of services and programming?
- How will we create space for people across the spectrum of race/ethnicity/language?
- How will we take into consideration the financial realities of our community members?
- How will we make sure to consider accessibility?

*See Appendix A for meeting notes of the Community Advisory Group's DEI discussions.*

The DEI discussions led by Traci was the first time the City of Gresham engaged community members and institutional representatives in a values-based conversation for parks and recreation. Together, the group and staff considered how the range of park user identities along with recent demographic shifts influence the equitable delivery of recreation programs, design of park space and geographic location of park sites across the city.

*Language Proficiency   Gender Identity   Socio-Economic Class / Status  
Use of English   Religion / Spirituality   Citizenship Status  
Introvert / Extrovert   Body Size / Type   Rural / Suburban / Urban  
Ethnicity   Sexual Orientation   Gender Expression   Culture  
Appearance   Age   Veteran Status   Race   Ability   Status*

From these collective discussions, the Community Advisory Group identified accessibility, equity and safety as core values and recommended keeping these values top of mind when considering park and recreation investments, prioritization of programs and projects. Additionally, the Community Advisory Group recommends these values also guide the redesign of the parks and physical spaces so they better respond to the priorities and needs of under-represented communities.

The Community Advisory Group identified **accessibility, equity** and **safety** as top values and recommended keeping these values at the forefront when considering park and recreation investments, prioritization of programs and projects. Additionally, the Community Advisory Group recommends these values also guide the redesign of the parks and physical spaces so they better respond to the priorities and needs of under-represented communities.

## ACCESSIBILITY

- accessibility to local parks
- picnic areas
- curb ramps
- restroom facilities
- parking lots
- infrastructure
- parking
- solid surfaces
- maintenance
- year round bathrooms open to all genders
- alternative emergency response personnel
- rights of houseless people
- traffic lights
- crossing signals
- audio for crossings
- more ada accessible dog parks
- covered areas
- programming designed for people of all abilities
- 10-minute walk
- shorter walking distances to neighborhood parks

## EQUITY

- key demographic shifts
- important history
- inclusion in programming
- race/ethnicity
- language diversity
- all community members benefit
- staff training
- different abilities
- transportation needs
- age spans from 0 to old age
- the spectrum of gender
- gender expression
- sexual orientation
- include youth voice
- youth leaders
- "indigenized" solutions
- decision makers
- connection to nature
- community health and wellness
- connecting people to people
- collective ownership
- ecojustice

## SAFETY

- physical
- psychological
- emotional
- universal design
- accommodate all abilities
- building community
- freely and fully participate in parks programs
- eyes on the park
- community watch
- robust ambassadorship
- caretaker culture
- climate awareness
- proper lighting
- safe routes
- fencing
- helping people get indoors
- trash services
- safe roads
- sidewalks
- maintained equipment
- regular police patrols
- adopt-a-park
- neighborhood associations
- way-finder signs
- safe bicycle routes



# CORE VALUE DEFINITIONS

**Accessibility / Accessible** - Capable of being used or accessed. Often when we talk about accessibility in parks and recreation, we mean that something is, at its basic level, legally accessible to people. Accessibility of playgrounds and facilities, for example, is often determined by Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Accessible is not the same as inclusive. Accessibility of spaces is an important first step and is often followed by looking at how to make those spaces more equitable and inclusive. (NRPA)

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

**Safety** -The physical characteristics which park users associate with high-risk environments include:

- Poor lighting
  - Confusing layout
  - Physical and aural isolation
  - Poor visibility
  - No access to help
  - Areas of concealment
  - Poor maintenance
  - Vandalism
  - Presence of illegal activity (Project for Public Spaces)
- Additionally, a space in which an individual or group may remain free of blame, ridicule and persecution, and are in no danger of coming to mental or physical harm. (The National Multicultural Institute)

*See Appendix A for full meeting discussions on the topic of DEI in Gresham Parks & Recreation and Appendix C for the Imagine Gresham Input.*

## IDENTIFY | NEXT STEPS

Based on the discussions focused on the Identify objective, the Community Advisory Group is recommending the following next steps:

- Incorporate core values into strategic plan implementation (Appendix G)
- Consider convening a smaller parks and recreation task force
- Assess park and recreation programs and work toward equitable actions that remove barriers to participation, foster inclusiveness, and serve diverse populations.

# INVENTORY

## SYSTEM COMPARISONS

Gresham is Oregon’s fourth largest city and the Portland metro region’s second largest city. According to the 2020 U.S. Census and noted in the Trust For Public Land Public Finance Feasibility Study (Appendix D), Gresham leapfrogged Hillsboro to become the state’s 4th largest city, behind Portland, Eugene and Salem. The numbers also show an increase in the city’s Hispanic population and decreases in its white population. According to the Census, Gresham’s population increased dramatically from the 2010 census, increasing nearly 8.2 percent, to the city’s current population of 114,247.

