



Staff Report

Meeting Date: May 16, 2022
From: Kelly O'Neill Jr., Development Services Director
SUBJECT: Parks Code Modifications and revised Parks & Trails Master Plan

DECISION TO BE MADE:

Review the code modifications and revised master plan in anticipation of adoption on June 6, 2022.

PURPOSE / OBJECTIVE:

Facilitate successful implementation of the goals set forth in the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

CODE EDITS - In conjunction with the adoption of the new Parks and Trails Master Plan, the City is revising two municipal code chapters that regulate parkland and open space development. The two development code chapters that are proposed to be modified are Chapter 17.32, Parks and Open Space (POS) and Chapter 17.86, Parkland and Open Space.

MASTER PLAN MODIFICATIONS - The revised modifications amend and replace the adopted 2021 Parks and Trails Master Plan. The Plan was prepared by ESA Associates in partnership with the Parks and Trails Advisory Board and a Technical Advisory Committee. It was adopted by Sandy City Council on September 20, 2021. The Plan provides a framework for managing the continuing growth and maintenance of the City's parks and recreation resources through the year 2035.

The Parks and Trails Advisory Board reviewed the proposed amendments on April 13, 2022 and the Planning Commission reviewed the proposed amendments on April 25, 2022. Both the Board and Commission recommended approval of the code edits and revised master plan to the City Council. Staff worked with the Parks and Trails Master Plan consultant, Environmental Science Associates (ESA), the city attorney's office, with input from the Parks and Trails Advisory Board and City Councilors on the proposed code amendments.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

CODE EDITS

Chapter 17.32

1. Removed the references to public and private ownership in the intent statement as there is no need to distinguish between public and private parks and open space, or those that are “designated or proposed.” Our legal counsel has informed staff that this is uncommon in an ‘intent’ statement, and it is enough to say that the chapter is intended to provide for parks and open space.
2. Added an applicability section.
3. Added additional clarity to the primary permitted uses and accessory permitted uses.

Chapter 17.86

1. Added clarity to Section 17.86.10 to expressly incorporate the 2022 Amended Parks and Trails Master Plan by reference for limited land use decisions.
2. Increased the ratio to 0.0068 of an acre of parkland per person as recommended by ESA and consistent with the revised Parks and Trails Master Plan.
3. Added Section 17.86.10 (C) that specifies when an applicant shall pay a fee in lieu as it relates to the size of dedicated land.
4. Added additional clear and objective requirements for minimum parkland development standards in Section 17.86.20.
5. Removed the diagram in Section 17.86.20 as it was likely not clear and objective. It also set burdensome precedent by requiring streets around all sides of parks which is expensive to construct as the Parks SDC account has to pay for half street improvements along parkland.
6. Modified Section 17.86.30 to make the dedication process more clear and objective and to better define the environmental testing requirements.
7. Added additional clear and objective requirements for fee in lieu of dedication in Section 17.86.40, including a level of service reference and stated that the City of Sandy does not want parkland less than one-quarter of an acre unless for trail needs.

One item that FCS is recommending to modify, but is not modified yet in Exhibit B, is the total persons per unit in Section 17.86.10. FCS is recommending the City reduces single family dwelling unit from 3.0 total persons per unit to 2.73 total persons per unit, increases standard multi-family dwelling unit from 2.0 total persons per unit to 2.02 total persons per unit, and increases manufactured dwelling unit from 2.0 total persons per unit to 2.20 total persons per unit. FCS did not provide recommended modifications for duplex dwelling unit or congregate multi-family dwelling unit. Staff asked the City Attorney for advice on this recommended change. The City Attorney finds that the existing numbers are defensible, but so are the proposed numbers from FCS. **If the City Council wants to modify any of the total persons per unit numbers in Section 17.86.10, staff will need direction prior to June 6.**

MASTER PLAN MODIFICATIONS

Three key revisions have been made to the amended Plan:

1. Align the Plan with the Transportation System Plan update;
2. Refresh U.S. Census data; and

3. Align the level of service and needs analysis methodology with proposed Sandy Development Code amendments.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide input to staff in anticipation of the June 6 adoptions.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

1. Likely a cost savings for Parks SDCs with removal of the requirement to require streets around all sides of parks.
2. Likely additional parkland dedication or fee in lieu of land will be collected as the acre of parkland per person is proposed to increase.
3. Likely a reduction in legal costs by having updated municipal code that is easier for staff to enforce.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

Exhibit A. Chapter 17.32 Code Modifications – track changes version

Exhibit B. Chapter 17.86 Code Modifications – track changes version

Exhibit C. Parks & Trails Master Plan

CHAPTER 17.32 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE (POS)¹**Sec. 17.32.00. Intent.**

This ~~district~~chapter is intended to ~~provide for~~ recognize those publicly-owned lands designated or proposed for parks and open spaces. Parks include ~~publicly~~ developed parks, ~~and undeveloped park land~~ open space, and natural areas where typical uses include both active and passive outdoor recreation activities, trails, ~~open space,~~ cultural activities, park buildings and structures, concessions, general park operations and maintenance, and storm drainage facilities. Open space includes ~~publicly~~ developed and undeveloped lands and ~~sensitive-natural~~ areas where uses include passive recreation activities such as trails, interpretive displays, viewpoints, picnic and seating areas, as well as environmentally sensitive areas such as wildlife habitats, wetlands, riparian corridors, steep slopes, forested areas, ~~and stream corridors,~~ and areas that support unique and/or endangered plant and animal species.

Sec. 17.32.10. Applicability

This chapter applies to all land designated or proposed for parks and open spaces. Where land is subject to a specific park master plan, such as Bornstedt Park or Sandy River Park, compliance with the specific master plan is required.

Sec. 17.32.1020. Permitted uses.**A. Primary Uses Permitted Outright:**

1. Parks, ~~natural areas and open space, and special use areas~~ improvements identified in Map 5 Existing Park Inventory, Map 8 Proposed Park System, Table 12 Tier 1 Capital Improvement Plan, or Table A-3 Proposed Park Capital Improvement Plan of the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan; or Park Specific Master Plans adopted by the City Council.
2. Trails identified in Map 6 Existing Trail Inventory, Map 14 Proposed Trail System, Table 12 Tier 1 Capital Improvement Plan, or Table A-4 Proposed Trail Capital Improvement Plan; ~~in otherwise undeveloped open space.~~
3. Other uses similar in nature as listed in the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan.

B. Accessory Uses Permitted Outright:

1. Accessory structures, detached or attached~~;~~
2. Educational activities in accordance with the primary purposes of the zone~~;~~
3. Interpretive displays~~;~~
4. Skate parks;

¹Editor's note(s)—Pre-republication, this chapter was last revised by Ord. No. 2013-11, effective December 18, 2013. Any amendments occurring post-republication have a history note in parenthesis at the bottom of the amended section.

- 5. Splash pads;
- 6. Community gardens;
- 7. Disc golf courses;
- 8. Pump tracks;
- 9. Climbing walls;
- 10. Off-leash dog parks;
- 11. Sports fields and courts;
- 412. Park furnishings, including arbors, barbeques, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, gazebos, kiosks, picnic tables, play equipment and signage-;
- 513. Public driveways and parking areas for uses permitted in this zone-;
- 614. Public restroom facilities-;
- 15. Other uses similar in nature as listed in the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan.

Sec. 17.32.2030. Minor conditional uses and conditional uses.

- A. *Minor Conditional Uses:* None
- B. *Conditional Uses:*
 - 1. Campgrounds;
 - 2. Swimming pools and aquatic facilities;
 - 3. Community centers;
 - 43. Other uses similar in nature.

Sec. 17.32.3040. Sandy River Park.

The above uses are inapplicable to the Sandy River Park property owned by the City of Sandy. This section contains requirements specific to Sandy River Park. Development of the Sandy River Park is guided by and limited to the uses identified in the Sandy River Park Master Plan dated June 3, 2010, and any future Sandy River Park Master Plan amendments adopted by the City Council. The primary uses specified in the plan include hiking, nature study, and habitat restoration and the construction of a trail system to facilitate this-these uses. Accessory structures identified in the plan include installation of interpretative signage, benches, picnic tables, restroom facilities, and limited parking.

