

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN City of Ontario, Oregon



Prepared by

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Preface

This report is intended to serve as a long-range guide for park and recreation services in Ontario. Once adopted it will give the City direction and policies for acquiring and developing parks, open space, trails, and other recreational facilities.

The City has been fortunate to acquire and develop park sites as needed to meet the growing demands for park and recreation facilities. However, this approach has only enabled the City to provide some basic park and recreation services. Specialized facilities needs that are required to meet changing participation levels and trends remain unmet primarily for financial reasons, which has resulted in a shortage of quality sport fields, indoor recreation space and trails.

Many of the parks require renovation and or substantial upgrades to improve their quality and usability. The plan identifies suggested improvements to each existing park. As a continuing planning effort, the City should review its capital improvement plan and maintenance operations and make changes as needed. The recommendations contained in this Plan will provide a framework for fulfilling the community's visions.

The City has a good park system and it is serving its residents well. It is now time to add park and recreation facilities for the 21st century community to make Ontario a city of choice for people who want to locate in the Western Treasure Valley.

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Executive Summary

Public input in the parks and recreation planning process identified clear preferences for a community of choice. They want a built environment that includes recreation opportunities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles. Trails were the number one identified desire for the community. Renovation and reopening of the Ontario Aquatic Center is also at the forefront of a large percentage of the populations mind.

The real challenge will be financing a parks and recreation system that meets the desires of people who make living choices based on the built environment. Ontario is fortunate to have so many natural allures that make park design easy and to some extent efficient. Working capital is needed to capitalize on the natural environment. Investing in a strong park system will pay dividends by bringing more people into our community and making healthy lifestyles more attainable.

SECTION 1 – Introduction

1.1 Introduction to the Project

Report Organization

This report summarizes the findings and conclusions for providing park and recreation services in City of Ontario. The Plan will provide policies for improving and maintaining the existing park system, acquiring land for proposed park, recreation and open space areas; and an approach for financing future improvements. The proposed short-term strategy (six years) for funding these improvements is identified in Section 7, Implementation.

The Plan also includes sections that identifies and evaluates the existing system, assesses the need for additional park land, open space and specialized facilities, establishes criteria and standards for site selection, design, and management of the various areas, and recommends an approach to funding acquisition, development and maintenance of facilities.

Due to the large amount of information in the Plan, much of the technical data is located in appendices found at the back of this document. The main report is divided into the following sections:

Section 1 - Introduction: Provides an overview of the document organization, opportunities for public involvement and summarizes the planning process.

Section 2 – Community Profile: Discusses the community profile that provides the framework for the Plan. This includes a discussion of the natural resources, political boundaries and the population profile.

Section 3 – Existing Resources: Inventories and analyzes the park system. This section categorizes the parks by type.

Section 4 - Demand Analysis Summary: Provides a summary of the household survey and the community workshop meeting.

Section 5 – Needs Assessment Summary: Provides an overview of the methodology and results of the park, open space and facility needs assessment process.

Section 6 - Recommendations: Provides recommendations and policies for the acquisition and development of future park sites as well as improvements to existing facilities. It also addresses recommendations for the development of major specialized facilities and suggests operational procedures to better manage the park and recreation program in Ontario.

Section 7 - Implementation: Provides a list of projects and actions necessary to implement the plan, identifies project priorities and potential funding sources.

Appendix A - Community Profile: Discusses community profile information that influences the demand and need for park and recreation services. This includes demographic and land use information.

Appendix B - Existing Resources: Includes an inventory of existing park, open space and recreational areas in the Ontario area. This includes lands and facilities owned by the City of Ontario as well as Malheur County, State of Oregon and Ontario School District.

Appendix C - Demand Analysis: Provides an analysis of the household and community workshop meeting.

Appendix D – Needs Assessment: Provides an analysis of the park, open space and facility needs assessment.



Background Reports

In addition to the information found in this report, a series of background reports were prepared during the study process. These documents included:

Discussion Paper #1	Community Profile
Discussion Paper #2	Existing Resources
Discussion Paper #3	Demand Analysis
Discussion Paper #4	Needs Assessment
Discussion Paper #5	Design Standards
Discussion Paper #6	Preliminary Recommendations

The purpose of providing these “interim-planning reports” was to provide background information during the study and provide a foundation for future decision-making.

1.2 Public Involvement

To reflect the views of the community and build consensus support for the plan, public participation was an integral part of the planning process. Public involvement was achieved through the following methods:

- **Household Survey** – This included sampling of Ontario residents through the use of a household survey. The objective was to obtain user opinions and preferences regarding existing and future services.
- **Community Charette**
 - This was an advertised meeting open to the general public. The meeting was structured to allow participants an opportunity to voice their personal opinions.
- **Contacts with User Groups** – Consisted of conversations with facility providers and organized sports group representatives.

The various methods focused on activities that solicited input and public involvement from a variety of interest groups.

1.3 Planning Process

The planning process was divided into four basic phases. These are outlined below.

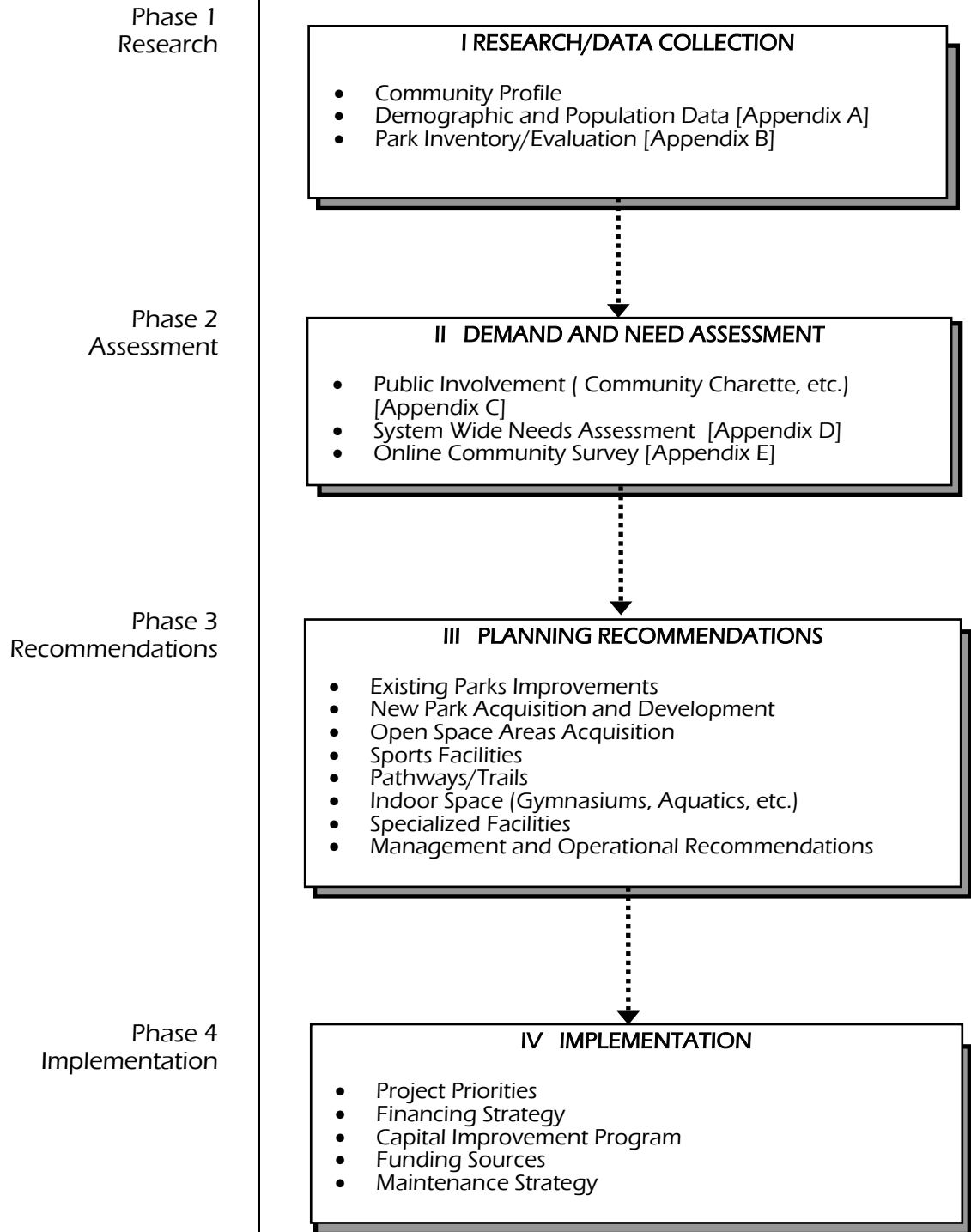


FIGURE 1.1
Planning Process

SECTION 2 – Community Profile

2.1 Regional Context

The City of Ontario is located in eastern Oregon in the northeast portion of Malheur County along the Oregon-Idaho border. The City is linked with other communities by various modes of transportation. Interstate 84 provides linkages west (e.g., Baker City, LaGrande and Portland) and east (e.g., Boise and Twin Falls). Highway 20 and 26 also provides access to the west to central Oregon (e.g., Bend). Highway 201 provides access to the **Owyhee Lake** to the south and the **Snake River Canyon** to the north.

Due to its location, it functions as a regional center for many recreational and cultural activities for eastern Oregon and parts of western Idaho.

Listed below are travel distances from Ontario to various destinations.

<i>Boise</i>	<i>66 Miles</i>
<i>Portland</i>	<i>376 Miles</i>
<i>Bend</i>	<i>261 Miles</i>



FIGURE 2.1
Regional Location

2.2 Planning Area

The planning area for this study consists of what is referred to as Ontario's "Urban Growth Area". It includes the current incorporated area of Ontario, as well as unincorporated areas that will likely be annexed in the future. In general, the planning area extends to the Oregon state border on the east, to the Malheur River on the west, to the confluence of the Snake and Malheur Rivers on the north, and Butler Road on the south. The planning area measures approximately 8.22 square miles in size and includes roughly 5,258.94 acres.

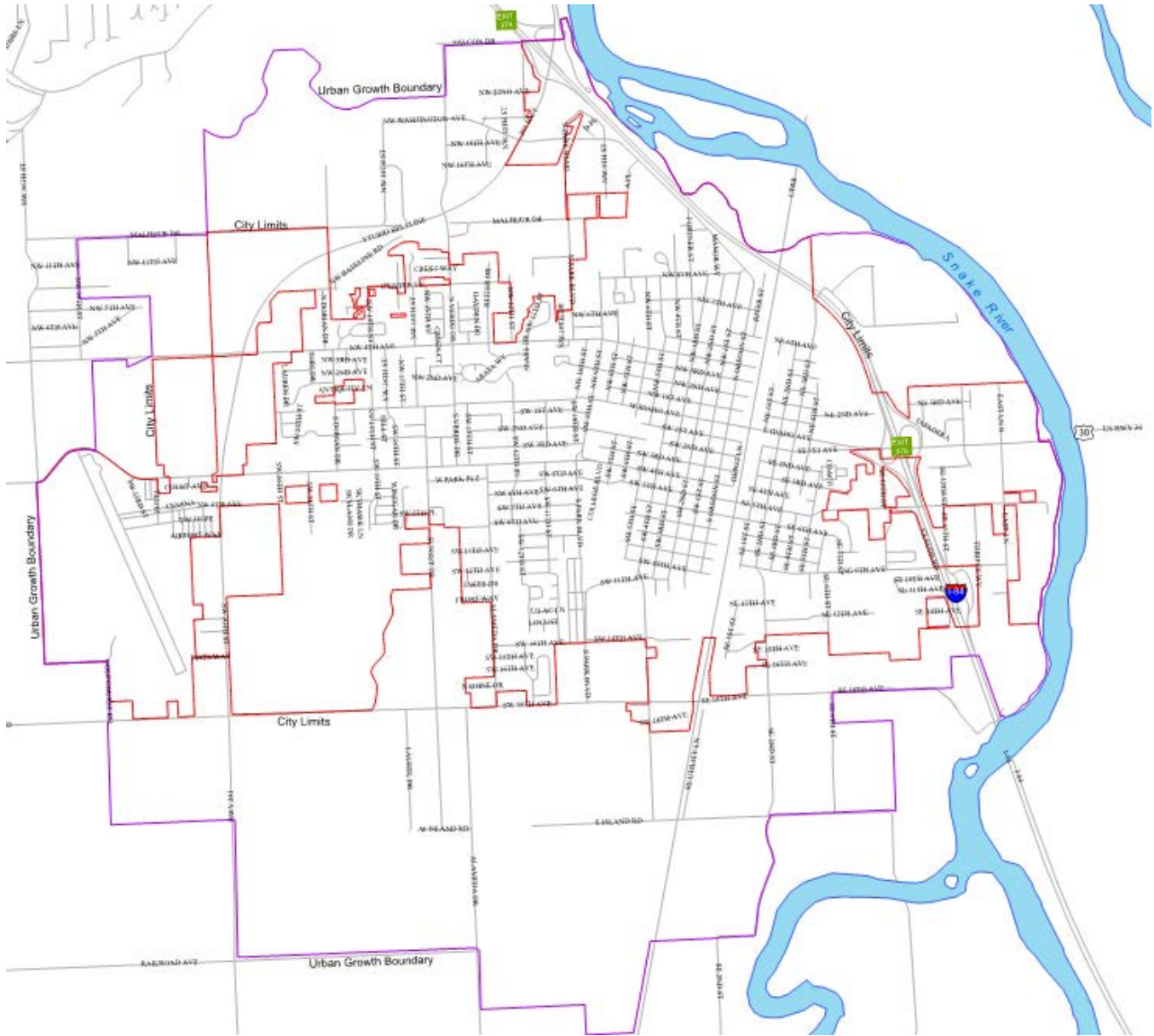


FIGURE 2.2
Planning Area Map

2.3 Natural Resources

The natural resources in the Ontario area are important for a variety of reasons. The topography/terrain, the existence of water features and drainage corridors, location of floodplain/floodway and the presence of wetlands all impact the potential for development. While these lands are considered environmentally sensitive and have limited development potential, they are often conducive to park, open space, and recreation uses. Aside from providing these potential functions, the protection of these areas has a number of other benefits such as protecting unique landforms, maintaining aquifer recharge areas and preserving the riparian and vegetative cover. The natural features that influence the provision of park, recreation and open space areas are listed below:

Topography/Terrain

Mountain, desert, and agricultural lands dominate Ontario’s surroundings. To the south and southwest are the desert environments of the Snake River Plain. West of Ontario and east of Ontario in Idaho lay agricultural lands.

Rivers, Streams and Drainage ways

The drainage system in the Ontario area is part of the Snake River Drainage Basin and consists of a hierarchy of rivers, streams, creeks and other drainage ways.

Rivers, streams and drainage way areas are important because of their ability to provide habitat corridors for fish and wildlife, preserve riparian vegetation and carry storm water runoff. In addition to their functional and aesthetic characteristics, the drainage ways can also serve as conduits for trails.

In Ontario, much of the open space and some of the parks in the area are concentrated along the river corridors. There are several opportunities to expand these areas and provide linear open space and trail opportunities along the rivers and beyond.

Aside from the **Snake and Malheur Rivers**, some of the more prominent features in Ontario include the **Stewart Carter Canal and the Dork Canal**.

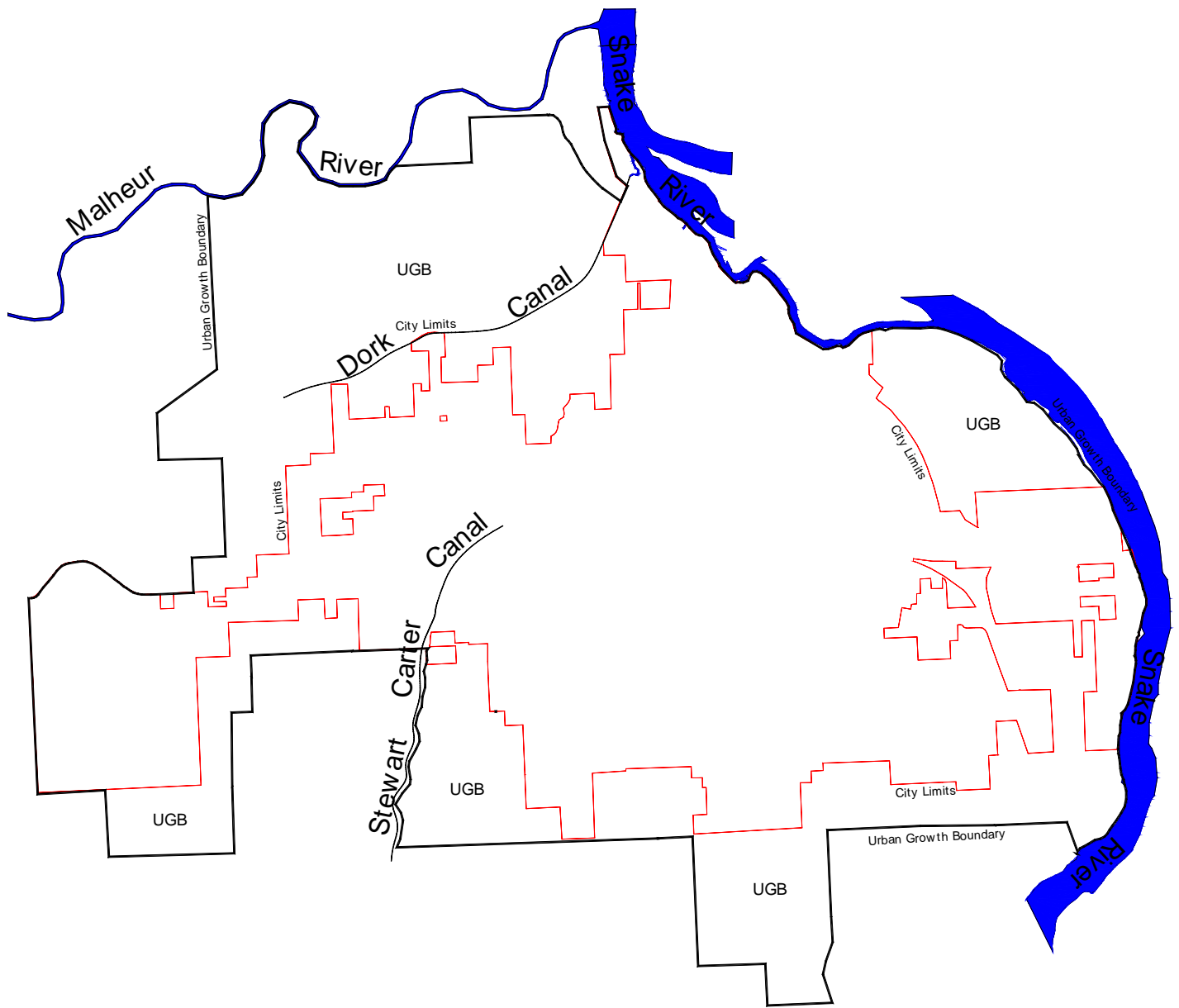


FIGURE 2.3
Water Features

Floodway/Floodplains

Floodplain areas are areas seasonally inundated by rivers, streams and creeks. These areas are delineated in terms of their frequency of flooding, such as 100-year and 500-year. The floodway is an area within the floodplain that includes that channel and any area below the ordinary high water level.

Floodways and floodplains are important because of their hazard potential and their ability to store floodwater. These areas can be used as a resource for recreation, in the form of open space, sport fields and scenic areas. These types of facilities do not typically interfere with the flow of water and are not significantly impacted by seasonal flooding.

In Ontario, a 100-year floodway has been identified along the Snake and Malheur Rivers.

Wetlands

Wetland areas have surface or ground water that supports vegetation typically for life in saturated (hydric) soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

For purposes of parks and recreation, wetlands are important for a number of reasons. The identification of wet areas creates a constraint to development; meaning lands are not conducive to construction of housing, commercial, or industrial. This means the areas can be used as a resource for recreation, in the form of open space, interpretive areas, or scenic areas.

Significant Wildlife Habitat

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has identified existing wetland areas within the Ontario area. These areas are considered “significant natural features” and their development is constrained by various jurisdictional regulations. The primary areas are located along the Snake River corridor.

The city has developed a formal partnership with the organization Pheasants Forever for watershed and wildlife management. They have worked with the city and the Department of Environmental Quality on habitat restoration and species management.

2.4 Climate

Ontario has a temperate four-season climate, providing for diverse forms of year-round recreation opportunities. Weather is strongly influenced by storm fronts originating in the Pacific. The Rocky Mountains to the north and east help limit cold northern storms from impacting the area.

According to the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) 1955-2011 data, Ontario averages 9.68 inches of precipitation per year, with the majority occurring in winter and spring. Average January maximum temperature is 36 degrees with a minimum of 20 degrees. Sub-zero days and nights are a common occurrence during late December and early January. Average June temperatures range from a maximum temperature of 84 degrees to a minimum temperature of 51 degrees.

From the perspective of providing park and recreation services, the varying climate would necessitate the need to provide a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities. During the winter months, indoor facilities such as gymnasiums and indoor pools support programs such as basketball, volleyball and swimming. Meetings and classrooms provide space for instructional classes and arts/crafts. During the summer months, parks facilities provide space for organized sports, playground activities and picnicking.

2.5 Demographic Characteristics

Demographic characteristics are important attributes because they create demand and influence recreational interests and participation. Factors such as age and income significantly affect the level and individual ability to pursue recreational activities. To a lesser extent, employment, education and ethnicity also play a role.

Population Trends

The population information for the City of Ontario has been derived from the 2010 US Census. Ontario is the largest city in Malheur County with an estimated 2010 population of 11,366. According to the US Census, the city's 2000 population was placed at 10,931 persons. From 2000 to 2010 the population data shows a 3.98% increase. The population breakdown by age indicates the majority (56.2%) of the population in Ontario is between the age of 18 and 64 years. Next is age 5 to 17 years at 21%, age 65 and older at 14.85%, and age 0 to 4 at 9.38%. The age breakdown reveals that majority of the population would be able to greatly use the recreational facilities.

2.6 Land Use

Land use plays an important role in the location, distribution and availability of park and recreational facilities. The diversity of land-uses in the Ontario area makes it necessary to evaluate the most effective means of meeting the park and open space needs for each major category.

Zoning Designation	Total Acres
Residential	789.69
Industrial	510.63
Commercial	452.89
Airport	309.65
Public Facilities	384.65
Total	2,447.51

The total land area of the City of Ontario is 2,447 acres. The distribution of the land is as follows. The majority of land is zoned residential (31%). This area encompasses most of the north and west of Ontario. Industrial lands are primarily found in and around the airport and along the railroad. Together they make up 20% of the developable area. Finally, commercial property located downtown, along Interstate 84 and along Highway 201 makes up 18% of land.

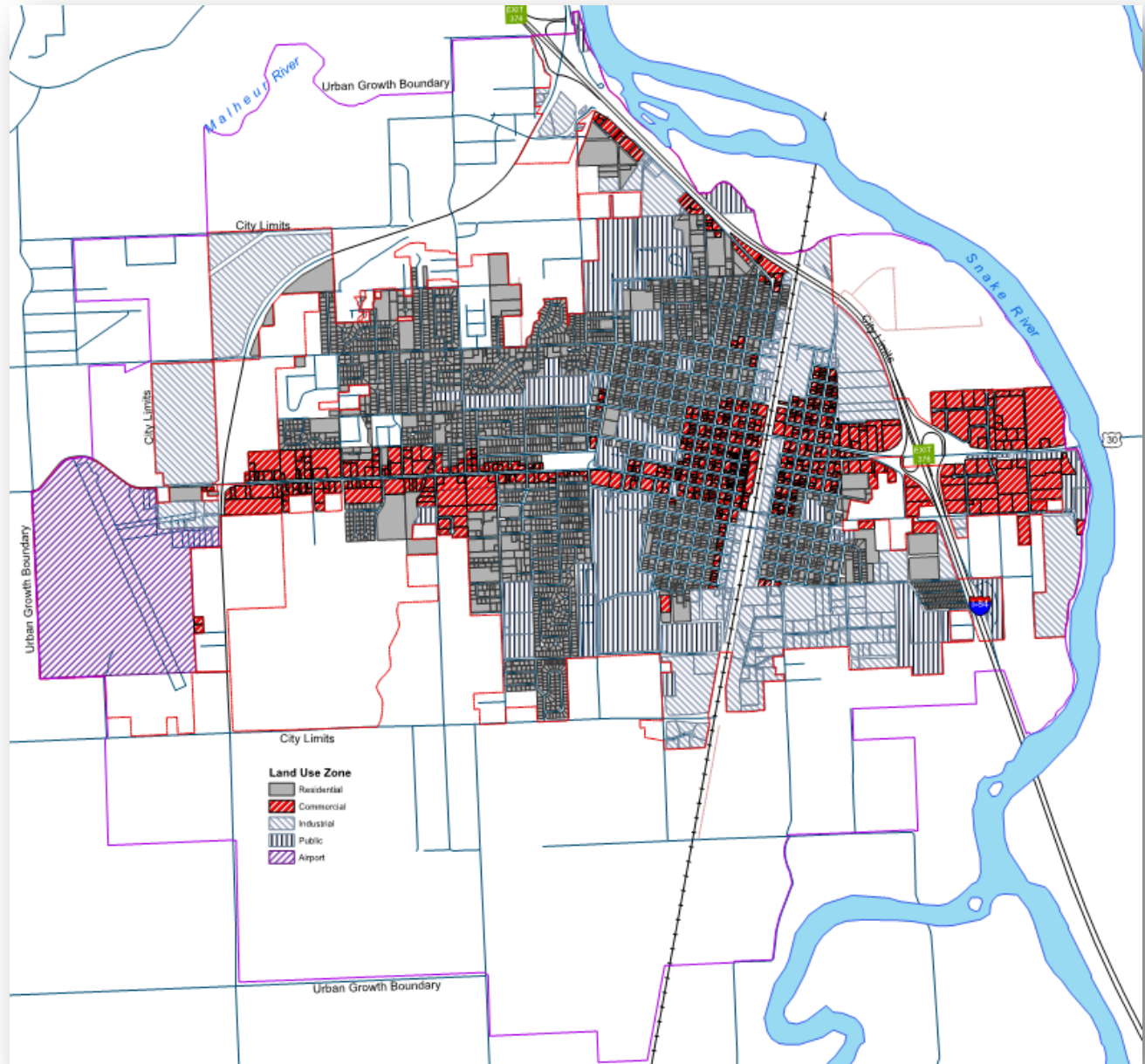


FIGURE 2.5
Land Use Map

Within the Ontario planning area there are approximately 2,534 additional acres outside the current city limits, but within the city's Urban Growth area it will ultimately be incorporated into the city. It is assumed that a portion of this acreage would be developed with residential units and be a source of potential population growth.

2.7 Housing

Based on the 2010 US census, there were approximately 4,620 housing units in the City of Ontario. Of this supply, 92.5% were considered occupied and 7.5% were vacant. Of the 4,275 occupied units, 52.5% are owner occupied and 47.5% are renter occupied.

2.8 Population Projections

Population growth primarily occurs through two means; 1) annexation and 2) in-migration and infill. Both sources are particularly critical in identifying new demand for park and recreation services. Shown below is the population projection for the Ontario.

Table 2.2 Population Projections City of Ontario	
Year	Population Based on Straight Line Projection (1)
2017	11,465
2020	11,470
2025	12,000
2030	12,550
2035	12,950
2040	13,200
Regression Analysis with an R ² value of .98	



SECTION 3 – Existing Recreation Resources

3.1 Introduction

Currently, the City of Ontario is the primary provider of parks and recreational facilities in the area. Other agencies such as Oregon State Parks and Malheur County provide some limited urban recreational opportunities but to a much lesser extent. In addition to the City, the Ontario School District and Treasure Valley Community College are also major providers of sport facilities in the area.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Areas

The Ontario park system consists of both active and passive recreational areas. There are four neighborhood parks, one community park, one large urban park and numerous special use sites in the park system. In total, the City owns 16 park and recreational areas representing more than 985 acres of land. The City also owns and operates several specialized recreational facilities including the Ontario Splash Pad (currently under construction) and a skateboard area.

Other recreational sites in the planning area owned by public agencies include Malheur County Fairgrounds (owned by the Malheur County), Ontario State Park (owned by Oregon State Parks), and Safety Rest Area (Oregon Department of Transportation).

Listed below is a summary of the park, recreation and open space areas located within the Ontario area. This includes land owned by the City of Ontario, Malheur County, State of Oregon, Ontario School District and Treasure Valley Community College.

Table 3.1

Summary of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Areas
(All Agencies) Ontario Planning Area

Park, Recreation and Open Space Areas	Total Park Land (Acres)	Number of Sites
City of Ontario		
Pocket-Parks	0	0
Urban Plaza Parks	0	0
Neighborhood Parks	20.41	4
Community Parks	33.35	1
Regional Parks	22.65	2
Nature Parks	253.38	1
Special Use Parks	639.32	7
Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways		
Regional Sports Parks	19.59	
Linear Parks	0.00	0
Destination Parks	6.29	1
Undeveloped Parkland	9.62	1
Total City Areas	985	16
Malheur County		
Special Use Areas	36.58	1
Total County	36.58	1
State of Oregon		
Regional Parks	11.51	1
Special Use Areas	13.49	1
Total State	25.00	2
TOTAL	1,073.67	16

Based on the inventory above, the current ratio of park land to population can be derived. The current ratio is the existing amount of park land divided by the existing population. It is expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 population.

By identifying the current ratio, one can quickly compare current inventories with other communities and determine whether Ontario is above or below average. Listed below is the current ratio for each of the park land categories in Ontario.

Table 3.2
Summary of Current Ratios (All Agencies)
Ontario Planning Area

Park Land Type	Current Ratio (Acres per 1,000 Population)
Pocket-Parks	0 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Urban Plaza Parks	0 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Neighborhood Parks	1.78 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Community Parks	2.90 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Regional Parks	1.98 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Nature Parks	22.1 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Special Use Parks	55.8 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways	0 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Regional Sports Parks	0 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Linear Parks	0 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Destination Parks	.55 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Undeveloped Parkland	.83 Acres/1,000 Pop.
TOTAL	85.94 Acres/1,000 Pop.

Facilities

Table 3.3
Summary of Facilities (All Agencies)
Ontario Planning Area

Area	Total Number of Facilities	Youth Size	Adult Size
City of Ontario			
Baseball Fields	2	2	0
Softball Fields	0	0	0
Soccer Fields	4	0	4
Football Fields	0	0	–
Tennis Courts	6	–	–
Outdoor BB Courts	2	2	–
Sand Volleyball Courts	0	–	–
Gymnasiums	0	–	–
Pool Space (3,150)	0	–	–
Splash Pad (4,000)	1	–	–
Pathways/Trails	0.5 Miles	–	–
Ontario School District			
Baseball Fields	2	1	1
Softball Fields	1	1	0
Soccer Fields	7	3	4
Football Fields	1	0	1
Tennis Courts	7	–	–
Outdoor BB Courts	7	7	0
Sand Volleyball Courts	0	–	–
Gymnasiums	7	6	1
Pool Space	0	–	–
Pathways/Trails	0	–	–
Private Schools/College			
Baseball Fields	1	1	0
Softball Fields	3	3	0
Soccer Fields	4	3	1
Football Fields	0	0	0
Tennis Courts	5	–	–
Outdoor BB Courts	0	–	–
Sand Volleyball Courts	0	–	–
Gymnasiums	6	5	1
Pool Space	0	–	–
Pathways/Trails	0	–	–

Table 3.4
 Summary of Current Recreation Facility Ratios
 (All Agencies) City of Ontario

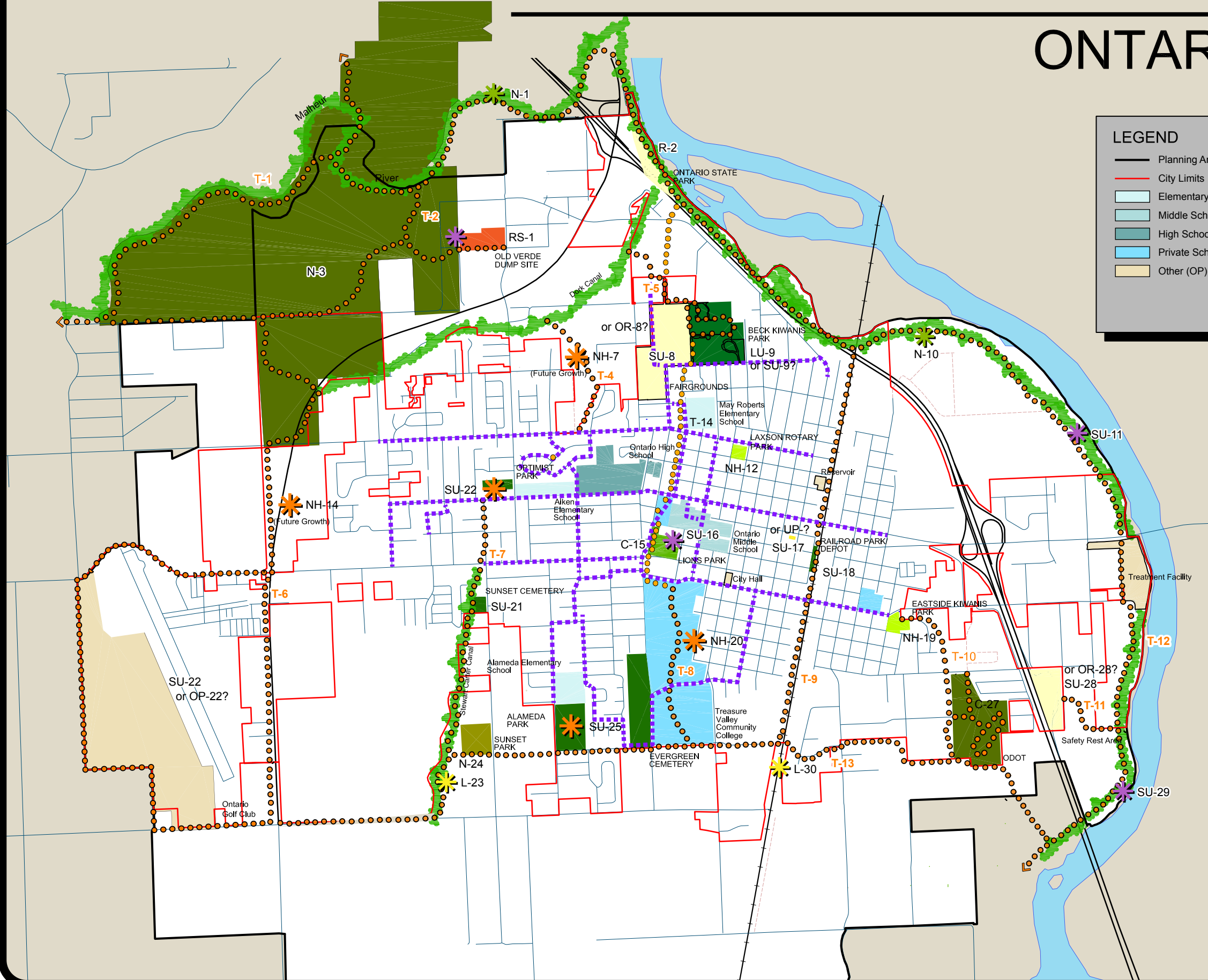
Park Land Type	Current Ratio (Facilities per 1,000 Population)
Baseball Fields	1 Field/2,293 Pop.
Softball Field	1 Field/2,866 Pop.
Soccer Field	1 Field/764 Pop.
Football Fields	1 Field/11,465 Pop.
Tennis Courts	1 Court/637 Pop.
Volleyball Courts	None
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1 Court/1,274 Pop.
Gymnasiums	1 Gym/882 Pop.
Pool Space	0 SF/1,000 Pop
Pathways/Trails	0 Mi./1,000 Pop.

On the following page is a map of the existing parks and open space areas in the Ontario area.



PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

ONTARIO, OREGON

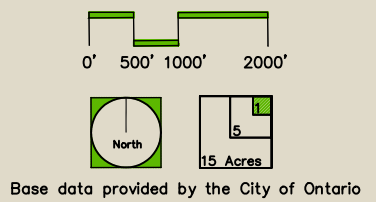


LEGEND

Planning Area Bounday (UGB)	Urban Plaza (UP) Park
City Limits	Neighborhood (NH) Park
Elementary School	Community (C) Park
Middle School	Regional (R) Park
High School	Regional Sports (RS) Park
Private School	Special Use (SU) Park
Other (OP) Public Land	Nature (N) Park
	Undeveloped (U) Parkland
	Other (OR) Recreational Resources (Non-City)

KEY (Proposed Facilities)

Neighborhood (NH) Park
Community (C) Park
Linear (L) Park
Special Use (SU) Park
Nature (N) Park
Off-Street Trails (T)
On-Street Bike Lanes (B)
Safe Routes (SR)



Facility
Plan Map

3.2 Park Land Definitions

The most effective and efficient park system to manage is one made up of different types of parks, each designed to provide a specific type of recreation experience or opportunity. When classified and used properly, they are easier to maintain, create less conflicts between user groups and have less impact on adjoining neighbors. To assess the park system in Ontario and to address specific park land needs, the parks have been classified as follows in accordance with the State Parks Plan.

Pocket-Parks

Basic recreation opportunities on small lots, within residential areas serving an area within approximately 5-10 minutes walking time (approximately ¼ mile). Typically less than two acres in size (1/4 to 2 acres), these parks are designed to serve residents in immediately adjacent neighborhoods. Pocket parks provide limited recreation amenities, such as playgrounds, benches, and picnic tables. Pocket parks do not normally provide off-street parking.

Urban Plaza Parks

Urban plaza parks are public gathering spaces in urban spaces that foster community interaction and civic pride. They are small in size (. to 3 acres) and intensely developed. Visitors will tend to be those who are already in the neighborhood for other purposes, such as shopping, work, dining and/ or those who live in or near densely developed urban areas. Urban plaza parks typically include amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, litter receptacles, trees and shrubs, paved walkways and plazas.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreation opportunities primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are located within approximately 5-10 minute walking time (approximately ¼ - ½ mile) without crossing major thoroughfares and/or other structures and easy bicycling distance of residents. They serve up to a one-half-mile radius and are generally 2-10 acres in size. They typically include amenities such as playgrounds, outdoor sports courts, sport fields, picnic tables, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas. They may or may not provide off-street parking. When practical, they can be located next to elementary schools in order to provide more efficient use of public resources.

Community Parks

A community park are typically larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are typically 15-100 acres, depending on the spatial requirements of the facilities provided and the amount of land dedicated to the natural resources protection. Community parks provide both active and passive recreation appealing to the community serving an area within approximately 15 minutes driving time. They are normally designed as drive to sites. They can accommodate large numbers of people and offer a wide variety of facilities, such as group picnic areas and large shelters, sports fields and courts, children's play areas, swimming pools and splash pads, community gardens, extensive pathway systems, community festival or event space, and green space or natural areas. Community parks require additional support facilities, such as off-street parking and restrooms and as such can also serve as regional trailheads.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are large parks that provide access to unique natural or cultural features and regional-scale recreation facilities. Typically 100 acres or more in size, regional parks serve areas within a 45 minute drive time. These parks often include significant green space to preserve unique natural areas, riverfront corridors, wetlands, and agricultural or forested areas. Regional parks may include natural areas, riverfront corridors,

wetlands, and agricultural or forested areas. Regional parks may include properties for which there are no immediate development plans and that are situated in such a way as to primarily serve the surrounding neighborhood land banked properties). They also accommodate large group activities and often have infrastructure to support sporting events, festivals, and other revenue-generating events to enhance the City's economic vitality and identity. Activities available in regional parks may include picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, trail use, etc. Regional parks include supporting facilities such as restrooms and parking.

Special Use Parks

The Special Use classification covers a broad range park and recreation lands that are specialized or single purpose in nature. Parks in this category include waterfront or ocean access parks, boat ramps, memorials, historic sites, waysides, swimming ares, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, dog parks, skate parks, display gardens, sites occupied by buildings, or protect some significant geologic or scenic feature. Special use parks that have a community or regional draw may require supporting facilities such as parking or restrooms. Park size is dependent on special use and can vary from very small to many acres.

Linear Parks

Linear parks include natural or built corridors that connect parks and neighborhoods, provide linkages through the city, and preserve open space. Linear parks may include abandoned railroad lines, utility rights-of-way, wildlife corridors, or elongated natural areas defined by drainage features or topographical. Linear parks typically support trail-oriented activities, including walking, jogging, biking, skateboarding, and roller skating, which play a major role in health and fitness. Trails pathways, and bikeways located in other types of park settings, (e.g. neighborhood community, natural area parks) where the trail is not the primary purpose of the park or along existing streets or roadways may be connected to, but are excluded from this park category. Linear parks typically include amenities such as at major trailheads, and way finding markers, but may also incorporate smaller-scale neighborhood park amenities such as play areas, picnic areas, and exercise stations. Linear park size is dependent on the corridor length and opportunity.

Natural Parks

Nature parks are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. They may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas such as wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Nature parks may vary in size from small parcels (less than 10 acres) to large properties of more than 200 acres. They typically serve a community-wide population and include greenways, natural areas, and preserves. Public access to natural areas may be limited at these sites, which often include wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces. Some nature parks may be managed secondarily to provide passive recreation opportunities. These sites may contain trails, interpretive displays, viewpoints, and seating areas.