Gresham’s park system includes over 1,200 acres of land, designated as “community” or “neighborhood” parks, trails, and natural areas. The Parks & Recreation Division maintains over 300 acres of active parks, eight miles of trails, and is the community steward for over 800 acres of natural areas. Approximately, 11% of city land is used for parks and recreation.

### GRESHAM SYSTEM FACTS



The need for park land in the City of Gresham is based on the concept that residents are best served by a variety of different park types. Additionally, as stated in the 2009 City of Gresham Park and Recreation, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan (2009 Park Master Plan), basic recreation amenities (i.e. playgrounds and sports courts) should be provided within a half mile walking and biking distance of most park users.

### National Comparison

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommends park providers offer one park for every 2,281 residents served, with 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

National Average for Parks & Recreation	Gresham Parks & Recreation 2022-2023
Cities employ <b>8.9 full-time parks and recreation staff per 10,000 residents</b>	Gresham employs <b>1.5 full-time parks and recreation staff per 10,000 residents</b>
Budget equals <b>\$93 per capita/year</b>	Budget equals <b>\$42 per capita/year</b>

Source: National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) and City of Gresham 2022.

### Regional Comparison

*observations*

*Gresham would need to invest an additional \$5 million per year - to a total of \$10 million per year in parks and recreation - to meet the national average to maintain parks and provide recreational services.*

To gain some perspective locally on where Gresham Parks is now, we can compare ourselves to Hillsboro, another Portland-Metro suburb with a similar population (Hillsboro at 106,000 and Gresham roughly 114,000)

Regarding Parks & Recreation budgeting, Hillsboro has 103 full-time parks and recreation staff to Gresham’s 16. That’s about 6.5 more times as much staffing. Hillsboro allocates \$80 million to Gresham’s \$4.6 million. That’s over 17 times Gresham’s budget.

The Community Advisory Group asked the following key questions for City Council to consider:

- Why does a community of similar size invest so much more of its general fund dollars on Parks and Recreation?
- What community benefits is the City of Hillsboro seeing that leads to this investment decision?

## GRESHAM / HILLSBORO COMPARISON

G	114,247	G	\$30,247	G	25	G	\$4.6M
H	106,633	H	\$38,710	H	35	H	\$80M
POPULATION		MEDIAN INCOME		TOTAL PARKS		PARKS BUDGET	

### observations

*Parks & Recreation in Gresham is severely underfunded when comparing with averages in the region or nationally.*

## Where We Are Now

While the delivery of Parks & Recreation services in Gresham is out of sync with regional and national comparisons, the Community Advisory Group provided the following assessment of Gresham Parks & Recreation in 2022:

- Gresham has beautiful, scenic parks and trails.
- Many undeveloped parks to add to the overall park system.
- Few city-sponsored recreation programs occur annually.
- Many community assets that may be leveraged.
- Several popular community/special events occur annually.
- New funding is available for recreation services.
- New funding is available for capital improvements.
- Relatively small increase in the parks & recreation budget could have a major community impact.

*Gresham lags behind other cities in the region and nationally when it comes to park and recreation investments.*

*Gresham is at or above average in total parks and acreage.*

*Gresham is below average on spending, staffing and revenue.*

*A lack of public parks, amenities, and programs disproportionately impacts those who stand to benefit from them the most.*

*Done well, a robust park and recreation program can serve the entire community while providing added benefit to those who might not otherwise be able to access nature and pro-social programs.*

*The positive impacts extend not just to the individual (physical and mental health and well-being) but also to other city priorities related to livability, safety, economic prosperity and community connection.*

*Just as public safety, utilities and transportation are essential public services - parks and recreation is an essential city service for maintaining a high quality of life in the community.*