Sec. 17.32.4050. Development standards.

Parks and Open Space	
Lot Area	No minimum
Lot Dimension	No minimum
Setbacks	No minimum or maximum
Lot Coverage	No maximum
Structure Height	35 ft. maximum
Off-Street Parking	See Chapter 17.98
Design Review Standards	See Section 17.90.120

Sec. 17.32.5060. Additional requirements.

- A. ~~Where applicable, p~~Park improvements shall comply with ~~city design standards.~~Chapter 17.90 Design Standards.
- B. Provisions for pedestrian and vehicular off-street access ~~to adjoining properties~~ shall be included in individual park specific master plans.

DRAFT

CHAPTER 17.86 PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE¹**Sec. 17.86.00. Intent.**

The availability of parkland and open space is a critical element in maintaining and improving the quality of life in Sandy. Land that features trees, grass and vegetation provides not only an aesthetically pleasing landscape but also buffers incompatible uses, and preserves sensitive environmental features and important resources. Parks and open space, together with support facilities, also help to meet the active and passive recreational needs ~~of the population~~ of Sandy residents. This chapter implements policies of Goal 5 and Goal 8 of the Comprehensive Plan and the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan by outlining provisions for parks and open space in the City of Sandy.

Sec. 17.86.10. Minimum parkland dedication requirements.

Parkland Dedication: ~~New residential subdivisions, planned developments, Residential subdivisions and partitions, single-family or~~ multi-family developments, or and manufactured home park developments shall be required to provide parkland to serve ~~existing and future~~ residents of those developments. ~~Congregate M~~multi-family housing developments ~~which that~~ provides some "congregate" services and/or facilities, ~~such as group transportation, dining halls, emergency monitoring systems, etc., but which have individual dwelling units rather than sleeping quarters only, as defined in Chapter 17.10 of the City's Municipal Code,~~ are considered to be multi-family developments for the purpose of parkland dedication. Licensed adult congregate care living facilities, nursing homes, and all other ~~similar residential care~~ facilities ~~which that~~ provide ~~their~~ clients with individual beds and sleeping quarters, but in which all other care and services are communal and provided by facility employees, are ~~specifically~~ exempt from parkland dedication, ~~and system development fee requirements.~~ The dedication or provision of parks, open space, trails, and amenities shall comply with the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan, dedicated pursuant to the formula in Section 17.86.10 (B), and in compliance with the improvement standards in Section 17.86.20. The level of service standards as well as the park and trail level of service needs as identified in Chapter 4, Table 10, of the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan are specifically incorporated by this reference.

- A. The required parkland shall be dedicated as a condition of approval for the following:
1. Single-family and duplex building permits;
 - ~~2. Tentative plat for a subdivision or partition;~~
 - ~~2. Planned Development conceptual or detailed development plan;~~
 3. Design review for a multi-family development or manufactured home park; ~~and~~
 4. Design review for a multi-family development accessory to commercial or industrial development; and,
 - ~~45.~~ Replat or amendment of any site plan for multi-family development or manufactured home park where dedication has not previously been made or where the density of the development involved will be increased.

¹Editor's note(s)—Pre-republication, this chapter was last revised by Ord. No. 2013-03, effective July 3, 2013. Any amendments occurring post-republication have a history note in parenthesis at the bottom of the amended section.

- B. Calculation of Required Dedication: The required parkland acreage to be dedicated ~~is shall be~~ based on ~~a calculation of~~ the following formula:

Required parkland dedication (acres) = (proposed dwelling units) x (persons/dwelling unit) x ~~0.00430.0068~~ (per person park land dedication factor)

1. Population Formula: The following table shall be used to determine the number of persons per unit to be used in calculating required parkland dedication:

Type of Unit	Total Persons Per <u>Dwelling</u> Unit
Single family dwelling unit	3.0
Duplex dwelling unit	3.0*
Standard multi-family unit	2.0
Manufactured dwelling unit	2.0
Congregate multi-family unit	1.5

* The total persons per unit for the entire duplex (both units) would be six.

~~Persons per unit, age distribution, and local conditions change with time.~~ The specific formula for the dedication of land will, therefore, be subject to periodic review and amendment. ~~The A~~ fee-in-lieu under Section 17.86.40 shall be based on the number and type of dwelling units proposed at time of plat, but an additional fee in-lieu will be ~~necessary~~ required and calculated on a per lot basis if any lots are constructed or converted to add additional dwelling units. For example, if an existing single family dwelling unit is converted into a duplex dwelling unit the existing single family ~~home~~ dwelling unit shall receive a credit, but the new dwelling unit shall pay the difference in persons per dwelling unit. This would equate to one proposed dwelling unit multiplied by three additional persons multiplied by ~~0.00430.0068~~ for the above example.

2. Per Person Parkland Dedication Factor: The total parkland dedication requirement shall be ~~0.00430.0068~~ of an acre per person based on the adopted standard of ~~4-36.8~~ acres of land per 1,000 of ~~ultimate~~ population per the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan.² This standard represents the citywide land-to-population ratio for city parks at 5.25 acres of land per 1,000 of population, and land for trails at 1.55 acres of land per 1,000 of population, and may be adjusted periodically through amendments to the Parks Master Plan.

(Ord. No. 2021-03 , § 8(Exh. H), 5-17-2021)

C. Notwithstanding Section 17.86.10 (A) above, when the amount of land to be dedicated is less than one quarter acre, or the level of service standards for mini parks in the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan have been met for the subject site, the applicant shall pay a fee in lieu of dedication as provided in Section 17.86.40 (B), with the following exceptions:

1. When the land to be dedicated is for a trail identified in Map 14 Proposed Trail System, Table 12 Tier 1 Capital Improvement Plan, or Table A-4 Proposed Trail Capital Improvement Plan of the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan;

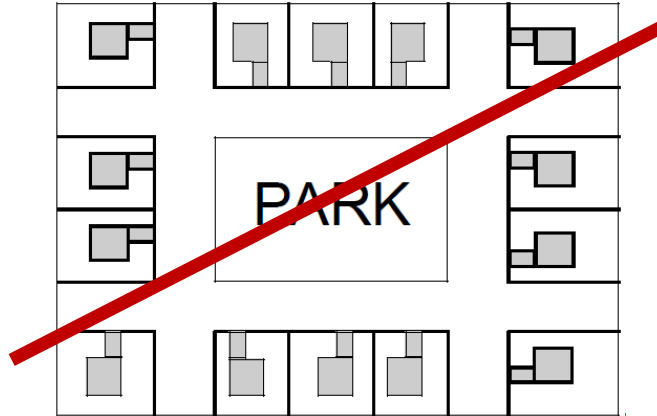
²Editor's note(s)—~~Parks Master Plan, Implementation Plan section, Pages 4 and 5 indicate a required park acreage total of 64.5 acres. This number, divided by population (2015) of 15,000 equates to 4.3 acres per 1000 population or 0.0043 per person. 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan, Section 4.2, Park and Trail Needs, Table 10 (Park and Trail Needs Analysis).~~

2. When the land to be dedicated abuts existing or planned parkland that necessitates additional acreage to meet the identified parkland acreage needs as identified in Map 8 Proposed Park System, Table 12 Tier 1 Capital Improvement Plan, or Table A-3 Proposed Park Capital Improvement Plan of the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan.

Sec. 17.86.20. Minimum parkland standards.