Destination Parks

Destination parks can include the same characteristics as Regional Parks, Natural Area Parks, Special Use Parks, and Linear Parks, but offer such outstanding natural, historic, scenic or recreational attractions that visitors travel more than an hour to several days, by car, to reach them. They are usually well known statewide and even nationally. They can have a wide range of acreage sizes and levels of development, but generally have moderate to very intensive level of visitation. They can be day-use parks or can offer overnight camping or cabins.

Regional Sports Park

Regional sports parks typically consolidate heavily programmed athletic facilities for activities such as soccer, football, baseball/softball into a few strategically located sites throughout the community. Regional sports parks could also include facilities such as race tracks, and equestrian areas. The location of these facilities is

important due to the traffic, lighting, and noise that are often associated with them. They typically require large parking areas and restroom facilities. They also may have other park amenities, such as play areas or picnic facilities that serve non-participant family members and others while events are taking place. Regional sports parks normally require a minimum of 25 acres with 40—80 acres being optimal.

Trails Pathways, and Bikeways

Trails, pathways, and Bikeways include a number of trail types including multi-use pedestrian, and soft surface trails to accommodate a variety of activities such as walking, running, biking, dog walking, rollerblading, and skateboarding. Such trails may be located within parks or along existing streets and roadways as part of the citywide transportation system. Multi-use trails are designed for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders, wheelchairs, and other non-motorized vehicle users. These trails are hard surfaced to accommodate bicycles and provide accessibility for people with disabilities. Hard surfaced pedestrian trails are generally found within smaller parks and as secondary trails within larger parks. Soft surfaced trails are composed of soft surface materials, such as soil, crushed rock, hog fuel, and wood chips. Most soft surfaces do not provide accessibility for people with disabilities but are preferable for some recreation activities, such as running and hiking. Trails, pathways, and bikeways may include amenities such as directional and control signage, gates, benches, overlooks, drinking fountains, lighting, trailhead kiosks, and interpretive signs.

Undesignated/Undeveloped Land

This is undeveloped land and has not been designated for a specific park use at this time.

School Recreation Land

School recreation land is land devoted to recreation time.

Beginning on the following page is an inventory of each existing park and recreation area under the ownership of Ontario.

In some instances, it includes park facilities that have been developed on land owned by the Ontario School District.

3.3 City of Ontario Park and Recreation Areas

The adjacent table summarizes the park, recreation, and open space areas owned and maintained by the City of Ontario.

Table 3.5
Summary of City Parks and Recreational Areas by Type
Ontario Planning Area

Park Areas	Total Acres	Percent Developed	Condition
Pocket Parks	0	0	N/A
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>0</i>		<i>N/A</i>
Neighborhood Parks			
Lanternman Kiwanis Park	3.29	75%	Poor
Laxson Rotary Park	2.02	75%	Fair
Sunset Park	9.22	0%	
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>14.53</i>		
Urban Plaza Parks			
	0	0%	N/A
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>0</i>		
Community Parks			
Lions Park	6.26	100%	Good
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>6.26</i>		
Regional Parks			
Beck Kiwanis Park	30.96	90%	Good
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>30.96</i>		
Special Use Parks			
Alameda Park	13.67	50%	Good
Downtown Plaza	0.22	100%	Fair
Evergreen Cemetery	19.95	100%	Good
Optimist Park	2.96	50%	Fair
Railroad Depot Park	1.14	75%	Good
Sunset Cemetery	2.78	100%	Fair
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>40.72</i>		
Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways			
	0	0%	N/A
<i>Subtotal</i>			
Regional Sports Parks			
Old Verde Dump Site	19.59	0%	N/A
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>19.59</i>		
Linear Parks			
	0	0%	N/A
<i>Subtotal</i>			
Nature Parks			
Malheur River Open Space	763.83	0%	N/A
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>763.83</i>		
Destination Parks			
	0	0%	N/A
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>0</i>		
TOTAL	866.67		

Table 3.7
 Summary of City Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Areas
 Ontario Planning Area

Park Area Services Matrix	Indoor Facilities	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Open Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Basketball Courts	Playground Areas	Shelter Buildings	Picnic Areas	Restrooms	Parking Areas	Pathway/Trails	Natural Areas	Pond	Other
Neighborhood Parks																	
Eastside Kiwanis Park																	Multi-use backstop
Laxson Rotary Park																	Multi-use backstop
Community Parks																	
Lions Park						(2)											Splash Pad, skate area,
Sunset Park																	
Large Urban Parks																	
Beck Kiwanis Park		(2)				(2)											
Special Use Areas																	
Alameda Park				(2)													
Downtown Plaza	*																
Evergreen Cemetery																	Cemetery
Optimist Park				(1)													
Railroad Depot Park																	Depot building
Sunset Cemetery																	Cemetery
Regional Sports Park																	
Verde Regional Sports Park																	Undeveloped
Open Space Areas																	
Malheur River Open Space																	

3.4 Facility Definitions

The most functional type of facilities are adequately developed ones designed to serve a particular function. However, for various reasons (e.g., facility shortages, poor condition), sport facilities are often used for activities or sports they were not designed for. To assess the condition of existing facilities and to address additional needs, the facilities have been divided into the following categories.

Baseball Fields

Regulation field dimensions: 320'+ outfields, 90 baselines, grass infield; permanent backstop and support facilities

Youth field dimensions: 200'+ outfields, 60 baselines, dugouts. Grass infield not required; permanent backstop and support facilities

Softball Fields

Field dimensions (Slow-pitch): 250' minimum-women 275' minimum-men outfields, 60 baselines, (fast pitch) 225'; skinned infield; permanent backstop and support facilities

Youth field dimensions: 200'+ outfields, 60 baselines, dugouts. Grass infield not required; permanent backstop and support facilities

Multi-Use Backstops

Field dimensions: 150'+ outfields, all grass field and backstop only

Soccer Fields

Regulation field dimensions: 195' x 225' by 330' x 360', grass or all weather surfacing; permanent or portable goals

Youth field dimensions: Varies according to age U14 (60 yds. x 110 yds.) - U6 (20 yds. x 30 yds.); permanent or portable goals

Football Fields

Field dimensions: 160' x 360'; permanent goals

Tennis Courts

Appropriate dimensions, fenced and surfaced with a color coat

Gymnasium Space

Appropriate dimension for the sport and have adequate dimensions outside the court for safe play. Playing surface should be of resilient flooring.

Swimming Pools

Appropriate dimension for intended use (recreation or competitive)

Outdoor Basketball Court

42'-50 x 74'-94 plus appropriate perimeter distance

Volleyball Court (Sand)

30' x 60' plus appropriate perimeter distance

3.5 Summary of Facilities

Below is a list of recreational facilities categorized by type. This includes regulation baseball fields, youth baseball/softball fields, multi-use backstops, regulation softball fields, regulation soccer fields, youth soccer fields, football fields, tennis courts, gymnasium space and swimming pools. It should also be noted that the quality and condition of the facilities varies significantly between organizations. In many instances, the playing fields are uneven or lack adequate upkeep and maintenance.

Table 3.14
Summary of Recreation Facilities by Type
Ontario Planning Area

BASEBALL FIELDS (College/Babe Ruth/American Legion Fields, Little League)

Number	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Ontario High School		Excellent
1	Treasure Valley Community College	Stadium	Excellent
2	Beck Kiwanis Park	Little League	Fair
1	Ontario Middle School	Little League	Fair
5	TOTAL (Baseball Fields)		

SOFTBALL FIELDS (Men's, women's, Coed & Youth)

Number	Location	Comments	Condition
3	Treasure Valley Community College	One Excellent shape	Excellent
1	Ontario Middle School	Youth softball	Fair
4	TOTAL (Softball Fields)		

MULTI USE FIELDS (Practice baseball and softball)

Number	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Eastside Kiwanis Park		Fair
1	Laxson Rotary Park		Fair
2	TOTAL (Multi-Use Fields)		

SOCCER FIELDS (195'-225' X 330-360, U14-U6')

Number	Location	Comments	Condition
2	Aiken Elementary	U-6	Fair
1	Aiken Elementary School	U12	Fair
1	Alameda Elementary	U-10	Fair
2	Alameda Park	U19	Good
1	May Roberts Elementary	U-14	Fair
1	Ontario High School	U19	Fair
1	Ontario Middle	U10	Fair

1	Optimist Park	U16	Good
1	St Peter School	U-6	Fair
4	Treasure Valley Community College	U19	Fair
15	TOTAL (Soccer Fields)		

FOOTBALL FIELDS

Number	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Ontario High School	Stadium and practice	Good
1	TOTAL (Football Fields)		

TENNIS COURTS

Number	Location	Comments	Condition
4	Beck Kiwanis Park	Lighted	Poor
3	Christian Life Fellowship		Poor
2	Lions Park		Fair
4	Ontario High School		Poor
3	Ontario Middle		Fair
5	Treasure Valley Community College		Good
21	TOTAL (Tennis Courts)		

OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS

Number	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Aiken Elementary		Fair
4.5	Ontario Middle School	(9) ½ court	Fair
1	Laxson Park		Fair
1	Alameda Elementary	(2) ½ court	Fair
1	Eastside Kiwanis Park	(2) ½ court	Good
9.0	TOTAL (Basketball Courts)		

VOLLEYBALL COURTS (sand)

Number	Location	Comments	Condition
<i>None</i>			
0	TOTAL (Volleyball Courts)		

GYMNASIUMS (for basketball and volleyball play)

Number	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Aiken Elementary		
1	Alameda Elementary		
1	May Roberts Elementary		
1	Ontario High School		
3	Ontario Middle	Only 1 Full Size	
1	Treasure Valley Community College	2 ¾ Courts	
8	TOTAL (Gymnasiums)		

SWIMMING POOLS (indoor and outdoor pools)

Square Feet	Location	Comments	Condition
3,150	Aquatic Center	Pool Closed in 2013	Needs major renovation
4,000	Splash Pad (0" depth)	Under Construction	
7,150	TOTAL (Pools)		



SECTION 4 – Recreation Demand Summary

4.1 Introduction

Demand analysis was gathered through four primary inputs.

1. Parks & Recreation Charette and Survey
2. City Strategic Plan Focus Groups
3. Friends of the Aquatic Center Survey
4. Partner Group Plans, specifically the Ontario Kiwanis Club Vision for Lanterman Park and the Fairgrounds rebuilding plan.

4.2 Summary of Parks & Recreation Charette and Survey

The City hosted a charette [A public meeting or workshop devoted to a concerted effort to solve a problem or plan the design of something¹] in Ontario at the Four Rivers Community Center. Maps of every park were on tables throughout a large room where they could be spread out and analyzed individually. Staff had many productive and informative comments from citizens about the facilities. The picture to the right was a submission idea for the Regional Sports Park.



As a follow up to the charette an online survey was administered to provide more input for the parks and recreation public feedback. The survey received 240 responses. We had excellent response from our community. Results of the survey process are shown below.

Top two items you want more of in Ontario	%
Multipurpose Trails (Bike, Pedestrian, etc...)	70.7%
Updated Playground Equipment	40.5%
Regional Sports Complex	32.6%
Dog Park	15.3%
Nature Parks	11.2%
Neighborhood Parks	9.3%
Community Parks	7.4%
Pocket Parks	6.5%
Destination Parks	5.1%
Special Use Parks	1.4%
Linear Parks	0.0%
Regional Park	0.0%

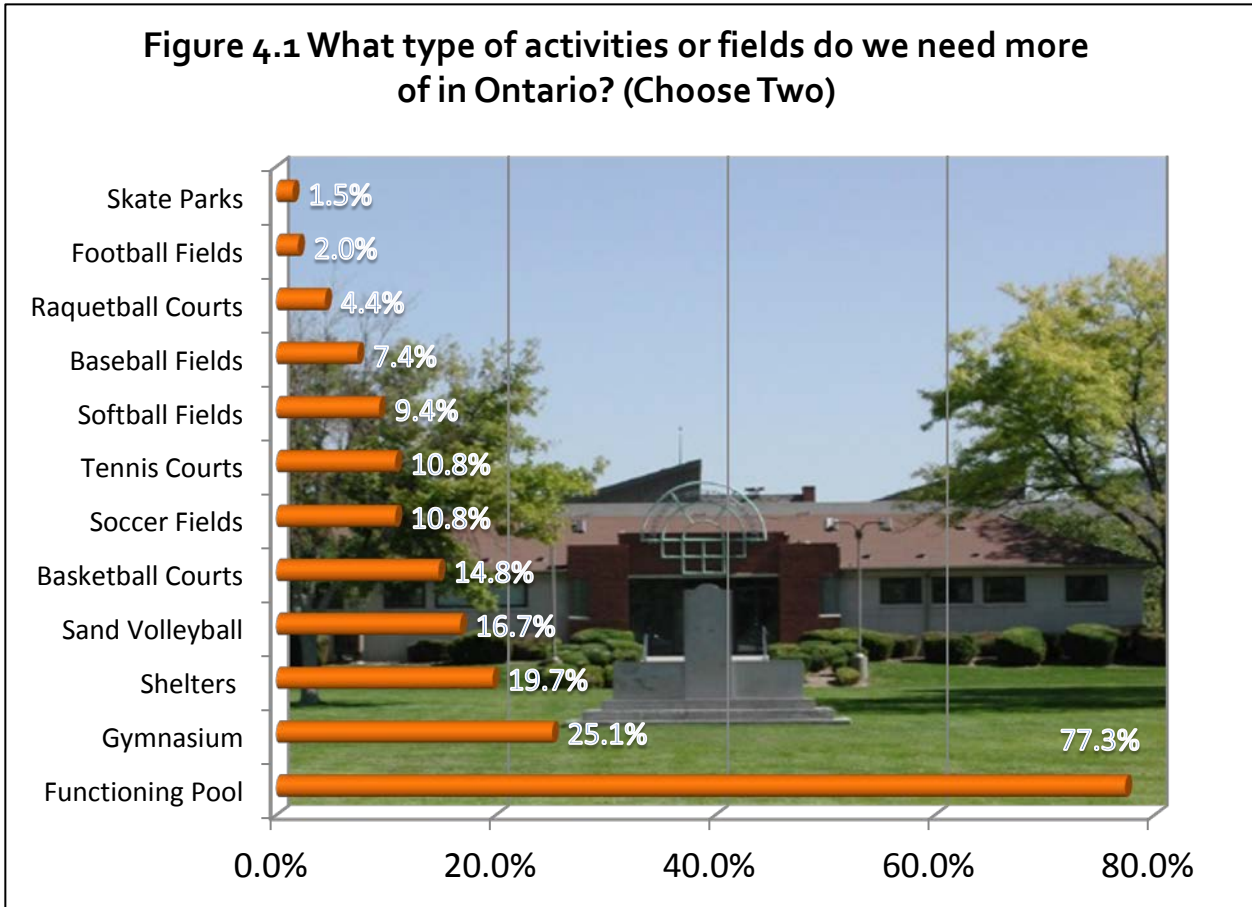
The highest response was for Multi-purpose Trails. Almost 70% of respondents chose multi-purpose trails as one of two selections for what items they would like to see more of in Ontario.

The next two responses were clearly separated from the rest. Over 40% of respondents want updated playground equipment and 32.6% want a regional sports complex.

In the middle range of responses receiving between 20% and 10% were dog parks and nature parks.

¹ Oxford's English Dictionary
Section 4 – Demand Analysis Summary

When asked what type of activities or fields we need more of in Ontario, residents overwhelmingly said a functioning pool. There was a clear separation between the first response and the other responses to this question. The next responses between 26% and 10% were, in order, gymnasium, shelters, sand volleyball courts, basketball courts, soccer fields, and tennis courts.



Undoubtedly, the responses were largely influenced by what we have already in the community and what we do not. The Ontario Aquatic Center (pool) was closed 5 years ago in 2013 and is at the forefront of many people’s mind.

As shown in other parts of the master plan we have a large volume of soccer fields, which is wildly popular in Ontario and we have a large supply of tennis courts. While it continues to be the most popular sport, by participation rates, the community does not feel as strongly that we need more facilities to accommodate that demand.

While there are many gymnasiums in the community, not all of them are accessible to the public. The facilities that are accessible to the public are tied up with school sports teams and some league play. It is very difficult to find access to gym space.

Lastly, it is no surprise that the community wants shelters given the warm summers in Ontario. Shelters provide a good respite in a dry climate like Ontario.

Each individual park received its own analysis for improvements and future development. The results can be found in the individual park inventory.

4.3 Summary of City Strategic Planning Focus Groups

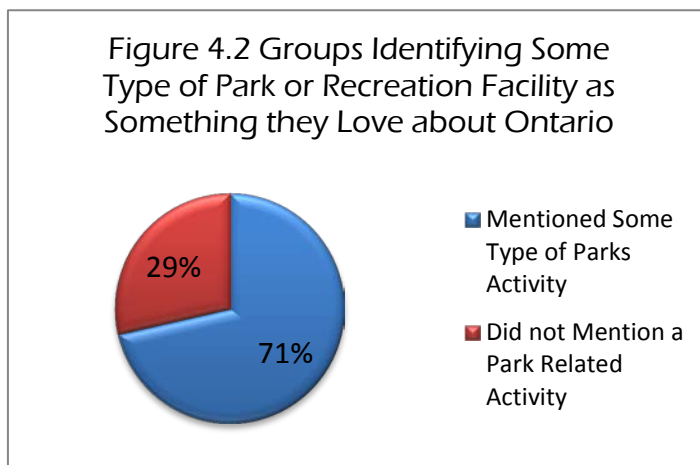
As part of the city's strategic plan update, the city and its partners of over 20 public, non-profit, and business organizations conducted focus groups throughout the community. The strategic planning team identified over 60 existing groups and clubs within our community. Our city team and partners reached out to each of these groups and were able to conduct focus groups with 28 of them asking them the same five questions of each focus group.

1. *Name things you enjoy about this community.*
2. *If you could change any one thing about your community what would it be?*
3. *Name a couple of topics or events that are of interest to you.*
4. *How do you like to receive communication*
5. *Think about the ideal community where you want to live. Describe that community. What do you want here that would make this community the place you want to be?*

Four out of the five questions gave us valuable information for our parks and recreation plan. The information is listed by response to each question. There was no steering or prompting by the facilitators. The facilitators were trained to facilitate without bias.

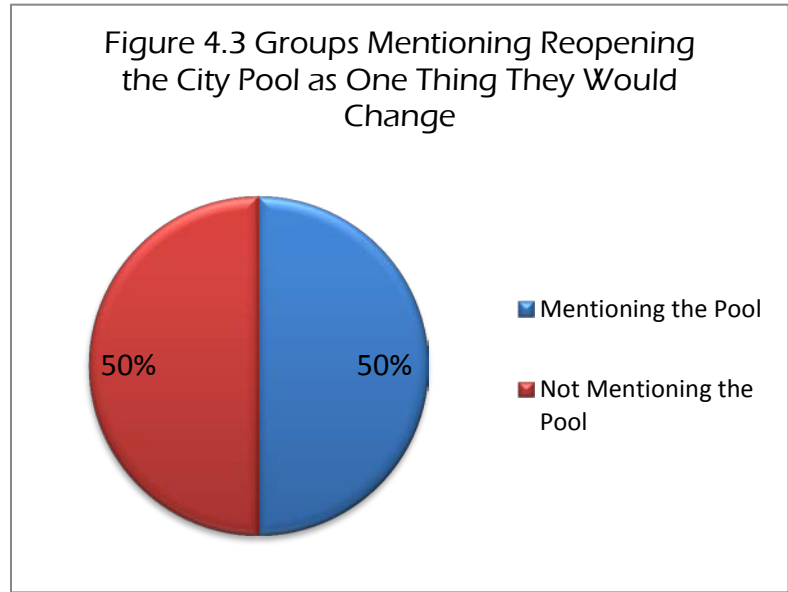
1. *Name things you enjoy about this community.*

Twenty of the 28 focus groups (71%) named some type of park or recreation aspect of our community as one of the things they enjoy about our community. Answers included specific city parks, outdoor activities, the county fairgrounds, recreational opportunities, sports programs, bicycle friendly, walkability, sidewalks, sports for kids, athletic events provided by the college, and high school sports.



2. *If you could change any one thing about your community what would it be?*

When asked "If you could change any one thing about your community what would it be?" respondents gave many examples relating to park facilities in the community or recreation associated with park facilities both from the city and the school systems. Of the 28 groups, 19 groups (68%) gave answers that included some type of improvement, change, or additional park and recreational opportunities.



Answers included more activities for youth and family, opening the golf course, a community center similar to a YMCA, summer kids events, fairground activities, cleaner parks, gymnasium activities, trails and bike paths connecting parks, and an operating swimming pool. Under the question “What one thing would you change about your community? 50% of the focus groups mentioned reopening the Ontario Aquatic Center (pool).

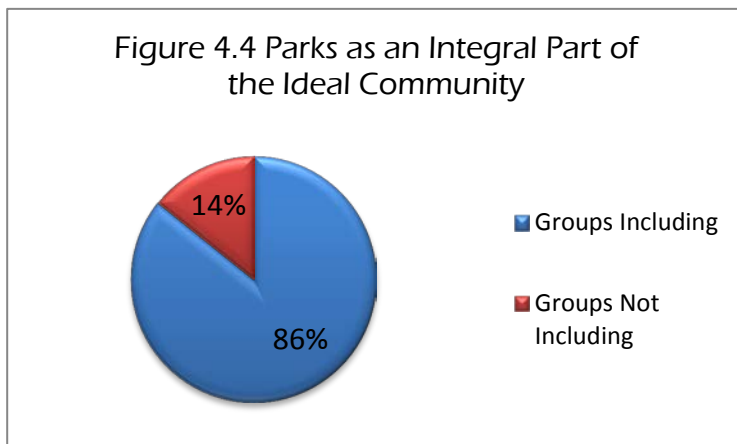
3. Name a couple of topics or events that are of interest to you.

Eighteen of 28 focus groups mentioned parks and recreation topics when asked about topics that interest them. Many of the topics of interest were focused on events using public parks like Global Village, concerts, fund raisers, and sporting events.

The Fairgrounds was mentioned many times as a topic of interest. Popular events at the Fairgrounds, including the fair itself, were the rodeo, 4H programs, and many other activities held on the Fairgrounds year round.

Lastly, the swimming pool was brought up frequently as a topic of interest. Eleven of the focus groups brought this topic up. They want to see it reopened for adult exercise and youth activities

5. Think about the ideal community where you want to live. Describe that community. What do you want here that would make this community the place you want to be?



Twenty four of the 28 focus groups talked about parks when asked to think about the ideal community and to describe it. They spoke about how important park facilities, recreation, and activities are to building an ideal community. They mentioned amenities like parks, greenbelts, recreation facilities, the closed golf course, events in the park, rodeos, outdoor art, community gardens, active citizens, and trails.

Nine of the 28 focus groups mentioned trails, walking paths, greenbelts, and river walks in the focus groups. Twelve of the 28 groups mentioned the swimming pool as being included in their ideal community.

Summary of Strategic Plan Focus Groups

The need to have parks as a place to recreate, come together as a community, exercise, host fundraisers, and get people outdoors is important to the community.

The community would like to have trails, paths, and bikeways to enjoy in the community. The idea of river walks and greenbelts is appealing.

Focus groups want to have a pool that is operational. It is a symbol of the things lost by this community.

The Fairgrounds is an important facility to many people in our community. Focus groups value the activities that happen there. Our diverse populations value the events and opportunities to come together at the Fairgrounds.

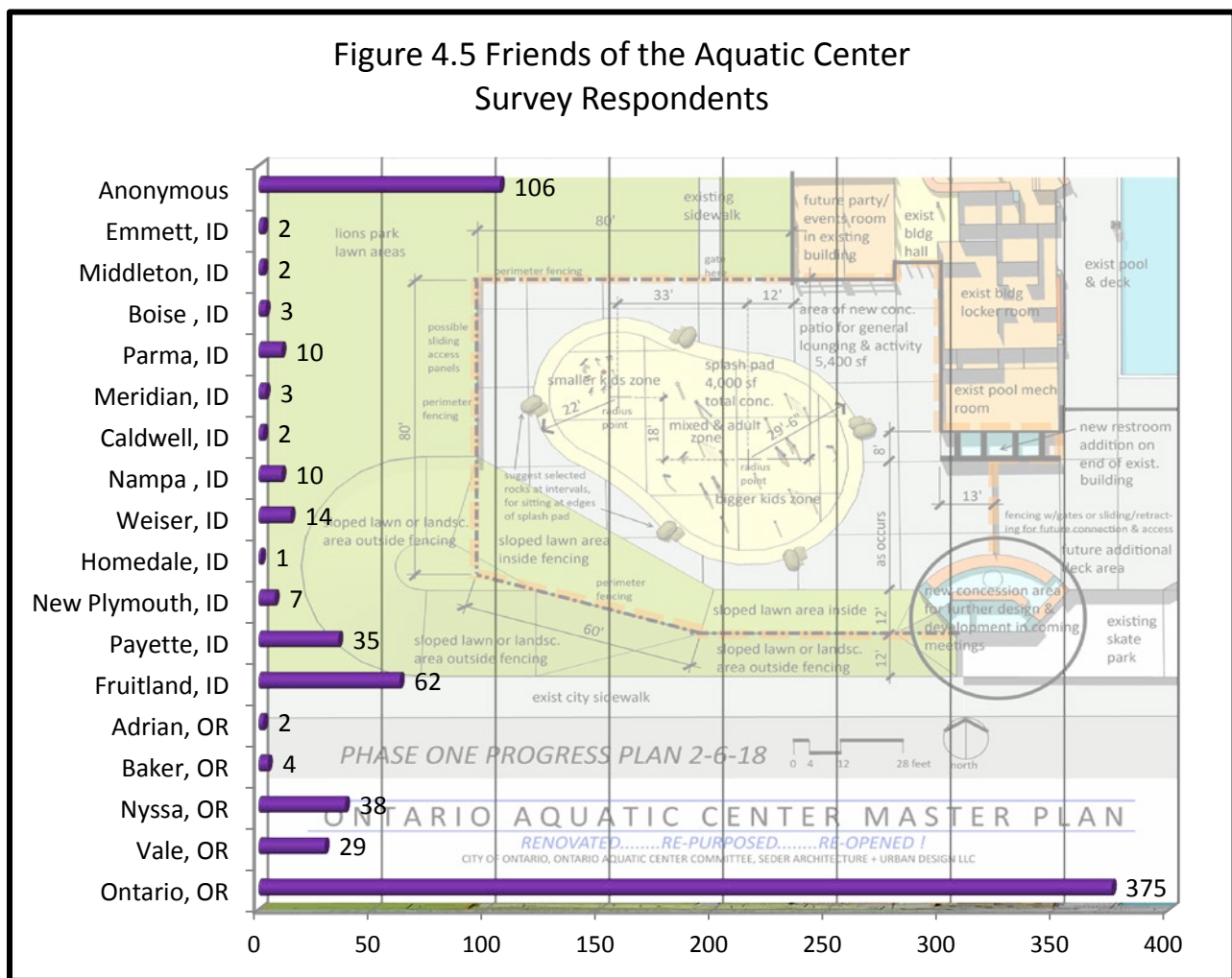
Many in the community would like to have a golf course back in the community, but many recognize that it is not practical. The city explored several operational models, both public and private, and they were not able to make it support itself.

4.4 Friends of the Aquatic Center Survey

The Friends of the Aquatic Center was formed in 2013 after the Ontario Aquatic Center was closed. Their mission is to build a quality Aquatic/Recreation Center that will improve Community Pride and serve our Community for generations.

They started by asking for kids vision of what they would like to see in an aquatic center. They received over 200 drawings from youth in our community.

They then asked a five question survey asking community residents what they would like to see happen with the pool. They received over 750 responses. Of the over 750 respondents, 375 claimed Ontario as their residence and 448 claimed Malheur County, and 101 did not state where they were from.



While the survey showed that the community wants an indoor pool about 3 to 1, the friends of the aquatic center went through a planning process that was financially grounded, which meant for the time, taking off the roof of the pool to make it an outdoor facility. At a future data a retractable roof can be added.

The survey showed that the primary usage would be in summer more than fall, winter, and spring, but most respondents said they would use it all year round. When asked what they would want to use the aquatic center for the top answers were:

☞ Swimming Lessons	399
☞ Public Open Swim	582
☞ Swim Team	137
☞ Exercise Class	381
☞ Other	81



The friends of the aquatic center held splash fest two years in a row, an outdoor fundraiser support activity for families. The first year was just to garner support, but still brought out over 700 people to the event. The second year, they charged a \$1 fee to see if the community would support an event or a facility for \$1. The second year’s event brought out over 900 kids with their parents.



The friends of the aquatic center worked with an architect over 2017 to come up with a phased plan to get the aquatic center back open. A splash pad was the first step because it was the lowest financial commitment to keep running after being built. The Friends of the Aquatic Center hopes to earn modest money from the splash pad to save for future phases of the aquatic center re-opening.

The plan below shows the phases of the aquatic center renovation. It combines the location of a splash pad, the skate park, tennis courts, the renovated pool, and a gymnasium into a destination park.



4.5 Summary of Partner Organizations

1. Fair Grounds Master Plan

The Malheur County Fair Grounds are an integral part of the City of Ontario's recreation services and facility amenities. The Malheur County Fair Board has spent significant time planning the future of the fair grounds. The winter of 2017 resulted in the loss of many of the fair facilities. They are in the process of rebuilding facilities and using the opportunity to rebuild it to maximize the future of the fair and its assets.

The City should work with the fair to connect other parts of the city in non-motorized trails and access. The fair continues to be a center point of activity in the city.

The Malheur County fairgrounds are the center of many cultural, festive, leadership, and educational opportunities for the community. The facilities are very flexible and provide a great venue for a diverse set of activities.



Kiwanis Club Park Vision

Both the Kiwanis Club and the City of Ontario have an interest in leveraging their own funds to accumulate more and accomplish a greater vision. The Kiwanis Club of Ontario gave serious consideration to one of their parks and how to create a grand vision for this park. The City of Ontario believes in collaboration and is delighted that the Club spent time, effort, and money into coming up with a grand vision for this park.

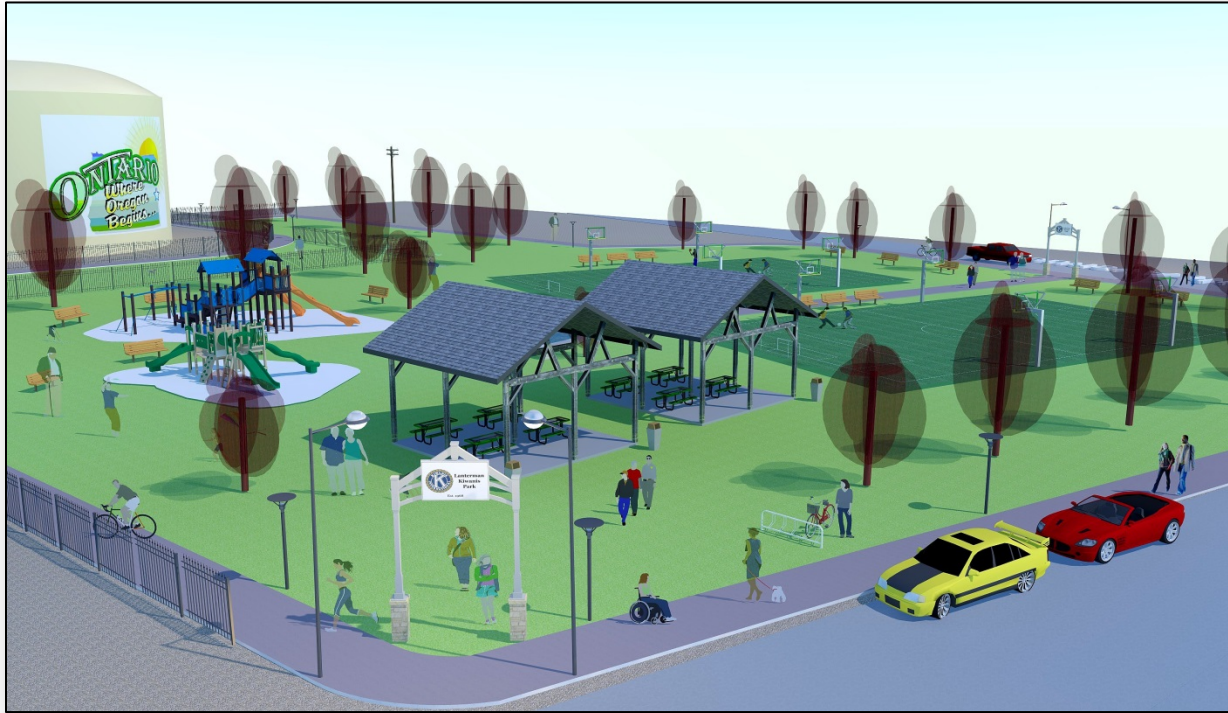
The master concept as shown below includes:

- ⌘ new decorative fencing where the current chain link and razor wire fence surround the city water tank
- ⌘ Updated playground equipment
- ⌘ A walking path around the perimeter of the park
- ⌘ A dog park
- ⌘ A new arched entryway on the corner of SE 5th Street and SE 5th Avenue
- ⌘ Two combination basketball and futsal courts
- ⌘ An additional shelter
- ⌘ A water fountain/feature



The following renderings were provided by the Ontario Kiwanis Club for their collective vision of the park.





Picture below is the current view of Lanterman Kiwanis Park





SECTION 5 – Recreation Needs Assessment Summary

5.1 Introduction

Quantifying park and recreation facility needs is difficult to identify because many different variables influence recreation needs. Community values, participation patterns, and willingness to pay for services vary widely from one community to another. Consequently, what seems appropriate for one community may not be suitable for another community.

This section of the report discusses the park and facility needs for the City of Ontario. The process for identifying needs was:

1. Inventorying and analyzing the existing supply of park and recreation facilities.
2. Public input on park and recreation needs
 - a. A city-wide opinion survey of Ontario residents
 - b. City Strategic Planning Data
 - c. Public Charette
 - d. Park Sponsor Visioning Statements
 - i. Ontario Kiwanis Club
 - ii. Friends of the Aquatic Center
 - iii. Fairgrounds Planning
3. Forecasting park and facility needs utilizing statistical analysis.
4. Recommendations from the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and Levels of Service Standards from the National Recreation & Parks Association.

5.2 Parkland Needs

Developing a statement of land needs for park areas and open space is the most difficult of all types of needs analysis because it depends on localized values, availability of land, financial resources and desired service levels.

To determine specific land needs for the City of Ontario, several analytical methods were used. These included a comparison to other similar communities, results of the recreation survey, national trends, land availability and geographical deficiencies for parks and open space areas. It should be noted that even with all the statistical information available, a certain amount of subjective analysis and professional experience must be used to quantify the standards.

In the following discussion, recommended standards for specific types of park areas are given. In many cases, comparisons to other communities are given. These comparisons are given as the "existing ratio". The existing ratio is the existing amount of parkland divided by the existing population. It is expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 population. The recommended standard is the desired amount of parkland and is also expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 population.

Table 5.1
Comparison of Current Ratio and Recommended Demand Standard
Park and Recreation Areas, City of Ontario

Recreation Area	Current Ratio	Recommended Standard
Pocket-Parks	0.00 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	0.1 Acres / 1,000 Population
Urban Plaza Parks	0.00 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	1.0 Acres / 1,000 Population
Neighborhood Parks	1.78 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	1.0 Acres / 1,000 Population
Community Parks	2.90 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	2.0 Acres / 1,000 Population
Regional Parks	1.98 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	5.0 Acres / 1,000 Population
Nature Parks	22.10 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	2.0 Acres / 1,000 Population
Special Use Parks	55.76 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	No recommendation
Trails, Paths, Bikeways	0 Miles / 1,000 Pop.	0.5 miles / 1,000 Population
Regional Sports Parks	1.71 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	5.0 acres / 1,000 Population
Linear Parks	0 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	0.5 Acres / 1,000 Population
Destination Parks	0.55 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	20 Acres / 1,000 Population

Listed below are the specific needs for parkland based on the standards listed above.

Table 5.2
Summary of Current Park Needs (Year 2018)*
Park and Recreation Areas (in Acres)
Ontario Area

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Year 2018 Demand	Additional Need
Pocket-Parks (acres)	0.00	2.87	2.87
Urban Plaza Parks (acres)	0.00	1.15	1.15
Neighborhood Parks (acres)	20.41	11.47	0.00
Community Park (acres)	33.35	22.94	0.00
Regional Parks (acres)	22.65	57.35	57.35
Nature Parks (acres)	763.83	22.94	0.00
Special Use Parks (acres)	40.72	0.00	0.00
Linear Parks (acres)	0.00	5.74	5.74
Regional Sports Parks (acres)	19.59	57.35	37.76
Trails, Paths, Bikeways (miles)	0.00	5.74	5.74
Destination Parks (acres)	6.29	234.80	228.51

* Based on a 2016 population of 11,465

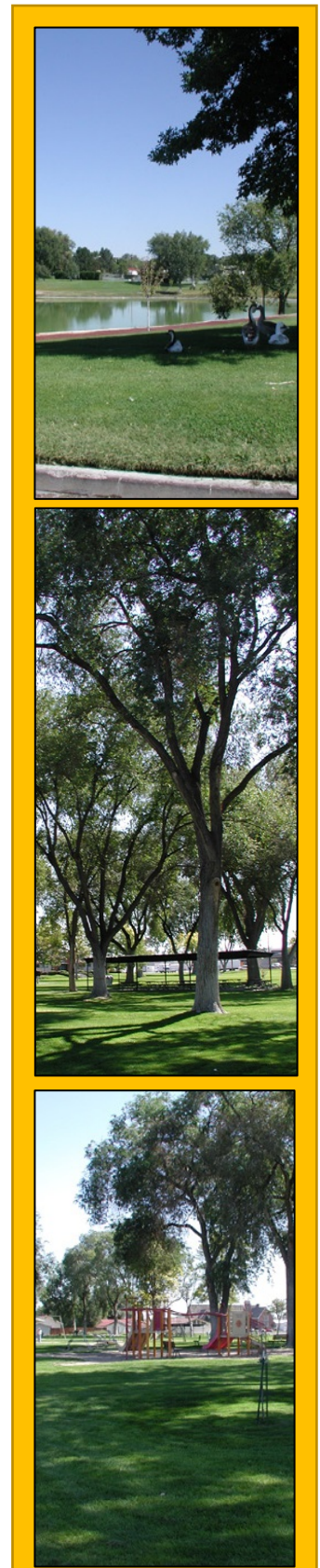
Table 5.3
Summary of Park Needs (Build-out) **
Park and Recreation Areas (in Acres)
Ontario Area

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Build-out Demand	Additional Need
Pocket-Parks (acres)	0.00	3.30	3.30
Urban Plaza Parks (acres)	0.00	1.32	1.32
Neighborhood Parks (acres)	20.41	13.20	0.00
Community Park (acres)	33.35	57.35	24.00
Regional Parks (acres)	22.65	66.00	46.35
Nature Parks (acres)	763.83	26.40	0.00
Special Use Parks (acres)	40.72	164.50	123.78
Linear Parks (acres)	0.00	6.60	0.00
Regional Sports Parks (acres)	19.59	66.00	46.41
Trails, Paths, Bikeways (miles)	0.00	6.60	19.80
Destination Parks (acres)	6.29	250.80	244.51

** Based on a 2040 population of 13,200

Listed below is a summary of the impacts based on the total land needs.

- While there is not a need for an additional regional park, there are opportunities to expand the existing Ontario State Park. The City should also keep the option open to work with the State of Oregon on ownership and operation should the opportunity arise or both the State and City find it to be in their best interest.
- Additional Trails, Paths, and Bikeways are needed throughout and around the City of Ontario. There are many publicly owned facilities in within the City and within the Urban Growth Boundary. Efforts to utilize these spaces and then to connect them should take priority to develop a trail system in the most economical way possible.



- The land dedicated to the regional sports complex can be developed as is. Additional land would greatly expand the popularity and usability of the complex
- Additional land is needed for riverfront parks and additional indoor recreation facilities.
- Additional natural park land is needed to preserve land along the Malheur and Snake Rivers for habitat. The region along the river could also be converted into a linear park if a walking trail was added throughout the park. This would allow visitors to walk along the river like a greenbelt.



5.3 Recreation Facility Needs

Establishing needs for recreation facilities such as sport fields, gymnasiums and trails was derived from several analytical approaches. This included an analysis of present recreation participation levels, needs expressed in the survey, from play and practice time requirements of sport teams and from mathematical models developed over the years from other studies.

On the following pages, the needs for specific types of facilities are discussed. Similar to the discussion of parkland needs, the "existing ratio" and "recommended demand standard" are expressed. The existing ratio is the existing population divided by the number of facilities (e.g., fields, square feet, and miles). Likewise, the recommended demand standard is the desired ratio of population to facilities. This is based on the desired level of service. By establishing a desired level of service and applying it to the existing and future population forecast, one can determine appropriate recommended demand standard and ultimately the future needs. To determine the existing ratio for facilities, the population within the city was used.