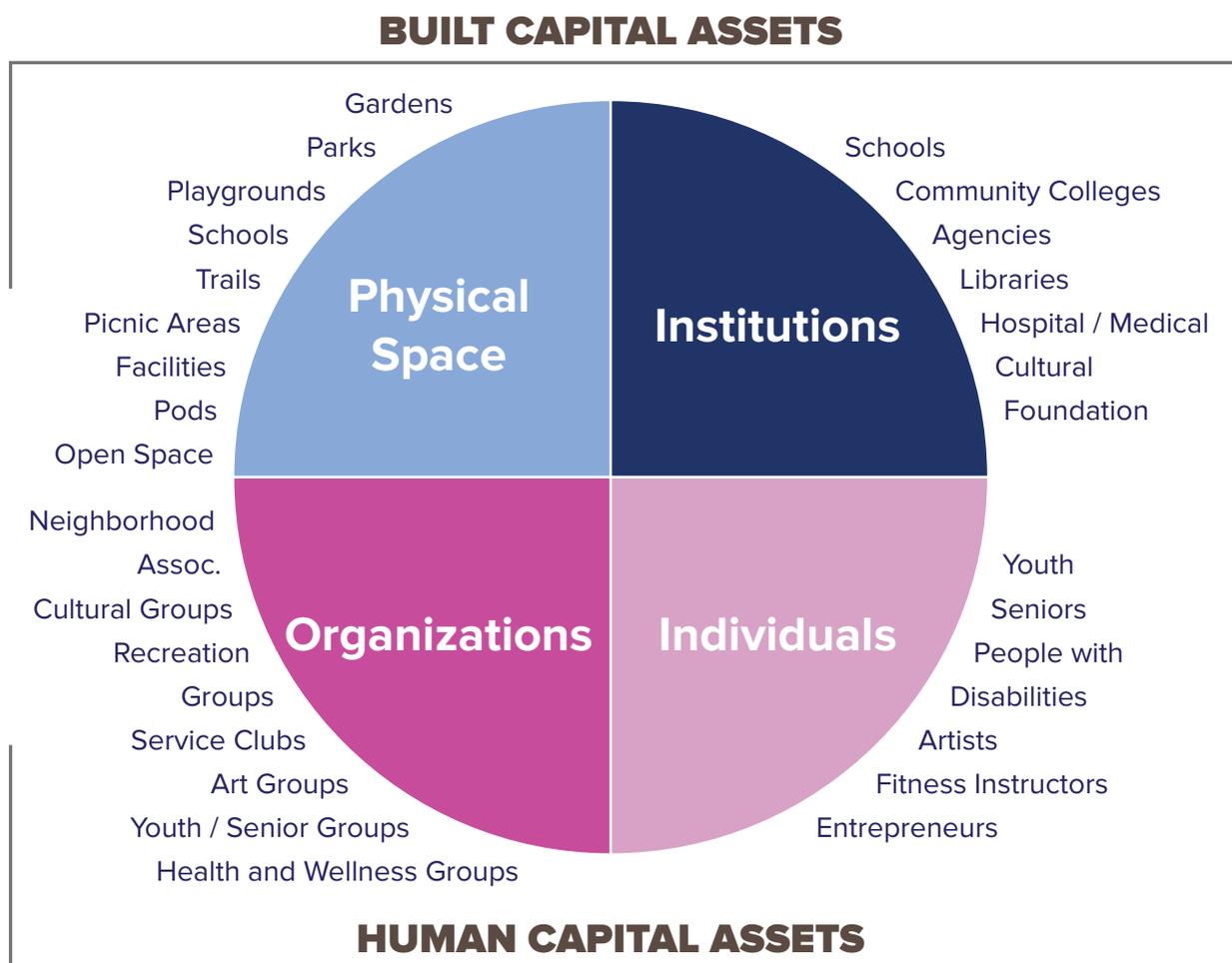


## Existing Assets

The Community Advisory Group analyzed Gresham’s existing park and recreational assets including privately operated programs and facilities, school-based resources, and other assets available to the public.

Staff introduced how an Asset Map is a visual map of what Gresham collectively has and it entails the following:

- Inventories physical (Built) and relational (Human) capital assets in the community
- Identifies what a community has and needs
- Draws on local expertise and experiences
- Lists Park & Recreation strengths and resources
- Helps uncover solutions to deficits
- Builds on assets to address various needs



During the Asset Mapping exercise, the Community Advisory Group broke out into the four following groups with each group exploring probing questions, which included:

1. Built Capital Assets - Public
  - What are the key existing public assets in Gresham?
  - Who are the key contacts?
2. Built Capital Assets - Private
  - What are the key existing private assets in Gresham?
  - Who are the key contacts?
3. Human Capital Assets- Public
  - What are the key existing organizations?
  - What are the key existing programs?
  - Who are the key existing instructors?
4. Human Capital Assets - Private
  - What are the key existing organizations?
  - What are the key existing programs?
  - Who are the key existing instructors?