Land required or proposed for parkland dedication shall be contained within a continuous unit and ~~must shall~~ be suitable for active-accommodate use as a mini, neighborhood, or mini-community-park, as defined in the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan, based on the following criteria:

- A. ~~Homes must~~ The primary entrance of single-family homes and duplexes front shall face towards parkland when separated by street right-of-way, on the parkland as shown in the example below: Residential through lots or corner lots that abut more than one street with one of the streets defined as an arterial or collector street shall have the front door face the arterial or collector street as defined by Chapter 17.82.
- B. On the sides of the parkland not fronting onto a street, a pedestrian and bicycle access way shall be provided with a minimum improved surface of ten feet within a 15-foot right-of-way or tract. If the parkland abuts land to be developed for multi-family development or a manufactured home park the multi-family development or manufactured home park shall include a pedestrian and bicycle access way in a public easement from any abutting street right-of-way through the property with multi-family development or a manufactured home park to the parkland.
- C. In all zones where property abuts parkland, a fence no higher than six feet shall separate the use from the parkland. Barbed wire is not permitted on fences abutting parks.
- D. ~~Any~~ retaining wall constructed at the perimeter of ~~the a~~ park adjacent to a public right-of-way or private street shall not exceed four (4) feet in height.
- E. The required parkland dedication for parks one acre or greater shall be abutted by street right-of-way for at least 400 linear feet, with the following exceptions for trails and parks less than one acre:
 - 1. Land dedicated for trails as identified in the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan only need to abut street right-of-way for a total of 15 linear feet.
 - 2. If the land dedication is between half-acre and one-acre the parkland shall be abutted by street right-of-way for at least 200 linear feet.
 - 3. If the land dedication is less than half-acre the parkland shall be abutted by street right-of-way for at least 100 linear feet.



BF. The required dedication shall be contained as a contiguous unit and not separated into pieces or divided by ~~roadways, streets or other pedestrian barriers.~~

CG. The parkland ~~must shall be able to accommodate provide for park facilities, such as play structures and~~ play fields, ~~picnic areas, or other active park use facilities, as described in the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan, subject to the following standards: The average slope of the active use parkland shall not exceed 15 percent.~~

1. ~~Neighborhood Parks or Community Parks: Not more than 20 percent of the park may exceed 15 percent slope. Zero percent of the park shall include wetlands.~~

~~1-2. Mini Parks: Not more than 10 percent of the park may exceed 15 percent slope. Zero percent of the park shall include wetlands.~~

~~E. Once dedicated, the City will assume maintenance responsibility for the neighborhood or mini parkland.~~

Sec. 17.86.30. Dedication procedures.

~~Land dedicated to the City as parkland shall be dedicated on the final plat, or by recording a deed, easement, or other appropriate document when there is not a plat. Prior to approval of the final plat, the developer shall dedicate the land as previously determined by the City in conjunction with approval of the tentative plat.~~

Dedication of land in conjunction with multi-family development shall be required prior to issuance of building permits ~~and commencement of construction.~~

A. Prior to ~~acceptance of required parkland dedications~~ final plat approval, the applicant/~~developer~~ shall complete the following items for all proposed dedication areas:

1. The ~~developer applicant~~ shall clear, fill, and/or grade all land ~~to the satisfaction of the City in accordance with the approved grading plan~~, install curb, gutter, and sidewalks in accordance with the Transportation System Plan on the park land adjacent to any street, and seed the park-land; and,

2. The ~~developer applicant~~ shall submit a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the parkland to the City, completed by a qualified professional according to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards (ASTM E 1527). The results of this study shall indicate a clean environmental record prior to dedication.

a. In the event that the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment detects the potential for contaminated soil, the applicant shall perform further assessment, testing and sampling as needed to determine the type and extent of contamination present, and potential remediation steps needed.

b. If contaminated conditions are present the applicant shall either remediate the condition and submit a report to the City documenting the procedures and final soil conditions or select other property for the parkland dedication.

B. Additional Requirements.

1. ~~In addition to a formal dedication on the plat to be recorded, the subdivider shall convey the required lands to the city by general warranty deed. The developer of a multi-family development or manufactured home park shall deed the lands required to be dedicated by a general warranty deed. In any of the above situations, the land so Land dedicated and deeded or restricted for use as parkland shall not be subject to any other easements, reservations of record, or encumbrances of any kind or easements which, in the opinion of the Director, will that interfere with the use of the land for park, open space, or recreational purposes.~~

~~The subdivider or developer shall be required to present to the City a title insurance policy on the subject property ensuring the marketable state of the title.~~

2. Where ~~any~~ reservations, encumbrance~~s~~ or easements exists, the applicant may propose an alternative lot or parcel for parkland dedication or the City may require payment in lieu of the dedication of lands. ~~unless it chooses to accept the land subject to encumbrances.~~

- ~~C.3. Phased Developments.~~ In a phased development, the required park land for the entire development shall be dedicated ~~prior to approval of the on the~~ final plat for the first phase of the development. Improvements to the land as required by Section 17.86.30.A.1. shall be ~~made completed or bonded per the standards in Chapter 17.100~~ prior to approval of the final plat for the phase that includes the park-land.

Sec. 17.86.40. Cash-Fee in lieu of dedication.

~~At the city's discretion only, the city may accept payment of a fee in lieu of land dedication. The city may require payment in lieu of land when the park land to be dedicated is less than three acres.~~ A payment in lieu of land dedication is separate from Park Systems Development Charges (SDCs), and is not eligible for a credit of Park ~~Systems Development Charges~~SDCs. The amount of the fee in lieu of land dedication (in dollars per acre) shall be set by City Council Resolution based on relevant economic indices, and ~~it shall be based on~~ the typical market value of developed property (finished lots) in Sandy net of related development costs.

~~A. The following factors shall be used in the choice of whether to accept land or cash in lieu:~~

1. ~~The topography, geology, access to, parcel size, and location of land in the development available for dedication;~~
2. ~~Potential adverse/beneficial effects on environmentally sensitive areas;~~
3. ~~Compatibility with the Parks Master Plan, Public Facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan, and the City of Sandy Capital Improvements Program in effect at the time of dedication;~~
4. ~~Availability of previously acquired property; and~~
5. ~~The feasibility of dedication.~~

A. The City shall accept a fee in lieu of dedication from an applicant if the land area proposed to be dedicated is not identified in Map 14 Proposed Trail System, Table 12 Tier 1 Capital Improvement Plan, or Table A-4 Proposed Trail Capital Improvement Plan of the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan or is not in compliance with the improvement standards in Section 17.86.20.

B. The City shall accept a fee in lieu of dedication from an applicant if the land area proposed to be dedicated is not identified in Map 8 Proposed Park System, Table 12 Tier 1 Capital Improvement Plan, or Table A-3 Proposed Park Capital Improvement Plan of the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan or is not in compliance with the improvement standards in Section 17.86.20.

C. The City shall accept a fee in lieu of dedication from an applicant if the park area to be dedicated is less than one-quarter acre, or the level of service standard for mini parks described in the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan has been satisfied, with the following exceptions:

1. When the land to be dedicated is for a trail identified in Map 14 Proposed Trail System, Table 12 Tier 1 Capital Improvement Plan, or Table A-4 Proposed Trail Capital Improvement Plan of the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan;

2. When the land to be dedicated abuts existing or planned parkland that necessitates additional acreage to meet the identified parkland acreage needs as identified in Map 8 Proposed Park System, Table 12 Tier 1 Capital Improvement Plan, or Table A-3 Proposed Park Capital Improvement Plan of the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan.

BD. ~~Cash~~The fee in lieu of parkland dedication for a residential subdivision shall be paid prior to approval of the final plat or as specified below:

1. Fifty (50) percent of the payment shall be paid prior to final plat approval, and
2. The remaining 50 percent of the payment, plus an administrative surcharge specified by City Council resolution, shall be pro-rated equally among the lots and paid at the time of building permit issuance for each lot, ~~plus an administrative surcharge as determined by the City Council through a resolution, will constitute a lien against the property payable at the time of sale.~~

E. The fee in lieu of dedication for a single-family dwelling, duplex, or multi-family dwelling not in conjunction with a residential subdivision shall be paid at the time of building permit issuance for the subject lot or parcel.

Sec. 17.86.50. Minimum standards for open space dedication.

~~The applicant through~~An application for a subdivision, partition, replat or design review ~~process~~ may propose the ~~designation dedication~~ and protection of open space areas as part of that process. ~~This-However, this~~ open space ~~will shall~~ not be eligible to, ~~however, be~~ counted toward the parkland dedication requirement of Sections 17.86.10 through 17.86.40.