To determine the need for sport fields, a demand model was created that compared the supply of fields against the demand created by the number of teams. Within this demand model there are many variables (or service levels) that will affect the eventual need statement. These variables include:

- **Demand Variables**
 - * Number of teams
 - * Number of games and practices permitted per team per week
- **Supply Variables**
 - * Number of fields
 - * Number of games/practices permitted per field per week
 - * Existence of lighted or unlighted fields

Table 5.4
Comparison of Current Ratio and Recommended Demand Standard
Recreation Facilities, City of Ontario

Recreation Area	Current Ratio	Recommended Standard
Baseball Fields	1 field per 2,293 pop.	1 field per 5,000 population
Softball Fields	1 field per 3,822 pop.	1 field per 5,000 population
Soccer Fields	1 field per 675 pop.	1 field per 5,000 population
Indoor Gym Space (Courts)	1 court per 1,416 pop.	1 court per 882 pop.
Pathways and Trails	0.00 miles per 1,000 pop.	0.50 miles per 1,000 pop.
Tennis Courts	1 court per 637 pop.	.35 courts per 1,000 pop.

Table 5.5
Summary of Recreation Facility Needs (Year 2018) *
Ontario Area

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Year 2018 Demand	Additional Need
Baseball Fields ¹	5	2.3	0
Softball Fields ¹	4	2.3	0
Soccer Fields	15	2.3	8
Indoor Gym Space (Courts)	13	7	0
Pathways and Trails	0.0	6	5.2
Tennis Courts	18	4.00	0
* Based on a 2016 population of 11,465			
¹ This excludes multi-use backstops that, if upgraded, could satisfy a portion of the need			

Table 5.6
 Summary of Recreation Facility Needs (Build-out 2040)**
 Ontario Area

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Build-out Demand	Additional Need
Baseball Fields ¹	5	2.64	3
Softball Fields ¹	3	2.64	4
Soccer Fields	15	2.64	8
Indoor Gym Space (Courts)	8	7	NA
Pathways and Trails	0.0	7	5.5
Tennis Courts	18	5	

** Based on a 2040 population of 13,200
¹ This excludes multi-use backstops that, if upgraded, could satisfy a portion of the need

Listed below are the specific needs for facilities based on the standards listed above.

- In a community where there are more diverse opportunities our facilities would be adequate according to the state guidelines. The sports programming that is provided and the popularity of sports in our community, such as soccer underscore that the facilities are insufficient.
- Locating playing fields in a complex would create opportunities for recreation teams outside the city to come to the city. It may also reduce the overall operating and maintenance costs. The current inventory is spread throughout the city.
- There is a need for additional trails and pathways to connect various areas of Ontario.
- Indoor recreation centers are sufficient for current populations and build out populations; however, public agencies need to work together more to share resources. A problem of the existing resources is that they are multipurpose facilities and do not meet regulation requirements for competitive leagues.



5.4 Specialized Facilities Needs

In addition to the more traditional types of parkland and recreation facilities discussed earlier in this report, there were other needs identified during the study. These are discussed below.

Indoor Recreation Space:

Many communities have built indoor recreation centers that contain a variety of indoor spaces, such as gymnasiums, racquetball courts, exercise/aerobics areas, weight training rooms, places for active recreation classes, dance studios and other specialized activity areas. In some instances, even ice rinks, tennis courts, childcare facilities and places for large group gatherings have been incorporated into these types of spaces. These facilities are extremely popular where the climate is not conducive to year round outdoor recreation activities or where nighttime recreation activities are required.

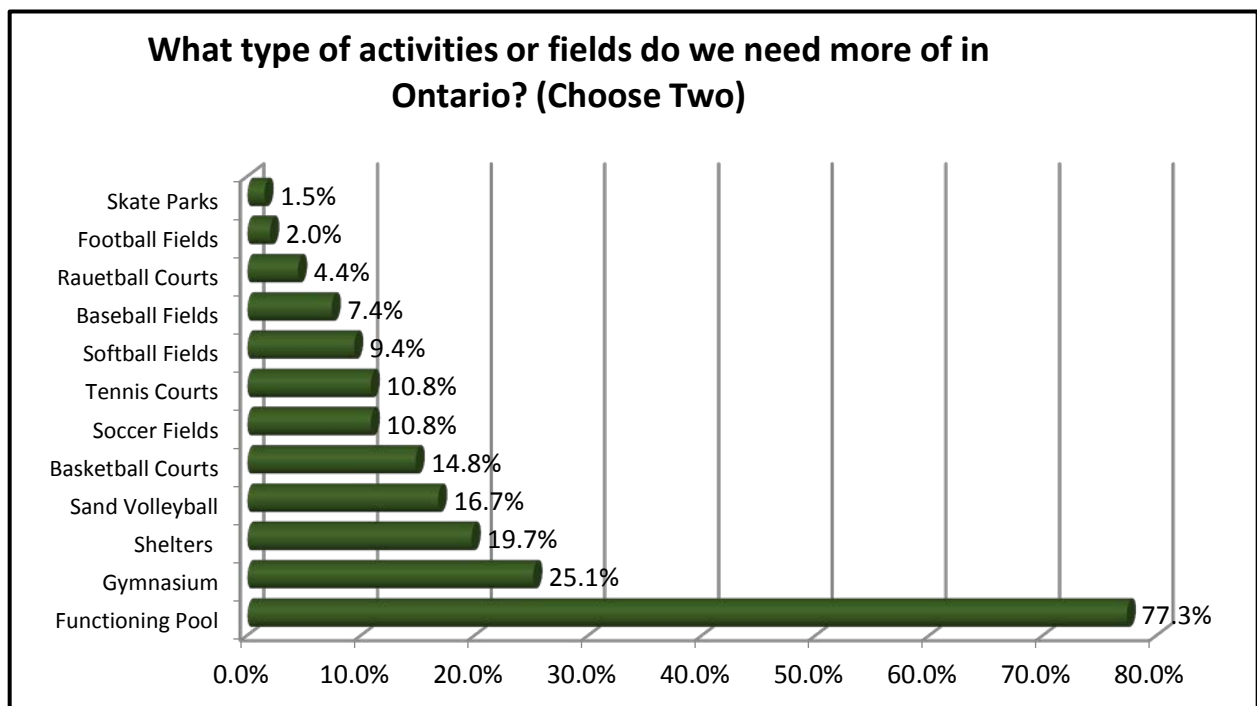
In Ontario, an indoor recreation center would considerably expand the number of recreation activities that could be offered as well as meet gymnasium space for basketball and volleyball. Most of the indoor recreation space is in the public school systems and are combination facilities to meet many other demands in the school system like lunch rooms, performance areas, and student and parent assemblies.

Amphitheatre

An amphitheater for outdoor concerts and other large events is needed in Ontario. This facility could become a major focal point for community events and activities.

Group Picnic Areas

Picnic areas that can be reserved for large groups are only located at Lions park. Most of the current parks in the community are not suitable for this activity. In addition to meeting a community need, this type of recreation area can generate substantial revenue from reservations. Shelters were the third highest requested facilities in the recreation survey. Nearly 20% of respondents picked shelters as one of their two choices.



5.5 Recreation Program Needs

In general, the city of Ontario offers a fairly extensive recreation program. Other providers of programs include Babe Ruth, Little League, Ida-Ore Soccer Club and Basketball Buddies.

Many of our cultural and performing arts facility needs are met by the Four Rivers Community Center and the Malheur County Fairgrounds. Both facilities have the ability to have special events. The Fairgrounds provides a place for outdoor education.

Recreation programming is essential for providing at risk youth quality opportunities. The Boys and Girls Club of the Western Treasure Valley has built an extensive after school program along with summer youth programs. While the city has some summer recreation programming, there are not the types of facilities available to families and youth within the city parks system to promote healthy living and leisurely activity.

Some of the unmet needs in recreation programs include the following:

- Summer youth programs
- Facilities to promote healthy living and physical activity
- Outdoor education in interpretive environments





SECTION 6 – Recommendations

6.1 Introduction

This section of the Park and Recreation Master Plan discusses the recommendations for the following categories:

- Park Layout Plan..... 6-4
 - Pocket Parks..... 6-6
 - Urban Plaza 6-7
 - Neighborhood Parks..... 6-8
 - Community Parks..... 6-12
 - Regional Parks..... 6-16
 - Nature Parks..... 6-18
 - Special Use Parks..... 6-20
 - Regional Sports Park 6-24
 - Linear Parks..... 6-26
- Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways..... 6-29
- Indoor Recreation Facilities 6-32
- Sports Fields Facilities Indoor Recreation Facilities..... 6-33
- Specialized Use Parks 6-34
- Management..... 6-35
- Maintenance..... 6-37
- Recreation Programs..... 6-38

6.2 Facility Plan

The Facility Plan is a graphic representation illustrating the overall concept for where future parks should be located in Ontario. A map locating existing and proposed park sites is shown on page 6-4. Some important notes about the Layout Plan are discussed below.

1. A letter of the alphabet and number (such as N-12) defines each site on the Layout Plan. The number is for site identification only and corresponds to text in this section. The letter represents the type of existing or proposed park and are identified as follows:

P	Pocket Park
U	Urban Plaza Park
N	Neighborhood Park
C	Community Park
R	Regional Park
NA	Nature Parks
SU	Special Use Park
T	Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways
RS	Regional Sports Parks
L	Linear Park
D	Destination Parks

2. On the Layout Plan, an asterisk illustrates proposed park sites. The intent is to only show a general location of where a park site should be located. The actual location will be determined based on land availability, acquisition cost, and the property owner’s willingness to sell.
3. The location and arrangement of the parks is designed to serve the entire Planning Area at build-out.

4. Names are for reference purposes only and not yet approved by City staff or the City Council.

Overall Concept:

The ideal park system for a community is one made up of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering certain types of recreation and/or open space opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one basic function, but collectively they will serve the entire needs of the community. By recognizing this concept, Ontario can develop a more efficient, cost effective and usable park system

The proposed park system for Ontario centers on the premise that a multi-use neighborhood or community park will be located within a half-mile radius of most residents. Currently, the park system is developed primarily around a system of small neighborhood and community parks that provide some limited recreation and open space opportunities.

The core system of parks (neighborhood and community parks) will provide the basic open space and recreational opportunities within the City. It is important to note that these core parks must be developed to meet the overall recreation needs of the community. Supplementing these parks will be large urban parks, regional parks, and specialized recreation areas, linear parks for trail systems and natural open space areas that serve the entire community.

Park Layout Plan Objectives:

1. *Provide a multi-use neighborhood park type facility within walking distance of most residents of Ontario.*
2. *Provide community parks within a reasonable bicycling or driving distance of most residents.*
3. *Provide land for specialized facilities such as sports fields and indoor recreation areas.*

It should be noted that certain park and recreation areas and facilities could be developed in partnership with other departments, agencies or private groups. For instance, the School District has demonstrated an interest in jointly developing sports fields. The City should also work closely with the Oregon Department of Transportation to reclaim aggregate extraction sites once they are abandoned.

Park Index:

The purpose of the table below is to provide a quick reference locating the discussion on specific park sites.

Table 6.1
Index of Individual Park Recommendations - **Existing**
Ontario Planning Area

Site Number	Park Name	Page Number
R-2	Ontario State Park	6-25
SU-8	Malheur County Fairgrounds	6-28
LU-9	Beck Kiwanis Park	6-20
N-12	Laxson Rotary Park	6-10
N-13	Optimist Park	6-10
C-15	Lions Park	6-17
SU-17	Downtown Plaza	6-29
SU-18	Railroad Depot Park	6-29
N-19	Eastside Kiwanis Park	6-12
SU-21	Sunset Cemetery	6-29
N-25	Alameda Park	6-13
SU-26	Evergreen Cemetery	6-30
SU-28	Safety Rest Area (ODOT)	6-30

Table 6.2
Index of Individual Park Recommendations - **Proposed**
Ontario Planning Area

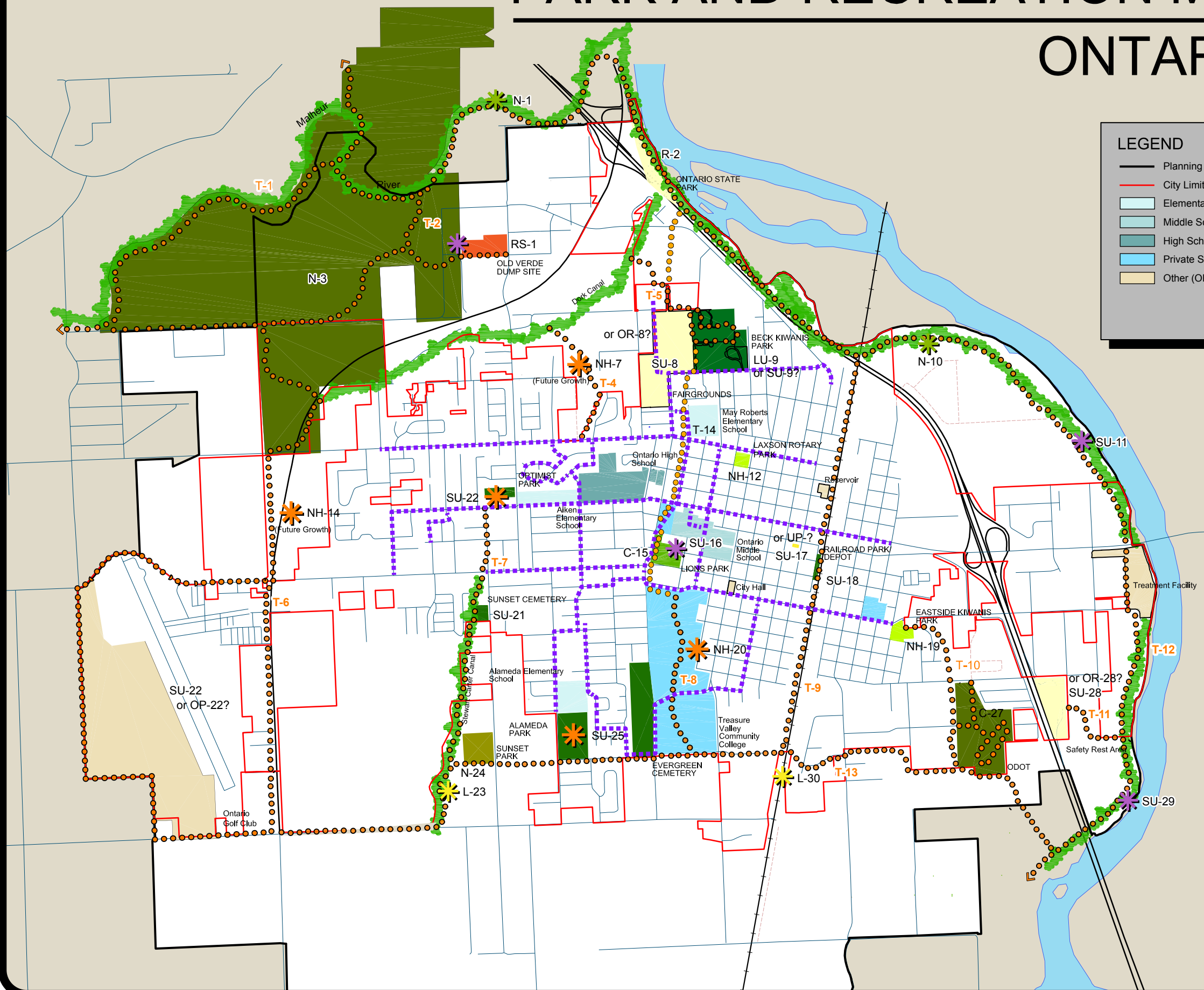
Site Number	Park Name	Page Number
OS-1	Malheur River Greenway	6-37
OS-3	Malheur River Open Space	6-37
SU-4	Verde Drive Sports Complex	6-28
C-5	Malheur Drive Community Park	6-16
L-6	Dork Canal Park	6-34
N-7	12 th Street Neighborhood Park	6-10
OS-10	Snake River Greenway	6-37
SU-11	Waterfront Park	6-28
N-14	Idaho Street Neighborhood Park	6-14
SU-16	Indoor Recreation Center	6-28
N-20	Treasure Valley Neighborhood Park	6-12
L-23	Stewart Carter Canal Park	6-34
SU-24	Sunset Park	6-30
LU-27	9 th Avenue Large Urban Park	6-21
SU-29	Waterfront Park	6-31

Note: The temporary names identified above are for reference purposes only. These names are subject to change and will be finalized during the planning and development process.

[Park Layout Plan]

PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

ONTARIO, OREGON

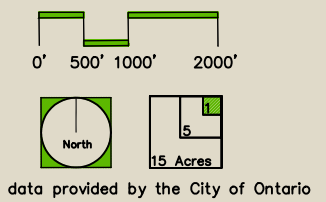


LEGEND

Planning Area Bounday (UGB)	Urban Plaza (UP) Park
City Limits	Neighborhood (NH) Park
Elementary School	Community (C) Park
Middle School	Regional (R) Park
High School	Regional Sports (RS) Park
Private School	Special Use (SU) Park
Other (OP) Public Land	Nature (N) Park
	Undeveloped (U) Parkland
	Other (OR) Recreational Resources (Non-City)

KEY (Proposed Facilities)

- Neighborhood (NH) Park
- Community (C) Park
- Linear (L) Park
- Special Use (SU) Park
- Nature (N) Park
- Off-Street Trails (T)
- On-Street Bike Lanes (B)
- Safe Routes (SR)



Facility
Plan Map

Pocket Parks

Assessment:

1. **Existing Conditions:** Currently, there are no pocket-parks in the Ontario planning area.
2. **Service Areas:** The service area for a typical pocket-park is considered to be a 1/4-mile radius.
3. **Comparisons:** The recommended size for pocket-parks is 0.25 to 0.50 acres / 1,000 population.

Since there are no pocket-parks in the Ontario planning area, the city's current ratio is significantly lower than the state average.

4. **Needs Assessment:** Due to their size and limited recreational value, there is marginal benefits for pocket parks.

Design and Development Policies:

1. **General Land Use Guidelines:**

- a. Because of their size and limited recreational value, public parks of this type should be discouraged. Only when there is not a sufficient population base or available land should this type of park be considered.
- b. The development of this type of park should be encouraged as part of large private multi-family developments under private ownership. Within single-family subdivisions, they are owned and maintained by homeowners association.

2. **Site Selection Criteria:**

- a. While there is no size requirement for pocket-parks, the minimum size should be at least 25,000 square feet in size.
- b. The site should be central to the area it serves.
- c. The site should be flat and usable and have the ability to support active uses.
- d. If possible, walking distance should not exceed one-quarter mile, and not require crossing of busy streets or other barriers.

3. **Design and Development Standards:**

- a. Appropriate facilities include:
 - Children's playground facilities
 - Open grass play area
 - Picnic areas
 - Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, trash receptacles, etc.)
- b. The site should be visible from adjoining streets and have at least 100-150 feet of street frontage.

Recommendations:

1. **Summary of Recommendations:**

Table 6.4
Summary of Mini-Park Recommendations
Ontario Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
	<i>No Pocket-Parks have been recommended</i>	0.0	None
	Total	0.0	

Existing Acres = 0.00 Acres
Proposed Acres = 0.00 Acres

2. Specific Improvements:

There are no specific recommendations for pocket-parks.

Urban Plaza Parks

Assessment:

- Existing Conditions:** Currently, there are no urban plaza parks. The city leases a piece of undeveloped ground downtown known as Moore Park that is home to the Ontario Saturday Market between June and August.
- Service Areas:** The service area is a downtown environment.
- Comparisons:** The **state recommended ratio** is .1 to .5 acres / 1,000 population.
- Needs Assessment:** Based on the service area,
No additional area is needed for an Urban Plaza Park

Design and Development Policies:

- General Land Use Guidelines:**
 - The acquisition of neighborhood parkland should occur far in advance of its need.
- Site Selection Criteria:**
 - Given the small size of urban plaza parks, it is best to approach acquisition in an opportunistic way so far as the location is somewhat central.
- Design and Development Standards:**
 - Appropriate facilities include:
 - Open space and shelters
 - Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
 - Parking Requirements: Existing parking downtown will satisfy the needs for an Urban Plaza.

Recommendations:

The following are recommendations for existing and future neighborhood parks in the Ontario area. The table on the following page summarizes the recommendations for neighborhood parks.

1. Summary of Recommendations:

It is recommended that the City acquire Moore Park and add amenities such as a gazebo facing South Oregon where the decorative wagon was. A Gazebo will provide necessary seating and shade for pedestrians shopping downtown.

Table 6.4
Summary of Pocket-Park Recommendations
Ontario Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
<i>No Pocket-Parks have been recommended</i>		0.0	None
Total		0.0	

Existing Acres = 0.00 Acres
Proposed Acres = 0.00 Acres

Neighborhood Parks

Assessment:

- Existing Conditions:** Currently, there are three neighborhood parks, both of which are owned by the City of Ontario. The two sites owned by the City represent 14.53 acres.
- Service Areas:** The service radius for a neighborhood park is considered to be a 1/2-mile radius. Please refer to the Neighborhood Park Service Area Map in Appendix E to see the underserved areas.
- Comparisons:** The state recommended ratio of neighborhood parks is 1.00 to 2.00 acres / 1,000 population.

The city's current ratio of 0.47 acres / 1,000 population is below average and significantly lower than what is recommended in other communities

- Needs Assessment:** Based on the service area, five new neighborhood park sites are needed to cover the city at build-out. Two of these sites will be satisfied through the reclassification and redevelopment of two special use parks, so there is a net need for three additional neighborhood parks.

Assuming three acres for this site and an average of five acres for the other two sites, a total of 13 acres would need to be acquired. If this acreage is added to the existing developed inventory of 5.31 acres and the reclassified land of 16.63 and then divided by the build-out population, we come up with a service level of 1.63 acres per 1,000 population.

Design and Development Policies:

2. General Land Use Guidelines:

- b. The acquisition of neighborhood parkland should occur far in advance of its need.
- c. The construction of a neighborhood park should occur when the area it will serve reaches about 75% developed (measured by either acreage developed, or population accommodated).
- d. Wherever feasible, neighborhood park acquisition should occur adjacent to elementary schools sites.

3. Site Selection Criteria:

- b. Under most conditions, neighborhood parks should be no smaller than about three acres in size, with optimum size being 5 acres. If located next to a school site, optimum park size may be reduced to 2 - 3 acres, depending upon the school facilities provided.
- c. At least 50% of the site should be flat and usable, and provide space for both active and passive uses.
- d. The site should be reasonably central to the neighborhood it is intended to serve.
- e. If possible, walking or bicycling distance should not exceed one-half mile for the area it serves. Access routes should minimize physical barriers, and crossing of major arterials.
- f. The site should be visible from adjoining streets.
- g. Access to the site should be via a local residential street. The park should have at least 200 feet of frontage along the street. If located on a busy street, incorporate buffers and/or barriers necessary to reduce vehicular hazards.
- h. Additional access points from the adjoining neighborhood should be provided. These should be at least 25 feet wide.

4. Design and Development Standards:

- c. Appropriate facilities include:
 - Unstructured open play areas and practice sports fields
 - Children's playground (tot and youth)
 - Basketball court
 - Tennis courts (single or pair)
 - Picnic areas
 - Shelter building (small)
 - Trails and/or pathways
 - Natural open space
 - Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
- d. Parking Requirements: Minimum of three spaces per acre of usable active park area. If on-street parking is available, this standard can be reduced by one car for every 25 feet of available street frontage. Design should encourage access by foot or bicycle.
- e. Active and noise producing facilities, such as tennis and basketball courts, should be located away from adjoining homes.
- f. Portable restrooms are appropriate for this type of site.

Recommendations:

The following are recommendations for **existing** and **future** neighborhood parks in the Ontario area. The table on the following page summarizes the recommendations for neighborhood parks.

2. Summary of Recommendations:

Table 6.6
Summary of Neighborhood Park Recommendations
Ontario Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ (Proposed Acres)	Action
N-7	12 th Street Neighborhood Park (P)	(5.00)	Planning, acquisition and development
N-12	Laxson Rotary Park	2.02	Upgrade
N-14	Idaho Avenue Neighborhood Park (P)	(5.00)	Planning, acquisition and development
N-19	Lanternman Kiwanis Park	3.29	Work with Kiwanis Club to implement their vision
N-20	Treasure Valley Neighborhood Park (P)	(3.00)	Planning and development
N-24	Sunset Park	9.22	Development
Total		34.94	

(P) – Proposed Site
 Note: Bold sites are in public ownership
 ** Parks that have been re-classified from another use

Existing Acres = 21.94 Acres
Proposed Acres = 13.00 Acres

2. Specific Improvements:

Proposed 12th Street Neighborhood Park Site N-7

This proposed park is located within an unincorporated portion of the city’s urban growth boundary. It is assumed that this portion of the planning area will eventually be developed for residential use. As a result, it is recommended that a neighborhood park be acquired to serve this future neighborhood.

If possible, this site should be connected with an off-street trail connecting this park with the proposed Dork Canal Park (Site L-5).

Laxson Rotary Park Site N-12

Laxson Rotary Park is an existing site that is bordered by NW 3rd Avenue and NW 4th Avenue on the north and south sides and NW 5th Street and NW 4th SW Street on the west and east. Facilities at this site include a multi-use backstop, restroom, picnic shelter and playground. In general, the park is in fair condition. However, several of the park components require substantial renovation. Specific recommendations include:

- Install sidewalks and/or internal pathways

- Remove restroom building (no replacement necessary)
- Replace playground area with separate equipment for respective age categories; install safety surfacing and curbing
- Install paved court for basketball, etc.
- Upgrade irrigation system
- Prune and maintain trees
- Install new support facilities (e.g., signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches and picnic tables)

Prior to the replacement and installation of new facilities at this park, it is recommended that a site master plan be prepared for the renovation of this park.

Proposed Idaho Avenue Neighborhood Park

Site N-14

This proposed park is located within an unincorporated portion of the city's urban growth boundary. It is assumed that this portion of the planning area will eventually be developed for residential use. As a result, it is recommended that a neighborhood park be acquired to serve this future neighborhood at build-out.

If possible, the site should have a trail connection to the Airport Trail; Trail T-6.

Eastside Kiwanis Park

Site N-19

Eastside Kiwanis Park is a 3.29-acre park located at the corner of SW 5th Avenue and SW 5th Street, adjacent to two city reservoirs. SW 6th Avenue also borders the park on the south side. Facilities at the site include a multi-use backstop, shelter building, children's playground, basketball court and drinking fountain. In general, the park is in fair condition. However, a few of the park components require renovation and/or improvements. These include:

- Replace playground area with separate equipment for respective age categories; install safety surfacing and curbing
- Re-grade turf areas to level the open play areas.
- Upgrade irrigation system
- Prune and maintain trees
- Install sidewalks and/or internal pathways
- Install new support facilities (e.g., signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches and picnic tables)

Prior to the replacement and installation of new facilities at this park, it is recommended that a site master plan be prepared for the renovation of this park.

Proposed Treasure Valley Neighborhood Park

Site N-20

This proposed park is located within the existing city limits in an area of the city largely residential in nature.

The neighborhood park service area analysis revealed a need for a neighborhood park in this area of the city. The immediate area is almost entirely developed with single-family homes with little or no land available for park acquisition. However, Treasure Valley Community College is located along the western boundary of this neighborhood and offers several opportunities for the development of neighborhood park facilities on their land.

Rather than acquiring a new site (which would require the acquisition and displacement of several privately owned homes), it is recommended for the city of Ontario to negotiate a joint use agreement with the Treasure Valley Community College for park facility development on their property. The ideal location would be near the intersection of SW 9th Avenue and SW 5th Street.

Once an agreement is reached, it is recommended that a master plan be prepared to address issues such as access, buffering and facility needs.

To ensure that the site will fulfill the neighborhood park function, it is recommended that the design program for the site include the following:

- Playground area with separate equipment for respective age categories
- Paved court for basketball, etc.
- Open play area
- Picnic shelter (small building)
- Picnic area
- Paved pathway
- Support facilities (e.g. signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches and picnic tables)

If possible, this site should be connected with an off-street trail (Treasure Valley Trail; Trail T-8).

Sunset Park

Site SU-24

This existing park site is currently undeveloped and contains a water reservoir. It is recommended that this site become the city's park maintenance headquarters. The site should provide ample space for the development of new shops, storage and a small nursery area for the propagation of plant materials to be used in the parks.

Community Parks

Assessment:

1. **Existing Conditions:** Currently, there is one community park in the Ontario area.
2. **Service Area:** The service radius for a community park is about a 1.0-1.5 mile radius. In the absence of a community park, a large urban park can fulfill this function. Please refer to the Community Park Service Area Map in Appendix E for an analysis of underserved areas.
3. **Comparisons:** The state recommended ration of community parks is 2.00 to 6.00 acres / 1,000 population.

The city's current ratio of 0.55 acres / 1,000 population is lower than average, and significantly lower than what is recommended by the state.

4. **Needs Assessment:** Based on the service area analysis, one additional community park sites are needed to cover the area within the Ontario planning area (analysis recognizes the existing and proposed large urban parks). If the one site totaling 25 acres is added to the existing developed inventory of 6.26 acres and then divided by the build-out population, we come up with a service level of 1.46 acres per 1,000 population.

Design and Development Policies:

1. General Land Use Guidelines:

- a. Because of their size, the acquisition of community parkland should occur far in advance of its need.
- b. Construct a community park when the area it will serve reaches about 50% developed (measured by either acreage developed, or population accommodated).

2. Site Selection Criteria:

- a. Minimum size should be 15-20 acres with the optimum being about 30 acres.
- b. At least two-thirds of the site should be available for active recreation use and adequate buffers of open space should separate active use areas from nearby homes.
- c. If possible, walking or bicycling distance should not exceed one to two miles for the area it serves.
- d. The site should be highly visible from adjoining streets.
- e. Access to the site should be via a collector or arterial street.

3. Design and Development Standards:

- a. Appropriate facilities include:
 - Designated sport fields - softball, baseball, soccer, etc.
 - Tennis courts (1 or 2 pairs)
 - Sand or grass volleyball courts (pair)
 - Open multi-use grass area
 - Children's playground (tot and youth)
 - Restrooms
 - Picnic area
 - Picnic shelters (various sizes)
 - Group picnic facilities
 - Trails/pathway systems
 - Outdoor basketball courts
 - Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
- b. Parking requirements: dependent upon facilities provided. Require 50 spaces per ball field plus 5 spaces per acre of active use area.
- c. Permanent restrooms are appropriate for this type of park but should be located in highly visible areas and near public streets.

Recommendations:

1. Summary of Recommendations:

Table 6.8
Summary of Community Park Recommendations
Ontario Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
C-5	Malheur Drive Community Park	50.00	Planning and development
C-27	Large Urban Park	34.64	Planning and development
C-15	Lions Park	6.26	Upgrade
Total		70.90	

(P) – Proposed Site
Note: Bold sites are in public ownership

Existing Acres = 6.26 Acres
Proposed Acres = 84.64 Acres

2. Specific Improvements:

Proposed Malheur Drive Community Park Site C-27

This proposed park is located outside the existing city limits, but within the city’s urban growth boundary. It is anticipated that this area of the city will eventually be annexed and developed with residential uses.

The community park service area analysis revealed a need for a community park in this portion of the city. Once developed, this is intended to serve the residents in the northwest portion of the community.

Under normal circumstances, this action would require the city to acquire a large parcel of property for future development. However, the city of Ontario currently owns a large amount of land referred to as the Malheur River Open Space area. This land is primarily agricultural land used to disperse effluent from the city’s sewer treatment plant, which is contiguous to the proposed site. Future park development could continue to use the effluent on from the treatment plant for irrigation purposes.

It is recommended that the city of Ontario dedicate a portion of this open space property for the purpose of developing a future community park. There is also some opportunity to incorporate the proposed sports field complex into this site.

While the master plan and subsequent design will identify the layout of future facilities at this site, it is recommended that the design program include the following:

- Designated sport fields
- Playground area with separate equipment for respective age categories
- Basketball courts
- Tennis courts

- Volleyball courts
- Open multi-use grass area
- Restroom building
- Picnic area
- Picnic shelters (various sizes)
- Group picnic facilities
- Trails/pathway systems
- Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)

Large Urban Park (To Be Named)

Site C-27

This proposed park site is located southern portion of the community. This portion of the community is deficient of active and passive recreational facilities.

It is recommended that the City acquire and develop a large urban park adjacent to and including the Oregon Department of Transportation gravel extraction site located off SE 9th Avenue.

The concept for this park is to develop a 50-acre park consisting of an active and passive use component. The active use component would be developed on the upland portion of the site, west of the existing gravel pit. This would require the acquisition of roughly 20 acres of land. The passive use component would contain, the gravel pit, itself, would be developed into a lake and natural area once the state has exhausted its aggregate resources. The City should work cooperatively with the State to develop a closure and master plan for this site, as well as the eventual transfer of ownership to the city.

While the master plan and subsequent design will identify the layout of future facilities at this site, it is recommended the design program include the following:

- Camping area
- Water-related facilities
- Formal and informal sport fields - softball, baseball, soccer, etc.
- Volleyball courts
- Open multi-use grass area
- Children's playground (tot and youth)
- Restrooms
- Picnic area
- Picnic shelters (various sizes)
- Group picnic facilities
- Trails/pathway systems
- Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)

Lions Park

Site C-15

Lions Park is an existing park located at the corner of SW 4th Avenue and SW 9th Street. SW 2nd Avenue borders the site on the north. Lions Park is home to the currently inoperable Aquatic Center and the skateboard park. The skateboard park is still heavily used as is the park ground. It is reserved year round for family picnics, group parties, and major events. This park is one of most heavily used facilities in the city. Facilities at the site include a community building/maintenance shop, a skateboard area, three picnic shelters, a picnic area, an open play area, a playground area, two tennis courts, and a parking area. The Aquatic Center requires major renovation. A splash pad for water recreation has been proposed for this site. Design and construction are planned to take place in the Spring of 2018.

Recommended improvements should include:

- Maintenance of the tennis court surfaces and nets
- Replace playground older playground equipment with newer age appropriate sections
- Install paved pathways
- Install buffer along perimeter abutting property
- Install more decorative support facilities (e.g. signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches and picnic tables)
- Complete the Ontario Aquatic Center Master Plan, which include renovation of the indoor facilities, removal of the roof, and operationalizing the pool equipment.

It is also recommended that the city acquire adjacent non-park properties to expand the parks size and recreational opportunities, as they become available.

Regional Parks

Assessment:

1. **Existing Conditions:** Currently, there is one regional park, which is owned by the City of Ontario.
2. **Service Area:** The service area for a typical regional park is generally region wide.
3. **Comparisons:** The state recommended ratio of regional parks is 5.0 to 10.0 acres / 1,000 population.

The city's current ratio of 2.90 acres / 1,000 population is significantly above average and is well above what is recommended in other communities.

4. **Needs Assessment:** The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) currently owns a 37-acre gravel extraction site in the southeast portion of the community. It is assumed that once the ODOT has exhausted the aggregate resources at the site, the property could be transferred to the city for a nominal fee. This in combination with some adjoining upland area would create a suitable large urban park. If the ODOT property and some adjacent property (13 acres) were added to the existing inventory of 30.96 acres and then divided by the build-out population, we come up with a service level of 3.78 acres per 1,000 population.

Design and Development Policies:

1. **General Land Use Guidelines:**
 - a. Because of their size, the acquisition of large urban parkland should occur well in advance of its need.
 - b. Construct a large urban park when the area it will serve reaches about 50% developed (similar to that of a community park).
2. **Site Selection Criteria:**
 - a. Minimum size should be 50 acres with the optimum being about 75 acres.
 - b. At least one third of the site should be available for active recreation use and adequate buffers of open space should separate active use areas from nearby homes.
 - c. If possible, walking or bicycling distance should not exceed two miles for the area it serves.
 - d. Access to the site should be via a collector or arterial street.
3. **Design and Development Standards:**

- a. Appropriate facilities include the following:
 - Single-purpose specialized facilities (e.g. viewpoints, special features, etc.)
 - Interpretive facilities
 - Designated sport fields - softball, baseball, soccer, etc.
 - Tennis courts (4+courts)
 - Sand or grass volleyball courts (2+ courts)
 - Open multi-use grass area
 - Children's playground (tot and youth)
 - Restrooms
 - Picnic area
 - Group picnic facilities
 - Trails/pathway systems
 - Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
- b. Parking requirements: dependent upon facilities provided. Require 50 spaces per ball field plus 5 spaces per acre of active use area.
- c. Intensive use areas should be adequately buffered from adjacent residential areas.

Recommendations:

1. Summary of Recommendations:

Table 6.10
Summary of Regional Park Recommendations
Ontario Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
LU-9	Beck Kiwanis Park	30.96	Upgrade
LU-27	9 th Avenue Large Urban Park (P)	(50.00)	Planning, Acquisition and Development
Total		80.96	

Note: Bold sites are in public ownership

Existing Acres = **30.96 Acres**
Proposed Acres = **50.00 Acres**

2. Specific Improvements:

Beck Kiwanis Park **Site LU-9**

Beck Kiwanis Park, which is the one of the most heavily used parks in the City, is located off NW 8th Avenue, adjacent to the Malheur County Fairgrounds. The park is jointly owned by the city of Ontario and the State of Oregon.

Existing facilities at the site include two youth baseball fields, an open grass area, a children’s playground, four tennis courts, two picnic shelters, a picnic area, four horseshoe pits, a restroom

building, a maintenance/ storage building, a lake, an unpaved trail and three parking areas. Overall, the park is in fair condition and requires the replacement of selected facilities.

Recommended improvements should include:

- Replace playground area with separate equipment for respective age categories; install safety surfacing and curbing
- Resurface tennis courts
- Pave trail around lake to improve accessibility
- Install group picnic facilities
- Resurface parking areas
- Install basketball court
- Install pathways
- Repairs to buildings
- Identify new water source
- Install new irrigation system
- Improve water quality of lake
- Prune trees and improve tree care
- Landscape park entrance
- Install new support facilities (e.g., signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches and picnic tables)

In addition, there is some opportunity to develop overnight camping either on the adjacent fairgrounds property or on property north of the park. It is recommended that the city explore the feasibility of developing a small campground with group picnic facilities.

Nature Parks

Assessment:

1. **Existing Conditions:** In the Ontario area, there is one existing area that falls under the natural open space category.
2. **Service Areas:** Open space, wildlife and vegetation habitats and scenic areas are intended to serve the entire community.
3. **Comparisons:** The recommended standard for Nature Parks in Oregon is 2-6 acres per / 1,000 population.

The city's current ratio of 22.10 acres / 1,000 population is close to the low end of the state recommendation.

4. **Needs Assessment:** To develop a continuous greenway along the Malheur and Snake Rivers, approximately 115.7 acres of land is needed. This is based on the following assumptions:

* Malheur River Greenway	45.90 Acres
* Snake River Greenway	69.80 Acres

Design and Development Policies:

1. **General Land Use Guidelines:**
 - a. The City's comprehensive plan may contain policies for protection of environmentally sensitive areas (e.g. floodplains, wetlands, hillside areas, etc.).
2. **Site Selection Criteria:**

- a. Emphasis in acquisition should be for those areas offering unique features or have the potential to be lost to development.
- b. Areas that will be difficult or impossible to develop should have a low priority of acquisition. Other mechanisms should be used to maintain the preservation of these areas.
- c. An analysis should be made to determine if unique qualities and conditions exist that warrant the acquisition of the site for open space.
- d. Prohibiting urban development should not be a reason for acquiring open space.

3. Design and Development Standards:

- a. Improvements should be kept to a minimum, with the natural environment, interpretive and educational features emphasized.
- b. Design and manage these types of areas for a sense of solitude, separation or environmental protection.
- c. Parking and overall use should be limited to the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate, while retaining its natural character and the intended level of solitude.
- d. Where feasible, public access and use of these areas should be encouraged, but environmentally sensitive areas should be protected from overuse.

Recommendations:

1. Summary of Recommendations:

Table 6.18
Summary of Open Space Recommendations
Ontario Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
OS-1	Malheur River Greenway (P)	(45.90)	Planning and acquisition
OS-3	Malheur River Open Space Area	697.78	
OS-10	Snake River Greenway (P)	(69.80)	Planning and acquisition
Total		813.48	

(P) – Proposed Site
Note: Bold sites are in public ownership

Existing Acres = 697.78 Acres
Proposed Acres = 115.70 Acres

2. Specific Improvements:

No specific recommendations have been made for any of the existing or proposed open space areas.

Special Use Parks

Assessment:

1. **Existing Conditions:** Currently, there are eight special use parks in the Ontario planning area. Six of these are owned by the city of Ontario, which is located outside the Ontario planning area.
2. **Service Area:** Depending on the function it serves, the service area for a special use parks varies widely. However, in a community the size of Ontario's, special use parks are generally considered to be community-wide.
3. **Comparisons:** There is no recommended ration for special use parks since it varies by use and demand
The city's current ratio of 55.8 acres / 1,000 population.
4. **Needs Assessment:** In order to accommodate the spaces identified below, approximately 50.00 acres of additional land are needed. The breakdown of additional acreage is as follows:

* Sports complex	25.00 Acres
* Riverfront Access Points (2 sites)	20.00 Acres
* Multi-Use Sports Indoor Sports Facility	5.00 Acres

If the 50 acres mentioned above were added to the existing inventory (minus the sites that were converted to alternative uses), there would be a total need of 305.22 acres. If this figure is divided by the build-out population, we come up with a service level of 14.25 acres per 1,000 population.

Design and Development Policies:

1. **General Land Use Guidelines:**
 - a. Depends on the type of facilities proposed.
 - b. Prior to the addition of any special use area, the City should prepare a detailed feasibility and cost/benefit analysis for each proposed site being considered.
2. **Site Selection Criteria:**
 - a. Size and location of facility will depend on the facility's function that is being considered.
3. **Design and Development Standards:**
 - a. Design criteria will depend on the facilities and activities proposed.
 - b. Parking requirements: Depends on the activities offered.