Appendix B summarizes the collective list of assets that were mapped and organized among the following seven categories of services:

- Fitness and Wellness
- Aquatics
- Performing and Fine Arts
- Access to Nature
- Adaptive Recreation
- Sports Program
- Community Gathering Places

## Gap Analysis

After reviewing the collection of public and private assets, the Community Advisory Group provided input on “what is needed” using the following six questions:

1. While collectively we have a number of assets, think about the ones listed that you use as a park patron. What key questions do you have to help staff evaluate them further? (i.e. are they usable, affordable, welcoming? What other questions would you include?)
2. Who is benefiting from the existing Park & Recreation assets you are familiar with or can discern from the Asset Padlet List? Who is left out?
3. From your perspective and area of expertise, what are the key Programming and Service Gaps that come to mind?
4. What opportunities exist to build community and increase capacity?
5. On the surface, do the recreational offerings listed in the Asset Padlet List meet customer demand for our East County community (i.e. youth, senior, cultural, identity, beginner, intermediate, advanced, etc.)?
6. What accessibility and inclusion issues do you feel the City and our school and institutional partners can address as we evaluate the Park & Recreation Service Gaps?

The Gap Analysis revealed the following notable gaps in recreation facilities in Gresham:

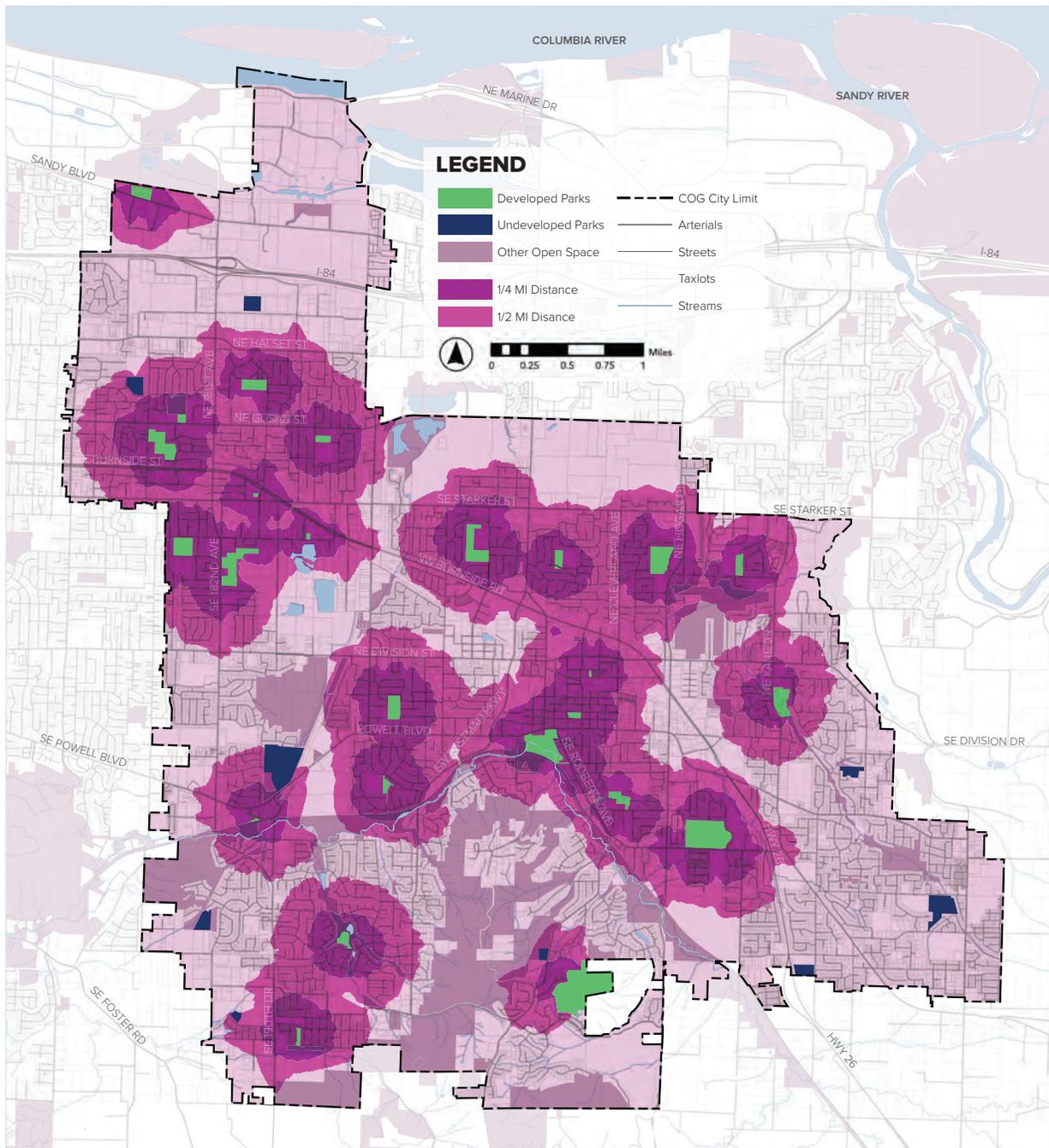
- Community centers
- Athletic fields
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Tennis & Pickleball courts
- Playgrounds
- Off-leash dog areas
- Park accessibility for people of all abilities

The Gap Analysis revealed the following notable gaps for recreation programs in Gresham:

- Summer camps for youth
- Programs for all ages and abilities
- Before and after school activities

## Existing Park Walkability

A baseline of the asset and service gap analysis is community proximity to parks. Specifically, how much of the community is within a 10-minute walk (1/2 mile) of a developed park. The walkability map provided shows how much of Gresham's community is within a 1/2 mile of a developed park. Future analysis should evaluate locations of other public and private assets to identify gaps and opportunities for future partnerships or capital investments.