A. The types of open space that may be provided are ~~as follows~~:

1. *Natural Areas*: areas of undisturbed vegetation, steep slopes, stream corridors, wetlands, wildlife habitat areas, riparian corridors, or areas replanted with native vegetation after construction.
2. *Greenways*: linear green belts~~areas~~ linking residential areas with ~~other~~ open space areas. These greenways may contain bicycle paths or footpaths. Connecting greenways between residences and recreational areas ~~are is~~ encouraged.

B. A subdivision, partition, replat, or design review application proposing designation of open space shall include the following information as part of ~~this-the~~ application:

1. Designate the boundaries of all open space areas; and

-
2. Specify the manner in which the open space shall be ~~perpetuated~~owned, maintained, and administered; and
 3. Provide for public access to trails included in the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan, including but not limited to the Tickle Creek ~~Path~~Trail.
- C. Dedication of open space may occur concurrently with development of ~~the a~~ project. ~~At the discretion of the city~~City, ~~for~~ phased development ~~that will be phased~~, the open space may be set aside in totality and/or dedicated in conjunction with the first phase of the development or incrementally set aside and dedicated in proportion to the development occurring in each phase.
- D. Open space areas shall be maintained so that the use and enjoyment thereof ~~is not diminished or destroyed~~remain safe, healthy, and functional. Open space areas may be owned, preserved, and maintained by any of the following mechanisms or combinations thereof:
1. Dedication to the City of Sandy or ~~an appropriate~~another public agency, ~~approved by the City~~, if there is a public agency willing to accept the dedication. Prior to acceptance of proposed open space, the City ~~may~~shall require the ~~developer~~ applicant to submit a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the open space area completed by a qualified professional according to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards (ASTM E 1527). The results of this study shall indicate a clean environmental record prior to dedication.
 - a. In the event that the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment detects the potential for contaminated soil, the applicant shall perform further assessment, testing and sampling as needed to determine the type and extent of contamination present, and potential remediation steps needed.
 - b. If contaminated conditions are present the applicant shall either remediate the condition and submit a report to the City documenting the procedures and final soil conditions or, select another area for parkland dedication.
 2. Common ownership by a homeowner's association that assumes full responsibility for its maintenance;
 3. Dedication of development rights to ~~an appropriate~~another public agency with ownership remaining with the developer or homeowner's association. Maintenance responsibility will remain with the property owner; and/or
 4. Deed-restricted private ownership preventing development and/or subsequent ~~subdivision~~land division and providing for ongoing maintenance responsibilities.
- E. In the event that ~~any private~~an owner of private open space fails to maintain it according to the standards of this Code, the City of Sandy, following reasonable notice, may demand that the deficiency of maintenance be corrected, and may enter the open space for maintenance purposes. All costs thereby incurred by the City shall be charged to those persons having the primary responsibility for maintenance of the open space. The City shall enforce the maintenance requirement, pursuant to Sandy Municipal Code Sections 1.18 or 8.16.



SANDY

PARKS & TRAILS SYSTEM MASTER PLAN | 2021

Amended

CITY OF SANDY PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN Update

Prepared for
City of Sandy

February 2022



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OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY | ESA helps a variety of public and private sector clients plan and prepare for climate change and emerging regulations that limit GHG emissions. ESA is a registered assessor with the California Climate Action Registry, a Climate Leader, and founding reporter for the Climate Registry. ESA is also a corporate member of the U.S. Green Building Council and the Business Council on Climate Change (BC3). Internally, ESA has adopted a Sustainability Vision and Policy Statement and a plan to reduce waste and energy within our operations. This document was produced using recycled paper.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Rich Sheldon
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 Sandy Parks and Trails Master Plan provides a framework for managing the continuing growth and maintenance of the City's parks and recreation resources through the year 2035. The document is intended to be reviewed and updated regularly in response to plan progress and changing conditions. The plan is a reflection of the community's values and a significant accomplishment made possible by a collaborative effort involving community stakeholders, City Council, the Parks and Trails Advisory Board, the Technical Advisory Committee, and City staff.

The plan is divided into six sections with supporting material included in appendices:

- Chapter 1 describes the purposes of the plan, reports progress made since the prior plan, and identifies related planning documents that have bearing on Sandy's parks and trails system.
- Chapter 2 characterizes the physical and demographic context of the planning area and summarizes public outreach efforts.
- Chapter 3 outlines the park system's organization, classifies and inventories park and trail assets, and briefly discusses other regional recreation providers.
- Chapter 4 explains the concept of level of service and uses it to identify needs in the existing park and trail resources and set goals for future acquisition, development, operations, and maintenance growth.
- Chapter 5 provides recommendations for general priorities and improvements to existing parks, concepts for existing undeveloped parks and trails, and guidance on potential funding and operations changes.
- Chapter 6 identifies strategies to implement and fund the recommended improvements and includes near term capital improvements projects.
- The Appendices contain full capital project lists, design guidelines, existing park and trail inventories, additional context for the undeveloped park concepts in Chapter 5, and a full description of public outreach during the planning process.

Unlike land-constrained Portland and its suburbs, the City of Sandy is largely surrounded by tracts of natural, low density residential, and agricultural lands. The availability of undeveloped land presents an opportunity for the parks and trails system to be extensive, well connected, and high quality. On the other hand, Sandy is one of the fastest growing communities in Oregon and faces consistent pressure to develop land for residential use. The City must be strategic and forward looking to preserve the unique character and charm of beloved assets like Meinig Memorial Park, the Tickle Creek Trail, and Jonsrud Viewpoint, while continuing to develop a diverse, accessible system that serves all community members.

Future parks will be designed to incorporate amenities, features, and practices which prioritize a diverse, inclusive, accessible, and sustainable park system that incorporates public art where possible.

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

The City of Sandy, Oregon, is located approximately halfway between the state's largest population center, Portland, and its highest mountain, Mt. Hood. The City is adjacent to its namesake, the Sandy River and surrounded by mountains, forests, streams and rolling foothills. The scenic nature of Sandy's setting makes it an attractive bedroom community to the Portland-metro area. It also serves as the first full service city for those headed west from Mt. Hood.

1.1 PLAN PURPOSE

This update to the 1997 City of Sandy Parks Master Plan was undertaken to address the City's steady population growth, recent expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), and completion of most of the projects identified in the 1997 Plan. The update sets the year 2035 as the target planning horizon. The general purpose for the amendment is to:

- Update the previous plan to reflect current parks and trails system conditions
- Identify the type and geographic distribution of proposed new parks and trails to meet the needs of continued population expansion
- Recommend improvements to existing parks to repair or replace older features to reduce maintenance costs and improve user experiences
- Recommend funding strategies for future park and trail projects
- Update the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to help guide priorities over the 15 year planning period.

1.2 PROGRESS SINCE PREVIOUS MASTER PLAN

When Sandy adopted its first Parks Master Plan in 1997, the parks system was limited to a handful of parks and undeveloped parcels and relied heavily on school, church, and regional park facilities to serve the community. To meet growing demand, the City initiated the planning process by inventorying existing facilities, assessing recreational needs, and crafting recommendations for park development. Current and projected demographics and public engagement efforts informed recommendations which highlighted the following goals:

- Upgrade existing park facilities
- Acquire land for future parks, especially larger tracts, to meet community park needs
- Adjust system development charges to provide funding for future park development
- Develop new pedestrian and bicycle trails and provide connections between parks

- Develop new parks alongside residential and commercial development to ensure equitable access to parks and trails for a growing population

The 1997 Plan also prioritized athletic fields, indoor or covered facilities, sport courts, and the preservation of open space and natural areas. The community expressed interest in developing a cooperative partnership between Sandy and the Oregon Trail School District for joint use, maintenance, and funding of facilities.