Recommendations:

1. **Summary of Recommendations:**

Table 6.14
Summary of Special Use Parks Recommendations

Ontario Planning Area			
Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
SU-4	Old Verde Dump Site (Sports Complex) (P)	8.98 (25.00)	Planning, Acquisition and Development
SU-8	Malheur County Fairgrounds	36.58	No Action
SU-11	Waterfront Park (P)	(10.00)	Planning, Acquisition and Development
SU-14	Indoor Recreation Center (P)	(5.00)	Planning, Acquisition and Development
SU-17	Downtown Plaza	0.22	Upgrade
SU-18	Railroad Depot Park	1.14	Continue renovation
SU-21	Sunset Cemetery	2.78	No Action
SU-22	Optimist Park **	2.96	Prepare master plan; further development
SU-25	Alameda Park	13.67	Prepare master plan; further development
SU-26	Evergreen Cemetery	19.95	Upgrade
SU-27	Safety Rest Area (ODOT)	13.49	No Action
SU-29	Waterfront Park (P)	(10.00)	Planning, Acquisition and Development
Total		305.22	

(P) – Proposed Site; Note: Bold sites are in public ownership

Existing Acres = 255.22 Acres
Proposed Acres = 50.00 Acres

2. Specific Improvements:

Proposed Verde Drive Sports Complex Site SU-4

This proposed 34-acre site is located off Verde Drive in the north portion of the city’s planning area. The site consists of two properties: 1) Old Verde dumpsite property and 2) portion of Malheur River Open Space area. Both of these properties are already in public ownership. The proposed access to the sports complex would be off Verde Road through the Old Verde Dump site. Due to its historical use, it is unclear whether or not this parcel is suitable for development. The bulk of the proposed sports complex would be on Malheur River Open Space area, adjacent to the proposed community park (C-4).

Malheur County Fairgrounds Site SU-8

This existing site is owned and maintained by Malheur County. While no specific recommendations have been made for this site, it is recommended that the City explore the feasibility of developing overnight camping in conjunction with the Fairgrounds.

Waterfront Park (Proposed) Site SU-11

This proposed site is located along the Snake River between Highway 30 crossing and the intersection with Interstate 84. Currently, the only access to the Snake is through Ontario State

Park, north of the city. In order to provide more waterfront access, it is recommended that the site be developed as a small day use and river access point.

Proposed Indoor Recreation (Sports) Center Site SU-16

This proposed site is the intended to serve as the location for a future indoor recreation (sports) center. While no specific location has been identified, it is recommended that the site be central to the community.

For further discussion on this facility and possible locations, please refer to the section on Indoor Facilities.

Downtown Park Site SU-17

This existing park is located at the corner of SW 1st Avenue and SW 1st Street. This site is owned by a private individual, but is leased to the city. The site is essentially a urban plaza (green space) located in downtown Ontario. Facilities at the site are limited to a picnic area and open lawn area. Overall, the facility is in fair condition but requires additional development.

It is recommended that a master plan be prepared for the long-range development of this site. However, prior to any long-term investment in this site, the city should consider purchasing this site.

Some potential facilities that should be considered as part of the design program include:

- Interactive fountain
- Picnic area
- Paved area for displays, seating
- Formal gardens
- Landscaping
- Public art/sculpture

Railroad Depot Park Site SU-18

The Railroad Depot and Grounds are located between SW First Avenue and SW Second Avenue adjacent to the railroad. This site has been developed through private donations with some assistance from the city.

Facilities at the site are limited to historic railroad depot, picnic area and parking area. The restoration of the depot is currently in the second phase of rehabilitation. Subsequent phases will include the renovation of the third floor of the building and improvements to the surrounding grounds.

It is recommended that the city assist the non-profit group in the development of the depot grounds.

Sunset Cemetery Site SU-21

This site is located off Sunset Drive, just south of SW Fourth Avenue. Facilities at the site include a cemetery.

Only minor improvements are recommended for this site.

Optimist Park**Site SU-22**

Optimist Park is a 2.96-acre park located off N. Verde Drive, just west of Aiken Elementary School. This site was jointly developed by the local Optimist Club and the city of Ontario. It functions as a small sport field complex.

Existing facilities include a soccer field, picnic area and parking area. There are also plans underway to develop a small restroom building to support the use of the park. Overall, the park is in fair condition and lacks support facilities.

The neighborhood park service area analysis revealed a need for a neighborhood park in this area of the city. Coincidentally, Optimist Park is ideally located and of adequate size to serve this function. While the site currently functions as a special use site, it could easily be converted to a neighborhood park with the development of additional facilities.

Rather than acquiring a new site, it is recommended that Optimist Park be converted to a neighborhood park. However, it is important not to adversely impact the current users of the park. Prior to the conversion, a new field should be developed at an alternative location (see C-4 or SU-2). As part of this conversion process, it is recommended that a master plan be prepared to address issues such as buffering, parking needs and landscaping.

In order to ensure that the site will fulfill the neighborhood park function, it is recommended that the design program for the site include the following:

- * Playground areas with separate equipment for respective age categories
- * Paved court for basketball, etc.
- * Multi-use area (suitable for practice for organized sports)
- * Open play area
- * Picnic shelter (small building)
- * Picnic area
- * Paved pathways
- * Support facilities (e.g., signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches and picnic tables)

Alameda Park**Site SU-25**

This 13.67-acre park is located at the corner of Alameda Drive and SW 14th Avenue, just south of Alameda Elementary School. This park was recently developed in coordination with the Ontario School District. Facilities at the site include two soccer fields, a perimeter pathway, parking area and water detention area. The park is well designed and is in good condition.

The neighborhood park service area analysis revealed a need for a neighborhood park in this area of the city. Alameda Park is ideally located and suited to fulfill this function. While the site currently functions as a special use area (primarily sports fields), it could easily be converted to a neighborhood park with the addition of more facilities. There is ample space to increase the number of facilities and yet maintain the existing soccer fields.

Therefore, it is recommended that Alameda Park be converted to a neighborhood park. In addition, it is recommended that a master plan be prepared to guide the future development of this site. In order to ensure that the site will fulfill the neighborhood park function, it is recommended that the design program for the site include the following:

- * Playground area with separate equipment for respective age categories
- * Paved court for basketball, etc.
- * Multi-use area (suitable for practice for organized sports)
- * Open play area

- * Picnic shelter (small building)
- * Picnic area
- * Paved pathway
- * Support facilities (e.g., signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches and picnic tables)

Evergreen Cemetery

Site SU-26

This site is located off Park Boulevard, just west of Treasure Valley Community College. Facilities at the site include a cemetery and parking area.

No minor improvements are recommended for this site.

Safety Rest Area (ODOT)

Site SU-28

This existing park is owned and managed by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

No recommendations have been made for this site.

Waterfront Park (Proposed)

Site SU-29

This proposed site is located along the Snake River between the Highway 20 crossing and the Interstate 84 crossing. Currently, the only access to the Snake is through Ontario State Park, north of the city. In order to provide more waterfront access, it is recommended that the site be developed as a small day use and river access point.



Regional Sports Parks

Assessment:

1. **Existing Conditions:** Currently, there is 1 of destination park space.
2. **Service Area:** The service area for a regional Sports Park is 80 miles.
3. **Comparisons:** There are no recommended standards for special use parks since they vary by type and use.
4. **Needs Assessment:** Assuming 10+ additional acres can be jointly acquired as part of an expansion of Ontario State Park and it was added to the existing inventory of nature park land (11.51 acres), a total of 21.5 acres is possible.

Design and Development Policies:

1. General Land Use Guidelines:

- a. Because of their size, the acquisition of regional parkland should occur far in advance of its need.

2. Site Selection Criteria:

- a. Site selections should take into consideration the varied topography and natural physical features such as rivers, lakes, vistas, wooded areas, etc.
- b. Access to the site should be via a collector or arterial street.

3. Design and Development Standards:

- a. Appropriate facilities include the following:
 - Single-purpose specialized facilities (e.g. viewpoints, special features, etc.)
 - Water-related facilities
 - Open multi-use grass area
 - Children's playground (tot and youth)
 - Restrooms
 - Sporting events
 - Picnic shelters (various sizes)
 - Group picnic facilities
 - Trails/pathway systems
 - Skate Park
 - Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
- b. Parking requirements: dependent upon the activities proposed.
- c. Intensive use areas should be adequately buffered from adjacent residential areas.
- d. Permanent restrooms are appropriate for this type of park but should be located in areas that are highly visible.

Recommendations:

1. Summary of Recommendations:

Table 6.12			
Summary of Regional Sports Park Recommendations Ontario Planning Area			
Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
RS-1	Ontario Regional Sports Park (undeveloped)	19.52	Plan Layout
R-2	Ontario State Park	11.51	No Action
Total		31.03	

Note: Bold sites are in public ownership

Existing Acres = **31.03 Acres**
Proposed Acres = **0.00 Acres**

2. Specific Improvements:

Ontario Regional Sports Park

Site RS-1

Ontario Regional Sports Park is a 19.52 acre designated site for a regional sports complex.

Ontario State Park

Site R-2

Ontario State Park is owned and managed by the Oregon State Parks Department; although it is heavily used by residents of the city. It is recommended that the city reserve the interest to possess ownership of the park if the state wishes to work out an arrangement that would be beneficial for both entities.

Linear Parks

Definition: *Linear parks include natural or built corridors that connect parks and neighborhoods, provide linkages through the city, and preserve open space. Linear parks may include abandoned railroad lines, utility rights-of-way, wildlife corridors, or elongated natural areas defined by drainage features or topographical. Linear parks typically support trail – oriented activities, including walking, jogging, biking, skateboarding, and roller skating, which play a major role in health and fitness. Trails pathways, and bikeways located in other types of park settings, (e.g. neighborhood community, natural area parks) where the trail is not the primary purpose of the park or along existing streets or roadways may be connected to, but are excluded from this park category. Linear parks typically include amenities such as at major trailheads, and way finding markers, but may also incorporate smaller-scale neighborhood park amenities such as play areas, picnic areas, and exercise stations. Linear park size is dependent on the corridor length and opportunity.*

Assessment:

1. **Existing Conditions:** Currently, there are no linear parks in the Ontario planning area.
2. **Service Area:** Depending on the function it serves, the service area for a linear park varies widely.
3. **Comparisons:** The state recommended ratio of Linear Parks is .5 to 1.5 acres / 1,000 population.

Since no sites have been classified as linear parks in the city, the city does not maintain a standard.

4. **Needs Assessment:** There are several opportunities to develop trails along linear regions. In order to accommodate linear parkland, approximately 33.51 acres of land is needed. This is based on the following assumptions

* Dork Canal (2.28 miles x 50 width)	13.82 Acres
* Stewart Carter Canal (1.52 miles x 50 width)	9.21 Acres
* RR ROW (1.73 miles x 50 width)	10.48 Acres

If this figure is divided by the build-out population, we come up with a service level of 1.56 acres per 1,000 population.

Design and Development Policies:

1. **General Land Use Guidelines:**

- a. Because of the shape, configuration and potential for high use, noise and use impacts on adjacent property must be taken into consideration.

2. **Site Selection Criteria:**

- a. Linear parks should generally follow utility, canals, railways or other linear corridors.
- b. Linear parks should be at least 50-55 feet wide. Optimum width should be 100 feet wide.

3. Design and Development Standards:

- a. Activities are generally passive in nature.
- b. Paved pathways should be designed to accommodate maintenance and patrol vehicles
- c. Where general public use is promoted, adjoining uses should be protected by fences or other features to control access.
- d. Linear parks should be landscaped and maintained.

Recommendations:

1. Summary of Recommendations:

Table 6.16
Summary of Linear Park Recommendations
Ontario Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
L-6	Dork Canal Park (P)	(13.82)	Planning, Acquisition and Development
L-23	Stewart Carter Canal Park (P)	(9.21)	Planning, Acquisition and Development
L-30	Railroad Park (P)	(10.48)	Planning and Development
Total		33.51	

(P) – Proposed Site
Note: Bold sites are in public ownership

Existing Acres = **0.00 Acres**
Proposed Acres = **33.51 Acres**

2. Specific Improvements:

Proposed Dork Canal Park **Site L-6**

This proposed park follows the course of Dork Canal from Interstate 84 to Highway 20. It is recommended that the City develop a trail corridor and support facilities along this corridor.

Proposed Stewart Carter Canal Park **Site L-23**

This proposed park is located along the Stewart Carter Canal.

It is recommended that the City develop a trail corridor and support facilities along this canal.

Proposed Stewart Carter Canal Park

Site L-30

This proposed park is located along railroad.

It is recommended that the City develop a linear trail corridor and support facilities along this feature. Railroad Park could serve as a trailhead.



6.3 Trails, Pathways & Bikeways

Assessment:

- 1. Existing Conditions:** In Ontario, there is one multi-use pathway, which is not part of any internal park pathways or internal trails. All totaled, there is an estimated 0.5 miles of paved pathways in the Ontario area.
- 2. Service Areas:** The service area depends on the location and function the pathway/trail serves.
- 3. Needs Assessment:** The recommended standard of 0.50 miles per 1,000 population means that a total of 5.7 miles of paved and unpaved trails are needed at the present time. By City's build-out, a total of 10.7 miles will be needed.

Design and Development Policies:

1. General Land Use Guidelines:

- a. The following guidelines, site selection criteria and development standards apply to trails and pathways that are recreational in nature.
- b. Developers should be encouraged to provide pathways within their proposed developments to link with the city's overall trail system.
- c. Trails easements or dedications need to be secured in order to complete trail segments and the overall network.

2. Site Selection Criteria:

- a. The primary purpose of recreation trails is to provide a recreation experience. Transportation to other parts of the community should be a secondary objective.
- b. Whenever possible, recreation pathways and trails should be separated from the roadway.
- c. Recreation trails should be interesting to the user and maximize the number and diversity of enjoyable viewing opportunities.
- d. Trails should be looped and interconnected to provide a variety of trail lengths and destinations. They should link various parts of the community, as well as existing park sites.
- e. Trails should be located and designed to provide a diversity of challenges. Enhance accessibility wherever possible, with high priority being nature trails and loop or destination opportunities on portions of trails near staging areas.
- f. Where routes use existing streets, the pathway should be designed to minimize potential conflicts between motorists and trail users
- g. Trails should be developed throughout the community to provide linkages to schools, parks, and other destination points.

3. Design and Development Standards:

- a. Trail alignments should take into account soil conditions, steep slopes, surface drainage and other physical limitations that could increase construction and/or maintenance costs.

- b. Trails should be planned, sized, and designed for multiple uses, except for dedicated natural trails, and/or areas that cannot be developed to the standard necessary to minimize potential user conflicts.
- c. Centralized and effective staging areas should be provided for trail access. They should include parking, orientation and information, and any necessary specialized unloading features. Primary trailheads should have restrooms and trash receptacles; secondary trailheads might only have some parking and signage.
- d. Linkages and trail location and orientation should encourage users to walk or bicycle to the trail. Depending upon the expected and desired level of use. Secondary trailheads may have 3-8 parking spaces, whereas primary trailheads may have 20 or more parking spaces.

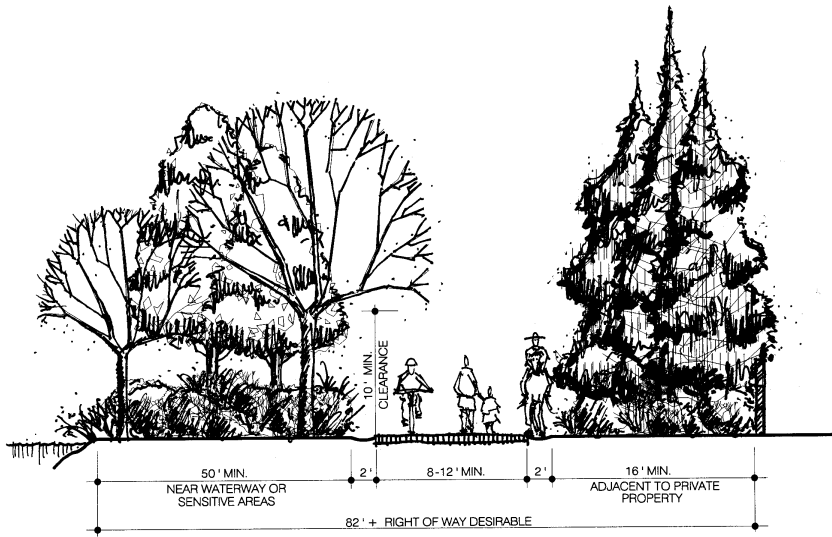


FIGURE 6.1
Off-Street Multi-Purpose Trail

Recommendations:

The primary purpose of the trails and pathway system is to provide recreational walking, bicycling and hiking opportunities. This does not negate that these same trails may not also meet some transportation needs as well.

In addition, local trails are needed to connect subdivisions with the citywide trail system.

Table 6.19
Summary of Trail Recommendations
Ontario Planning Area

Trail Number	Site	Proposed Length (in Miles)	Type
T-1	Malheur River Trail (P)	2.69	Paved
T-2	Community Park Trail Connector (P)	0.89	Paved
T-3	Dork Canal Trail (P)	1.64	Paved
T-4	Neighborhood Park Connector Trail (P)	0.51	Paved
T-5	Beck Kiwanis Park Connector Trail (P)	0.38	Paved
T-6	Airport Trail (P)	2.86	On Street
T-7	Stewart Carter Trail (P)	1.03	Paved
T-8	Treasure Valley Trail (P)	0.65	Paved
T-9	Railroad Trail (P)	1.71	Paved
T-10	Eastside Park Connector Trail (P)	0.53	Paved
T-11	Safety Rest Area Trail Connector (P)	0.29	Paved
T-12	Snake River Trail (P)	4.43	Paved
T-13	Cross Town Trail (P)	3.57	On Street
T-14	North-South Connector	1.80	Paved
	Total	22.98	



6.4 Indoor Recreational Facilities

Indoor Recreational Facilities: This would include indoor spaces such gymnasiums, swimming pools, and recreation centers.

Assessment:

1. **Existing Conditions:** Currently, the City has one indoor recreational facility; the Aquatic Center located at Lions Park. Gymnasium space is primarily provided by the school district and used by the city and private organizations.
2. **Service Areas:** The service area for indoor space is community wide.
3. **Needs Assessment:** In general, there was strong support for the development of additional indoor space. However, the needs assessment identified a slight surplus of court time.

Design and Development Policies:

1. **General Land Use Guidelines:**
 - a) Prior to the development of any indoor facility listed in this section, a detailed cost benefit analysis and maintenance impact statement should be prepared.
 - b) Indoor facilities should be reasonably central to the community or the area they are intended to serve.
 - c) Indoor facilities that generate significant traffic should be located off collector or arterial roadways so as not to adversely impact residential areas (traffic and parking).
 - d) The minimum size of the site will depend on the function it serves. Due to their large size, the site should be large enough to accommodate large setbacks and support facilities (e.g., parking, landscaping).

Recommendations:

MULTI-USE RECREATION (SPORTS) CENTER

The community indicated support for an indoor recreation center. More and more northwest communities are offering these types of facilities because of the long winters and the need to provide more indoor recreation opportunities. If designed correctly recreation centers can offer a wide variety of community and youth activities at a reasonable cost.

To generate maximum revenue many centers offer community event space as well as areas for recreation. Most rooms for receptions, meetings, large group gatherings and trade shows as well can be managed by the Four Rivers Cultural Center and the Malheur County Fair.

It is recommended that a multi-use recreation (sports) center should be developed. This facility could contain a number of spaces including:

- * Multi-purpose gymnasium (2 courts)
- * Large and small meeting spaces/classrooms

This facility should be centrally located in the community and have good access. There are a number of potential locations for this facility. These include:

Option #1 – Locate indoor sports center adjacent to the existing aquatic center. This would require the city to relocate the tennis courts to an alternative location in the park. For this option to work, additional spatial analysis needs to be completed to determine if there is sufficient space to accommodate the desired facilities.

Option #2 – Locate indoor sports center off Highway 30, near the center of the community.

6.5 Sports Field Facilities

Field sports are an important recreation activity in Ontario. At the current time there is considerable need for all types of sport fields. It is important to recognize that the existing fields identified below have been inventoried based on their design. While there may be additional facilities within the community, they have not been counted because they do not meet the design standards for the individual sport. Regional sports parks typically consolidate heavily programmed athletic facilities for activities such as soccer, football, baseball/softball into a few strategically located sites throughout the community. Regional sports parks could also include facilities such as race tracks, and equestrian areas. The location of these facilities is important due to the traffic, lighting, and noise that are often associated with them. They typically require large parking areas and restroom facilities. They also may have other park amenities, such as play areas or picnic facilities that serve non-participant family members and others while events are taking place. Regional sports parks normally require a minimum of 25 acres with 40–80 acres being optimal.

Assessment:

- Existing Conditions:** Currently, the City only provides two youth baseball fields at Beck Kiwanis Park, two soccer fields at Alameda Park and one soccer/football field at Optimist Park. The remaining fields are either located at Treasure Valley Community College or at local school facilities.

Currently, the City does not have a sports complex.

- Service Areas:** Depending on the configuration, sports fields can either be designed to serve a single portion of a community or an entire region.
- Needs Assessment:** In general, there is a shortage of all types of fields.

Field Type	Existing Inventory	Build-out Demand	Additional Need
Baseball Fields	5	6	1
Softball Fields	4	6	2
Soccer Fields	15	18	3

The needs on the previous page are based on normal amounts of league play and practice and reflect demand based on Ontario residents only. The demand will be satisfied by the development of fields on the future community, large urban and special use sites. This will enable the City to meet the long-term needs and give them the ability to host tournaments.

Recommendations:

In an effort to meet all of the sport field needs, particularly places for practice, it is recommended that the City work with the school district to upgrade and/or expand fields at school sites. While these fields would primarily be used for practice, they need to be upgraded and maintained at a better level in order to ensure safe playing conditions.

6.6 Specialized Use Parks

Specialized Facilities: *These are unique one-of-a-kind of facilities such as unique playground areas, skateboard parks, and group picnic facilities.*

Recommendations:

1. Specific Recommendations:

GROUP PICNIC AREA

While it is not serving this function now, Beck Kiwanis Park is currently the only site with the ability to host large groups.

Aside from meeting the need for large groups, these types of facilities can generate significant revenue. A group picnic area usually requires a large site in order for the group area to be separated from the rest of the park. It is recommended that this element be incorporated into the future community and large urban parks.

This facility should contain one to two large shelter buildings equipped with BBO's and an outdoor patio area. In order to insure some privacy, this area should be somewhat separated from the other parts of the park by trees and landscaping.

AMPHITHEATER

An amphitheatre for outdoor concerts and other large events is needed in Ontario. This facility could become a major focal point for community events and activities.

One possible location for this facility is at the proposed 9th Avenue Large Urban Park (LU-27).

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Since most of the children's playgrounds in Ontario are old, basic and not very imaginative, it is recommended that a special playground be developed that contains a wide variety of children's play facilities. It should be unique enough to warrant a drive half way across town to visit it and hold a child's attention for several hours.

Sometimes these types of facilities are built as part of a community-wide "building party", where donations of labor and materials are available. Since Ontario is geographically spread out, it is recommended that at least two of these be developed.

OUTDOOR WATER PLAYGROUND

An emerging type of recreation development that can promote water activities in a much safer environment is a splash pool or water playground. These facilities are gaining in popularity due

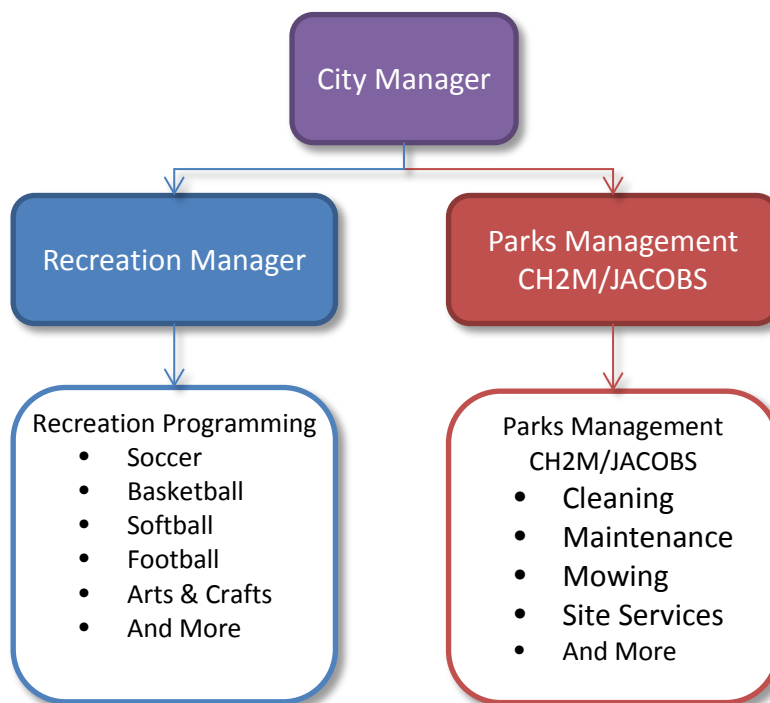
to the fact that they are popular with small children, use little water, and are relatively inexpensive to build.

Because of the hot summers, the City should consider developing one of these facilities. They can occupy an area as small as 800 square feet in size. Some of the more elaborate water playgrounds are staffed and charge an entry fee.

It is recommended that a water playground be developed at Lions Park. The advantage of this approach is that mechanical system at the existing aquatic center also be used to operate the water playground.

6.7 Management

1. **Organizational Structure:** The responsibility for Parks and Recreation management is currently divided. The city’s public works contractor CH2M/Jacobs provides operations and maintenance of park grounds and facilities. Recreation Programming is run by the Recreation Manager. This is working now and is recommended that this separation of responsibilities, with close coordination and communication, be continued.





1. **Annual Report and Goals:** The City's new transparency platform OpenGov will allow all community members to view the finances of the parks and recreation departments.
2. **Use of Volunteers:** The use of volunteers should not be overlooked as a means of providing more service on a limited budget. In addition to expanding staff capabilities, the use of volunteers promotes good public relations and increases individual support for services. Volunteers can be used in a variety of ways such as assistance with special events, conducting minor maintenance duties, and assistance with administrative tasks.
3. **Establish Adopt a Park Program:** To gain more ownership, pride, and upkeep in local parks, it is recommended the City initiate an "Adopt-A-Park" Program. This is an informal agreement with a neighborhood or service club to perform and assume certain responsibilities and duties. These may include limited maintenance tasks, such as litter pick-up, watching for and reporting vandalism or other inappropriate behavior, or hosting neighborhood activities.
4. **Partnerships:** To share in the service cost, promote better coordination, and build community support, the City should partner with private groups, the Ontario School District and Treasure Valley Community College.
5. **Implement Impact Fees:** It is recommended that the City implement impact fees as a means of developing new park and recreation facilities. Impact fees are fees charged to residential developers for the impacts their projects have on the park system. In concept, the fees collected should pay for all costs of new park development created by population growth. However, the current fee rate does not reflect this actual cost. While it is up to the City Council to make this judgment call, it is recommended the fee schedule be raised to more reflect the actual cost.
6. **Fees and Charges:** To help offset the cost of services, the City should make a major effort to produce revenue from its field rentals, building rentals, and other charges. At issue here is at what level should the entire park services be subsidized? This should be a policy issue set by the City Council.
7. **Sports Scheduling Committee:** In an effort to reduce conflicts between users and maximize the limited amount of field spaces, it is recommended that "sports scheduling committee" be formed to review field use and allocation. Representatives from the city, school district and sports organizations should participate in this committee.

6.8 Maintenance

Based on our analysis of the park system, several of the parks require renovation and/or the addition of new facilities. One overriding issue is that park maintenance appears to be primarily devoted to mowing and litter pickup with no time or effort devoted to preventive maintenance or general upgrading of facilities. The result is the quality of facilities is deteriorating and the cost to bring them back to an acceptable level may be as expensive as the replacement cost.

Recommendations:

1. **Park Maintenance Budget:** Over time it can be expected the City budget will have its shortfalls. One of the first services usually cut is park maintenance. While reduced maintenance can occur for a short duration, over time, reduced maintenance will result in the loss of facilities and the infrastructure. The cost to then bring them back to an acceptable level becomes significant. It is recommended that the City establish a minimum threshold for park maintenance services. It is suggested that it be established at \$6,000 per developed acre. After several years, the actual cost can be re-evaluated. This figure is exclusive of major capital renovation and repairs.

2. **Capital Outlay:** Develop a specific budget line item for park and facility repair.
3. **Performance Standards:** To assist in this budgeting process and to help assure that adequate maintenance is performed, maintenance standards should be developed that describe the task, its frequency, and quality of attention
4. **Consistency of Design and Materials:** While "original" architectural components may make for an interesting park system, they are very costly option because the cost of design and original construction. For some items such as restrooms, irrigation systems, and playground equipment the use of standard equipment is highly recommended.

It is recommended that a comprehensive architectural and signage program for all parks and recreational facilities. The consistent use of similar materials and products will reduce the amount of inventory for replacement parts.

5. **Labor Saving Opportunities:** Proper design standards and use of correct equipment can substantially reduce the amount of time and labor needed to maintain a park system. As new parks are developed, considerations for maintenance should have a high priority.

Some examples of labor saving devices are:

- Use of curbs and mowing strips to reduce hand mowing
- Reduction of high-maintenance plant materials
- Design of mowing areas that permit the use of larger mowers
- Installation of automatic irrigation systems

Other design factors such as adequate spacing between trees, correct selection of plant materials and paving all contribute to easier maintenance.

6. **Hire seasonal employees:** The City can hire seasonal employees for about a third the cost of full-time personnel. Seasonal employees are usually more available during the summer, which is also the time of greatest maintenance demand. Due to this fact, about one-third to one-half of the FTE equivalents should be made up of seasonal employees.
7. **Cost Tracking System:** Develop a cost tracking system that tracks cost by site and task. This needs to accurately track park maintenance cost as well as other maintenance responsibilities such as landscaped areas and other city facilities.
8. **Future Budget Allocations:** As the city park system evolves, additional maintenance dollars will need to be budgeted to maintain facilities as they are developed. The costs will be reflected in terms of additional staff, supplies, and new maintenance equipment. It is recommended that the city budget a minimum of \$7,000 for each acre of developed park land for maintenance services. This should be periodically reviewed and raised to reflect increases in labor and supplies.

6.9 Recreation Programs

In general, the city of Ontario offers a fairly extensive recreation program. Other providers of programs include Babe Ruth, Little League, and Ida-Ore Soccer Club.

It is recommended that the City explore other recreation program opportunities such as:

- Summer youth programs
- Special events
- Outdoor education



SECTION 7 – Implementation

7.1 Introduction

This section of the report identifies methods for funding park and facility improvements. The specific strategy identifies actions that should occur as well as potential sources of funding. The funding is based on the annually approved 5-year capital plan. The CIP is based on a pay-as-you-go funding strategy and will utilize some existing funding approaches as well as some new ideas from the sources identified on the following page.

7.2 Project Priorities

The following criteria are recommended for prioritizing projects in the capital improvement plan. They are listed in terms of the highest priority first.

1. **Development of Trails:** Trail development should be the highest priority.
2. Completion of the Splash Pad and renovation of the Ontario Aquatic Center should be the next highest priority, but is dependent on the ability for the city to fund the operations and maintenance of the facility.
3. **Park upgrade:** Upgrading existing parks should have a high priority because of the importance of renovation and maintaining the City's current investment in the existing parks system. Playgrounds are of particular concern, since many of the existing structures are old and do not meet ADA accessibility requirements.
4. **Acquisition of Parkland:** The acquisition of future park sites should have a relative high priority because it is critical to the completion of trails.
5. **Development of Sports Field Complex:** The development of regional sports field complex should have a relatively high priority because of the need and lack of existing fields.
6. **Development of an indoor recreation center:** Development of indoor recreation space should have a relatively moderate priority because of the lack of indoor recreation space.
7. **Expanding Recreation Programs:** The expansion of the recreation program should have a medium priority because of the favorable cost/benefit ratio and the community good will it generates.
8. **Development of Park Sites:** New park development should have a medium priority. Those neighborhoods that do not have convenient access to a park should be given the first priority.
9. **Preservation of Open Space:** The preservation of natural open space should have a low priority because in most instances this land cannot be developed because of environmental constraints.

7.3 Funding Options

The following are possible funding sources for acquiring, developing and maintaining parks and other recreational areas.

1. **City General Fund:** This source comes from the City's annual operating budget. Up to this point, little has been budgeted for capital projects.
2. **Capital Projects Fund:** This fund is usually part of a City's General Fund and is designed to allocate a certain amount for capital projects.

3. **Special Serial Levy** (Local Option Levy): This is a property tax assessment that can be used for the construction, operation, and/or maintenance of park facilities. This type of levy is established for a given rate or amount for a specific period of time, generally 1-5 years. Passage requires a double majority (a majority of registered voters must vote and a majority of those voting must approve the measure), unless during a general election, in which case a simple majority is required. The advantage of the serial levy is that there are no interest charges. However, serial levies have become more difficult to pass in Oregon because of the double majority requirement. In the future, the use of a serial levy also may be difficult because of a \$10 tax limitation for all taxing agencies in the area.
4. **General Obligation Bond:** These are voter-approved bonds with the assessment placed on real property. The money can only be used for capital improvements and not maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 20-30 years). Passage requires a majority approval by the voters. This type of property tax does not affect the overall tax limitation as described in a special serial levy. One disadvantage of this type of levy is the interest costs.
5. **Revenue Bonds:** These bonds are sold and paid from the revenue produced from the operation of a facility.
6. **Certificates of Participation:** This is a lease-purchase approach in which the City sells Certificates of Participation (COP's) to a lending institution. The City then pays the loan off from revenue produced by the facility or from its general operating budget. The lending institution holds title to the property until the COP's are repaid. This procedure does not require a vote of the public.
7. **Public/Government Grant Programs:**
 - 7a. **HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG):** These grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development are available for a wide variety of projects. To this date we have used them for housing renovation. The City could explore other potential uses to create community. Grants can cover up to a 100% of project costs.
 - 7b. **Land and Water Conservation Fund:** This is a federal grant program that receives its money from offshore oil leases. The money is distributed through the National Park Service and is administered locally by the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation. The LWCF provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1600/index.htm>
 - 7c. **Southeast Area Commission on Transportation:** The city has been successful at receiving pass through federal money through the SEACT. The most recent project funding was the sidewalk on Southeast 5th Avenue.
 - 7d. **State Bicycle Funds:** This revenue from state gas taxes is distributed to each city for the development of bicycle lanes. For Ontario, the amount received is minimal.
 - 7e. **Local Government Grants:** This Oregon program uses Lottery dollars to fund land acquisition, development and rehabilitation of park areas and facilities. A 50% grant is required for larger agencies and a 40% match for small agencies. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff reviews and approves small projects of \$50,000 or less. Large projects exceeding this amount but less than \$250,000 are reviewed and approved by the Local Government Advisory Committee.
 - 7f. **Recreation Trails Program:** This is a grant program funded through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Significant emphasis has been placed on trails in the SCORP
 - 7g. **Oregon State Marine Board Grants:** The Oregon State Marine Board manages Oregon's waterways. The agency also provides construction grants for waterfront improvements such as boat ramps, restrooms, parking and other related projects; and operations funds for maintenance and patrol. It

receives its revenue for grants from the licensing of pleasure boats and a portion of the automobile gas tax.

7h. Urban Forestry Grants: There are several grant programs that provide money for urban forestry projects. One is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration and provides grants to purchase and plant trees. This program sometimes funds urban street tree planting programs.

7i. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency led by a policy oversight board. Together, they promote and fund voluntary actions that strive to enhance Oregon's watersheds. The Board fosters the collaboration of citizens, agencies, and local interests. OWEB's programs support Oregon's efforts to restore salmon runs, improve water quality, and strengthen ecosystems that are critical to healthy watersheds and sustainable communities. OWEB administers a grant program to support voluntary efforts by Oregonians seeking to create and maintain healthy watersheds.

8. **Private Grants and Foundations:** Private grants and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects. They are sometimes difficult to find and equally difficult to secure because of the open competition. They usually fund unique projects or ones of extreme need.
9. **System Development Charges:** System Development Charges are fees imposed on new development caused by impacts on the City's infrastructure. Park SDC's can only be used for parkland acquisition and/or development. Ontario has this type of charge in place but it is low when compared to actual impact. This amount collected does not come close to reflecting the true cost impacts of new housing on the park system. Typically, cities in Oregon run in the \$1,000 range with some as high as \$3,000 per single-family household.
10. **Donations:** The donations of labor, land or cash by service agencies, private groups or individuals is a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects. Such service agencies as the Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, and Optimist sponsor current parks. It is important to connect with these clubs and partner with them. Significant donations both cash and in-kind have been received for the Ontario Splash Pad.
11. **Revolving Loan Fund Interest:** The interest and fees on the business loan fund are eligible, by resolution, for matching grants for parks improvements.
12. **Public Land Trusts:** Private land trusts such as the Trust for Public Land, Inc. and the Nature Conservancy will acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by a public agency.
13. **Lifetime Estates:** This is an agreement between a landowner and the City that gives the owner the right to live on the site after it is sold.
14. **Exchange of Property:** An exchange of property that is between a private landowner and the City can occur. For example, the City could exchange an unneeded effluent area for a potential park site currently under private ownership.
15. **Joint Public/Private Partnership:** This concept is relatively new to park and recreation agencies. The basic approach is for a public agency to enter into a working agreement with a private corporation to help fund, build and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives that a public agency can offer is free land to place a facility (usually a park or other piece of public land), certain tax advantages and access to the facility. While the public agency may have to give up certain responsibilities or control, it is one way of obtaining public facilities at a lower cost.
16. **National Tree Trust:** National Tree Trust provides trees through two programs: America's Treeways and Community Tree Planting. These programs require that trees be planted by volunteers on public lands. Additionally, the America's Treeway program requires 100 seedlings minimum to be planted along public highways.

- 17. Urban Renewal:** Revenues for urban renewal improvements can come from both tax increment financing and levies.



7.4 Financing Strategy

Due to the current economic climate and the limited available resources, the proposed capital improvement program will continue as in the past and, proceed based on a pay-as-you-go approach. Using this approach, the City will only be able to fund small capital projects. Large capital projects, such as additional indoor space and a sports field complex, will be deferred until funds are appropriated to develop multi-million dollar projects or grants are pursued.

Projects in Ontario have been classified in to two general categories: 1) small capital projects and 2) long-term projects.

Small Capital Projects

- ♦ Park renovation
- ♦ Land acquisition (neighborhood parks)
- ♦ Secure easements for trails
- ♦ Bikeway connections (through public works)

Large Capital Projects

- ♦ Aquatic center renovation and reopening
- ♦ Aquatic Center expansion (gymnasium)
- ♦ Sports field complex development
- ♦ Park development

The small capital projects will be funded through existing funding mechanisms such as the city's general fund, system development charges, donations, partnerships and through program and facility fees and charges. Large capital projects, on the other hand, will need to be financed

through some type of tax measure due to the cost of development.

7.5 Capital Facilities Plan

Based on this thought, the following funding sources should be used for financing park and facility needs.

Small Capital Projects:

- **Trail Funds:** Trail funds are set aside for expansion. These funds have accumulated to approximately \$90,000. The best use of these would be to maximize public properties and partners and seek grants to leverage city dollars.
- **Capital Facilities Fund:** An annual amount should be dedicated to the City's Capital Facilities Fund for park improvements. This will be used to add new playground equipment, basketball courts and renovation of pathways at Beck Kiwanis Park, an urban fishery, Laxson Rotary Park, Optimist Park, Alameda Park and Lions Park.
- **Donations:** Seek donations from private service groups for the construction of picnic areas/shelters at Beck Kiwanis Park, Laxson Rotary Park, Optimist Park, and Alameda Park.
- **HUD Block Grants:** It is assumed that HUD Block Grants could be used to upgrade and develop additional facilities at Eastside Kiwanis Park.
- **Land Trusts:** Approach an existing trust or establish a new trust to begin acquiring land along the Snake and Malheur Rivers. This could be expanded to include a regional trust for the purpose of securing ownership of significant open space properties such as Malheur Butte, Snake River, Malheur River, Owyhee River and Payette River.