*Limited programs for young and inter-generational families and safe spaces for teens.*

*Limited adult recreational programming yet adding field / facility capacity, then partnering with adult league operators could be an opportunity.*

*Several public ball fields and facilities yet condition upgrades needed at city and school sites.*

*There is potential to leverage and harness co-benefits of several public school indoor and outdoor facilities and SUN School human resources (i.e. gyms, multi-purpose rooms, kitchens, auditoriums, and fields available for rent) for Gresham residents.*

*There is potential to leverage private partnerships—especially with diverse community-based organizations to expand recreation programs and community gathering places for Gresham residents.*

*Additional community input and refined geographic asset and gap assessment, analysis is needed for all seven categories in both the public and private realm.*

*Future analysis needed to better understand Who Is Left Out and Why (i.e. usable, accessible, expertise, level, affinity group use, language, available, walkable, proximity, affordable, welcoming).*

## INVENTORY | NEXT STEPS

Based on the discussions focused on the Inventory objective, the Community Advisory Group is recommending the following next steps:

- Complete asset mapping process and produce a tool/ directory/guide of Gresham's existing Park and Recreation amenities and services.
- Continue assessment of all developed and undeveloped parks in the system to provide baseline understanding of parks levels of service, deferred maintenance needs, and accessibility issues.
- Update the Parks system master plan.





# EXPLORE

## WHERE WE WANT TO BE

The City of Gresham's parks planning along with recreational facilities and programming have not kept pace with its growth. Changing this trend in the near-term can only be achieved through partnerships and creative funding strategies. Long-term change requires a sustainable and dedicated funding source.

To explore potential hypothetical funding scenarios, the Community Advisory Group participated in a budgeting exercise that allowed the participants to explore future funding scenarios of Gresham's parks and recreation system at a high-level.

An excel spreadsheet with multiple steps for the Community Advisory Group to weigh in on what a \$10 million-per-year and \$15 million-per-year program should include.

**Step 1: Review the list of amenities and recreation programs and their annual costs.**

**Step 2: Enter the number of each amenity or recreation program preferred to be added to the Gresham Parks & Recreation program.**

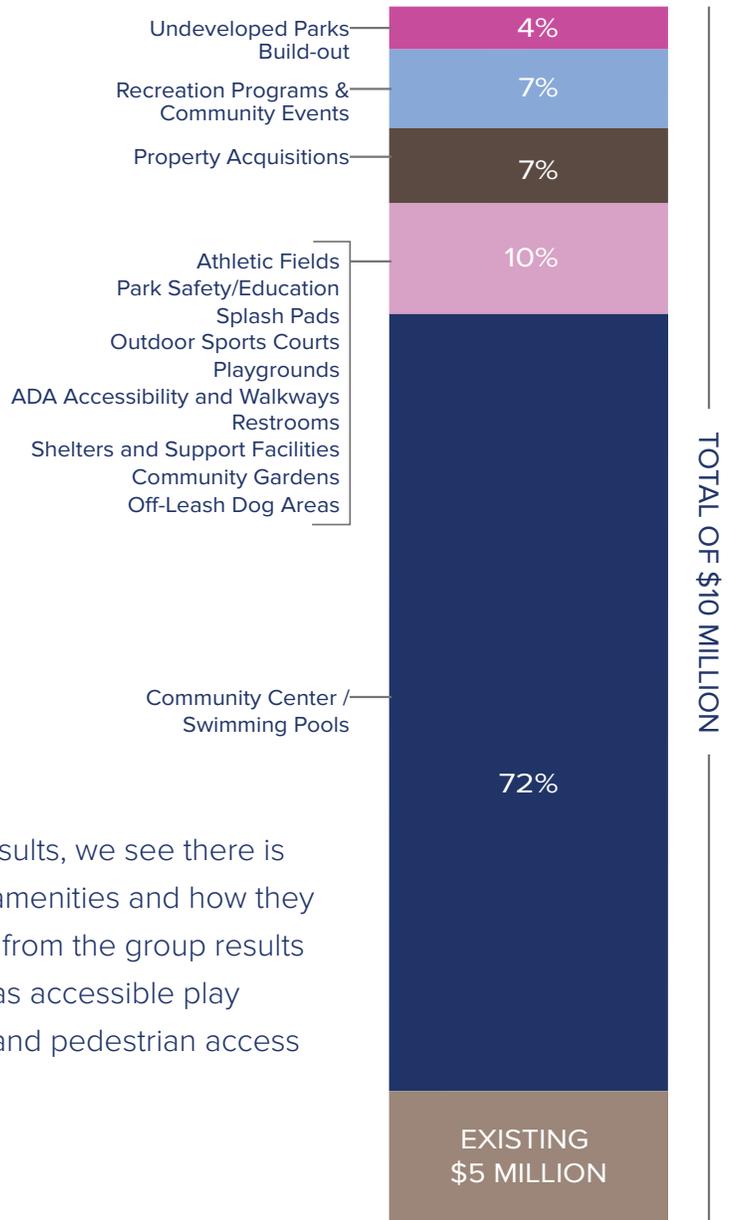
**Step 3: Review the total costs to ensure they do not exceed the \$10 million or \$15 million budget.**