Since the adoption of the 1997 Plan, Sandy’s population has more than doubled and many of the Plan’s goals have been achieved:

- Meinig Memorial Park facilities were upgraded
- The City added 5 mini parks, 6 neighborhood parks, a community park, an urban plaza, a skate park, and over 200 acres of natural and open space
- System development charges were established and have been used as a steady source of funding to develop and improve park and trail facilities
- Nearly two miles of the Tickle Creek Trail has been completed
- Park land is acquired via dedication or purchased using fee in lieu of land payments as a condition of development. Fee in lieu and System Development Charge (SDC) money is combined with grants, partnerships, and volunteer labor to acquire land and develop parks to support new residential development.



Basketball Court at Timberline Park

1.3 RELATED PLANS

Sandy Comprehensive Land Use Plan

The Sandy Comprehensive Land Use Plan is the guiding document for all planning and development efforts in the city. Goal 8 of the Plan directs the City to maintain, preserve, enhance, and reinforce its desirable and distinctive characteristics and those of its individual neighborhoods by providing parks and open space for each neighborhood. The Plan outlines policies and goals to guide park planning efforts. These include:

- Ensure new residential development contributes equitably to park land acquisition, development, and maintenance.
- Establish methods to maintain and enhance the quality and quantity of parks, open space, and recreational facilities and services. Ensure that these facilities and services serve the diverse recreational needs and interests of area residents and are accessible to all members of the community.

- Establish viewpoints for natural vistas and protect natural resources.
- Establish user fees for recreation uses and facility reservations.
- Use improvement funds such as transportation SDC's for sidewalk projects and bicycle facilities that implement elements of the Transportation System Plan.

The Plan also identifies the need to:

- Develop a Parks Master Plan outlining park locations, recreational facilities, and services.
- Develop a parks system that provides both active recreation and exercise and passive enjoyment of the outdoors.
- Locate parks near schools and cooperate with the school district on joint recreational facilities.



Trail at Sandy River Park

The Plan outlines funding policies to use system development charges, bonds, grants, and donations for new parks, open space and facilities. It calls for recreation user fees for recreation uses and facility reservations. The Plan calls for the City to consider the dedication of a portion of road construction and improvement funds for sidewalk projects and bicycle facilities and highlights the need for park maintenance volunteers.

Recommended changes to Goal 8 of the Comprehensive Plan are proposed in Chapter 5 of this report. Sandy will be embarking on a Comprehensive Plan update in 2021, with adoption anticipated in 2023.

Sandy Transportation System Plan

The City's Transportation System Plan (TSP) serves as the foundation for the construction of arterial and collector streets, helps shape the future development of Sandy, and serves as a valuable resource for staff, policy makers, and the public.

The current plan was adopted in 2011. The Bicycle and Pedestrian components of the plan are currently in the process of being updated with expected adoption in 2022. The update will identify strategies to improve mobility throughout Sandy by addressing bike and pedestrian needs, connectivity, increased traffic volumes, funding opportunities, street design, development conditions, and user preferences. Elements of the current (2011) plan that serve both recreation and transportation needs have been incorporated into this plan, including access way / trails that are not associated with roadway projects, and a proposed pedestrian over crossing of Highway 211.

Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identifies current trends in recreation participation and demand and key planning issues facing communities, and provides state and local recommendations to address these issues. The 2019–2023 SCORP identified five important demographic and societal changes facing outdoor recreation providers in the coming years, including an aging population, an increasingly diverse population, lack of youth engagement in outdoor recreation, an underserved low-income population, and the health benefits of physical activity.

The 2019-2023 SCORP identified Sandy’s UGB as a high priority area for families with children and middle old populations (75-84 years). As a high-priority city, Sandy is eligible for potential ranking prioritization when applying for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) grants.

Individual Park Master Plans

The City of Sandy has completed master plans for a number of parks in the system over the past decade. Elements or initial phases of these plans have been implemented, with future phases remaining incomplete. Those master plans supplemented these planning efforts and are included to identify planned improvements, community needs, and estimated costs. Reference master plans include:

- Bornstedt Park Master Plan
- Sandy River Park Master Plan



CHAPTER 2

Community Profile

The City of Sandy's parks and recreation facilities serve a population that is 2-3 times larger than the 12,612 people within City limits. These areas include residents of the villages of Mt. Hood, Boring, Eagle Creek and Estacada. Sandy manages lands within City limits, while Clackamas County manages lands within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and Urban Growth Reserve (UGR). The Sandy UGB expanded in 2017 and 2020.

2.1 PHYSICAL CONTEXT AND PLANNING AREA

Regional Location

Sandy is separated from surrounding cities and towns by rural reserves. The areas of Clackamas County to the east of Sandy are unincorporated small villages: Alder Creek, Brightwood, Wemme, Welches, Zigzag, Rhododendron and Government Camp. These villages are surrounded by the Mt. Hood National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands, which offer more than a million forested acres providing a wide range of recreational opportunities. Residents in these villages come to Sandy, to meet many of their shopping and personal needs. The larger towns south and west of Sandy including Boring, Eagle Creek and Estacada, are composed of some denser residential areas and large areas of farm and agricultural nursery lands interspersed with large home lots. Farther west, towards Gresham, the nursery land transitions to a more populated and urban setting.

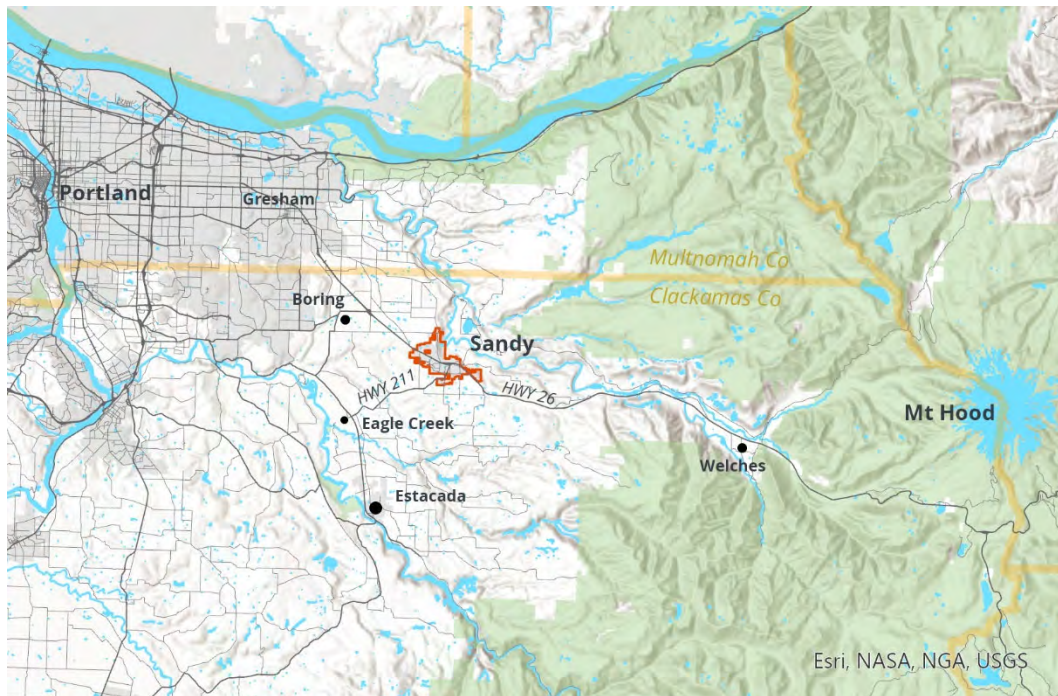


Figure 1 Vicinity Map

Planning Area

The planning area for Sandy's Parks and Trails Master Plan Amendment is defined as the City's Urban Growth Reserve (UGR), with an emphasis on the areas within the recently expanded urban growth boundary (UGB). The undeveloped areas within the UGB and UGR, but outside the City limits, are currently under the planning jurisdiction and policies of Clackamas County until they are annexed into the City.

Sandy is bisected by two state highways that act as significant physical barriers to community connectivity: Highway 26 provides access from Portland and Gresham to the Mt. Hood National Forest. State Highway 211 begins at an intersection with Highway 26 in Sandy and heads south to Estacada, Molalla and beyond.