7.6 All Projects

Table 7.3
All Projects
Park and Recreation Plan

Facility		Planning	Acquisition	Development	Major Upgrade	Minor Improve.	Other
Mini Parks							
<i>None</i>							
Neighborhood Parks							
N-7	12 th Street Neighborhood Park (P)	X	X	X			
N-12	Laxson Rotary Park				X		
N-14	Idaho Avenue Neighborhood Park (P)	X	X	X			
N-19	Eastside Kiwanis Park				X		
N-20	Treasure Valley Neighborhood Park (P)	X		X			X
N-24	Sunset Park	X		X			
Community Parks							
C-5	Malheur Drive Community Park (P)	X		X			
C-15	Lions Park			X		X	
C-27	Large Urban Park to be Named	X	X	X			
Regional Parks							
LU	Beck Kiwanis Park				X	X	
LU-27	9 th Avenue Large Urban Pk (P)	X	X	X			
R-2	Ontario State Park						X
Special Use Areas							
SU-4	Old Verde Dump Site (Sports Complex) (P)	X		X			
SU-8	Malheur County Fairgrounds						X
SU-11	Waterfront Park (P)	X	X	X			
SU-14	Indoor Recreation Center (P)	X		X			
SU-17	Downtown Plaza	X	X	X			
SU-18	Railroad Depot Park						X
SU-21	Sunset Cemetery					X	
SU-22	Optimist Park				X		
SU-25	Alameda Park				X		
SU-26	Evergreen Cemetery					X	X
SU-27	Safety Rest Area (ODOT)						X
SU-29	Waterfront Park (P)	X	X	X			

(P) = Proposed

Table 7.3 (Continued)

Facility		Planning	Acquisition	Development	Major Upgrade	Minor Improve.	Other
Regional Sports Park							
RS-1	Ontario Regional Sports Park (undeveloped)	X		X			
Linear Parks							
L-6	Dork Canal Park (P)						
L-23	Stewart Carter Canal Park (P)						
L-30	Railroad Park (P)						
Open Space Areas/Greenways							
OS-1	Malheur River Greenway (P)	X	X	X			
OS-3	Malheur River Open Space Area						X
OS-10	Snake River Greenway (P)	X	X	X			
Pathways/Trails							
T-1	Malheur River Trail (P)	X		X			
T-2	Community Park Trail Connector (P)	X	X	X			
T-3	Dork Canal Trail (P)	X		X			
T-4	Neighborhood Park Connector Trail (P)	X	X	X			
T-5	Beck Kiwanis Park Connector Trail (P)	X	X	X			
T-6	Airport Trail (P)	X		X			X
T-7	Stewart Carter Trail (P)	X		X			
T-8	Treasure Valley Trail (P)	X		X			
T-9	Railroad Trail (P)	X		X			
T-10	Eastside Park Connector Trail (P)	X	X	X			
T-11	Safety Rest Area Trail Connector (P)	X	X	X			
T-12	Snake River Trail (P)	X		X			
T-13	Cross Town Trail (P)	X		X			X
T-14	North-South Connector	X	X	X			
Specialized Facilities							
-	Adventure Playground	X		X			
-	Aquatic Center Splash Pad	X		X			
-	Amphitheater	X		X			
Indoor Recreation Facilities							
-	Aquatic Center Renovation and Reopening	X		X			

(P) = Proposed

Table 7.3 (Continued)

Facility	Planning	Research	Preparation/ Implementation	Publication	Other
Management					
Organizational Structure	X		X	X	
Annual Reports/Goals	X		X	X	
Use of Volunteers		X	X		
Adopt a Park Program	X	X	X	X	
Partnerships	X		X		
System Development Charges	X	X	X	X	
Fees and Charges		X	X	X	
Maintenance					
Park Maintenance Budget	X		X		
Capital Outlay	X		X		
Performance Standards	X	X	X	X	
Consistency of Design and Materials	X	X	X	X	
Labor Savings Devices	X	X	X		
Hire Seasonal Employees	X		X		
Future Budget Allocations	X		X		
Recreation Programs					
Expand Programs	X	X	X	X	

(P) = Proposed



APPENDIX A – Community Profile

Summary of Findings

- The City of Ontario is along the Snake River, near the confluence with the Malheur River.
- The planning encompasses the Ontario city limits plus land within the city's Urban Growth Boundary.
- Rivers, such as the Malheur and Snake Rivers, are important because of their ability to provide habitat and migration corridors for fish and wildlife, preservation of riparian vegetation and their ability to carry storm water runoff. Due to their linear nature, they can also provide conduits for trails.
- The climate in Ontario is considered moderate with four distinct seasons. The City receives a minor amount of rainfall over the year. In order to provide year round recreational opportunities, it is important to offer a variety of indoor as well as outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Ontario is the largest city in Malheur County and the 41st largest in Oregon with an estimated 2017 population of 11,465. The population has plateaued over the last 10.
- The median age in Ontario is 32.4. The age profile in Ontario is spread evenly across all age groups with 32.2% of the population under age 18. Overall, the age distribution in the community is very evenly distributed with a larger child, youth, and young adult population.
- Land use plays an important role in the location, distribution and availability of park and recreational facilities. Currently, 31% of the City is composed of residential uses, 20% is industrial and 18% is commercial. Each generalized land use type has its own distinct demand for park, recreation and open space facilities.
- Significant growth has occurred in Idaho, across the river. Based on the current population and projections, growth in Ontario is estimated to be minimal.

A.1 Regional Context

The City of Ontario is located in eastern Oregon in the northeast portion of Malheur County along the Oregon-Idaho border. The City is linked with other communities by various modes of transportation. Interstate 84 provides linkages west (e.g., Baker City, LaGrande and Portland) and east (e.g., Boise and Twin Falls). Highway 20 and 26 also provides access to the west to central Oregon (e.g., Bend). Highway 201 provides access to the Owyhee Lake to the south and the Snake River Canyon to the north. The town owes its current population to its agricultural and rail history. Rail service (Union Pacific Railroad) consists of one main line. The old depot now serves as a small park dedicated to our heritage. Airlines serving the Ontario airport provide access to other hubs, but few direct flights to other destinations.

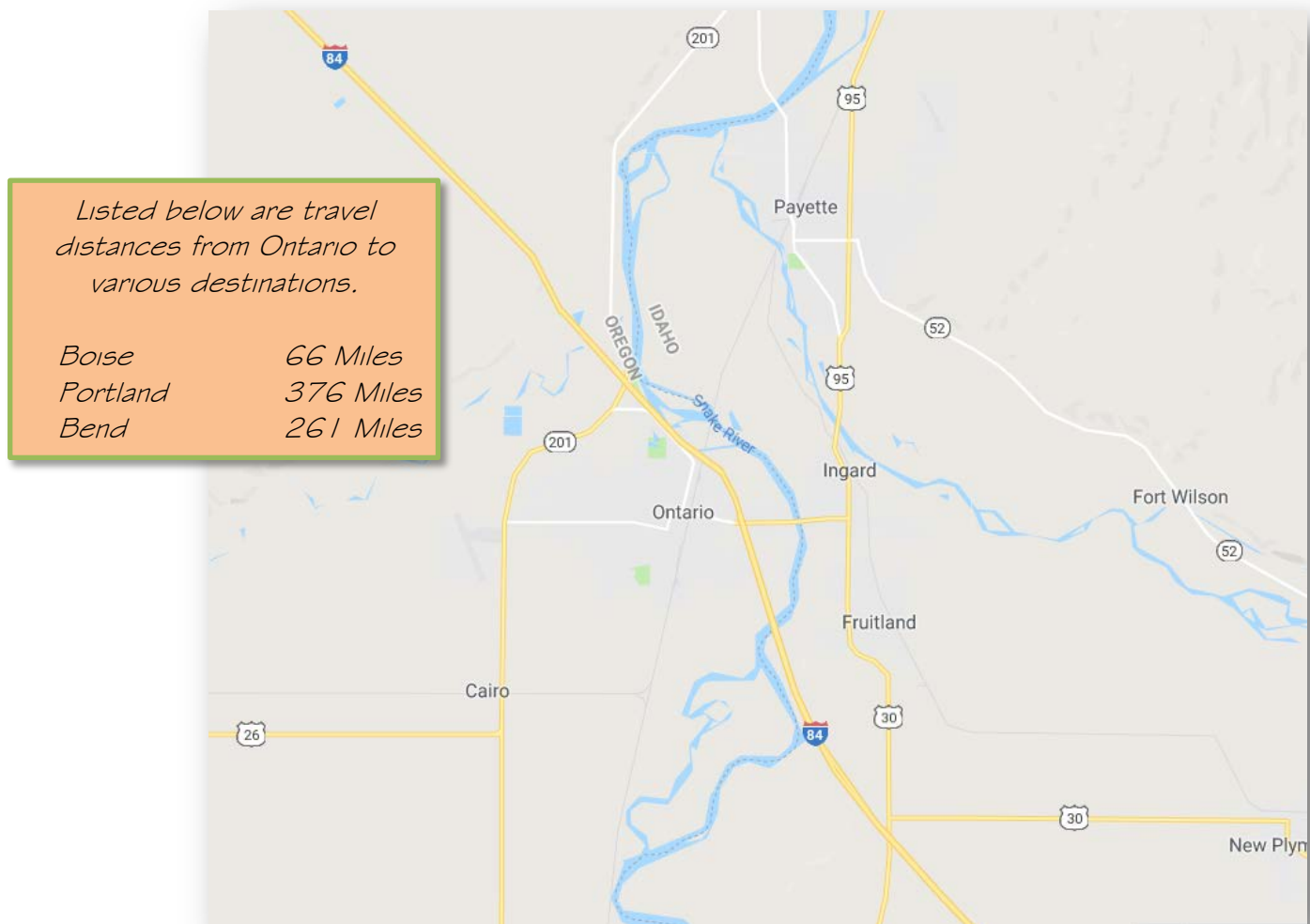


FIGURE A.1
Regional Location

A.2 Planning Area

The planning area for this study consists of what is referred to as Ontario's "Urban Growth Area". It includes the current incorporated area of Ontario, as well as unincorporated areas that will likely be annexed in the future. In general, the planning area extends to the Oregon state border on the east, to the Malheur River on the west, to the confluence of the Snake and Malheur Rivers on the north, and Butler Road on the south. The planning area measures approximately 8.22 square miles in size and includes roughly 5,258.94 acres.

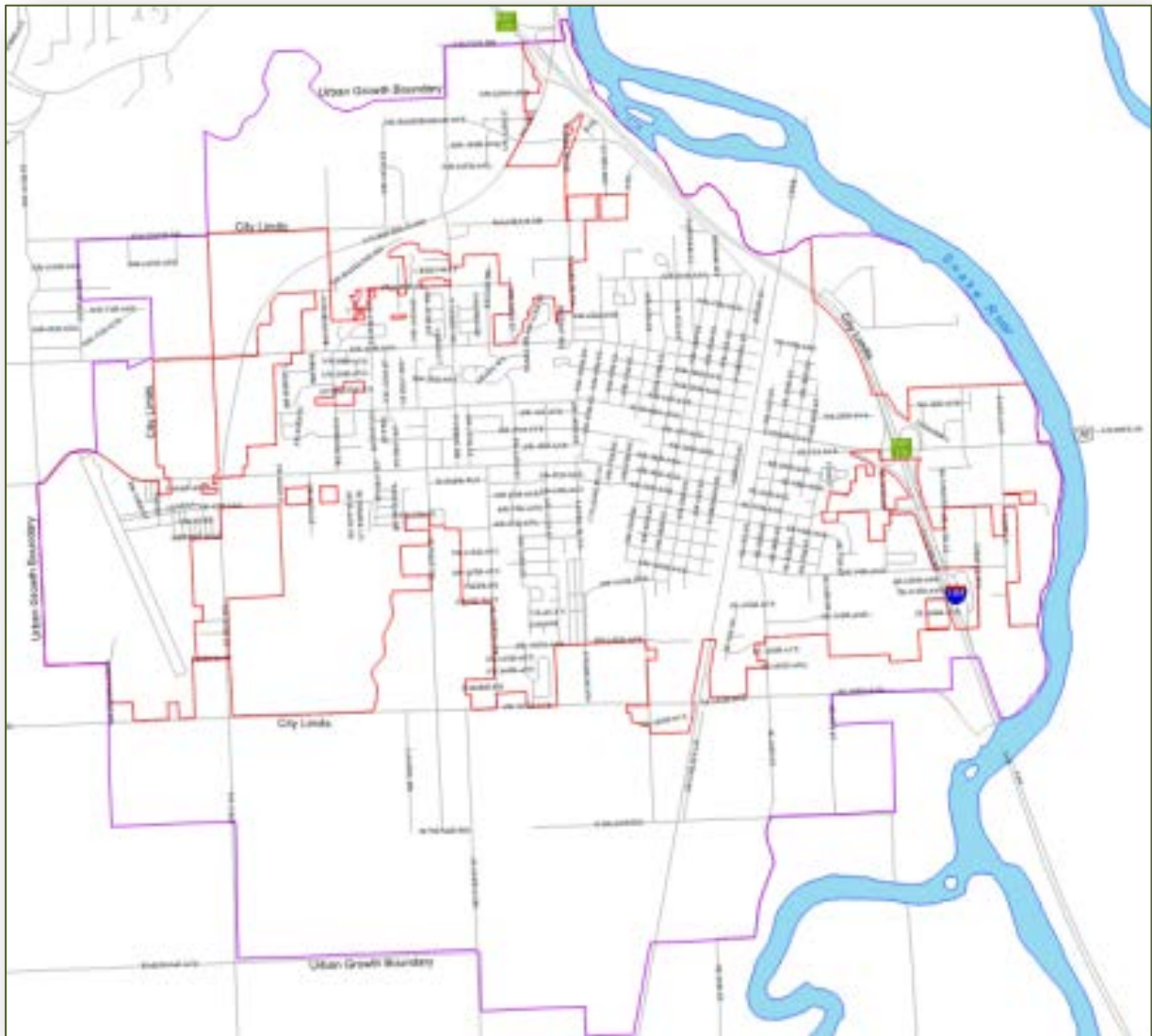


FIGURE A.2
Planning Area Map

A.3 Natural Resources

The natural resources in the Ontario area are important for a variety of reasons. The topography/terrain, the existence of water features and drainage corridors, location of floodplain/floodway and the presence of wetlands all impact the potential for development. While these lands are considered environmentally sensitive and have limited development potential, they are often conducive to park, open space, and recreation uses. Aside from providing these potential functions, the protection of these areas has a number of other benefits such as protecting unique landforms, maintaining aquifer recharge areas and preserving the riparian and vegetative cover. The natural features that influence the provision of park, recreation and open space areas are listed below:

Topography/Terrain

Mountains, a desert, and agricultural lands dominate Ontario's surroundings. To the south and southwest are the desert environments of the Snake River Plain, where primary land uses are low-intensity grazing. West of Ontario and east of Ontario in Idaho lay agricultural lands.

Features formed by the two adjacent rivers dominate the topography in the Ontario area. For the most part the terrain in Ontario is relatively level and reflects the hierarchy of floodplain development. As a result, recreational facilities are easily adapted to the existing topography and terrain and provide easy accessibility for both active and passive recreational activities.

Rivers, Streams and Drainage Ways

The drainage system in the Ontario area is part of the Snake River Drainage Basin and consists of a hierarchy of rivers, streams, creeks and other drainage ways. Drainage basins are described in terms of their size within the overall drainage system. The primary basins are those with the largest carrying capacity and are subsequently divided into smaller sub-basins.

Rivers, streams and drainage way areas are important because of their ability to provide habitat corridors for fish and wildlife, preserve riparian vegetation and carry storm water runoff. In addition to their functional and aesthetic characteristics, the drainage ways can also serve as conduits for trails.

In Ontario, much of the open space and some of the parks in the area are concentrated along the river corridors. There are several opportunities to expand these areas and provide linear open space and trail opportunities along the rivers and beyond.

Aside from the Snake and Malheur Rivers, some of the more prominent features in Ontario include the Stewart Carter Canal and the Dork Canal.

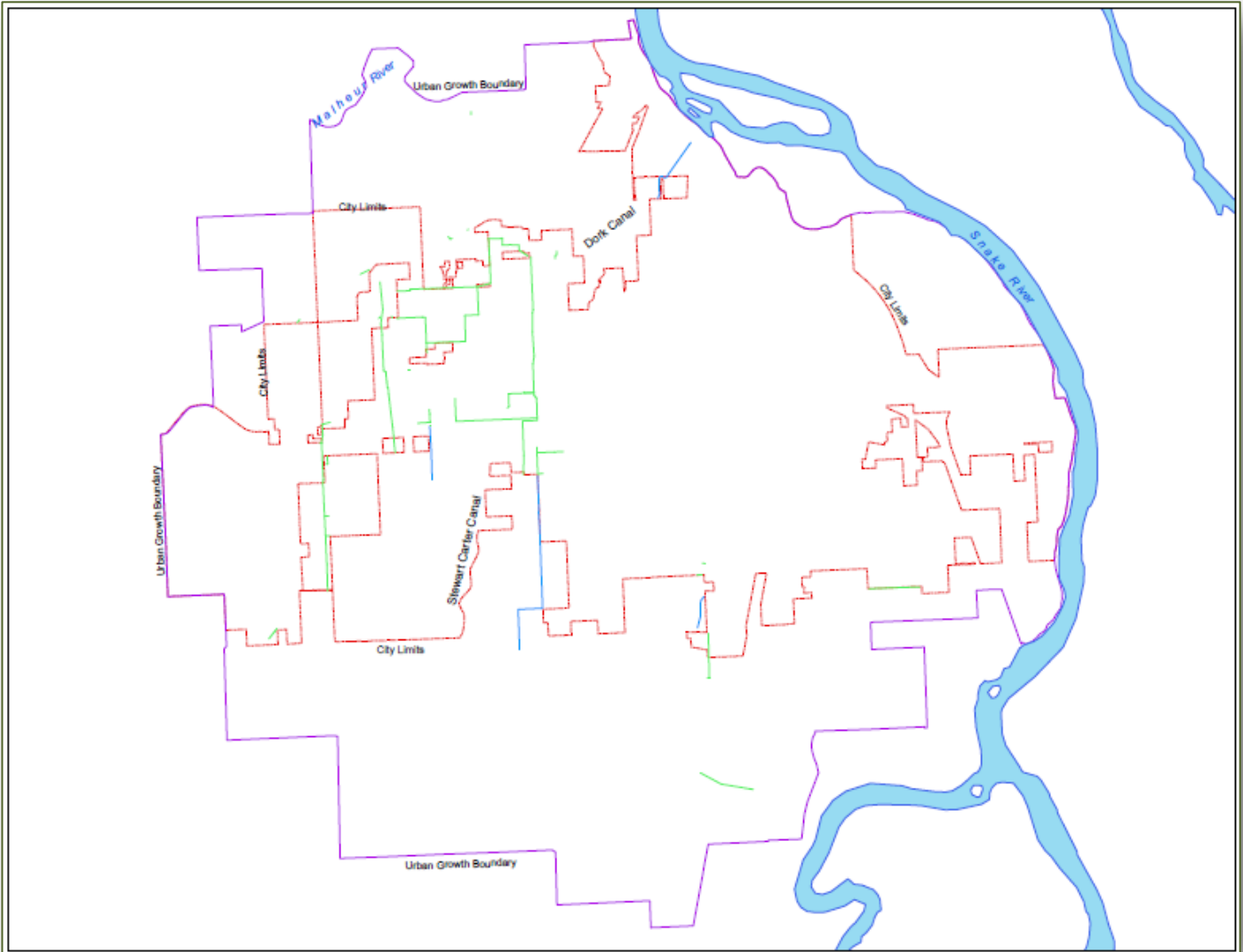


FIGURE A.3
Water Features

Floodway/Floodplains

Floodplain areas are seasonally inundated by rivers, streams, creeks, canals, and other areas prone to this. These areas are delineated in terms of their frequency of flooding, such as 100-year and 500-year. The floodway is an area within the floodplain that includes that channel and any area below the ordinary high water level. These areas have been identified and mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Floodways and floodplains are important because of their hazard potential and their ability to store floodwater. Because lands within these areas are subject to flooding, development is usually heavily regulated and/or prohibited, particularly in the floodways. Generally, these areas are less conducive to the construction of housing, commercial, or industrial structures. However, these areas can be used as a resource for recreation, in the form of open space, sport fields and scenic areas. These types of facilities do not typically interfere with the flow of water and are not significantly impacted by seasonal flooding.

In Ontario, a 100-year floodway has been identified along the Snake and Malheur Rivers.

Wetlands

Wetland areas have surface or ground water that supports vegetation typically for life in saturated (hydric) soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. These types of areas are an important feature because of their ability to detain and absorb storm water, recharge groundwater, improve water quality and provide habitat.

For purposes of parks and recreation, wetlands are important for a number of reasons. The identification of wet areas creates a constraint to development; meaning lands are not conducive to construction of housing, commercial, or industrial. This means the areas can be used as a resource for recreation, in the form of open space, interpretive areas, or scenic areas.

Significant Wildlife Habitat

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has identified existing wetland areas within the Ontario area. These areas are considered “significant natural features” and their development is constrained by various jurisdictional regulations. The primary areas are located along the Snake River corridor.

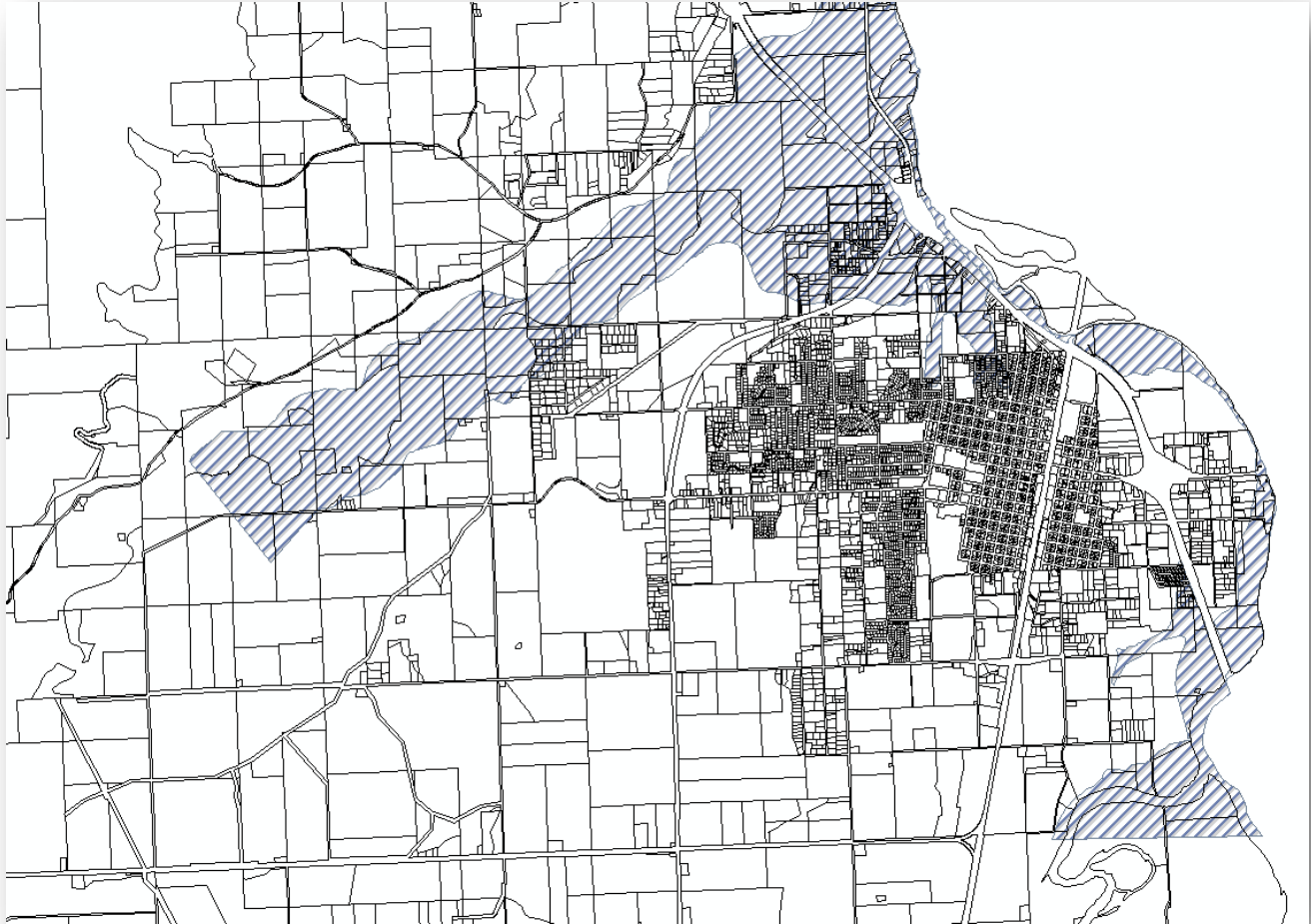


FIGURE A.4
Floodplains

A.4 Climate

Ontario has a temperate four-season climate, providing for diverse forms of year-round recreation opportunities. Weather is strongly influenced by storm fronts originating in the Pacific. The Rocky Mountains to the north and east help limit cold northern storms from impacting the area.

Ontario averages 9.49 inches of precipitation per year, with the majority occurring in winter and spring. Average January temperatures are between 18 and 34 degrees. Average June temperatures are between 51 and 84 degrees.

From the perspective of providing park and recreation services, the varying climate would necessitate the need to provide a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities. During the winter months, indoor facilities such as gymnasiums and indoor pools support programs such as basketball, volleyball and swimming. Meetings and classrooms provide space for instructional classes and arts/crafts. During the summer months, parks facilities provide space for organized sports, playground activities and picnicking.

A.5 Demographics Characteristics

Demographic characteristics are important attributes because they create demand and influence recreational interests and participation. The existing population base serves as the foundation for creating demand. Factors such as age and income significantly affect the level and individual ability to pursue recreational activities. To a lesser extent, employment, education and ethnicity also plays a role.

Population Trends

The population information for the City of Ontario has been derived from the American Community Survey. Ontario is the largest city in Malheur County with an estimated 2016 population of 11,465. According to the US Census, the city's 2010 population was placed at 11,366 persons. This is a small change from the 2000 population of 11,295.

Table 1 on the following page, illustrates population growth for the City of Ontario as well as for Malheur County and the State of Oregon since 1960.

Table A.1
Historical Population Growth 1970-2010
City of Ontario, Malheur County and Oregon

Year	City of Ontario	Percent Increase	Malheur County	Percent Increase	State of Oregon	Percent Increase
1970	6,523	27.90%	23,169	1.80%	2,091,533	18.30%
1980	8,814	35.10%	26,896	16.10%	2,633,156	25.90%
1990	9,394	6.60%	26,038	-2.80%	2,842,321	7.90%
2000	10,985	16.90%	31,615	21.40%	3,421,399	20.40%
2010	11,366	3.47%	31,313	-0.96%	3,831,074	11.97%

Source: US Bureau of the Census

Relative to the county population as a whole, the percentage of the population living in the City of Ontario has not changed over the last 10 years. Residential growth in the region has occurred primarily across the river in Idaho at unprecedented rates. Ontario still remains a hub for many retail, employment, and recreational opportunities.

Table A.3 shows the population growth in the City of Ontario on a year-by-year basis starting in 1990. As can be seen, the population has steadily increased over the last 12 years averaging about 1.69% per year.

Table A.3
Population Growth 2009-2016
City of Ontario

Year	Ontario Population	% Change
2009	11,365	
2010	11,366	0.09%
2011	11,375	0.35%
2012	11,415	0.44%
2013	11,465	0.00%
2014	11,465	0.00%
2015	11,465	0.00%
2016	11,465	0.00%

Source: Portland State University Population Estimates

The demographic profile for the City of Ontario is slightly different than the surrounding communities and the rest of Malheur County and the State of Oregon.

Age

In general, the age profile in Ontario is lower than the comparison cities with a higher percentage of the population under age 19 and over age 65. Overall, the age distribution can be characterized as a community with a high number of youth and younger families.

In general, the older the population, the less they participate in active or competitive recreation activities. In contrast, youth age groups tend to participate in recreation activities more frequently than any other age group and favor more active and competitive activities. This includes activities such as basketball, baseball, soccer, swimming, and bicycling.

Young adults (ages 18-35) are also an active age group and typically form the core of adult competitive sports.

Older adults (ages 35-65) typically have less time to devote to recreational activities and tend to have a more passive interest in recreation programs. Recreational time is at a premium and often limited to weekends and occasional evenings.

Table A.4
Age Distributions 2016
Selected Geographic Areas

	Age 19 and Under	Ages 20 to 64	Age 65 and Over	Median Age
State of Oregon	24.1%	60.0%	15.9%	39.1
Malheur County	27.3%	56.7%	15.9%	36.4
City of Ontario	32.2%	51.1%	16.9%	32.4
City of Baker City	23.1%	54.0%	22.8%	43.6
City of LaGrande	25.1%	59.4%	15.5%	34.2
City of Pendleton	24.8%	61.3%	14.0%	37.4
City of Vale	36.5%	49.3%	14.4%	32.9

Source: US Bureau of the Census American Community Survey

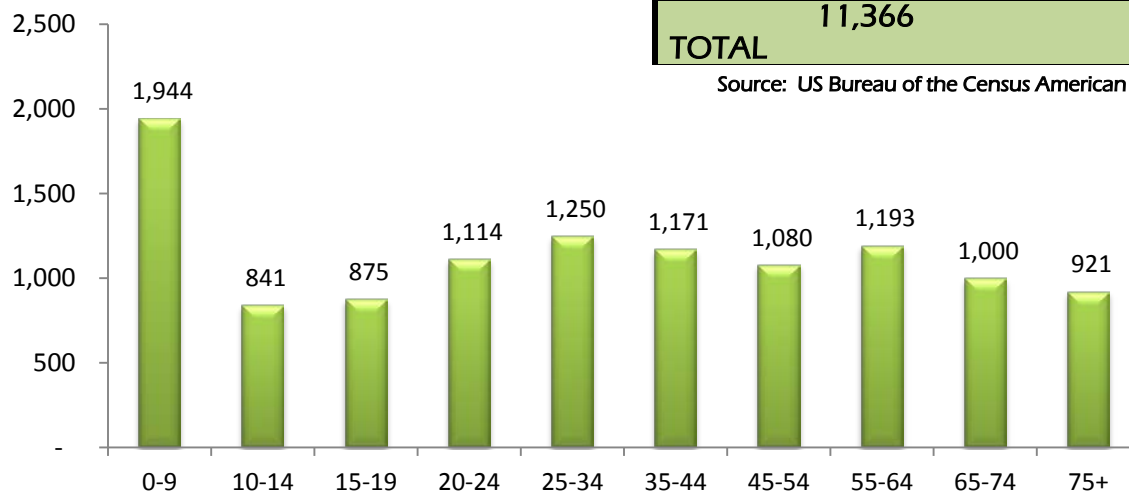
As you can see from the adjacent table, the City of Ontario has a higher percentage of residents under the age of 20. A significant portion of the residents are within the age 20-64 category but less than most of the comparison cities, the county, and the state. By the median age, it would appear that a majority are young adults with children. The specific age breakdowns are listed below.

Table A.5
Age Breakdowns 2016
City of Ontario

Category	Population	Percentage
0-9	1,944	17.1%
10-14	841	7.4%
15-19	875	7.7%
20-24	1,114	9.8%
25-34	1,250	11.0%
35-44	1,171	10.3%
45-54	1,080	9.5%
55-64	1,193	10.5%
65-74	1,000	8.8%
75+	921	8.1%
TOTAL	11,366	100.0%

Source: US Bureau of the Census American Community Survey

Population



Income

Income levels are also used to reveal important demographic characteristics. In general, higher income groups tend to be more active and participate in more expensive types of activities. Income levels within the Ontario area are slightly lower than the rest of Malheur County and several of the comparable communities.

A comparison of the 2000 household incomes and per capita incomes are shown.

Table A.6
Household Income Levels 2016
Selected Areas

Area	2016 Household Income	2016 Per Capita Income
State of Oregon	\$53,270	\$28,822
Malheur County	\$34,720	\$17,150
City of Ontario	\$27,262	\$16,284
City of Baker City	\$40,119	\$23,826
City of LaGrande	\$40,511	\$25,146
City of Pendleton	\$46,913	\$22,281
City of Vale	\$36,103	\$15,989

Source: US Bureau of the Census American Community Survey

Employment

An analysis of the labor force in Ontario revealed that the largest class of employment was the Service industry which is a change from 2000 when the largest was Sales and Office. Sales and Office followed closely by Management and Professional are the next two highest groups. Compared to the State of Oregon, there were higher levels of employment in service occupations and production, transportation and material moving; which is understandable from a community with its roots in agriculture.

Table A.7
Employment Classification 2012
City of Ontario

Type	City of Ontario Percentage	State of Oregon Percentage
Management, business, science, and arts	20.3%	37.5%
Service	31.7%	18.6%
Sales and Office	21.3%	23.2%
Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance	11.1%	8.8%
Production, Transportation and Material Moving	15.3%	11.9%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

Source: US Bureau of the Census American Community Survey

The largest employers in the city include Heinz Frozen Foods, St. Alphonsus Medical Center, Wal-Mart and the Ontario School District. Together, these employers provide a large percentage of the total jobs in the Ontario area.

A breakdown of employment classifications is listed in Table A.7.

Ethnicity

The ethnic composition of Ontario has become very diversified over the last two decades. Caucasians only account for 54.5% of the population compared to the State of Oregon which is 77% Caucasian. Beyond this difference Ontario compares similarly to the State of Oregon.

Ethnicity is important from a recreation participation standpoint. Some ethnic groups have a higher participation level in specific types of recreational activities, which would increase the demand for certain types of facilities. A breakdown of race is listed in Table A.8.

Table A.8
Ethnicity 2016
City of Ontario

Type	City of Ontario Percentage	State of Oregon Percentage
White	54.5%	77.0%
Hispanic or Latino	41.7%	12.4%
Other	0.0%	0.1%
Asian	1.7%	4.0%
Black	0.4%	1.8%
American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut	0.4%	0.9%
Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.4%
Two or more races	1.3%	3.5%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

Source: US Bureau of the Census American Community Survey

A.6 Land Use

Land use plays an important role in the location, distribution and availability of park and recreational facilities. The diversity of land-uses in the Ontario area makes it necessary to evaluate the most effective means of meeting the park and open space needs for each major category. Residential areas will need a park to fulfill needs of area residents. Industrial areas will require parks that focus on use during the day, or where people will travel to at night. Commercial areas are more likely to require plazas and places for passive recreation that are smaller in area. In addition, land use helps to identify areas where development is at a high density.

Table A.9
Breakdown of Lands By Zoning Designation -2018
City of Ontario

Zoning Designation	Total Acres
Residential	789.69
Industrial	510.63
Commercial	452.89
Airport	209.65
Public Facilities	384.65
Total	2,447.51

The total land area of the City of Ontario is 2,447.51 acres. The distribution of the land is as follows. The majority of land is zoned residential (31%). This area encompasses most of the north and west of Ontario. Industrial lands are primarily found in and around the airport and along the railroad. Together they make up 20% of the developable area. Finally, commercial property located downtown, along Interstate 84 and along Highway 201 makes up 18% of land.

Within the Ontario planning area there are approximately 2,872 additional acres outside the current city limits, but within the city's Urban Growth area it will ultimately be incorporated into the city. It is assumed that a portion of this acreage would be developed with residential units and be a source of potential population growth.

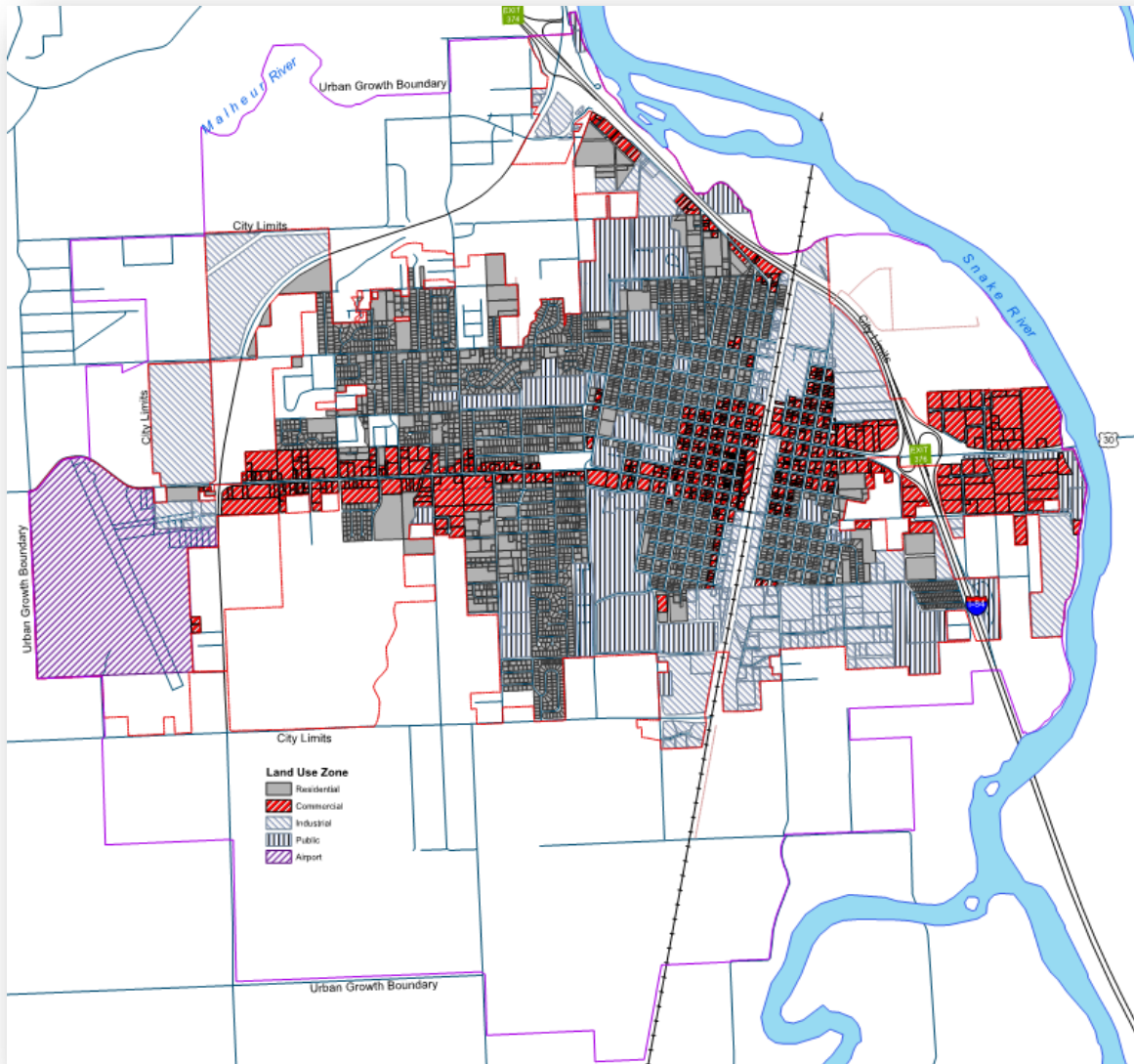


FIGURE A.5
Land Use Map

A.7 Housing

Based on the 2016 US census, there were approximately 4,358 occupied housing units in the City of Ontario. Of this supply, 49% are owner occupied compared to 92.1% in 2000. Of the 4,358 occupied units 51% are renter occupied.

A.8 Population Projections

Population growth primarily occurs through two means; 1) annexation and 2) in-migration and infill. Both sources are particularly critical in identifying new demand for park and recreation services. Shown below is the population projection for the Ontario.

Table A.10
Population Projections
City of Ontario

Year	Population Based on Straight Line Projection (1)
2000	10,985
2010	11,366
2017	11,465
2020	11,470
2025	12,000
2030	12,550
2035	12,950
2040	13,200

(1) Regression analysis with R^2 value of .98



APPENDIX B – Existing Resources

Summary of Findings

Listed below is a summary of the park inventory and evaluation process.

City of Ontario

- In general, the City has a fairly balanced park system consisting of neighborhood and community parks. This is supplemented by a destination park, regional parks, several special use areas and a natural park lands space.
- While the parks are well maintained, they are in need of renovation. Many facilities are old and need to be replaced, which would include new playground equipment, installation of playground safety surfacing, ADA improvements (e.g., paved pathways, etc.), park signage and site amenities (e.g., benches, bike racks, and decorative trash receptacles).
- The City does not have a sports field complex. Instead, sport fields are scattered throughout the City at the Beck Kiwanis Park and two special use parks (Optimist Park and Alameda Park).
- Aside from the Aquatic Center, the City has limited access to indoor recreational facilities and relies on the use of school facilities for indoor programs.
- Although there is a large amount of river frontage along the Snake River, very little is in public ownership. The City acquired a large amount of land along the Malheur River. This property is ideal for a land trail and water trail.
- The City has many bike lanes, but has no trails, pathways, or bikeways. This came up in multiple settings during the public feedback portion of the parks revision. Trails were the top identified need in Ontario.

B.1 Introduction

Currently, the City of Ontario is the primary provider of parks and recreational facilities in the area. Other agencies such as Oregon State Parks and Malheur County provide some limited urban recreational opportunities but to a much lesser extent. In addition to the City, the Ontario School District and Treasure Valley Community College are also major providers of sport facilities in the area.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Areas

The Ontario park system consists of both active and passive recreational areas. There are four neighborhood parks, one community park, two regional parks and numerous special use parks in the park system. In total, the City owns 16 park and recreational areas representing more than 975.4 acres of land. The City also owns and operates several specialized recreational facilities such as the Ontario Aquatic Center and a skateboard area.

Other recreational sites in the planning area owned by public agencies include Malheur County Fairgrounds (owned by the Malheur County), and Oregon State Parks owns Ontario State Park, while the Oregon Department of Transportation owns a safety rest area.

Listed below is a summary of the park, recreation and open space areas located within the Ontario area. This includes land owned by the City of Ontario, Malheur County, State of Oregon, Ontario School District and Treasure Valley Community College.