The graph on page 23 shows results of the \$10M group budgeting exercise where the majority of the Community Advisory Group members allocated funds toward a community center with more than two-thirds of the members budgeting for some investment in the following:

- Recreation Programs
- Athletic Fields
- Picnic Shelters
- Playgrounds
- Community Gardens
- Park Rangers
- Outdoor Sport Courts
- ADA Improvements

A summary of the more popular individual budget choices from the **\$10M** budget exercise included:

- Concerts in Parks
- Youth Summer Camps
- Soft-Surface Trails
- Accessible Playground Upgrades
- After School Programs
- Senior Programs
- Accessible Walkway/ Surface Upgrades
- New Paved Walkways at Parks
- Community Gardens
- Sidewalk Improvement Pedestrian
- Access to Parks
- Adult Fitness/Wellness Programs



From the individual budget exercise results, we see there is more detail provided in what types of amenities and how they look. For instance, ADA Improvements from the group results are described in the individual results as accessible play areas, accessible walkways, sidewalk and pedestrian access improvements to parks.

*observations*

*An increased investment in parks and recreation services of \$5 million annually would afford significant upgrades to existing parks and expansion of recreation programming to address the gaps in service outlined by the Community Advisory Group in the previous section.*

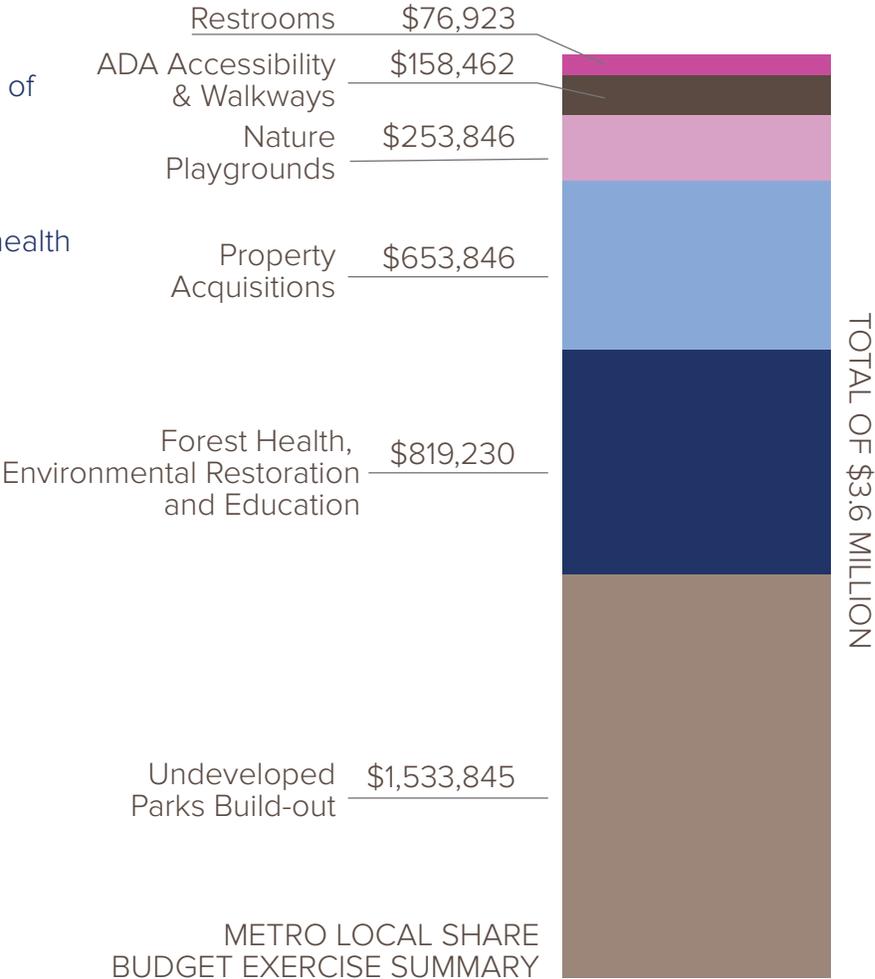
# HOW CAN WE GET THERE?