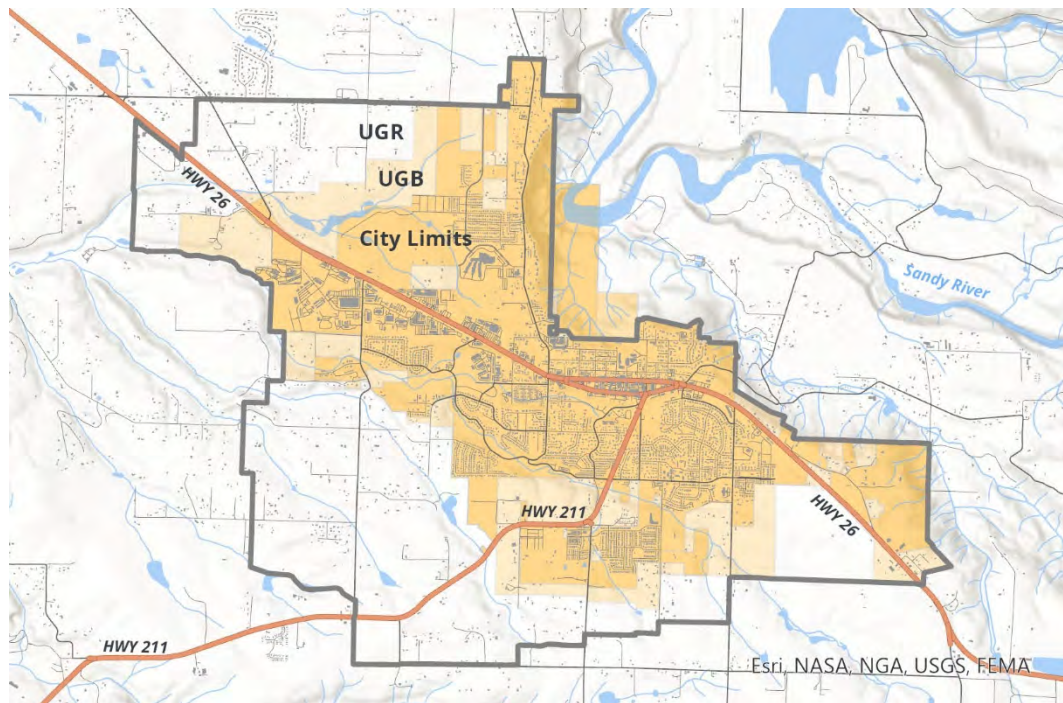


Figure 2 Planning Area

Climate and Surroundings

Sandy's climate is fairly mild with wet winters and occasional wind storms, especially east winds along Bluff Road. Temperatures average in the mid 40's in winter and in the mid 60's in summer. Annual rainfall averages over 75 inches.

Land cover of non-urbanized areas within the planning area consists of a mixture of open agricultural fields (berry fields and nursery stock), small patches of forests, and large lots with single family homes. Forest lands are a mixture of hardwoods (alder, big leaf maples, and vine maples) and conifers (Douglas fir, western hemlock and western red cedar). There are numerous small creeks draining to Tickle Creek, Sandy River, and Deep Creek which support salmon runs. Wildlife is abundant in and around Sandy with signs and sightings of raccoons, possum, coyotes, bear, cougars, bobcats, bald eagles, osprey and a variety of birds.

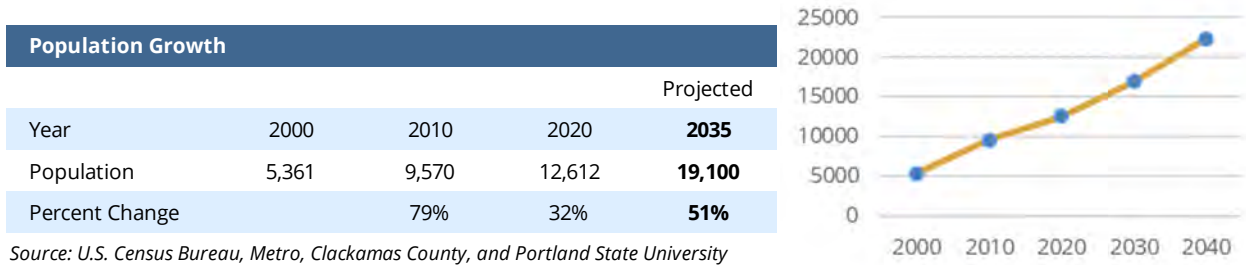
Topography is the most limiting factor for development in Sandy. The north edge of town is defined by the Sandy River canyon and a precipitous drop of nearly 600 feet of elevation. The City sits at 1,000 feet above sea level and elevations generally rise as you head east towards Mt. Hood. Drainages increase south of Sandy and generally flow to the Clackamas River.

2.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2020, there were nearly 4,700 estimated households in Sandy with an average size of 2.77 people. Of those households, 40% had children under the age of 18, and one third included someone over the age of 60. Sandy uses federal census data and population studies conducted by Portland State University.

Population and Age

Sandy’s population grew steadily over the previous decades and is expected to continue this trend through 2035.

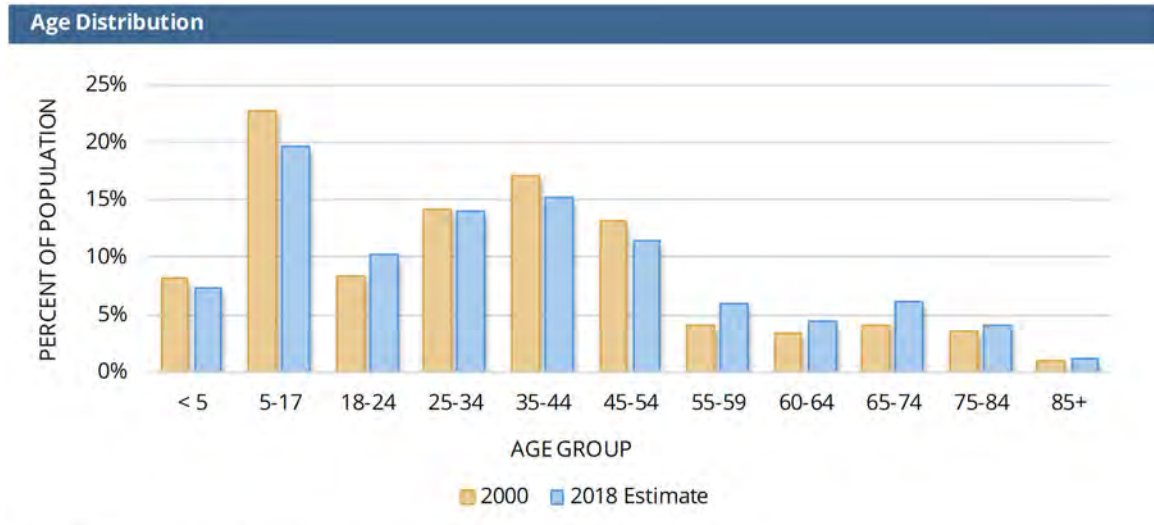


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Metro, Clackamas County, and Portland State University

Figure 3 Population



The general age group composition remained relatively consistent between 2000 and 2018. Although adults over the age of 55 comprise a smaller percentage of the total population, the older age groups are exhibiting a growing trend which aligns with statewide and national trends. The percentage of adults over age 55 increased from 16% to 22% of the total population.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Portland State University

Figure 4 Age Distribution

Race, Ethnicity, and Language

While Sandy remains predominantly white, diversity has been steadily increasing since 2000. The portion of Sandy’s population identifying as Hispanic or Latino increased five-fold since the last parks planning effort. Steady growth of this demographic is expected to continue.

TABLE 1
RACE AND ETHNICITY

Race and Ethnicity		
	2010	2020
White alone	90%	84%
Black or African American alone	0.9%	1.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2.5%	4.1%
Asian alone	2.3%	2.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.6%	0.6%
Some Other Race alone	3.8%	6.6%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	8.9%	10%
Not Hispanic or Latino	87.5%	90%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

An estimated 10% of Sandy’s population speaks a language other than English, and an estimated 97% of the population speaks English only or speaks English “very well.”