Table B.1
Summary of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Areas
(All Agencies)
Ontario Planning Area

Park, Recreation and Open Space Areas	Total Park Land (Acres)	Number of Sites
City of Ontario		
Pocket-Parks	0.00	0
Urban Plaza Parks	0.00	0
Neighborhood Parks	20.41	4
Community Parks	33.35	1
Regional Parks	22.65	2
Nature Parks	763.83	1
Special Use Parks	40.72	7
Linear Parks	0.00	0
Regional Sports Park (Old Verde Site)	19.59	1
Trails, Paths, Bikeways	0	0
Destination Parks	6.29	1
Undeveloped Parkland	9.62	1
Total City Areas	867	18
Malheur County		
Special Use Areas	36.58	1
Total County	36.58	1
State of Oregon		
Regional Parks	11.51	1
Special Use Areas	13.49	1
Total State	25.00	2
TOTAL	866.67	16

Based on the inventory above, the current ratio of park land to population can be derived. The current ratio is the existing amount of park land divided by the existing population. It is expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 population.

By identifying the current ratios, one can quickly compare current inventories with other communities and determine whether Ontario is above or below average. Listed below is the current ratio for each of the park land categories in Ontario.

Table B.2
Summary of Current Ratios (All Agencies)
Ontario Planning Area

Park Land Type	Current Ratio (Acres per 1,000 Population)
Pocket-Parks	0 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Urban Plaza Parks	0 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Neighborhood Parks	1.78 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Community Parks	2.90 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Regional Parks	1.98 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Nature Parks	22.10 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Special Use Parks	55.76 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Trails, Paths, Bikeways	0 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Regional Sports Park (Undeveloped)	1.71 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Linear Parks	0 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Destination Parks	0.55 Acres/1,000 Pop.
Undeveloped Parkland	0.84 Acres/1,000 Pop.
TOTAL	85.94 Acres/1,000 Pop.

Facilities

Table B.3
Summary of Facilities (All Agencies)
Ontario Planning Area

Area	Total Number of Facilities	Youth Size	Adult Size
City of Ontario			
Baseball Fields	2	2	0
Softball Fields	0	0	0
Soccer Fields	4	0	4
Football Fields	0	0	–
Tennis Courts	6	–	–
Outdoor BB Courts	2	2	–
Sand Volleyball Courts	0	–	–
Gymnasiums	0	–	–
Pool Space (Closed)	3,150 SF	–	–
Splash Pad	4,000 SF	–	–
Pathways/Trails	0.5 Miles	–	–
Ontario School District			
Baseball Fields	2	1	1
Softball Fields	1	0	2
Soccer Fields	7	3	4
Football Fields	1	2	0
Tennis Courts	7	–	–
Outdoor BB Courts	7	7	0
Sand Volleyball Courts	0	–	–
Gymnasiums	7	6	1
Pool Space	0	–	–
Pathways/Trails	0	–	–
Private Schools/College			
Baseball Fields	1	1	0
Softball Fields	3	3	0
Soccer Fields	4	3	1
Football Fields	0	0	0
Tennis Courts	5	–	–
Outdoor BB Courts	0	–	–
Sand Volleyball Courts	0	–	–
Gymnasiums	6	5	1
Pool Space	0	–	–
Pathways/Trails	0	–	–

Table B.4
 Summary of Current Ratios (All Agencies)
 City of Ontario

Park Land Type	Current Ratio (Facilities per 1,000 Population)
Baseball Fields	1 Field/2,293 Pop.
Softball Field	1 Field/2,866 Pop.
Soccer Field	1 Field/764 Pop.
Football Fields	1 Field/11,465 Pop.
Tennis Courts	1 Court/637 Pop.
Volleyball Courts	None
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1 Court/1,274 Pop.
Gymnasiums	1 Gym/882 Pop.
Pool Space	0 SF/1,000 Pop
Pathways/Trails	0.0 Mi./1,000 Pop.

B.3 City of Ontario Park and Recreation Areas

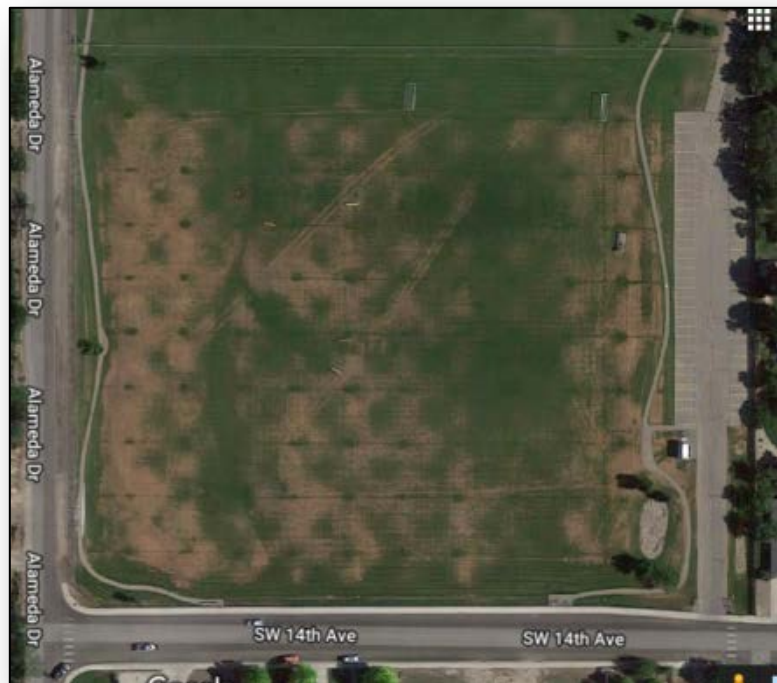
Beginning on the following page is an evaluation of each existing park and recreation area under the ownership of Ontario.

In some instances, it includes park facilities that have been developed on land owned by the Ontario School District.

Alameda Park

Location:	Malheur County, within Ontario City limits: Located at the corner of Alameda Drive and SW 14 th Avenue, just south of Alameda Elementary School.
Size:	13.67 Acres
Ownership:	City of Ontario
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	Soccer fields (2 full size), pathway system, parking lot and water detention area
Deficiencies:	Lack of neighborhood facilities (playground, basketball court, picnic shelter and picnic area), site amenities and landscaping, new signage
Planned Improvements:	Parts of the walking path will need to be resurfaced in the next five years.
Comments:	The Ontario community was surveyed in 2018 to figure out what improvements they would like to see in each park. For Alameda Park the top three requested facilities were soccer fields, shelters, and walking trails. Soccer fields were by far the most wanted outdoor space with almost 50% of the votes.

Site Location:



Beck Kiwanis Park

Location:	Malheur County, within Ontario City limits: Located off NW 8 th Avenue, adjacent to the Malheur County Fairgrounds
Size:	30.96 Acres
Ownership:	City of Ontario (16.7 Acres) and State of Oregon (Becker Ponds 13.6 Acres)
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	Youth baseball fields (2), open grass area, children’s playground, tennis courts (2), picnic shelters (2), picnic area, horseshoe pits (4), restroom building, maintenance/storage building, lake, trail, parking area
Deficiencies:	The restroom building is not in use and needs to be renovated. The sewer line from the bathroom has been plugged by tree roots and will need to be relocated. The playground equipment is old, no playground safety surfacing, tennis courts need resurfacing, trail needs to be paved to provide ADA access, and pathways.
Planned Improvements:	Unknown
Comments:	This is the largest park in the City’s park system. This is one of the most versatile and widely used parks in the community. The highest three requested facilities were walking trails, updated playground equipment, and older shelters in that order.

Site Location:



Lanterman Kiwanis Park

Location: Malheur County, within Ontario City limits: Located at the corner of SW 5th Avenue and SW 5th Street. SW 6th Avenue borders the park on the south side.

Size: 3.29 Acres

Ownership: City of Ontario

Status: Developed

Existing Facilities: Shelter building, children’s playground, basketball court, soccer goals are provided by the Ontario Kiwanis Club, and drinking fountain.

Deficiencies: No sidewalks or pathways, playground equipment is old, no playground safety surfacing, turf is uneven. Tree planting

Planned Improvements: A master plan has been prepared for this site by the Kiwanis Club. The plan includes creating a walk path around the entire park, adding two futsal courts, another shelter, a water feature, and trees.

Comments: Public feedback indicated a desire for updated playground Equipment, Shelters, soccer fields, and walking trails.

Site Location:



Evergreen Cemetery

<i>Location:</i>	Malheur County, within Ontario City limits: Located at the corner of S. Park Boulevard and 14 th Avenue.
<i>Size:</i>	19.95 Acres
<i>Ownership:</i>	City of Ontario
<i>Status:</i>	Developed
<i>Existing Facilities:</i>	Cemetery
<i>Deficiencies:</i>	Unknown
<i>Planned Improvements:</i>	The treasure valley connector will create a loop from Park Street through the college and looping back through the cemetery that is already used regularly.
<i>Comments:</i>	Evergreen cemetery is a very popular place for locals to walk with close proximity to the college green belt.

Site Location:



Laxson Rotary Park

Location:	Malheur County, within Ontario City limits: Site is bordered by NW 3 rd Avenue and NW 4 th Avenue on the north and south sides and NW 5 th Street and NW 4 th SW Street on the west and east
Size:	2.02 Acres
Ownership:	City of Ontario
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	Multi-use backstop, restroom, picnic shelter and playground
Deficiencies:	No sidewalks or pathways, restroom is old, playground equipment is old, no playground safety surfacing, new signage
Planned Improvements:	Unknown
Comments:	A master plan should be prepared for this site. Updated playground equipment, shelters, sand volleyball courts, and pavilion space are the highest requested facilities for this park.

Site Location:



Lions Park

Location: Malheur County, within Ontario City limits: Located on the corner of SW 4th Avenue and SW 9th Street. SW 2nd Avenue borders the site on the north.

Size: 6.26 Acres

Ownership: City of Ontario

Status: Developed

Existing Facilities: Aquatic Center, community building/maintenance shop, skateboard area, picnic shelter (3), picnic area, open play area, playground area, tennis courts (2), horseshoe pits (2), fountain, parking area

Deficiencies: Some playground equipment has been updated, no playground safety surfacing, screening along property line, no basketball court or pathways. The skate park which is used regularly should be updated to a modern skate park made with concrete forms rather than using metal ramps on a flat surface.

Planned Improvements: The splash pad is under construction and renovation of the aquatic center is planned in five phases. The plan calls for removing the roof off the pool to make it an outdoor pool and adding a gym in the final phase.

Comments: The Aquatic Center is located at this park. More than eighty percent of voters in the community survey want an operating pool at this site. The next highest want was updated playground equipment. This park is located in the center of the city and is highly visible. It should be the city's flagship park with connecting trails out to other facilities throughout the city.

Site Location:



Sunset Cemetery

Location:	Malheur County, within Ontario City limits: Located off Sunset Drive, near the intersection of SW 7 th Place.
Size:	2.78 Acres
Ownership:	City of Ontario
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	Cemetery
Deficiencies:	None
Planned Improvements:	None
Comments:	None

Site Location:



Optimist Park

Location:	Malheur County, within Ontario City limits: Located off N. Verde Drive, just north of Idaho Street.
Size:	2.96 Acres
Ownership:	City of Ontario: Developed by the Ontario Optimist Club.
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	Soccer field, picnic area and parking area
Deficiencies:	Parking lot needs landscaping, lacks landscape buffer along property perimeter, new signage
Planned Improvements:	None
Comments:	The Ontario community requests updated playground equipment, shelters, and walking trails for this park.

Site Location:



Railroad Depot Park

Location:	Malheur County, within Ontario City limits: Located along the Union Pacific Railroad line between S. 1 st Avenue and S. 2 nd Avenue.
Size:	1.14 Acres
Ownership:	
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	Historic railroad depot, picnic area and parking area
Deficiencies:	Irrigation system, new signage
Planned Improvements:	Unknown
Comments:	The historic railroad depot has recently been renovated. However, the community would still like to see improvements. Most people deem it too dangerous for children to play at since it is next to the railroad tracks. The community recommends shelters, walking trails, and pavilion space to fill the park.

Site Location:



B.4 Malheur County Resources

Malheur County manages one site in the planning area described below:

Table B.8
Summary of Malheur County Lands
Ontario Planning Area

Site	Acres	Activity/Facility
Malheur County Fairgrounds	36.58	Fairgrounds
TOTAL	36.58	

B.5 State of Oregon Resources

Oregon State Parks manages one site in the planning area, and the Oregon Department of Transportation manages two others. Each of these is described below:

Table B.9
Summary of State of Oregon
Ontario Planning Area

Site	Acres	Activity/Facility
Ontario State Park (State Parks)	11.51	Boat ramp, boat dock, picnic area, restroom natural area, trails
Safety Rest Area (ODOT)	13.49	Picnic area, restroom
TOTAL	25.00	

B.6 School Facilities

*Public Schools
(School District 8C)*

Schools are an important resource for recreation facilities such as sports fields, playgrounds and gymnasiums.

There is one school district in the Ontario planning area that manages three developed elementary school sites, one developed middle school site, and one developed high school site. In addition, the district owns two elementary schools just outside of the Ontario planning area. They are Pioneer Elementary and Cairo Elementary.

Community use of school sport facilities is coordinated through a joint use agreement with Ontario Parks. Schools are an important resource for recreation and open space. The City Parks and Recreation Department, as well as private organizations, extensively uses school district facilities for recreation programs. This includes fields for outdoor sports and gymnasiums for volleyball and basketball.

Table B.10
Summary of Existing Public School Facilities
Ontario Planning Area

School Facility	Facility
Elementary Schools	
Alameda Elementary (9.54 Acres)	Soccer field (U-10), playground, open grass area, gym
George K. Aiken Elementary (7.98 Acres)	Soccer field, soccer field (1- U-12), playground, open grass area, basketball court, gym
May Roberts Elementary (9.03 Acres)	Soccer Field, playground, open grass area, gym
Middle Schools	
Ontario Middle (16.63 Acres)	Youth baseball field, softball field (2), open grass area, tennis courts (3), basketball courts (3-full and 3-½ courts), gym
High Schools	
Ontario High School (23.21 Acres)	Baseball field, football stadium, football field, track, tennis courts (4), gym
Other	
Ontario Alternative School	

Table B.11
Summary of Existing Private School Facilities
Ontario Planning Area

School Facility	Facility
Private	
St. Peter Catholic School	Soccer field (U-6), playground
Treasure Valley Christian School	
Charter School	
Four Rivers Charter School	Gymnasium
Colleges	
Treasure Valley Community College	Baseball field [Elks Memorial Baseball Field], softball fields [Ore-Ida Sports Complex] (3), soccer fields (4), tennis courts (5), gym [Dr. John J. Easley Memorial Gymnasium]

B.7 Private Facilities

Table B.12
Summary of Private
Ontario Planning Area

Recreation Area	Activity/Facility
Christian Life Fellowship	Tennis courts (3), racquetball courts (2)
Four Rivers Cultural Center	Cultural center
Oregon Child Development Center	Playground
Sunset Bowling Lanes	Bowling lanes
Reel Theater	Movie theater

B.8 Nearby Recreational Resources

The following public recreation facilities are not in the planning area but are nearby and attract Ontario residents:

Table B.13
Summary of Nearby Resources
Ontario Vicinity

Recreation Area	Location	Ownership	Activity/Facility
Beulah Reservoir	Malheur County	BLM	Water activities
Black Canyon Reservoir	Idaho	BLM	Water activities
Bogus Basin Ski Resort	Idaho	Private	Winter activities
Brundage Mt. Ski Resort	Idaho	Private	Winter activities
Bully Creek Reservoir	Malheur County	BLM	Water activities
Country View Golf Course	Malheur County	Private	Golf
Deer Flat Reservoir	Idaho		Water activities
Farewell Bend State Recreation Area	Malheur County	State Parks	Camping, group camping, restrooms, picnic facilities, boat ramp, boat dock, natural area, trails
Owyhee Reservoir	Malheur County	BLM	Water activities
Lake Owyhee State Park	Malheur County	State Parks	Camping, restrooms, picnic facilities, boat ramp, boat dock, natural area, trails
Leslie Gulch National Back Country Byway	Malheur County	BLM	Natural area, hiking
Shadow Butte Golf Course	Malheur County	Private	Golf
Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area	Malheur County	State Parks	Picnic area, restroom, natural area, trails
Succor Creek State Natural Area	Malheur County	State Parks	Camping, natural area, trails
Willow Creek Reservoir	Malheur County	BLM	Water activities
Warm Springs Reservoir	Harney/Malheur County	BLM	Water activities



APPENDIX C – Demand Analysis

Summary of Findings

Multiple Sources were used to determine the demand analysis.

1. Parks & Recreation Charette and Survey
2. City Strategic Plan Focus Groups
3. Friends of the Aquatic Center Survey
4. Fair Grounds Master Plan
5. Kiwanis Club Park Vision

1. Parks & Recreation Charette and Survey

The City hosted a charette [A public meeting or workshop devoted to a concerted effort to solve a problem or plan the design of something¹] in Ontario at the Four Rivers Community Center. Maps of every park were on tables throughout a large room where they could be spread out and looked at individually. Scaled facilities (such as soccer fields, baseball fields, trails, etc...) were made for each map. The picture to the right shows some of the laminated features that citizens could use to design parks.



The public was invited to the charette and also asked to place parks features on the map as they imagine or vision them in the park. The public designed the park the way they wanted it and then took a picture with their own camera and sent it to a city email address posted at each table. Dry erase markers were also available to draw on the laminated maps. The drawings could



¹ Oxford's English Dictionary
Appendix C – Demand Analysis

then be easily erased for the next person. The two pictures below are an example of some of the designs we received.



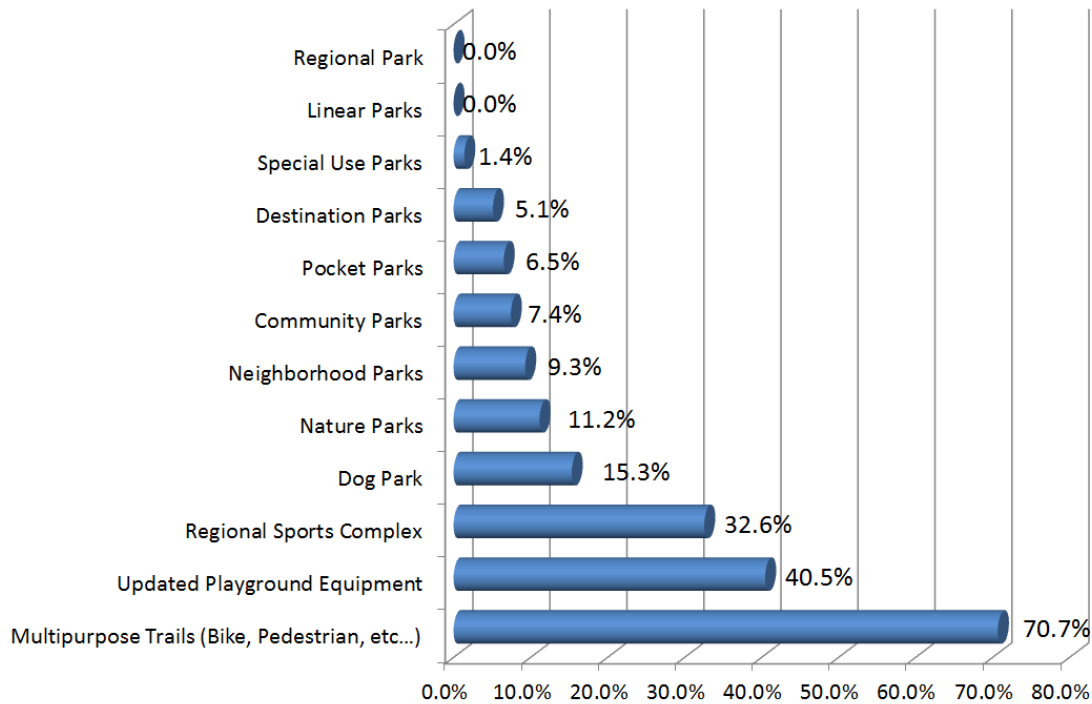
Approximately 30 people came to the charette. Out of the charette, sprang an online survey that came at the request of one of the participants who said he prefers to participate in a different way. We launched a survey of the same content a day later. Within 6 days we had received 220 responses to the survey. Our community partners helped us spread the word so that we could get results.

Two question boards were used at the charette and then also on the survey after which we merged the results. The first question was *what does the city need more of?* The available responses at the charette were:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Multi-purpose Trails | Destination Parks |
| Dog Park | Regional Parks |
| Updated Playgrounds | Community Parks |
| Regional Sports Complex | Nature Parks |
| Pocket Parks | Special Use Parks |
| Neighborhood Parks | Linear Parks |

The top two answers given in this question were multi-purpose trails (bike, pedestrian, etc...) and updated playground equipment. A regional sports complex was the third most common item picked from their choice of two facilities. A chart of the responses follows.

When you are considering new parks in this area what are the top two items you would like to see more of?



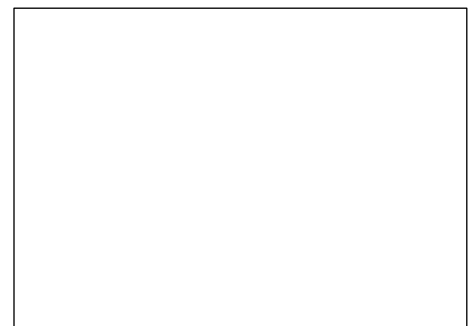
The second question asked was, what type of activities or fields do we need more of in Ontario? The available responses at the charette and subsequent survey were:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Tennis | Pool |
| Basketball | Football |
| Sand Volleyball | Gymnasium |
| Soccer | Pathway Trails |
| Racquetball | Pavilion |
| Baseball | Shelters |
| Softball | |

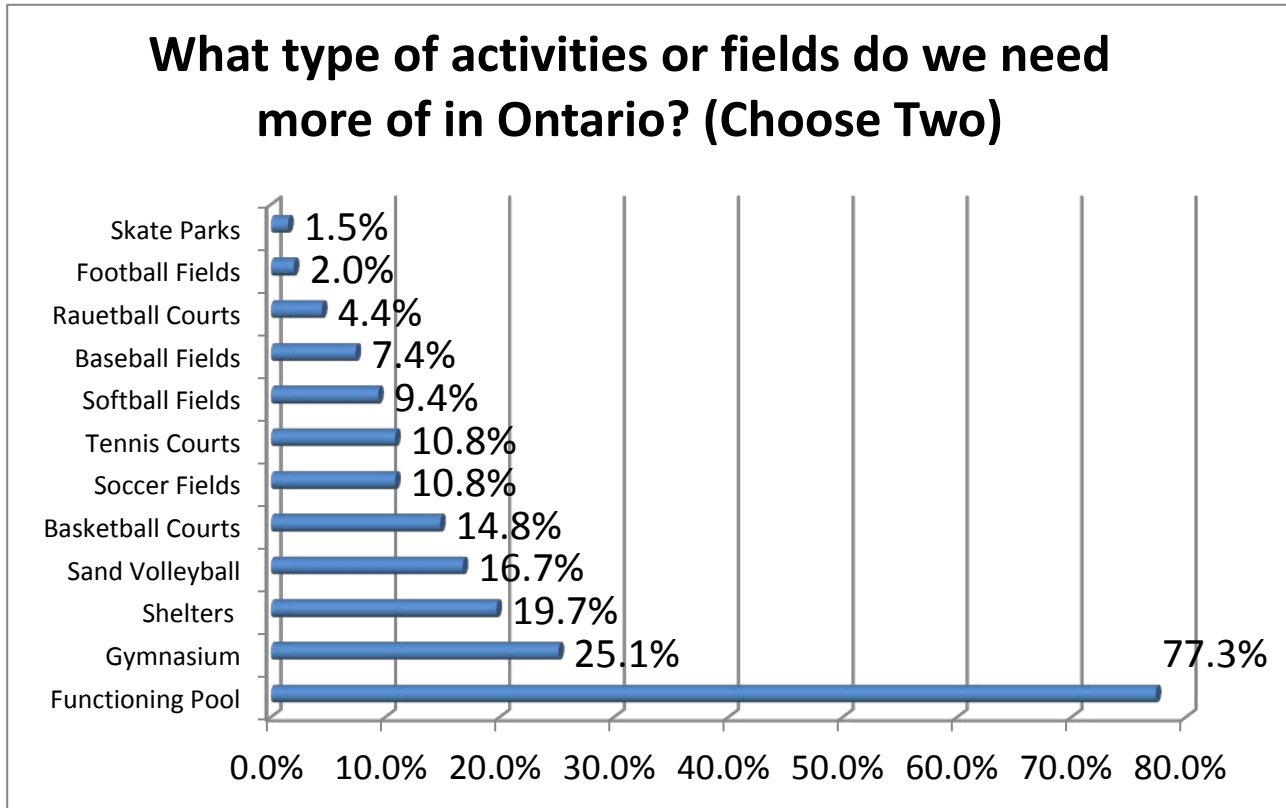
Seventy-seven percent (77.3%) of respondents picked a functioning pool as one of their two choices for what type of activity or field we need more of in Ontario. The next two responses were Gymnasium (25.1%), Shelters (19.7%), Sand Volleyball (16.7%), and Basketball Courts (14.8%). The following chart shows the responses from this question of the survey. A functioning pool still is the most desired recreation activity in the City of Ontario.

The survey of 240 respondents between participants at the charette and participants on the survey showed the desire of citizens to have not only a functioning pool, but multi-purpose trails, updated playgrounds, and a regional sports complex.

A grass-roots committee, Friends of the Aquatic Center, formed in 2013 to work on restoring the pool to a usable condition. In 2016 they worked with an architect to come up with a master plan for the pool, that begins with a splash pad for kids in the summer and that culminates in re-opening the pool with the possibility of adding a gym to the facility. The location of the pool is central to the city



and the location works well as a feature park with the exiting skate park, green space, and pool facility. Lion’s Park could act as a hub to the other parts of the community. Like spokes from a wheel, a trail network connecting Lion’s Park with other community facilities with trails would be ideal.



Respondents were allowed to provide comment on each facility in the community which included well known facilities and facilities not know in our community. Some of these properties are not developed as parks at this time. The facilities include:

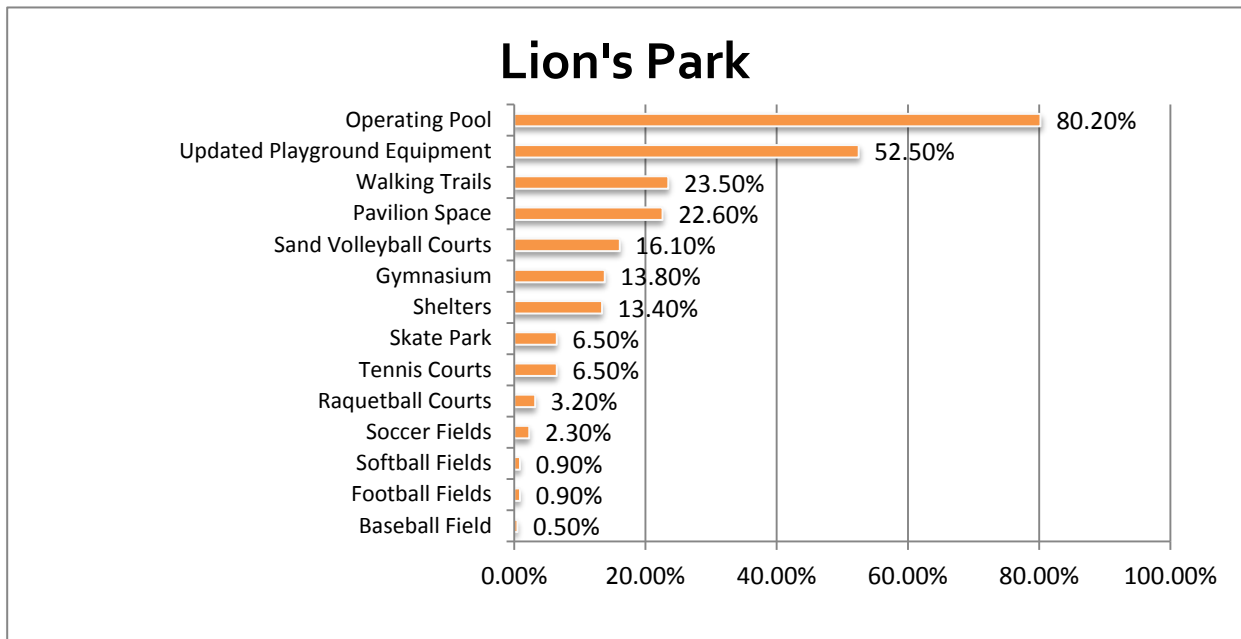
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| ☞ Lions Park | Developed |
| ☞ Optimist Park | Developed |
| ☞ Laxon Park | Developed |
| ☞ Beck Kiwanis | Developed |
| ☞ Lanterman Kiwanis | Developed |
| ☞ Sunset Park | Undeveloped |
| ☞ Verde Regional Sports Complex | Undeveloped |
| ☞ Moore Park | Developed |
| ☞ Depot Downtown Park | Developed |
| ☞ Alameda Park | Developed |

Lion's Park

Lion's Park is in the heart of the city and is most central to the city's core than any other park it is also a piece of a much larger green strip that goes from the community college through Lion's Park, through school property and eventually the Malheur County Fairgrounds. This would be an ideal opportunity to create a trail system connecting these existing facilities.



The survey respondents recommended these uses and improvements at Lion's Park.



An operating Pool was the highest rated improvement by far at 80.2%. The Ontario Aquatic Center closed in 2011. The Friends of the Aquatic Center worked with the City to design a 6 phase strategy to re-open the Aquatic Center. A splash pad was a low cost entry point to get part of the facility back in use with the ultimate goal of re-opening the pool. To get the actual pool back in use, the strategy is to remove the roof, which has proved to be problematic for the facility.

After the pool the next highest item recommended item for the park is updated playground equipment and walking trails. The survey reinforces the concept of multiple trail connections to a destination park holding many features.

Lion's Park is also home to the Ontario Skate Park. The skate park was mentioned in almost every facility. The demand is further evidenced by the popularity of the skate park. It is used nearly every day and is even used throughout the winter when there is no snow.

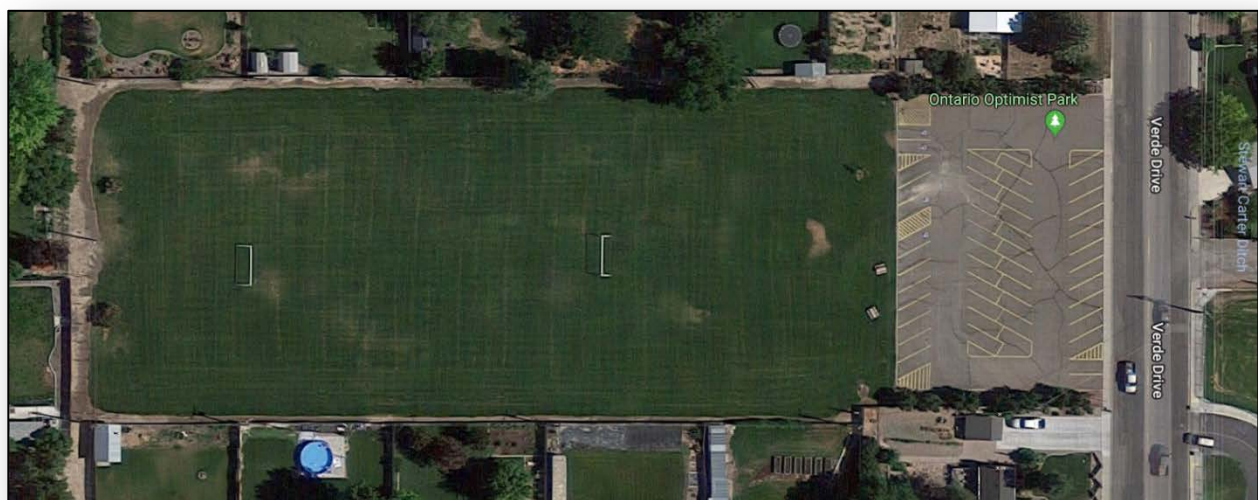
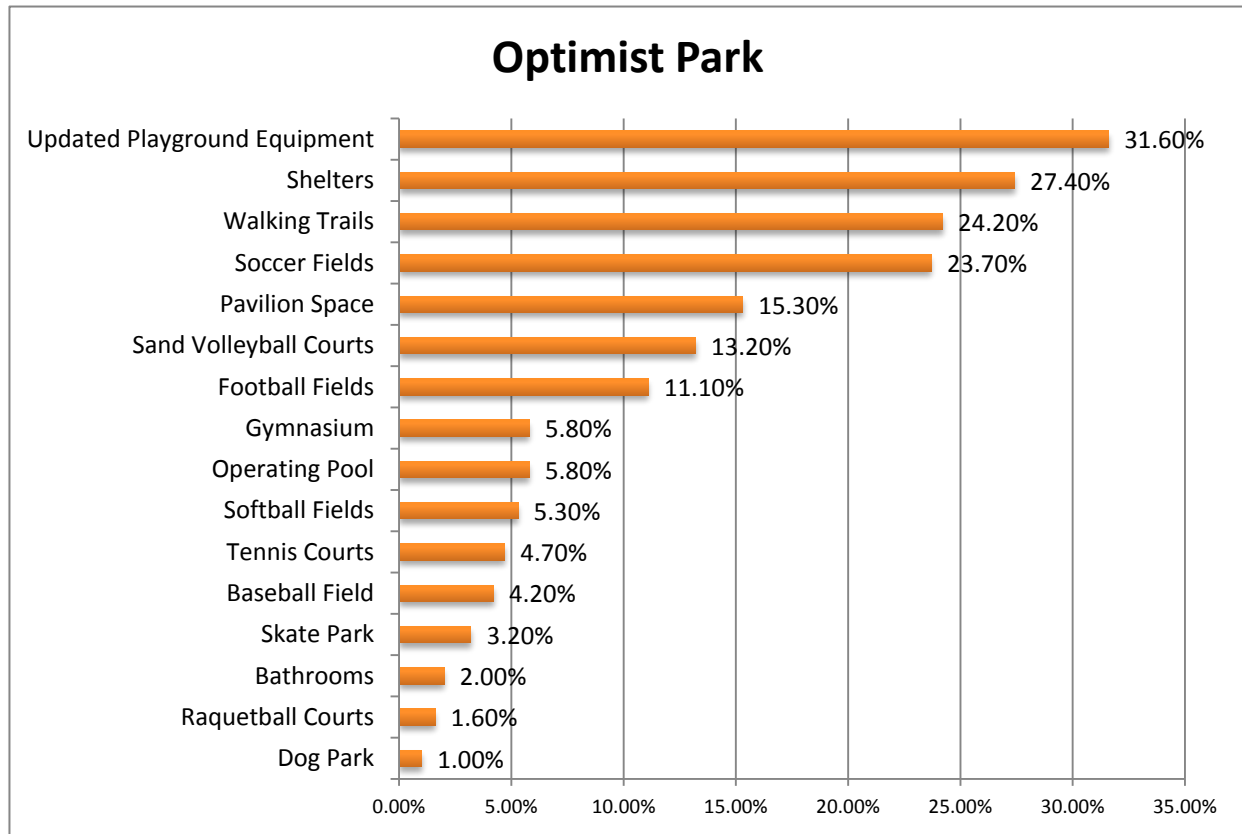
The city receives requests for the park to be updated with a poured skate park. The current steel fabricated park is not ideal for skaters. It makes for a rough transition from the deck to the obstacle or ramp for skaters.

The picture below the Ontario skate park picture is an example of a poured concrete park. This would make Ontario's skate park even more popular. Costs for poured concrete skate parks are reasonably priced at around \$35 per square foot for construction. There are foundations and donors just for skate parks like the Tony Hawk Foundation. This feature would add to the Lion's Park design to be a destination park.



Optimist Park

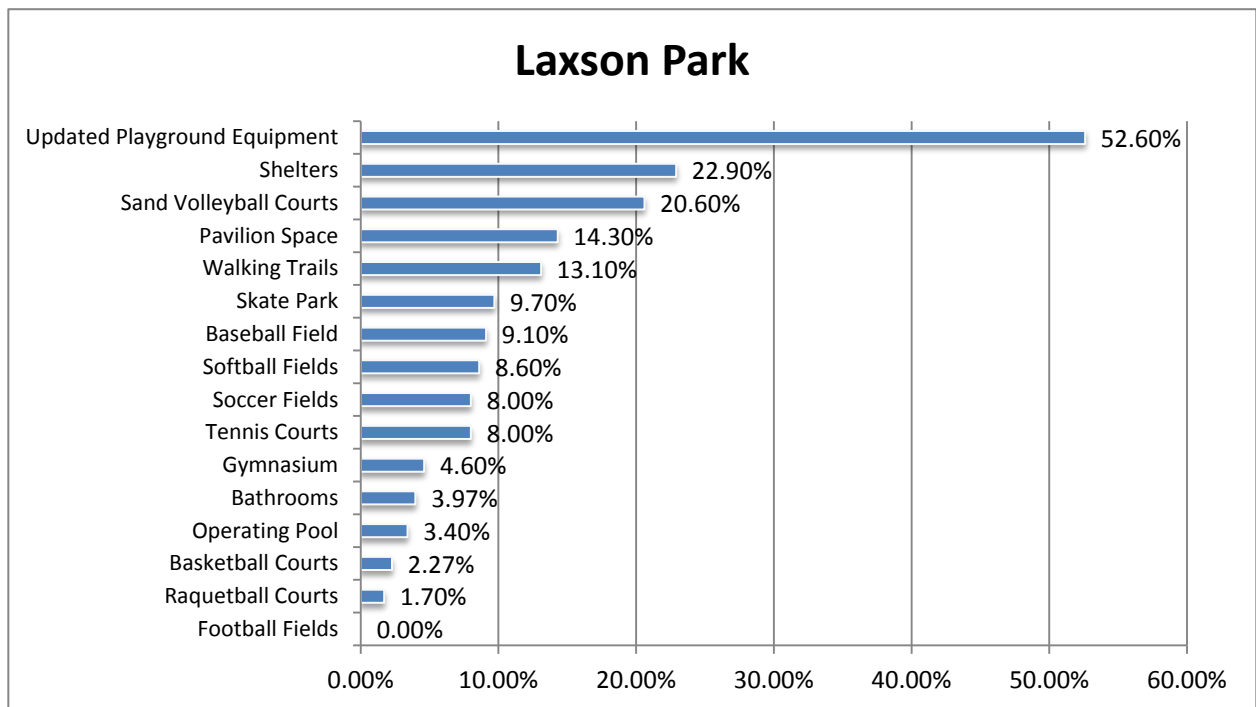
Optimist Park is currently used as a soccer facility for both recreation soccer and in 2017 the High School Soccer field for the Four Rivers Charter School. It has sufficient parking for a soccer field. Playground equipment, picnic tables, and perhaps shelters could provide other use of this space when it is not used as a soccer facility. Survey respondents said they wanted playground equipment shelters and a walking trail the most.



Laxson Park

Laxson Park is a neighborhood park, with outdated playground equipment, a shelter, an a basketball court. All of the facilities are beyond their life expectancy and are in need of update.

The highest response in the survey, as shown below, was for updated playground equipment and for shelters and pavilion space. A sand volleyball court was also requested by many respondents.