To explore how to spend a one-time funding allocation of the remaining \$3.6 million Metro Local Share funds, the Community Advisory Group participated in a budgeting similar to the one described above. The options for this exercise focused on the local share requirements of providing access to nature and climate resiliency.

Appendix H includes a summary of the Metro Local Share Community Survey results that was conducted in 2021 and provided to the Community Advisory Group as they deliberated how to allocate the remaining funds.

The graph below summarizes results of the Metro Local Share individual and group budgeting exercise where the Community Advisory Group members allocated funds towards the following improvement categories rather than specific projects:

- Development of Gresham’s undeveloped parks;
- Improved accessibility of parks and trails; and
- Projects related to environmental forest health and climate change.



While there was no consensus around any specific project or project category, there was some support for all of the potential projects and a desire to “spread the wealth” among several projects that would result in benefits to the whole city.

Furthermore, project categories that received majority support from the group included: development of Gresham’s undeveloped parks, improved accessibility, and projects related to environmental, forest health, and climate change.

Regarding the development of undeveloped parks, one consideration for maximizing our limited resources is to break each project into phases, providing for minimal amenities at each park initially rather than completing full build-outs of just one or two parks. Principally, any first phase development would include improvements to parking, trails, and other basic infrastructure necessary to make these parks accessible, in alignment with the group’s core values.

Regarding accessibility improvements, the group noted two distinct ways to consider park accessibility. First, there is a desire to improve accessibility to parks (increasing the number of folks who are within a 10-minute walk from a developed park and/or improving connections to existing parks, for example). Second, there is a desire to improve accessibility within parks (path improvements and/or accessible equipment, for example).

Finally, in regards to projects related to environmental forest health and climate change, the group acknowledged that Metro Local Share funding provides a unique community opportunity. Specifically, preserving and/or restoring natural habitats, forests, watersheds, and wetlands can have a positive impact on climate change, improve health equity, and mitigate wildfire risk.

Analysis of the results from the Metro Local Share budget exercise indicates:

- 82% supported at least one undeveloped park build out package as part of their overall budget.
- 73% supported allocating budget to improving ADA accessibility
- 55% supported allocating budget to nature play, and playground improvements.
- 27% supported funding Forest Health, environmental restoration, property acquisitions, and restrooms

*Gresham's unspent portion of Metro Local Share funding represents an opportunity to improve accessibility, enhance safety, and promote greater equity.*

*A strong desire to "spread the wealth" by developing parks facilities throughout the city.*

*Improving accessibility to parks (increasing the number of residents who are within a 10-minute walk of a developed park and/or improving connections to existing parks, for example).*

*Improving accessibility within parks (path improvements and/or accessible equipment, for example).*

*Funding provides a unique opportunity for preserving and/or restoring natural habitats, forests, watersheds, and wetlands that can positively impact climate change, improve health equity, and mitigate wildfire risk.*

## **Operations and Maintenance**

Community Advisory Group members recognized the need to consider ongoing operations and maintenance costs as new facilities are added to the park system. At the time of this report, Parks will be allocating approximately \$12 million dollars in new assets over the next 5 years, which suggests an estimated \$1.2 million per year should be budgeted for operations and maintenance to ensure adequate management of these new facilities.

Appendix F provides an extensive summary of Gresham's park operations performance benchmarks calculated in 2020

These new assets include:

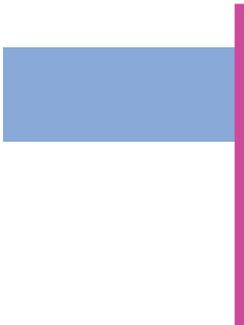
- Gradin sports park phase II improvements
- Multi-sport courts at existing parks
- ARPA amenities and ADA improvements

# EXPLORE | NEXT STEPS

Based on the discussions focused on the Explore objective, the Community Advisory Group is recommending the following next steps:

- Incorporate the TPL Public Finance Feasibility Study (Appendix D) and Community Center Feasibility Study (Appendix E) data into funding and policy decisions
- Prepare the community for a park polling initiative in 2024 regarding a potential funding measure in 2025
- Finalize Metro Local Share project list for final allocation submittal.