TABLE 2
LANGUAGE

Language	
Speak only English	90%
Speak a language other than English	10%
Spanish	5.5%
Other Indo-European languages	4.1%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	0.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income and Employment

In 2018, an estimated 2% of the Sandy labor force was unemployed. Median household income was consistent with state-wide estimates at \$64,296.

An estimated 11% of Sandy residents’ income was below poverty level with those under the age of 18 contributing a higher rate (around 16%) and those over 18 a slightly lower rate (around 9%).

2.3 PLANNING PROCESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Planning for the update of the 1997 Parks Master Plan has been ongoing for a number of years. A variety of surveys and other community outreach has been conducted both prior to and through the current Parks and Trails Master Plan update process to insure that the final master plan is in line with community needs and desires. A summary of the types of outreach and input received is included below. A more detailed public engagement summary can be found in Appendix F.

Prior Surveys

2013 Community Needs and Perceptions Survey

In 2013, the City issued an online Parks and Trails Survey to City residents with more than 600 surveys returned. Nearly 97% of the respondents had visited a park within the last year with Meinig Park, Tickle Creek Trail, and Jonsrud Viewpoint being the most popular destinations.

One third of survey respondents said they visited a park daily, another 25% visited weekly or bi-weekly, and another third visited a city park at least monthly. Nearly 90% felt that the city parks were in good or excellent condition.

When asked about park types and park features needed in Sandy, the most common responses included restrooms, picnic facilities and off-leash dog parks. Sandy has since added one dog park, but interest in additional dog parks remains high and users desire more amenities at existing facilities.

Most residents felt that park funds should be allocated to maintain existing facilities and construct new facilities on existing park land rather than be used to purchase additional land for parks and trails.

2018 Longest Day Parkway

In 2018, City staff had a booth at the Longest Day Parkway event held in June to reconnect with the public and gather updated information regarding needs and preferences. The event included a series of display boards with a dot-voting exercise and a one-page questionnaire, which was a streamlined version of the 2013 survey. The responses to the questionnaire were fairly similar to the 2013 survey, with the top parks and park features closely aligned. Notably, the number of respondents that visited parks up to twice a month was substantially higher at 84% of Longest Day Parkway attendees, over 61% of survey participants. This could be in part due to the population likely to participate in this type of event. In the dot exercise, spraygrounds, obstacle courses, and natural play equipment were the top choices across age groups. Kids indicated a preference for an updated skatepark, and trails and natural space, while adults preferred trails and natural space, and sports fields and courts to round out their top five priorities. The survey participants included 44 adults and 107 children

2019 Community Survey

In 2019, the City conducted a Parks and Recreation Survey to City residents. Over 5,000 copies were mailed to residents and an online option was also available. More than 1,200 responses were received, 12% online and 88% by mail. The primary purpose of the survey was to solicit feedback from the community on how to use manage the old Cedar Ridge Middle School, pool and grounds which had been recently acquired by the City. Nearly 75% of respondents supported expanding or renovating the existing pool. The survey also asked for preferences for which amenities to include within the park. Top priorities included paths or trails to the river, playground, outdoor sports fields, and dog park.

Other Surveys

In addition to the surveys noted above, Sandy has conducted several surveys to garner input on potential redevelopment of the former Cedar Ridge Middle School and Olin Bignall Aquatic Center complex, also known as the Sandy Community Campus. Specifically, a survey was conducted in 2014 to gauge interest on the City acquisition of the School District facility. More than half of respondents felt that continued operation of the pool was very important and supported a potential monthly fee to help fund it. In 2020, a survey was conducted to investigate the potential of pursuing an Aquatic and Recreation Fee District to help fund pool renovations, operations and maintenance costs. Initial response included

46% “No”, 43% “Yes”, and 11% “Don’t know”. The formation of a recreation district would require passage by voters, and the analysis of the survey results indicated that the Aquatics & Recreation District formation was not likely to pass.

2020 Parks & Trails Master Plan

The City of Sandy began the Master Plan update with an inventory of existing parks. Parks maintenance staff conducted and documented routine facility condition inventories and identified deferred maintenance needs. Staff reviewed updates to the Transportation Plan, participated in the expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) planning process, and reviewed updates to national park land standards.

The City conducted a series of stakeholder meetings, technical advisory committee meetings, open houses, and online surveys to collect data on existing park use patterns, desires and priorities. The Parks Board worked with City planners to review population projections and potential City boundary adjustments that would influence future park locations. The Board developed a preliminary needs assessment based on the findings.

The City reviewed the current development code’s role in parks and trails development and noted opportunities for system expansion.

Technical Advisory Committee

The city formed a technical advisory committee to guide and inform the PTSMP update. The committee was composed of one City Councilor, two Park and Trail Advisory Board members, two City staff, one School District representative, and several local community representatives. The technical advisory committee met six times during the course of the project to review public input, comment on draft maps and reports, and review the proposed master plan.

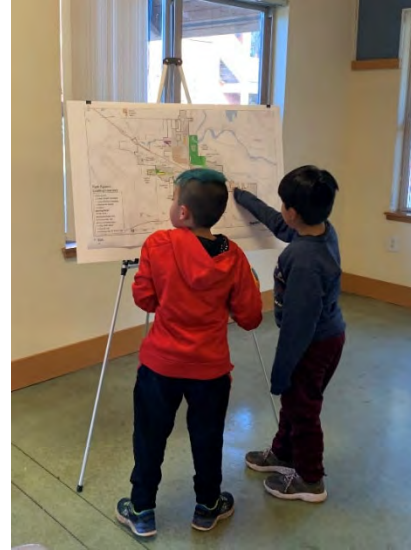


Stakeholder interviews

A series of stakeholder meetings were conducted to collect input from key user groups within the community. Twelve stakeholders were interviewed to inform the PTSMP update. They represented a diverse array of community groups, residents, and special interests. Key topics included special recreational amenities (skate parks, pump tracks, dog parks, community gardens), sports fields, maintenance and operations, accessibility and universal design, the trail system, and balanced distribution of parks and amenities.

Public Open Houses

Several public open houses were held over the course of the project. The first open house was held at the Sandy Community/Senior Center and was intended to gather input on park distribution, needs and desired park amenities. A questionnaire and comment form was collected at the meeting. The second open house was held at the Sandy Vista Apartments Community room. The meeting included the maps and posters from the first open house, translated into Spanish, as well as a translated questionnaire. The second open house featured bi-lingual staff who were able to present materials and answer questions in both English and Spanish. The third open house was held online due to the ongoing public health crisis. The online open house featured a number of stations with survey questions related to the materials embedded at each station. The online open house materials were translated into a Spanish language flyer and distributed at Sandy Vista Apartments as a follow up to the second open house.



CHAPTER 3

Existing Park System

Sandy is among the fastest growing cities in Oregon. To plan a parks system that will adequately serve its future population, the City must first assess its current condition. Department structure, community partnerships, funding sources, and the park facilities themselves all contribute to the success of the system in meeting anticipated growth.

3.1 ORGANIZATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Organization

The Parks, Buildings, & Grounds Department program maintains and makes minor improvements to the city's parks, open spaces, public spaces, and public buildings. These activities are funded primarily out of the General Fund.

- **Staff and Roles** - Sandy's parks, grounds, trails, and open spaces are maintained by three full-time employees and a seasonal worker employed during the summer months. Parks maintenance staff also perform minor building maintenance for some City facilities. Local landscaping firms are contracted to maintain landscaping at the library, police building, community center, and two landscape island at either end of downtown.
- **Policy and Planning** - Policy for Sandy's parks system is created by the City Council with assistance from a seven-person citizen advisory board. One City Council member is assigned as a liaison between the Parks & Trails Advisory Board and the Sandy City Council. The Parks & Trails Advisory Board is a volunteer board that supports planning and advocacy for the parks system and assists with park improvement projects.