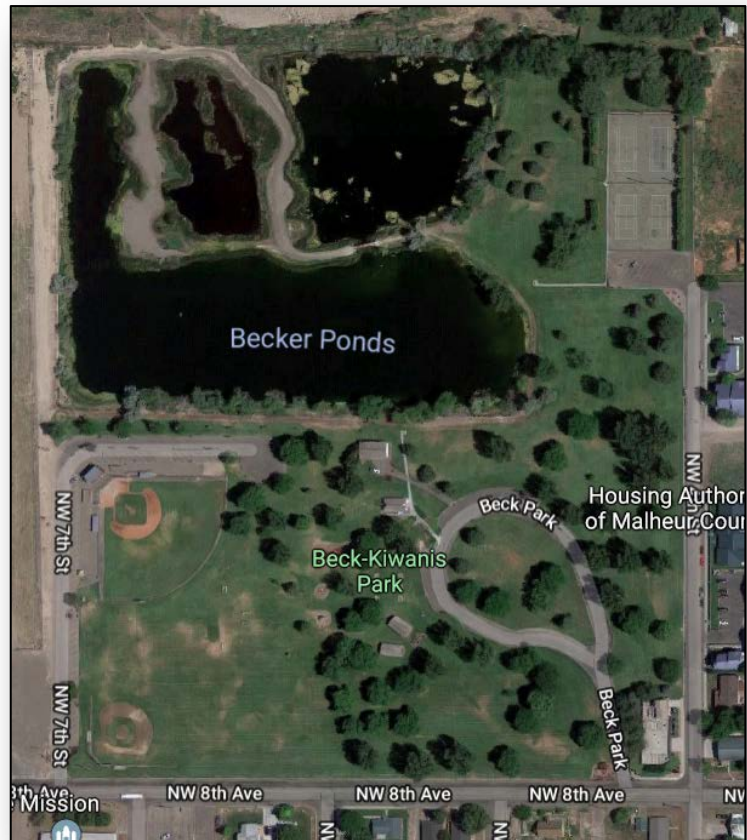
Beck Kiwanis Park

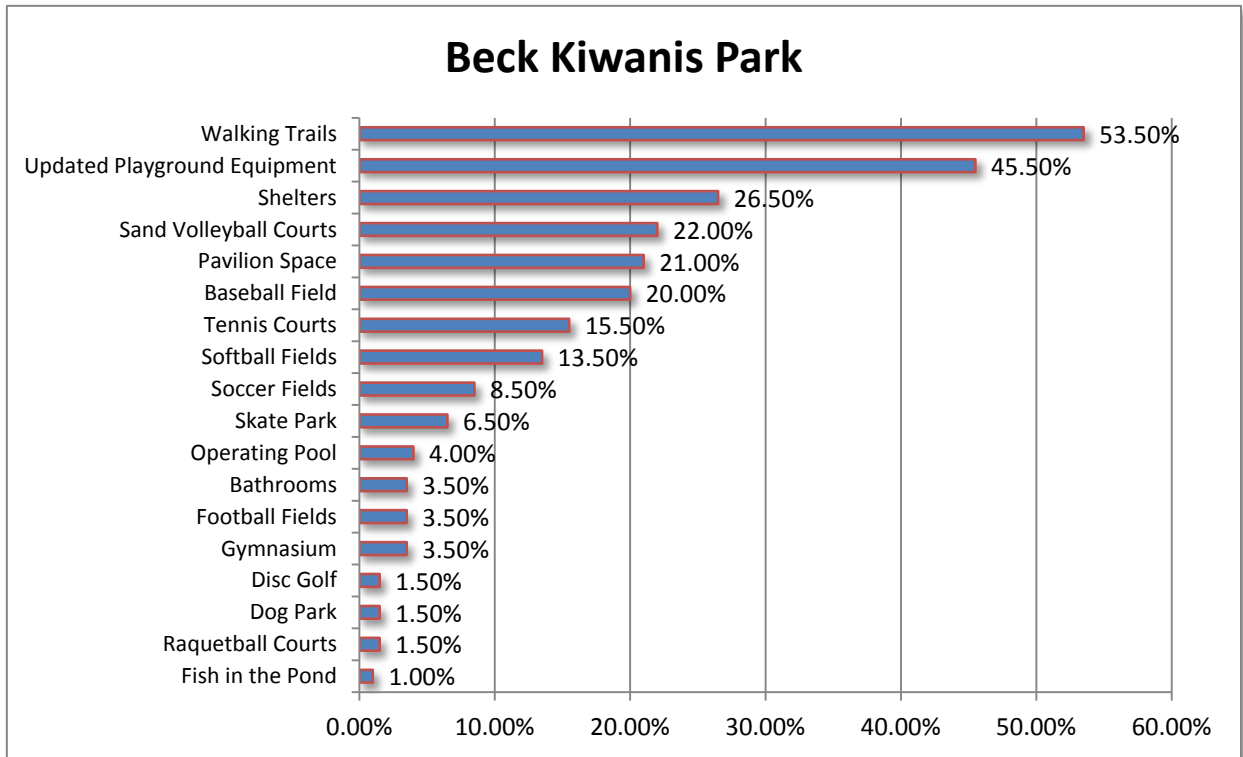
Beck Kiwanis is one of the most popular and multi-purposed park within the city. It is reserved frequently for family activities, parties, and sports recreation. It's also the only park with a nature water feature. Unsurprisingly, respondents asked for multi-purpose trails and playground equipment first and foremost, but there are many other ideas for the park compatible with its current use including improvement to the baseball fields, a sand volleyball court, and improvements to the existing tennis courts. The tennis courts are in poor shape and desperately need resurfacing.

The park already has walking trails, but they are in need of restoration. It is a large facility that allows for a lot of different uses. There is a great shade canopy that makes it an ideal gathering place for parties and groups.

Unsurprisingly the priorities identified by survey respondents are consistent with the current uses at the park. Walking Trails (53.5%), Playground Equipment (45.5%), Shelters (26.5%) and Pavilions (21%), Sand Volleyball Courts (22%), Baseball Fields (20%), Tennis Courts (15.5%), and Softball Fields (13.5%) were the top responses in the survey. The only activity in the top answers of the survey that is not already at the park is the sand volleyball court. The chart on the following page shows the preferences as identified in the survey.

Beck Kiwanis Park also enjoys close proximity to the Malheur County Fair Grounds and the City Public Works shop. This makes it ideal for connecting trails to tie together other city parks and county facilities utilizing city owned land.





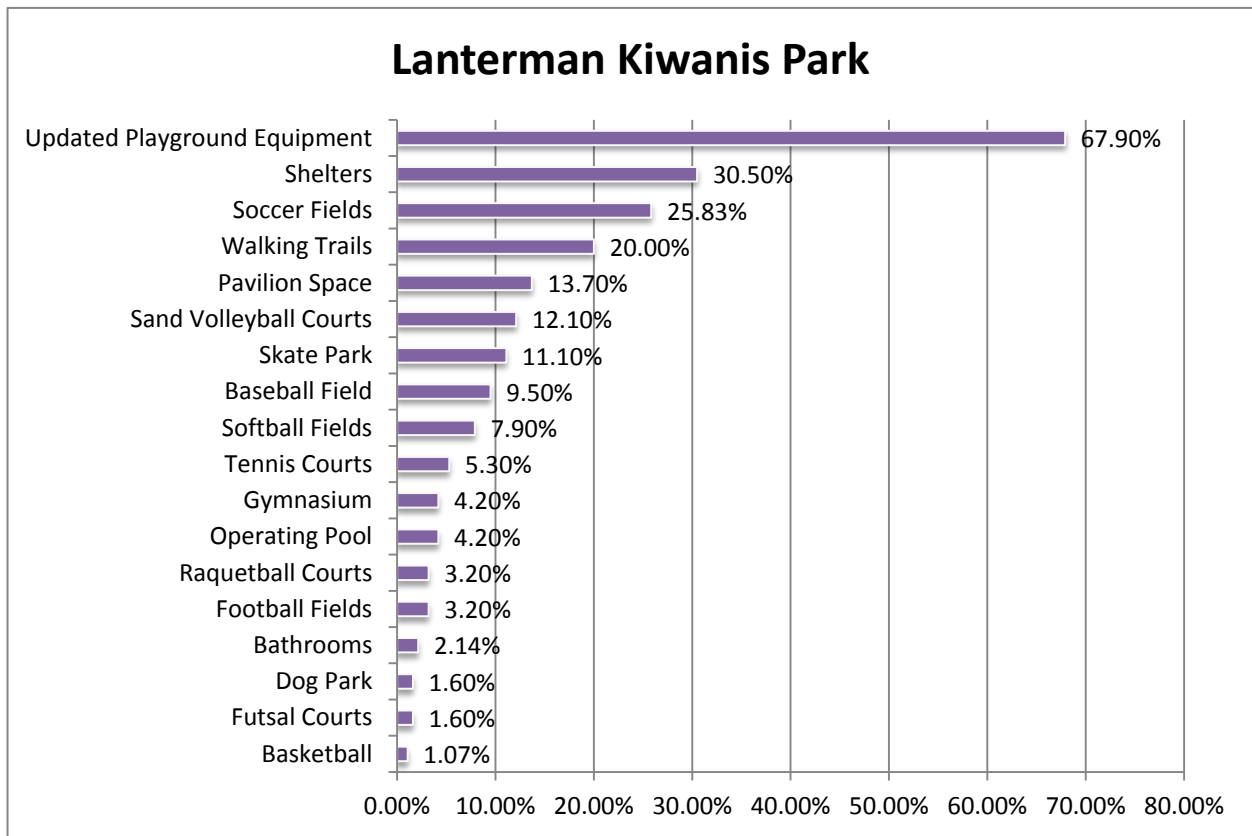
Lanternman Kiwanis Park

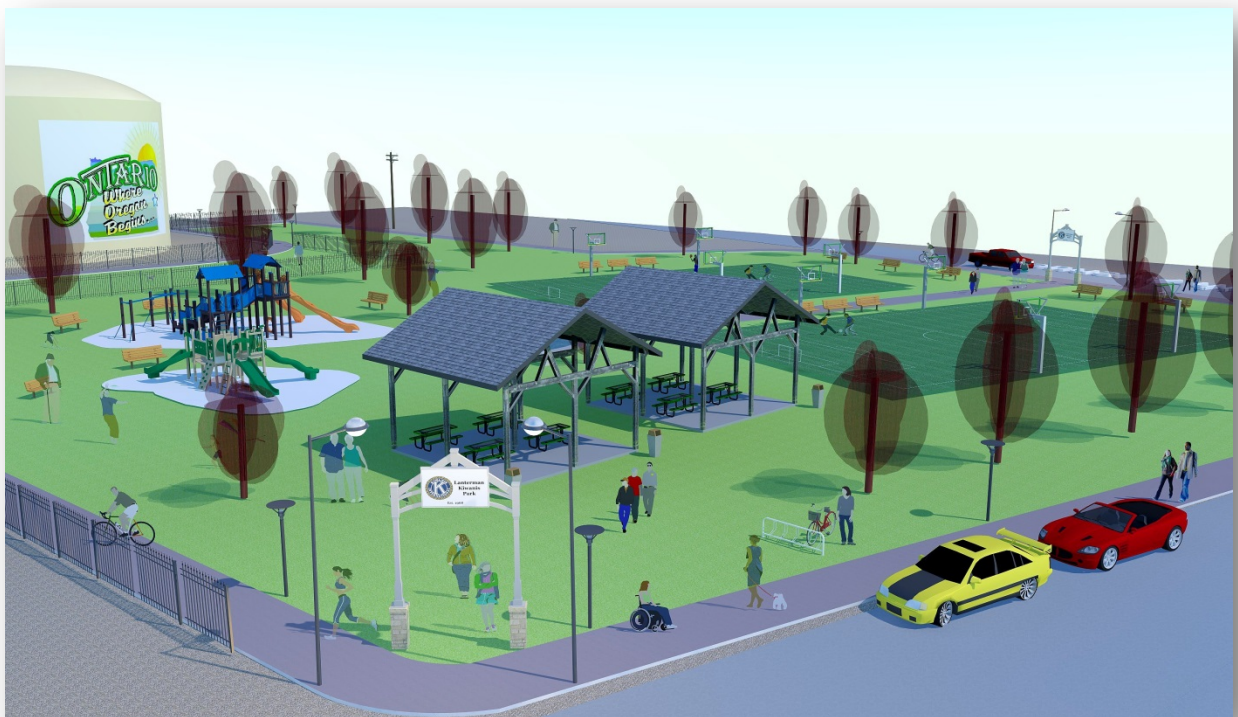
Lanternman Kiwanis Park was formerly known as Eastside Kiwanis Park before being renamed at the request of the local Kiwanis Club. This club is located in a more impoverished section of the city. It contains a shelter that needs minor updates, a basketball court, and soccer goals.



The survey reflects some of the ideas coming from the Kiwanis Club vision. The most requested item was for updated playground equipment at 67.9%. Next were shelters (30.5%), shelters (25.83%) and then walking trails (20%).

The renderings on the following two pages show the vision of the Kiwanis Club of Ontario.







The vision of the club includes updating playground equipment, adding an additional shelter, creating two combination futsal and basketball courts, a dog park, and adding a walking trail around the park. IT also includes new park lighting and an ornamental entrance to the park.

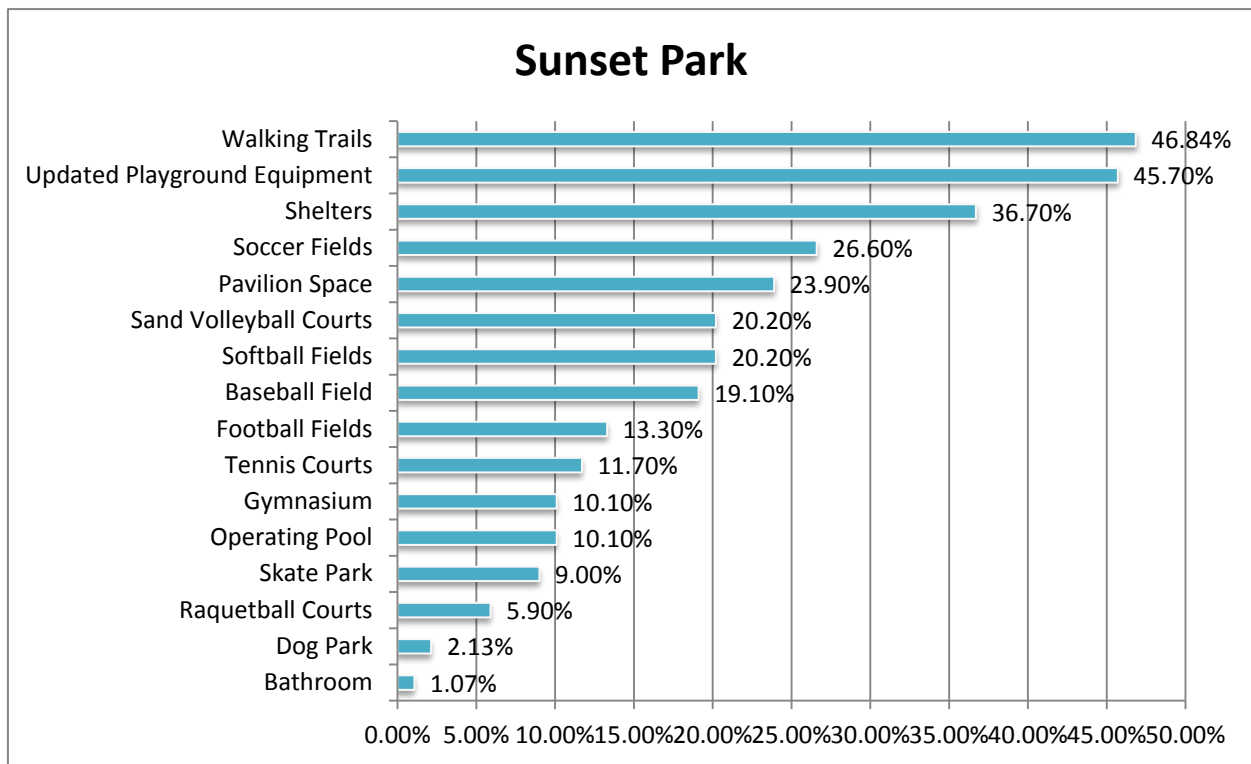
Sunset Park

Sunset City Park is a proposed park facility collocated with a city water tower. Beyond the water tower, it is currently undeveloped park of 9.22 acres. It lies in an area of town that has not been developed yet, but will ultimately be a residential area. Residents had many ideas for what it could be used for, which includes

There was no clear vision for which this property should be used. No answer garnered more than 50% of the responses, which is not surprising since most of the population is not aware of this designation in the Parks Plan.



Topping the list of preferred uses at Sunset City Park was walking trails (46.84%), playground equipment (45.7%), and shelters 36.7%. Given the shortage of sporting facilities it would make the most sense to utilize the 9 acres to add additional fields to the city’s inventory in concert with shelters and walking paths. Soccer, volleyball, softball, baseball, and football fields were all identified as preferred uses. Overlapping multiple types of fields such as baseball or softball fields with soccer would increase the year-round utilization of the park.



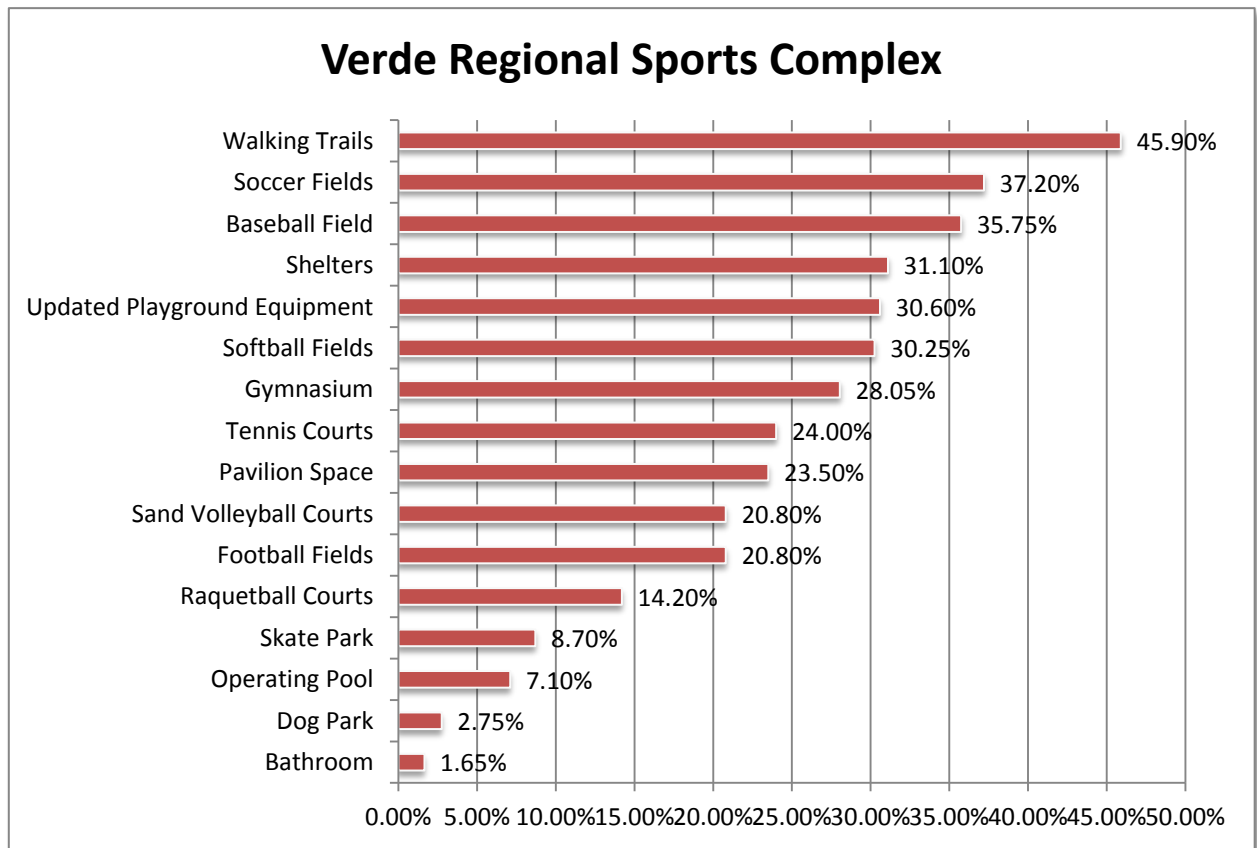
Verde Regional Sports Complex

Citizens were surprised to learn of the property owned by the city just outside of the town designated as a regional sports complex. There were as many ideas for its use as there is potential. Once again there was no dominate answer that garnered more than 50% of the votes by respondents, but the property is large enough to accommodate many things for many people users.

There many layout options for the Verde Sports complex with opportunities to for soccer fields of varying size from U6 all the way to U19, with the opportunity for baseball and softball backstops that overlap soccer fields. At the time the city is ready to develop the property the city should spend time with a parks professional laying out the best option to accommodate the most uses. Incorporating trails in the park and to the park is also an important consideration. Playground equipment and shelters will make it an attractive for families. The facility is large enough to host weekend tournaments for both soccer and baseball.

The image below demonstrates a possibility with the amount of space available at the site.

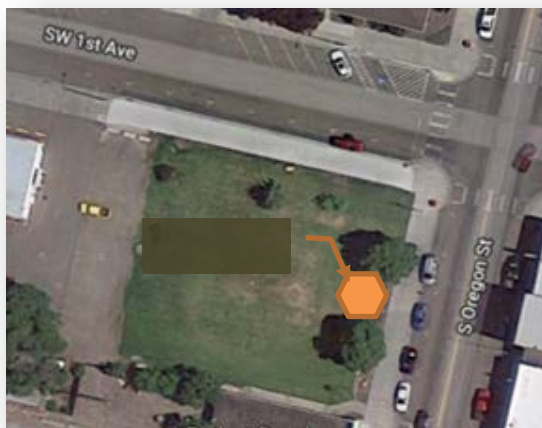
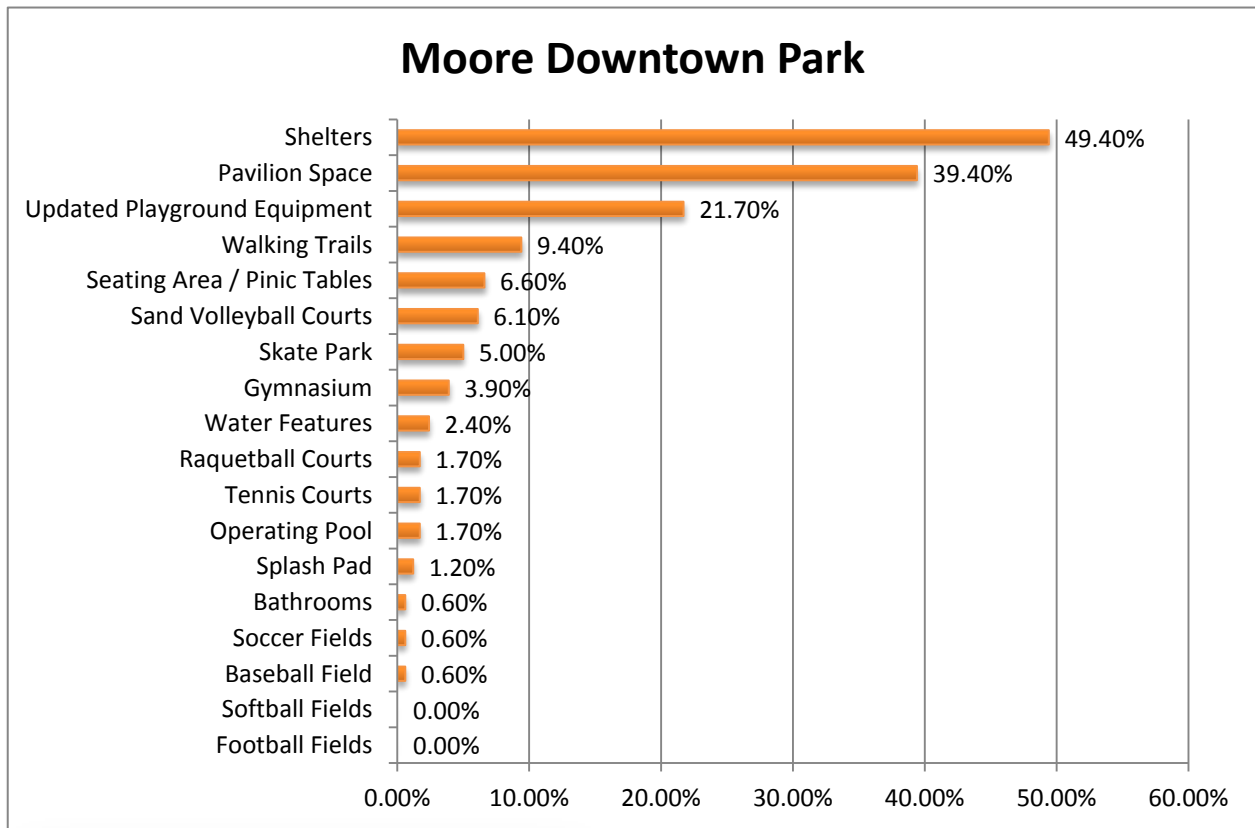




Moore Downtown Park

Moore Downtown Park is on the corner of 1st Avenue and South Oregon Street. It is a facility not owned by the City of Ontario, but leased. It is the home of the Ontario Saturday Market during the months of June through August, a popular downtown farmers and crafters market.

Understandably, respondents chose shelters and pavilion space as needs for this park. There is currently no such facility in the park. A restored wagon sets just off the sidewalk of South Oregon Street, but that will be moved to another part of town soon. This may make for an ideal site of a small pavilion for downtown patrons to enjoy in the warm summers.



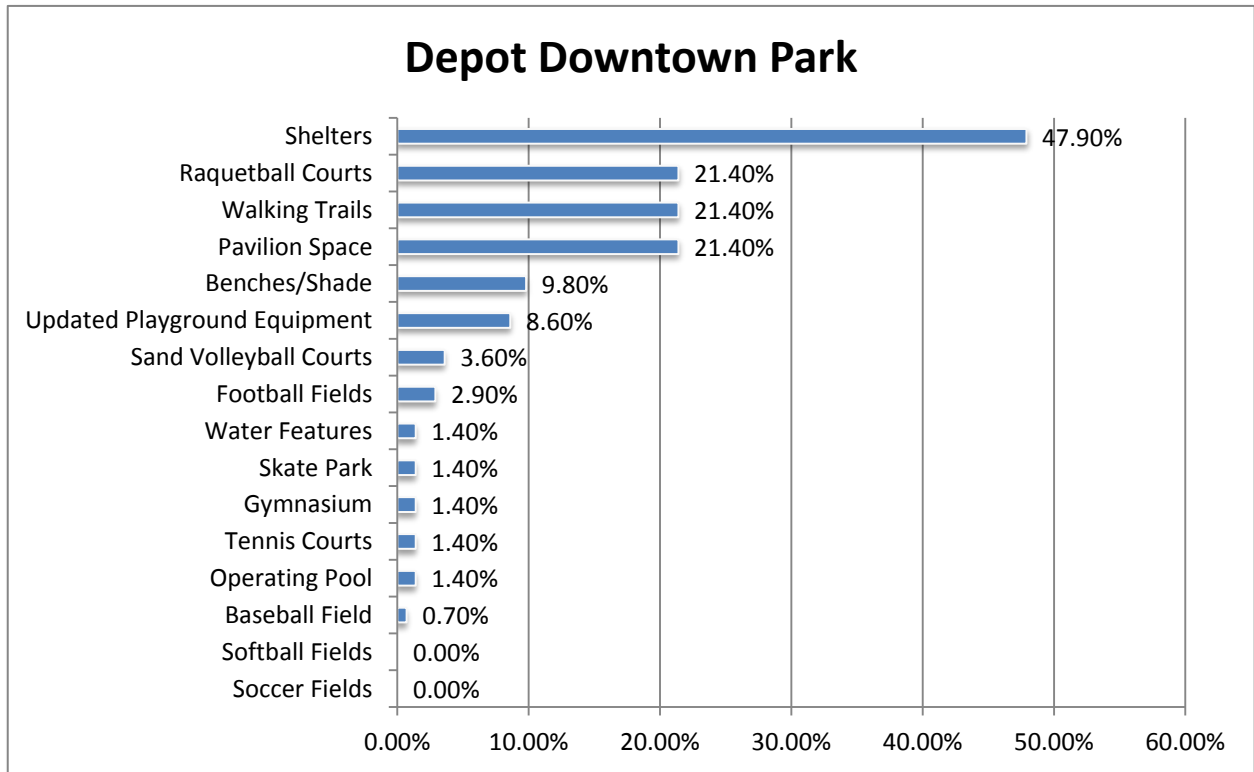
The adjacent imagery is of Moore Park with a location of a potential Gazebo that would not interfere with the Saturday Market but provide sitting space for visitors of downtown.

Depot Downtown Park

Depot Downtown is a small greenspace adjacent to the historic and city-owned train depot. There is green space on the north side of the train depot. The train depot is operated by the Basque Club of Ontario. It is rented as a multi-purpose social facility and the green space adjacent to the side of the building complements the facility use. Picnic benches are currently used in the summer which makes it a popular place for downtown merchants to eat lunch or take breaks.

Shelters were the most popular choice in the survey amongst respondent’s two choices at (47.9%). If you add that with Pavilion space at (21.4%) you get a total of 67.3% for some type of covered space use. This would be a logical and compatible use for the space. Some selections in the survey are not compatible with the space such as a Racquetball Court.

The rail line is also designated as a possible trail location, which would also be compatible with the park. The second overpass over Idaho Avenue is still in use though. A costly separate crossing with easements would be needed to create the trail adjacent to the rail line as identified in the plan.





The street view and aerial view above show Depot Park. Given the grade difference between the western side of the park and the eastern side of the park, a shelter would make the most sense on the top or bottom side. The park added underground irrigation in 2017. A shelter would add to the maintenance of the park. Right now there are no obstacles for mowers. A shelter would require more hands on work for trimming around the structure versus just being able to use the mower/tractor.

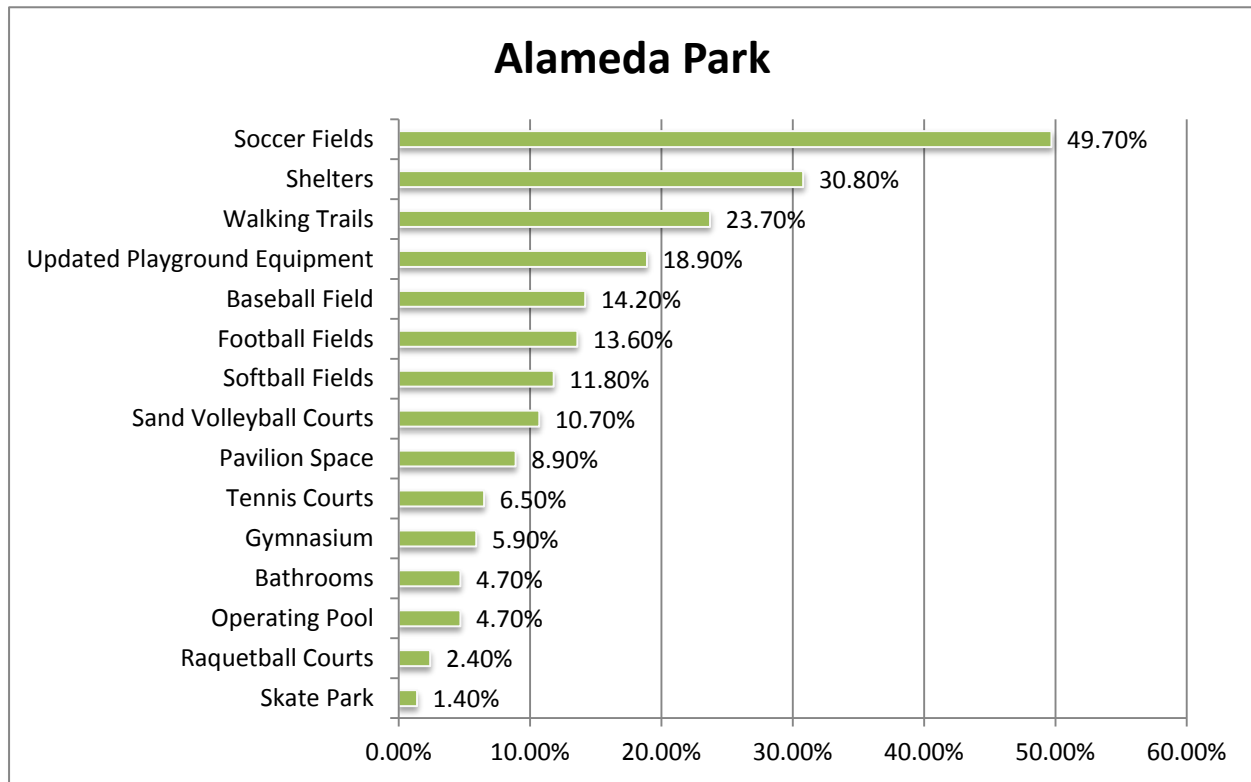
Alameda Park

Alameda City Park is located adjacent to the field and playgrounds at Alameda Elementary School. The city runs the park as a joint partnership with Ontario’s 8C School District. The City has participated in an agreement for the past 20 years with the school district. The School District mows the fields. The city maintains the parking lot and trail.

The City allows the school use of their field in the fall for boys and girls soccer. It is the official field of the Ontario High School Boys and Girls Soccer teams. In the spring both the city side of the facility and the school side is used by the city parks and recreation department for recreation soccer.

Over 800 kids converge on Alameda City Park each Saturday in the spring. Not surprisingly, soccer fields (49.7%) were the most popular answer on the survey for Alameda Park. A shelter was the second most common response at 30.8%. There are currently no shelters at the park. Walking trails (23.7%) came in third. This is the longest walking trail within the city at the current time. It is in fair shape and will need maintenance going forward.

The field is also used for recreation football.



The adjacent picture is of a brisk day on the first day of soccer season.



2. City Strategic Plan Focus Groups

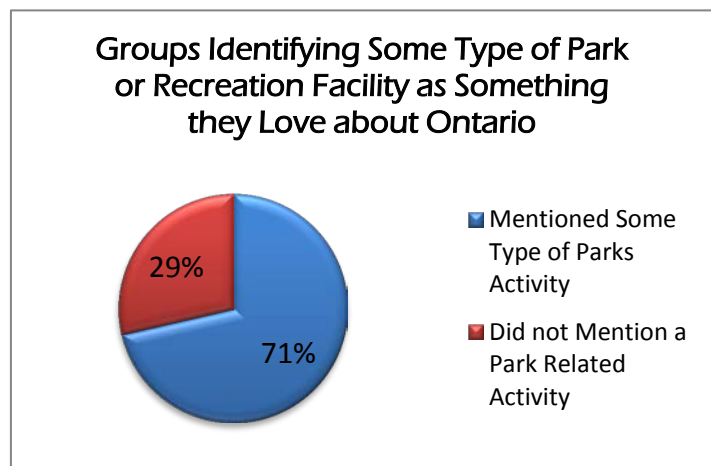
As part of the city’s strategic plan update, the city and its partners of over 20 public, non-profit, and business organizations conducted focus groups throughout the community. The strategic planning team identified over 60 existing groups and clubs within our community. Our city team and partners reached out to each of these groups and were able to conduct focus groups with 28 of them asking them the same five questions of each focus group.

1. *Name things you enjoy about this community.*
2. *If you could change any one thing about your community what would it be?*
3. *Name a couple of topics or events that are of interest to you.*
4. *How do you like to receive communication*
5. *Think about the ideal community where you want to live. Describe that community. What do you want here that would make this community the place you want to be?*

Four out of the five questions gave us valuable information for our parks and recreation plan. The information is listed by response to each question. There was no steering or prompting by the facilitators. The facilitators were trained to facilitate without bias.

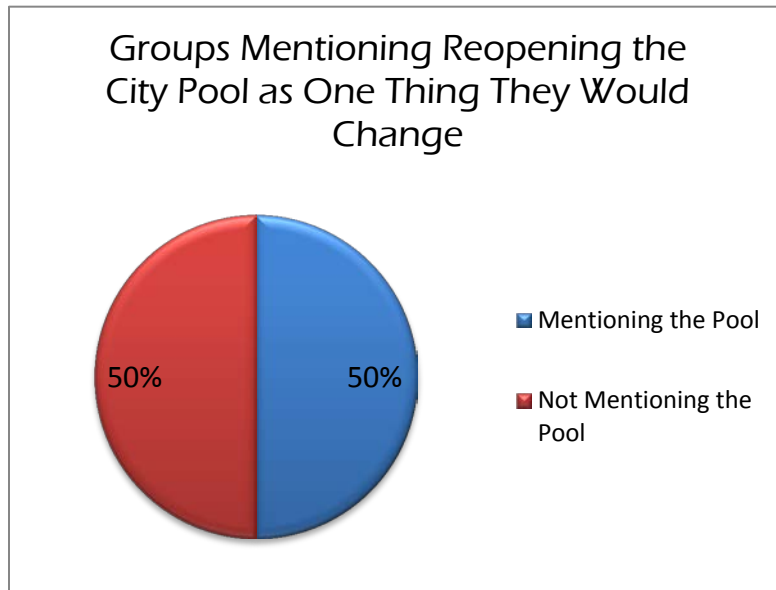
1. *Name things you enjoy about this community.*

Twenty of the 28 focus groups (71%) named some type of park or recreation aspect of our community as one of the things they enjoy about our community. Answers included specific city parks, outdoor activities, the county fairgrounds, recreational opportunities, sports programs, bicycle friendly, walkability, sidewalks, sports for kids, athletic events provided by the college, and high school sports.



2. *If you could change any one thing about your community what would it be?*

When asked “If you could change any one thing about your community what would it be?” respondents gave many examples relating to park facilities in the community or recreation associated with park facilities both from the city and the school systems. Of the 28 groups, 19 groups (68%) gave answers that included some type of improvement, change, or additional park and recreational opportunities.



Answers included more activities for youth and family, opening the golf course, a community center similar to a YMCA, summer kids events, fairground activities, cleaner parks, gymnasium activities, trails and bike paths connecting parks, and an operating swimming pool. Under the question "What one thing would you change about your community?" 50% of the focus groups mentioned reopening the Ontario Aquatic Center (pool).

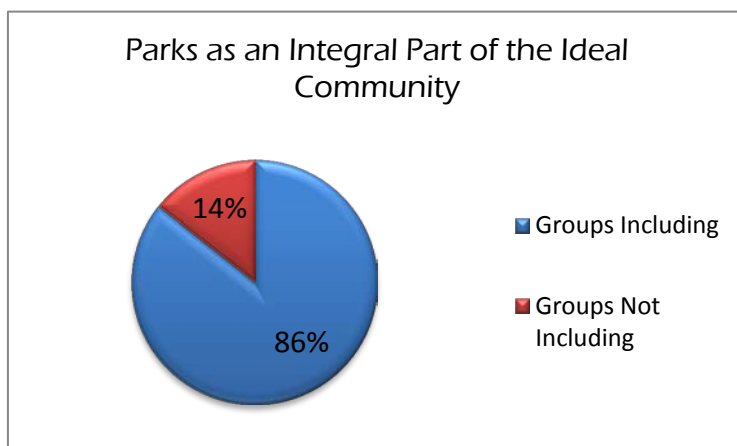
3. Name a couple of topics or events that are of interest to you.

Eighteen of 28 focus groups mentioned parks and recreation topics when asked about topics that interest them. Many of the topics of interest were focused on events using public parks like Global Village, concerts, fund raisers, and sporting events.

The Fairgrounds was mentioned many times as a topic of interest. Popular events at the Fairgrounds, including the fair itself, were the rodeo, 4H programs, and many other activities held on the Fairgrounds year round.

Lastly, the swimming pool was brought up frequently as a topic of interest. Eleven of the focus groups brought this topic up. They want to see it reopened for adult exercise and youth activities

5. Think about the ideal community where you want to live. Describe that community. What do you want here that would make this community the place you want to be?



Twenty four of the 28 focus groups talked about parks when asked to think about the ideal community and to describe it. They spoke about how important park facilities, recreation, and activities are to building an ideal community. They mentioned amenities like parks, greenbelts, recreation facilities, the closed golf course, events in the park, rodeos, outdoor art, community gardens, active citizens, and trails.

Nine of the 28 focus groups mentioned trails, walking paths, greenbelts, and river walks in the focus groups. Twelve of the 28 groups mentioned the swimming pool as being included in their ideal community.

Summary of Strategic Plan Focus Groups

The need to have parks as a place to recreate, come together as a community, exercise, host fundraisers, and get people outdoors is important to the community.

The community would like to have trails, paths, and bikeways to enjoy in the community. The idea of river walks and greenbelts is appealing.

Focus groups want to have a pool that is operational. It is a symbol of the things lost by this community.

The Fairgrounds is an important facility to many people in our community. Focus groups value the activities that happen there. Our diverse populations value the events and opportunities to come together at the Fairgrounds.

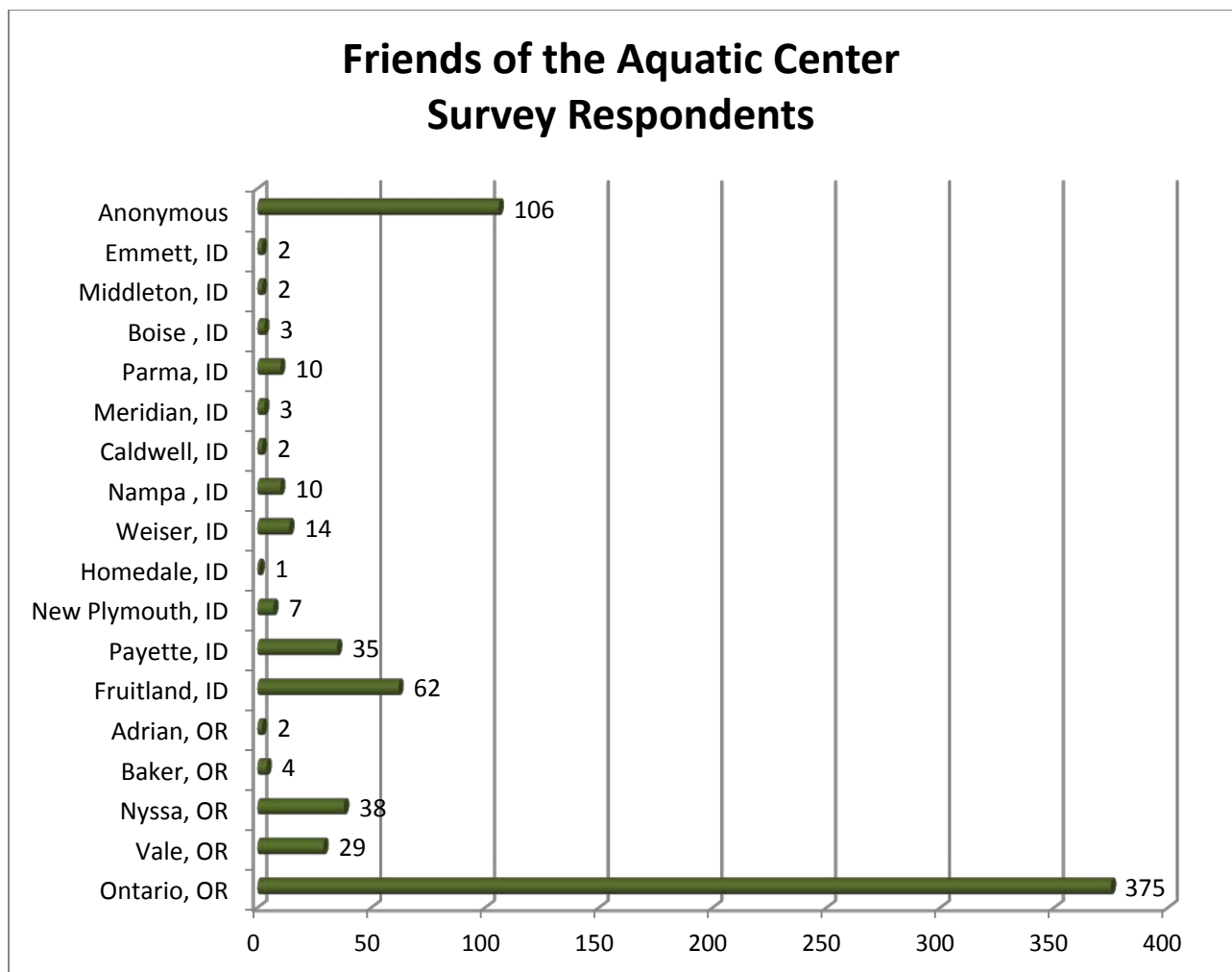
Many in the community would like to have a golf course back in the community, but many recognize that it is not practical.