# NEXT STEPS

## CONCLUSION

Over the course of a year, the effort of an engaged Parks & Recreation Community Advisory Group produced valuable input and direction for the future of Gresham's Parks and Recreation system. Convening such a diverse group of community members and institutional representatives provided for rich dialogue and productive conversations.

The process revealed several untapped community resources that could be leveraged, with existing assets and additional funding, to make modest improvements to Gresham Parks and Recreation system. This effort would not likely keep pace with the growing community, as mentioned earlier, long-term change requires sustainable and dedicated funding sources to make a meaningful impact for youth, families and the entire Gresham community who depend on these essential Parks and Recreation services.

Finally, the ultimate goal is to create a more equitable, accessible and safe park system for all community members.

*“Our potential to overcome challenges is limited only by ourselves. No one person can ever do it alone, but if we ever join hands to learn, to help and teach one another, we will truly become a force to be reckoned with.”*

*Charles Jordan An Urban Pioneer in Parks & Recreation and Social Justice*

Here is a summary of next steps organized within the three Council Objectives:

## IDENTIFY

**Identify core values** based on diversity, equity and inclusion to guide decision-making

- Incorporate core values into strategic plan implementation (Appendix G).
- Consider convening a smaller parks and recreation task force.
- Assess park and recreation programs and work toward equitable actions that remove barriers to participation, foster inclusiveness, and serve diverse populations.

## INVENTORY

**Inventory** existing public and private park and recreation assets and partnership opportunities to **develop** an asset map and **identify** recreation program gaps

- Complete the asset mapping process and produce a tool/ directory/guide of Gresham's existing Park and Recreation amenities and services.
- Continue assessment of all developed and undeveloped parks in the system to provide a baseline understanding of parks levels of service, deferred maintenance needs, and accessibility issues.
- Update the Parks system master plan.

## EXPLORE

**Explore partnerships and other strategies** to achieve a comprehensive park and recreation system.

- Incorporate the TPL Public Finance Feasibility Study (Appendix D) and Community Center Feasibility Study (Appendix E) data into funding and policy decisions.
- Prepare the community for a park polling initiative in 2024 regarding a potential funding measure in 2025.
- Finalize Metro Local Share project list for final allocation submittal.

In P&RCAG member's own words:

**What is your hope for the future of Gresham's Parks & Recreation program?**

"I sincerely hope you continue to engage with communities prior to designing plans. Do not allow only the contractor to design them. Ask for input from the most impacted neighbors, too."

"That we actually do something with all the feedback. It is really sad to see people in our community say, "nothing will come of what you did."

"To include all ethnic groups, and have activities in all neighborhoods."

"My hope is that the City of Gresham develops a District Park where there is better long term funding to support Parks & Recreation. It is so critical to the long term health for the City of Gresham and it's residents."

"That Gresham would join Troutdale, Fairview, and Wood Village in a Parks and Recreation District for East Multnomah. County"

“That adequate funding can be found to properly support the Parks program.”

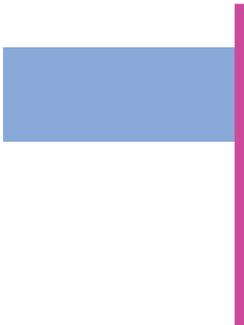
“To include all ethnic groups, and have activities in all neighborhoods.”

“Safe and inclusive parks for all”

“That we can get the City Council and the community behind the necessary improvements. That parks and rec and the police dept aren't unfairly pitted against each other and for everyone to understand the importance of both for a thriving community. I hope the City Council will find a way to make these improvements quickly to benefit the generation that needs it NOW, not 10-20 years from now. Especially coming out of a pandemic, we learned that outdoor space/recreation is vital for growth.”

“Be able to maintain and afford new facilities that are built.”

“My hope is that GPR is always engaging community and activating people to buy in to small yet impactful programming. Yes a big community center investment would be great, but I think the accumulation of bringing people together to invest in GPR's work is way more important.”



# APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	CORE VALUES INPUT AND DEI PRESENTATION
APPENDIX B	ASSET MAPPING & GAP ANALYSIS SUMMARY
APPENDIX C	IMAGINE GRESHAM INPUT
APPENDIX D	TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND FINANCE FEASIBILITY STUDY 2022
APPENDIX E	COMMUNITY CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY 2022
APPENDIX F	NRPA CITY OF GRESHAM PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020
APPENDIX G	CITY OF GRESHAM STRATEGIC PLAN - ACTION PLAN 2022-23
APPENDIX H	METRO LOCAL SHARE COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS 2021