3. Friends of the Aquatic Center Survey

The Friends of the Aquatic Center was formed in 2013 after the Ontario Aquatic Center was closed. Their mission is to build a quality Aquatic/Recreation Center that will improve Community Pride and serve our Community for generations.

They started by asking for kids vision of what they would like to see in an aquatic center. They received over 200 drawings from youth in our community.

They then asked a five question survey asking community residents what they would like to see happen with the pool. They received over 750 responses. Of the over 750 respondents, 375 claimed Ontario as their residence and 448 claimed Malheur County, and 101 did not state where they were from.



While the survey showed that the community wants an indoor pool about 3 to 1, the friends of the aquatic center went through a planning process that was financially grounded, which meant for the time, taking off the roof of the pool to make it an outdoor facility. At a future date a retractable roof can be added.

The survey showed that the primary usage would be in summer more than fall, winter, and spring, but most respondents said they would use it all year round. When asked what they would want to use the aquatic center for the top answers were:

☞ Swimming Lessons	399
☞ Public Open Swim	582
☞ Swim Team	137
☞ Exercise Class	381
☞ Other	81



The friends of the aquatic center held splash fest two years in a row, an outdoor fundraiser support activity for families. The first year was just to garner support, but still brought out over 700 people to the event. The second year, they charged a \$1 fee to see if the community would support an event or a facility for \$1. The second year’s event brought out over 900 kids with their parents.



The friends of the aquatic center worked with an architect over 2017 to come up with a phased plan to get the aquatic center back open. A splash pad was the first step because it was the lowest financial commitment to keep running after being built. The Friends of the Aquatic Center hopes to earn modest money from the splash pad to save for future phases of the aquatic center re-opening.

The plan below shows the phases of the aquatic center renovation. It combines the location of a splash pad, the skate park, tennis courts, the renovated pool, and a gymnasium into a destination park.



4. Fair Grounds Master Plan

The Malheur County Fair Grounds are an integral part of the City of Ontario's recreation services and facility amenities. The Malheur County Fair Board has spent significant time planning the future of the fair grounds. The winter of 2017 resulted in the loss of many of the fair facilities. They are in the process of rebuilding facilities and using the opportunity to rebuild it to maximize the future of the fair and its assets.

The City should work with the fair to connect other parts of the city in non-motorized trails and access. The fair continues to be a center point of activity in the city.



5. Kiwanis Club Park Vision

Both the Kiwanis Club and the City of Ontario have an interest in leveraging their own funds to accumulate more and accomplish a greater vision. The Kiwanis Club of Ontario gave serious consideration to one of their parks and how to create a grand vision for this park. The City of Ontario believes in collaboration and is delighted that the Club spent time, effort, and money into coming up with a grand vision for this park.

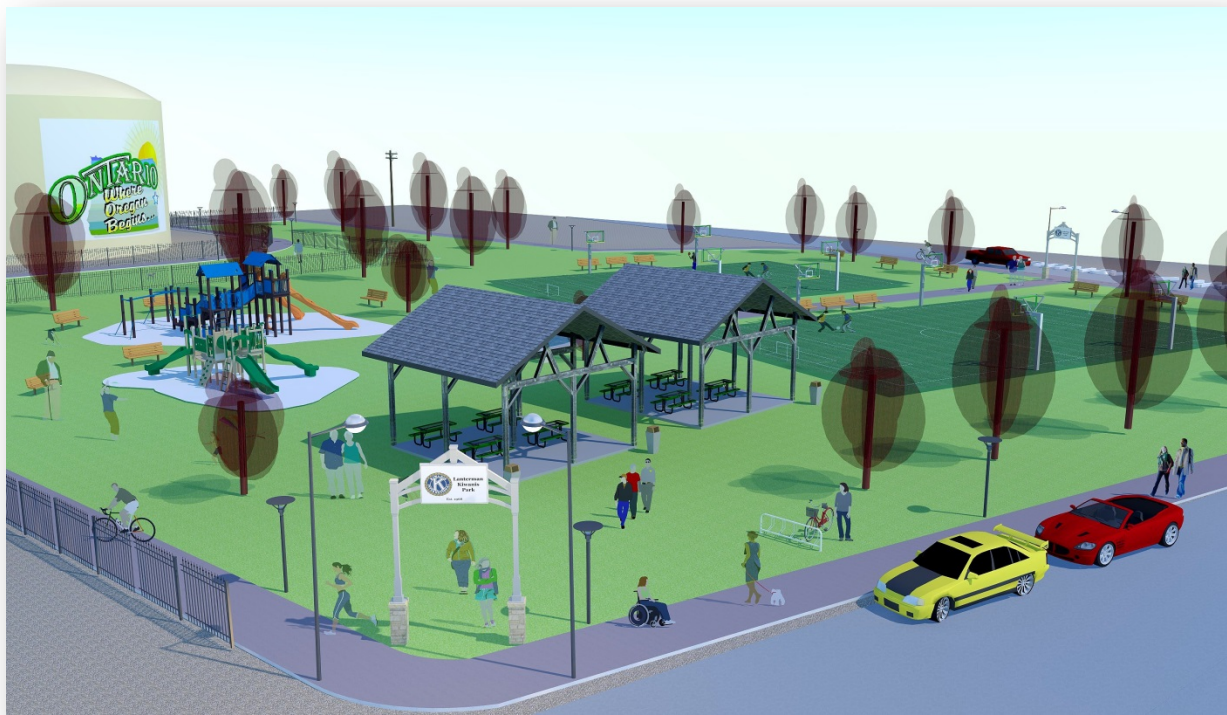
The master concept as shown below includes:

- ⌘ new decorative fencing where the current chain link and razor wire fence surround the city water tank
- ⌘ Updated playground equipment
- ⌘ A walking path around the perimeter of the park
- ⌘ A dog park
- ⌘ A new arched entryway on the corner of SE 5th Street and SE 5th Avenue
- ⌘ Two combination basketball and futsal courts
- ⌘ An additional shelter
- ⌘ A water fountain/feature



The following renderings were provided by the Ontario Kiwanis Club for their collective vision of the park.







APPENDIX D – Needs Assessment

Summary of Findings

Listed below is a summary of the demand analysis for park and recreation services.

Park Land Needs

- The city should continue to build out reserved park area as the city increases in population or the city has financial capacity to develop the park space.
- While there is not a need for an additional regional park, there are opportunities to expand the existing Ontario State Park and develop a partnership with the State of Oregon.
- Development of the regional sports complex, riverfront parks and additional indoor recreation facilities are desirable for the community residents and others who work and visit the area.
- Additional open space land is needed to preserve land along the Malheur and Snake Rivers for habitat.

Recreation Facility Needs

- There is a need for additional softball, baseball and soccer fields.
- There is a need for multi-use trails, paths, and bikeways.
- Special use facilities such as an amphitheater and indoor recreation center are needed in Ontario.

Table D.1
Comparison of Current Ratio and Recommended Demand Standard
Park and Recreation Areas, City of Ontario

Recreation Area	Current Ratio	Recommended Standard
Pocket-Parks	0.00 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	0.1 Acres / 1,000 Population
Urban Plaza Parks	0.00 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	1.0 Acres / 1,000 Population
Neighborhood Parks	1.78 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	1.0 Acres / 1,000 Population
Community Parks	2.90 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	2.0 Acres / 1,000 Population
Regional Parks	1.98 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	5.0 Acres / 1,000 Population
Nature Parks	22.10 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	2.0 Acres / 1,000 Population
Special Use Parks	55.76 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	No recommendation
Trails, Paths, Bikeways	0 Miles / 1,000 Pop.	0.5 miles / 1,000 Population
Regional Sports Parks	1.71 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	5.0 acres / 1,000 Population
Linear Parks	0 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	0.5 Acres / 1,000 Population
Destination Parks	0.55 Acres / 1,000 Pop.	20 Acres / 1,000 Population

Table D.2
Comparison of Current Ratio and Recommended Demand Standard
Recreation Facilities, City of Ontario

Recreation Area	Current Ratio	Recommended Standard
Baseball Fields	1 field per 2,266 population	1 field per 1,400 population
Softball Fields	1 field per 2,266 population	1 field per 1,600 population
Soccer Fields	1 field per 755 population	1 field per 500 population
Indoor Gym Space (Courts)	1 court per 1,416 pop.	1 court per 1,600 pop.
Pathways and Trails	0.00 miles per 1,000 pop.	0.50 miles per 1,000 pop.
Tennis Courts		

Park Land Needs

Table D.3
Summary of Current Park Needs (Year 2018)*
Park and Recreation Areas (in Acres), Ontario Area

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Year 2018 Demand	Additional Need
Pocket-Parks (acres)	0.00	2.87	2.87
Urban Plaza Parks (acres)	0.00	1.15	1.15
Neighborhood Parks (acres)	20.41	11.47	0.00
Community Park (acres)	33.35	22.94	0.00
Regional Parks (acres)	22.65	57.35	57.35
Nature Parks (acres)	763.83	22.94	0.00
Special Use Parks (acres)	40.72	0.00	0.00
Linear Parks (acres)	0.00	5.74	5.74
Regional Sports Parks (acres)	19.59	57.35	37.76
Trails, Paths, Bikeways (miles)	0.00	5.74	5.74
Destination Parks (acres)	6.29	234.80	228.51

* Based on a 2016 population of 11,465

Table D.4
Summary of Park Needs (Build-out) **
Park and Recreation Areas (in Acres), Ontario Area

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Build-out Demand	Additional Need (1)
Pocket-Parks (acres)	0.00	3.30	3.30
Urban Plaza Parks (acres)	0.00	1.32	1.32
Neighborhood Parks (acres)	20.41	13.20	0.00
Community Park (acres)	33.35	57.35	24.00
Regional Parks (acres)	22.65	66.00	46.35
Nature Parks (acres)	763.83	26.40	0.00
Special Use Parks (acres)	40.72	164.50	123.78
Linear Parks (acres)	0.00	6.60	0.00
Regional Sports Parks (acres)	19.59	66.00	46.41
Trails, Paths, Bikeways (miles)	0.00	6.60	19.80
Destination Parks (acres)	6.29	250.80	244.51

** Based on a 2040 population of 13,200

Facility Needs

Table D.5
Summary of Recreation Facility Needs (Year 2002) *
Ontario Area

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Year 2018 Demand	Additional Need
Baseball Fields ¹	5	2.3	3
Softball Fields ¹	4	2.3	2
Soccer Fields	15	2.3	8
Indoor Gym Space (Courts)	13	7	(1)
Pathways and Trails	0	6	5.2
Tennis Courts	18	4	0
* Based on a 2016 population of 11,465			
¹ This excludes multi-use backstops that, if upgraded, could satisfy a portion of the need			

Table D.6
Summary of Recreation Facility Needs (Build-out)**
Ontario Area

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Build-out Demand	Additional Need
Baseball Fields ¹	5	2.3	0
Softball Fields ¹	4	2.3	0
Soccer Fields	15	2.3	8
Indoor Gym Space (Courts)	13	14	0
Pathways and Trails (Miles)	0	6	5.2
Tennis Courts	18	5	0
** Based on a 2040 population of 13,200			
¹ This excludes multi-use backstops that, if upgraded, could satisfy a portion of the need			

D.1 Introduction

Quantifying park and recreation facility needs is difficult to identify because many different variables influence recreation needs. Community values, participation patterns, and willingness to pay for services vary widely from one community to another. Consequently, what seems appropriate for one community may not be suitable for another. One of the problems associated with determining needs is that overstating the demand can result in the development of underutilized facilities. Conversely, under-estimating the needs can result in overused facilities and a lack of usable park land and open space.

This report discusses the park and facility needs for the City of Ontario. The process for identifying needs was:

1. Inventorying and analyzing the existing supply of park and recreation facilities.
2. Public input on park and recreation needs
 - a. A Citywide opinion survey of Ontario residents conducted by MIG Inc.
 - b. Public Meeting
 - c. Contact with user groups

D.2 Alternative Approaches to Identifying Needs

There are several approaches to estimating needs. They include the use of national standards, measurement of participation levels, user trend analysis, input from surveys and public meetings, goal setting and participation models. Since the analysis on the following pages encompasses these methods, a brief description of each is listed below.

Recreation Surveys

An online survey conducted by the city was able to garner 219 responses with a 6 day time frame due to support from community partners sharing the survey link.

Public Meetings

Ontario hosted a parks charette to get interactive participation in the design process. The charette led to the online survey.

Goals

Focus group data was used in the analysis of the needs from community wide strategic planning efforts.

D.3 Methodology of Assessing Park and Open Space Needs in Ontario

Existing and Forecasted Population

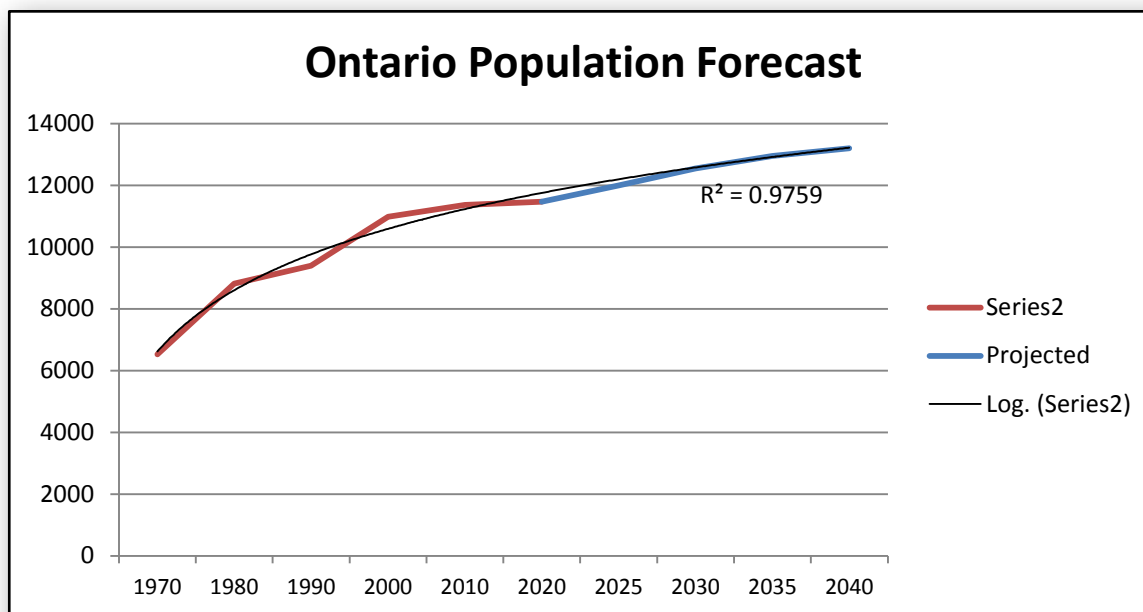
Developing a statement of land needs for park areas and open space is the most difficult of all types of needs analysis because it depends on localized values, availability of land, financial resources and desired service levels.

The ratio of park land or recreation facilities is based on a comparison with the existing population base. By developing a desired level of service (recommended standard) and applying it to a future population forecast, one can determine future needs. To determine the existing ratio, the population within the existing city limits was used.

For this study, we will use the existing and future population forecasts identified in the adjacent table and the chart below.

Table D.7
Population Forecast
Ontario Planning Area

Year	Population
2017	11,465
2020	11,470
2025	12,000
2030	12,550
2035	12,950
2040	13,200
Regression analysis with R ² of .98	



D.4 Park and Open Space Needs

Table D.8
Summary of Existing Parks and Facilities
Ontario Planning Area

Park Site	Total Park Land	Number of Sites
Pocket-Parks (acres)	0.00	
Urban Plaza Parks (acres)	0.00	0
Neighborhood Parks (acres)	20.41	2
Community Park (acres)	33.35	1
Regional Parks (acres)	22.65	1
Nature Parks (acres)	463.83	1
Special Use Parks (acres)	40.72	9
Linear Parks (acres)	0.00	0
Regional Sports Parks (acres)	19.59	1
Trails, Paths, Bikeways (miles)	0.00	2
Destination Parks (acres)	6.29	

On the following pages, specific needs for each type of parkland are discussed. The categories of park land include:

1. Pocket Parks
2. Urban Plaza Parks
3. Neighborhood Parks
4. Community Parks
5. Regional Parks
6. Nature Parks
7. Special Use Parks
8. Linear Parks
9. Regional Sports Parks
10. Rails, Paths, Bikeways
11. Destination Parks

It should be mentioned that no assessment of needs has been made for school recreation areas because of difficulty ascertaining the amount of dedicated land for recreation use. In addition, only a portion of the site is accessible to the general public. No needs were developed for private recreation lands such as private open space areas and miscellaneous recreation areas because these are limited or restricted by use or fees.

Pocket Parks

Definition:

Basic recreation opportunities on small lots, within residential areas serving an area within approximately 5-10 minutes walking time (approximately ¼ mile). Typically less than two acres in size (1/4 to 2 acres), these parks are designed to serve residents in immediately adjacent neighborhoods. Pocket parks provide limited recreation amenities, such as playgrounds, benches, and picnic tables. Pocket parks do not normally provide off-street parking.

A. Existing Pocket parks:

1. None

B. Recommended

Level of Service recommended by the state is .25 to .50 acres per 1,000 population. Pocket parks are between ¼ acre to 2 acres in size.

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

- It is recommended the city maintain its current ration and not acquire or develop parks of this type. This is based on the following factors:
 - * High cost to develop and maintain on a per acre basis
 - * Limited service area
 - * Limited types of recreational facilities offered

D. Development Standards:

- Basic Elements: Play area for children ages 2-5; small turf areas; benches; and trash receptacles.
- Optional Elements: Picnic tables, picnic shelters, and drinking fountains.

Benefits & Use of Pocket Parks:

- Pocket parks add character to a neighborhood as well as a place for rest. Typical amenities may include a bench, picnic table, and grassy area or landscaped area. Pocket parks may also have interpretive signs.

Urban Plaza Parks

Definition:

Urban plaza parks are public gathering spaces in urban spaces that foster community interaction and civic pride. They are small in size (.1 to .3 acres) and intensely developed. Visitors will tend to be those who are already in the neighborhood for other purposes, such as shopping, work, dining and/ or those who live in or near densely developed urban areas. Urban plaza parks typically include amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, litter receptacles, trees and shrubs, paved walkways and plazas.

A. Existing Pocket parks:

1. None

B. Recommended

Level of Service recommended by the state is .25 to .50 acres per 1,000 population. Urban Plaza Parks are between ¼ acres and 3 acres.

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

- Survey respondents said that they would like to see a shelter and/or a pavilion at Moore park downtown. The city currently leases Moore Park. The City should seek purchase and ownership of the park. A shelter near South Oregon Street that would not impact the Saturday Market would be ideal. A amphitheater or performance platform on the western side of the park would add to the available uses. The site is already used for performances. Mobile stages are brought in on occasion.

D. Development Standards:

- Basic Elements: Shelter with seating, benches, water fountain, performance areas. Flexible space use for multiple functions.
- Optional Elements: Picnic tables, litter receptacles, trees and shrubs, and paved walkways.

Benefits & Use of Pocket Parks:

- Urban Plaza Parks encourage downtown usage and lengthen the stay of downtown visitors by providing space for rest. They also provide a place for social events and entertainment.

Neighborhood Parks

Definition:

Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreation opportunities primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are located within approximately 5-10 minute walking time (approximately ¼ - ½ mile) without crossing major thoroughfares and/or other structures and easy bicycling distance of residents. They serve up to a one-half-mile radius and are generally 2-10 acres in size.

A. Existing Neighborhood Parks:

1. Lanterman Kiwanis Park (3.29 acres)
2. Laxson Rotary Park (2.02 acres)
3. Sunset Park (9.22 acres)

B. Recommended

- Level of Service recommended by the state is 1 to 2 acres per 1,000 population.
- Neighborhood Parks should be between 2 to 20 acres.

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

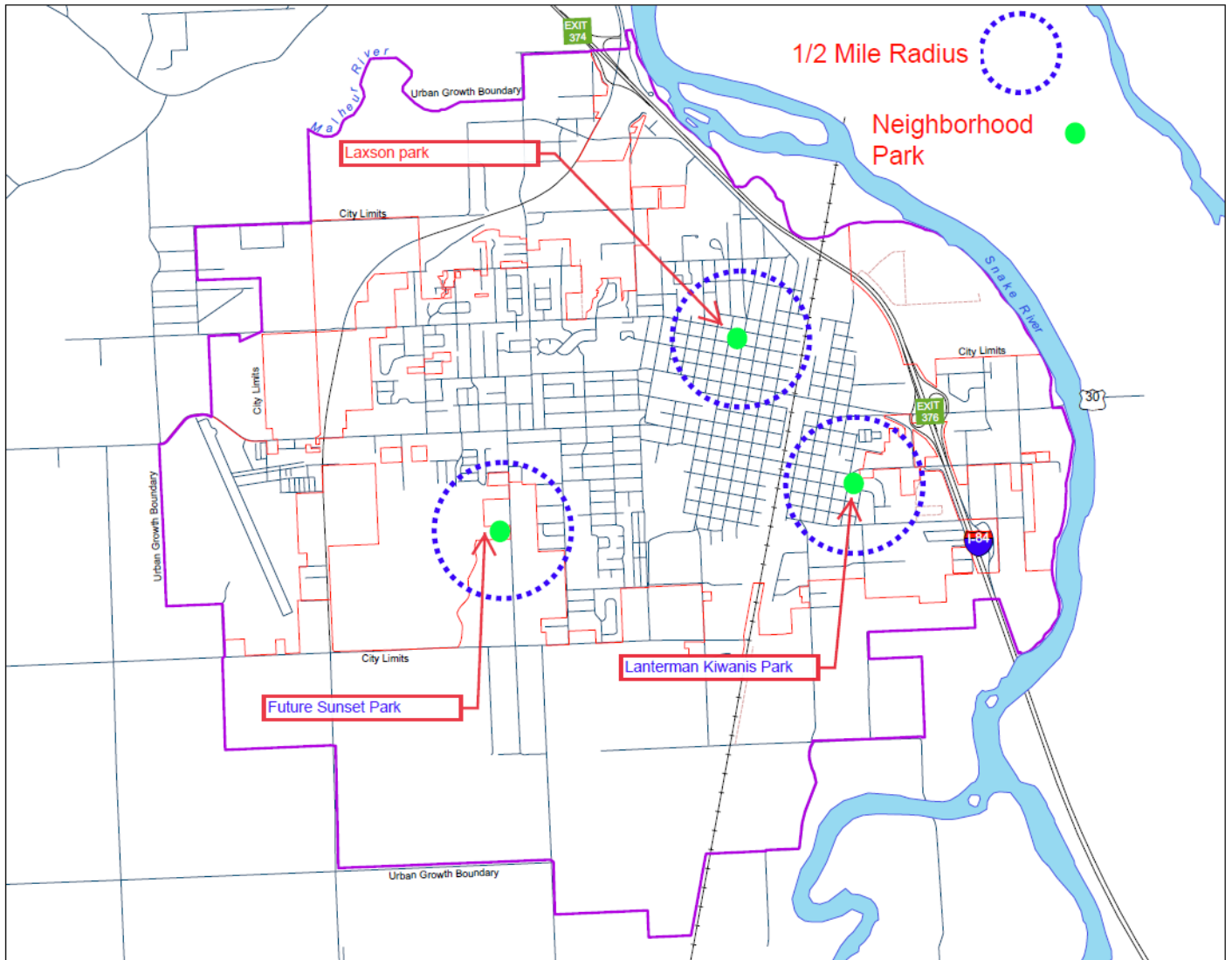
- The city has a nice inventory of neighborhood parks, but they are underdeveloped. Some are not developed at all. Others have amenities but they are outdated.
- There are some communities out of the standard walking distance of 5-10 minutes walking distance. The city should actively seek out opportunities to infill neighborhood parks to areas lacking facilities and as the city builds out.
- Convert two special use sites (Optimist and Alameda Parks) to neighborhood parks.

D. Development Standards:

- *Basic Elements: They typically include amenities such as playgrounds, outdoor sports courts, sport fields, picnic tables, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas.*
- *Optional Elements: They may or may not provide off-street parking. When practical, they can be located next to elementary schools in order to provide more efficient use of public resources.*

Benefits & Use of Neighborhood Parks:

- Neighborhood Parks provide active use within walking distance and without having to cross major vehicle thoroughfares.



Neighborhood Park Map
Ontario, Oregon

Community Parks

Definition:

A community park is typically larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are typically 15-100 acres, depending on the spatial requirements of the facilities provided and the amount of land dedicated to the natural resources protection. Community parks provide both active and passive recreation appealing to the community serving an area within approximately 15 minutes driving time. They are normally designed as drive to sites.

A. Existing Community Parks:

1. Lions Park (6.26 acres)

B. Recommended

- Level of Service recommended by the state is 2 to 6 acres per 1,000 population.
- Community Parks should be between 15 to 100 acres.

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

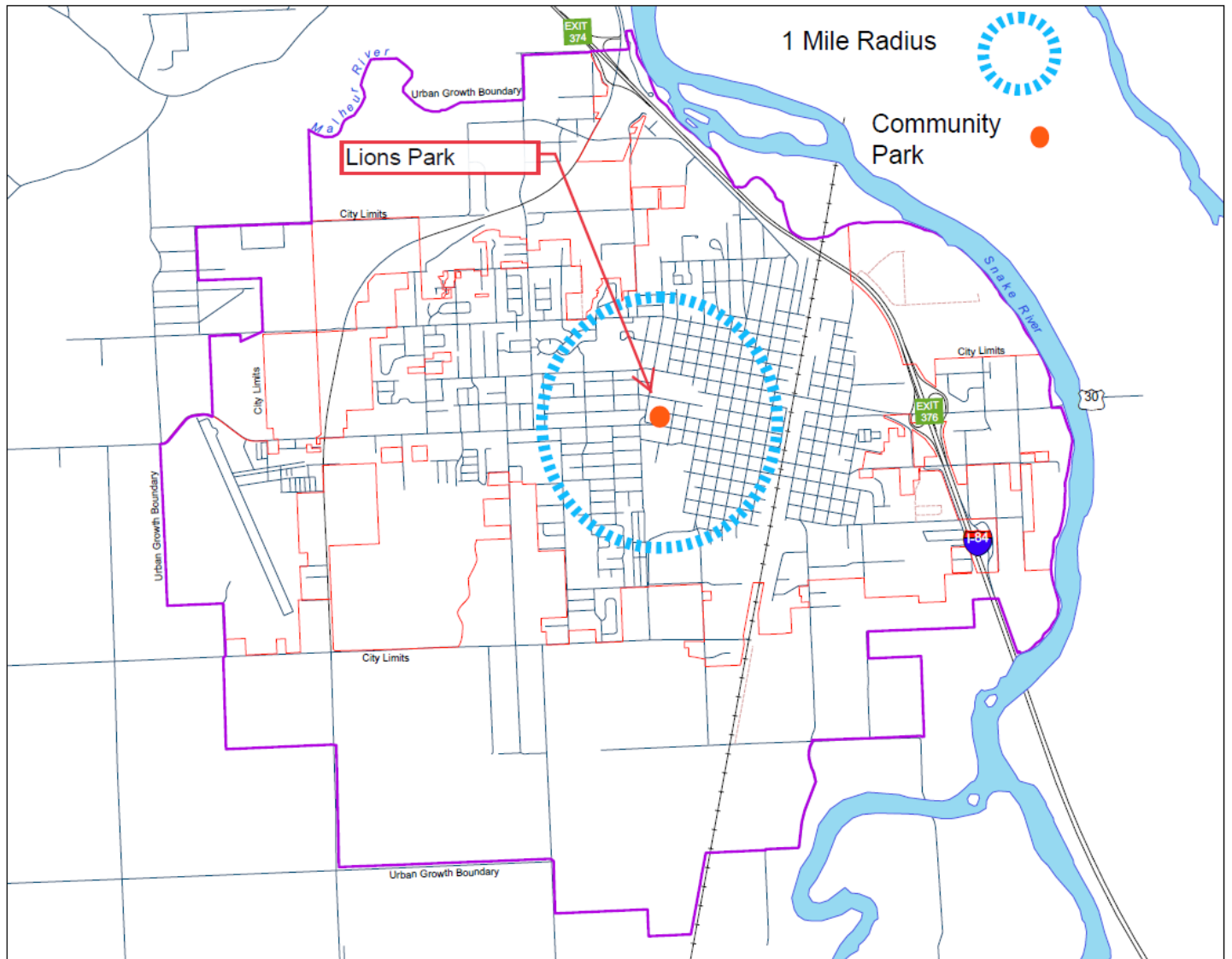
- Community parks can meet service demands when neighborhood parks are not practical.
- The cities lone community park has restroom facilities that are in disrepair and must be renovated.
- The community survey and survey conducted by the Friends of the Aquatic Center showed support for renovation of the existing pool and the splash pad under current design and construction.
- A gymnasium is included in the long term plan for the Ontario Aquatic Center.

D. Development Standards:

- **Basic Elements:** They can accommodate large numbers of people and offer a wide variety of facilities, such as group picnic areas and large shelters, sports fields and courts, children's play areas, swimming pools and splash pads, community gardens, extensive pathway systems, community festival or event space, and green space or natural areas. Community parks require additional support facilities, such as off-street parking and restrooms and as such can also serve as regional trailheads.
- **Optional Elements:** Community Parks can serve as trailheads. Larger shelter or pavilion space constructed can accommodate large group activities.

Benefits & Use of Community Parks:

- Community Parks provide active use within a short drive. They tend to me more destination oriented with a variety of activities.



Community Park Map
Ontario, Oregon

Regional Parks

Definition:

Regional parks are large parks that provide access to unique natural or cultural features and regional-scale recreation facilities. Typically 100 acres or more in size, regional parks serve areas within a 45 minute drive time.

A. Existing Community Parks:

1. Beck Kiwanis Park (30.96 acres)

B. Recommended

- Level of Service recommended by the state is 5 to 10 acres per 1,000 population.
- Regional Parks should be between 100 acres or more.

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

- Beck Kiwanis Park is the only regional parks in the City Parks Plan. It is not within the recommended size, but does have the amenities of a regional park.
- Beck Kiwanis has a very nice trail system, but is in need of repair. With close proximity to the Fairgrounds and, city public works property, and state park, there is a great opportunity to connect these together with a recreational trail.
- The cities lone regional park has restroom facilities that are in disrepair and must be renovated.
- The community survey said that updated playground equipment, walking trails, and shelters were what was needed the most at Beck Kiwanis
- An urban fishery is recommended for Beck Kiwanis Park that could also accommodate persons with disabilities.

D. Development Standards:

- **Basic Elements:** These parks often include significant green space to preserve unique natural areas, riverfront corridors, wetlands, and agricultural or forested areas. Regional parks may include natural areas, riverfront corridors, wetlands, and agricultural or forested areas. Regional parks may include properties for which there are no immediate development plans and that are situated in such a way as to primarily serve the surrounding neighborhood land banked properties).
- **Optional Elements:** Activities available in regional parks may include picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, trail use, etc. Regional parks include supporting facilities such as restrooms and parking.

Benefits & Use of Regional Parks:

- Regional Parks accommodate large group activities and often have infrastructure to support sporting events, festivals, and other revenue-generating events to enhance the City's economic vitality and identity.

Nature Parks

Definition:

Nature parks are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. They may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas such as wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Nature parks may vary in size from small parcels (less than 10 acres) to large properties of more than 200 acres. They typically serve a community-wide population and include greenways, natural areas, and preserves. Public access to natural areas may be limited at these sites, which often include wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces. Some nature parks may be managed secondarily to provide passive recreation opportunities.

A. Existing Community Parks:

2. Malheur River Open Space (763.83 acres)

B. Recommended

- Level of Service recommended by the state is 2 to 6 acres per 1,000 population.
- Nature parks vary in size from less than 1- acres to more than 200 acres.

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

- Ontario is rich with nature parks. The close proximity to the Snake and Malheur River offer abundant opportunities to integrate city recreation with nature.
- The City has not capitalized on the rivers yet. Significant parts of the river frontage are owned by the city. Multipurpose trails with linear parks along the Malheur River would provide an excellent amenity for Ontario residents. Trail heads would be needed.
- A water trail would also make excellent use of the Malheur River. Kayakers and canoers could come from upstream with built in docking at various places along the city owned portion of the water front.
- Pheasants Forever is a local habitat preservation group that has worked with the city to preserve the habitat and increase the pheasant population. They are working on education centers and track pheasant culls to make sure the wildlife is sustainable.

D. Development Standards:

- **Basic Elements:** Include greenways, natural areas, and preserves. Sites may contain trails, interpretive displays, viewpoints, and seating areas.
- **Optional Elements:** These sites may contain trails, interpretive displays, viewpoints, and seating areas.

Benefits & Use of Nature Parks:

- Nature Parks may have limited action to preserve the natural habitat

Special Use Parks

Definition:

The Special Use classification covers a broad range park and recreation lands that are specialized or single purpose in nature. Parks in this category include waterfront or ocean access parks, boat ramps, memorials, historic sites, waysides, swimming areas, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, dog parks, skate parks, display gardens, sites occupied by buildings, or protect some significant geologic or scenic feature.

A. Existing Community Parks:

1. Alameda Park (13.67 acres)
2. Downtown Plaza (.22 acres)
3. Evergreen Cemetery (19.95 acres)
4. Optimist Park (2.96 acres)
5. Railroad Depot Park (1.14 acres)
6. Sunset Cemetery (2.78 acres)

B. Recommended

- None

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

- Indoor facilities are needed to accommodate youth recreation,
- Fields are needed to accommodate youth and adult sports programming.
- Waterfront opportunities should be acquired to create water recreation.

D. Development Standards:

- **Basic Elements:** Combination of one or more of the following: community center, indoor gymnasium, indoor pool, aquatic complex, community theater, outdoor theater, sports complex, senior center, teen center, community art facility, golf course, or other special use sites. All support facilities such as parking, lighting, pathway and site amenities.
- **Optional Elements:** Playground equipment sports courts, picnic facilities, fountains, and plazas.

Benefits & Use of Special Use Parks:

- Special use parks can provide a wide array of activities to the community. They are very much dependent on the habits of the community and the natural amenities that are included or surround the community.
- Include waterfront or ocean access parks, boat ramps, memorials, historic sites, waysides, swimming areas, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, dog parks, skate parks, display gardens, sites occupied by buildings, or protect some significant geologic or scenic feature.

Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways

Definition:

Trails, pathways, and Bikeways include a number of trail types including multi-use pedestrian, and soft surface trails to accommodate a variety of activities such as walking, running, biking, dog walking, rollerblading, and skateboarding. Such trails may be located within parks or along existing streets and roadways as part of the citywide transportation system. Multi-use trails are designed for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders, wheelchairs, and other non-motorized vehicle users.

A. Existing Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways:

1. The city does have many bike lanes on roads, but these do not qualify as multi-purpose trails.
2. None

B. Recommended

- One-half mile to 1 ½ miles per 1,000 people is recommended by the state.

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

- More than 70% of survey respondents said that multi-purpose trails were one of their top two desired amenities in this community.
- Consider using existing city owned properties and parks and working with other public entities to partner with. This would be the most economical approach to begin connecting facilities.
- Survey respondents asked for trail amenities at every park.
- Trails are a priority under the state plan as well as the county needs assessment, which means applications for state local government grants would score higher than other proposed projects.

D. Development Standards:

- **Basic Elements:** Trails are hard surfaced to accommodate bicycles and provide accessibility for people with disabilities. Hard surfaced pedestrian trails are generally found within smaller parks and as secondary trails within larger parks. Soft surfaced trails are composed of soft surface materials, such as soil, crushed rock, hog fuel, and wood chips. Most soft surfaces do not provide accessibility for people with disabilities but are preferable for some recreation activities, such as running and hiking.
- **Optional Elements:** Trails, pathways, and bikeways may include amenities such as directional and control signage, gates, benches, overlooks, drinking fountains, lighting, trailhead kiosks, and interpretive signs.

Benefits & Use of Multipurpose Trails, Paths, and Bikeways:

- Trails contribute to a making a community a place of choice. All communities within the treasure valley, between Ontario and Boise are building trail systems into their development. Boise has been listed as the fastest growing city in the country. To stay competitive in the community of choice, Ontario must begin to offer these amenities.
- Trails create more opportunities to have a healthy community.

Regional Sports Parks

Definition:

Regional sports parks typically consolidate heavily programmed athletic facilities for activities such as soccer, football, baseball/softball into a few strategically located sites throughout the community. Regional sports parks could also include facilities such as race tracks, and equestrian areas.

A. Existing Community Parks:

1. One undeveloped regional sports complex has been designated at a former city dump site just outside of town. The space is over 19 acres and would be a great beginning for a regional sports complex.

B. Recommended

- The minimum recommendation is 25 acres with 40-80 optimal.

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

- Soccer is in high demand within Ontario and in the entire treasure valley area.
- A regional sports park should include connecting walkways and bathrooms.
- Park design should be done by an expert to optimize use. Overlapping fields can create more opportunities based on seasonal sports demand.

D. Development Standards:

- **Basic Elements:** The location of these facilities is important due to the traffic, lighting, and noise that are often associated with them. They typically require large parking areas and restroom facilities.
- **Optional Elements:** They also may have other park amenities, such as play areas or picnic facilities that serve non-participant family members and others while events are taking place.

Benefits & Use of Special Use Parks:

- **Regional Sports Parks Consolidate** heavily programmed athletic facilities for activities such as soccer, football, baseball/softball into strategically located sites. They typically require large parking areas and restroom facilities. They may have other park amenities such as play areas or picnic facilities serving non-participant family members.

Linear Parks

Definition:

Linear parks include natural or built corridors that connect parks and neighborhoods, provide linkages through the city, and preserve open space. Linear parks typically support trail-oriented activities, including walking, jogging, biking, skateboarding, and roller skating, which play a major role in health and fitness. Trails pathways, and bikeways located in other types of park settings, (e.g. neighborhood community, natural area parks) where the trail is not the primary purpose of the park or along existing streets or roadways may be connected to, but are excluded from this park category.

A. Existing Linear Parks:

1. None

B. Recommended

- 0.5 to 1.5 acres per 1,000 population

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

- There is not a clear demand for linear parks, but the opportunity exists in conjunction with development of a trail system, nature areas, and waterways.

D. Development Standards:

- **Basic Elements:** Linear parks typically include amenities such as at major trailheads, and way finding markers, but may also incorporate smaller-scale neighborhood park amenities such as play areas, picnic areas, and exercise stations. Linear park size is dependent on the corridor length and opportunity.
- **Optional Elements:** Linear parks may include abandoned railroad lines, utility rights-of-way, wildlife corridors, or elongated natural areas defined by drainage features or topographical.

Benefits & Use of Linear Parks:

- May include natural or built corridors that connect parks and neighborhoods, provide linkages through the city, and preserve open space. Typically support trail-oriented activities including walking, jogging, biking, skateboarding, and roller skating. Typically include amenities such as rest benches, picnic tables, trailhead kiosks, and way finding markers, but may also incorporate smaller-scale neighborhood park amenities such as play areas, picnic areas, and exercise stations.

Destination Parks

Definition:

Destination parks can include the same characteristics as Regional Parks, Natural Area Parks, Special Use Parks, and Linear Parks, but offer such outstanding natural, historic, scenic or recreational attractions that visitors travel more than an hour to several days, by car, to reach them.

A. Existing Destination Parks:

1. None

B. Recommended

- 20 to 30 acres per 1,000 population
- Wide range of acreage sizes

C. Determination of Demand Standard / Recommendations:

- The co-locating of many features at Lion's park could turn this site into a destination park for people outside of the city.

D. Development Standards:

- Basic Elements: They are usually well known statewide and even nationally. They can have a wide range of acreage sizes and levels of development, but generally have moderate to very intensive level of visitation.
- Optional Elements: They can be day-use parks or can offer overnight camping or cabins..

Benefits & Use of Destination Parks:

- Include the same facilities and activities as regional or natural area parks, but offer outstanding natural, historic, scenic, or recreational attractions. They can be day-use parks or can offer overnight camping or cabins.