Partnerships

- **Oregon Trail School District (OTSD)** – The City occasionally provides funding for sports fields and court improvements, and the district rents out facilities for youth and adult recreation sport leagues, summer camps, parades, pet shows, and other community events.
- **AntFarm** - AntFarm is a non-profit dedicated to serving community youth including job and environmental skills training through hands-on volunteer work. The City partnered with AntFarm and its YouthCore Crew to construct trails at Sandy River Park and a community garden at Bornstedt Park.
- **Mt Hood Athletic Club** - The City occasionally partners with the Mt. Hood Athletic Club for special events including fun runs and senior activities.
- **Non-profits and For-profits** - The City is finalizing a permit process that includes an application, fee structure, insurance requirements, and permits to formalize the increasing use of City parks and trails for fundraisers and other events.

- **Volunteers** - Sandy has a long history of parks related volunteerism, including a 100-person effort to construct the Fantasy Forest Playground in Meinig Park, fundraising for dog parks and other improvements, and service day outings such as Solv-it in Sandy. However, there is no coordinated parks and trails volunteer organization to provide consistent operations and maintenance assistance.



Fantasy Forest playground at Meinig Park

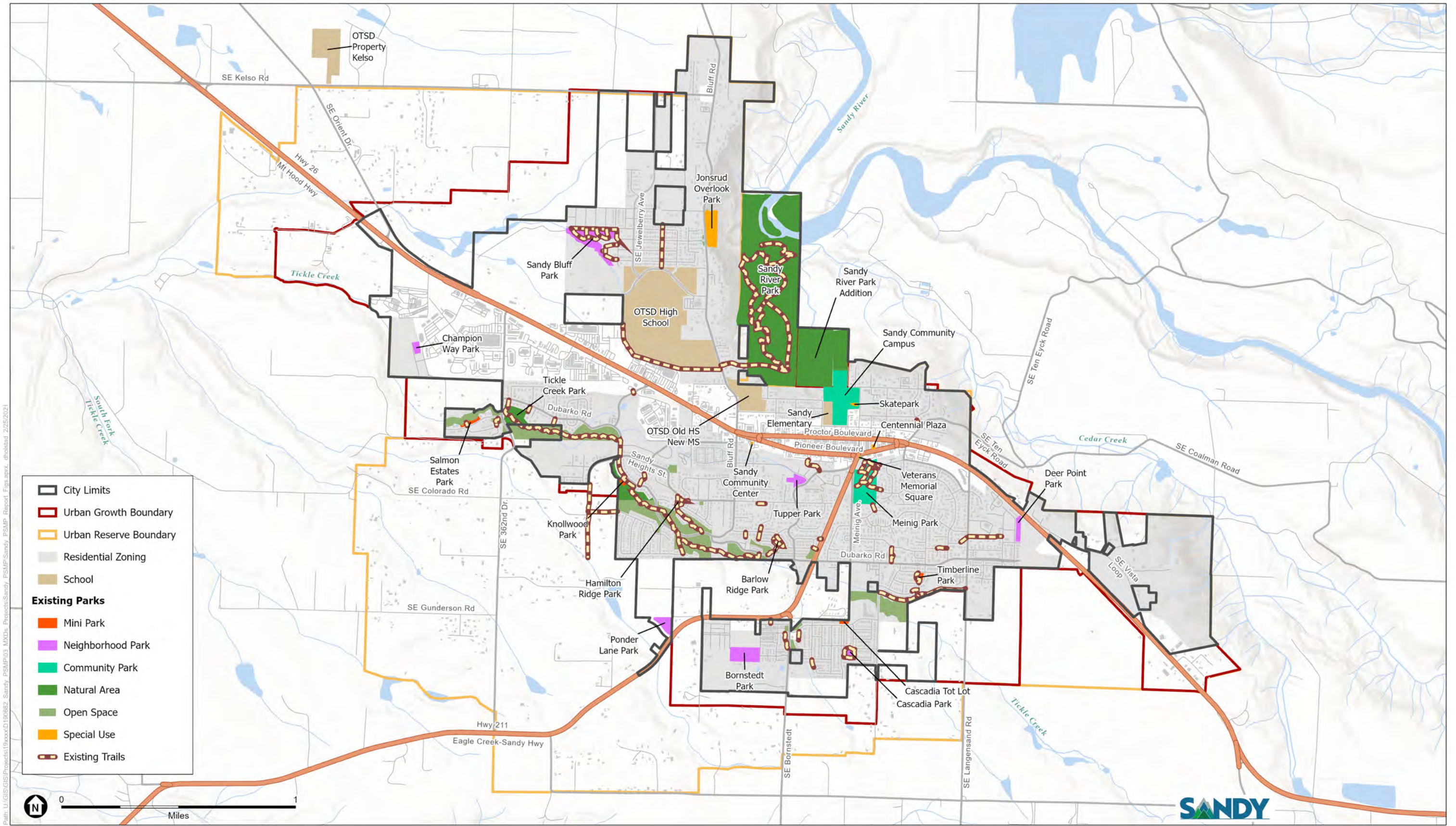
3.2 PARK CLASSIFICATION AND INVENTORY

Sandy classifies its park facilities according to the Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) developed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). According to this plan,

“The most effective park system to develop and manage is one made up of a variety of different types of parks, open space areas, and recreational venues, each designed to provide a specific type of recreation experience or opportunity. A park system that is classified and used properly is easier to maintain, encounters less conflicts between user groups, and minimizes negative impacts on adjoining neighbors. A good park classification system also helps assess what facilities are available for current use and what types of parks will be needed to serve the community in the future.”

The prior Park Master plan defined nine park and trail classifications, a number of which were owned and/or operated by other regional providers. Under the Parks and Trails Master Plan update, the park classifications were reviewed and streamlined to focus efforts on the key types of parks that the City currently has in its inventory, and the classifications that are likely to be the most beneficial to the community moving forward. The park system has been reorganized to include five primary classifications to meet the needs of the community:

- Mini parks,
- Neighborhood parks,
- Community parks,
- Natural areas and open space,
- Special use areas.



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA; USFWS NWI, Open Street Map, City of Sandy, OR.



Map 5
Existing Park Inventory

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The following classifications were developed from the SCORP guidelines and selected as most applicable to Sandy’s park system. Each existing park was inventoried for total land area, area developed, and current amenities.

Mini Parks

Mini parks, sometimes called pocket parks, are the smallest park classification. Mini parks provide basic recreation opportunities on small lots, within residential areas serving an area within approximately 5-minute walking time (approximately ¼ mile) from neighbors. Typically less than one acre in size (¼ to ¾ acre), these parks are designed to serve residents in immediately adjacent neighborhoods. Mini parks provide limited recreation amenities, such as small playgrounds, benches, picnic tables, and accessible paths, and normally do not provide off-street parking. Mini parks should be used sparingly, primarily to fill service area gaps in developed neighborhoods, due to their high maintenance demand and limited service area. Sandy currently has six mini parks, all of which are developed.



Timberline Ridge Mini Park

**TABLE 3
MINI PARK INVENTORY**

MINI PARKS			Existing Amenities																					
Park Name	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Restroom	Drinking Fountain	Playground	Splash Pad	Picnic Shelter	Group Shelter	Picnic Tables	Stage / Amphitheater	Community Garden	Open Field	Baseball Field	Soccer Field	Skate-park	Sport Court	Parking	Benches	Dog Park Fenced	Dog Waste Station	Hiking / Walking Path	Bike Trails	Interpretive Area	Trail Signage
Barlow Ridge Park	0.81	0.81		✓	✓				✓							✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Cascadia Park Tot Lot	0.04	0.04			✓				✓											✓				
Hamilton Ridge Park	0.78	0.78		✓	✓				✓			✓						✓		✓	✓			
Knollwood Park Tot Lot	0.60	0.60			✓													✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Salmon Estates Park	0.77	0.77			✓							✓						✓		✓	✓			
Timberline Ridge Park	0.87	0.87		✓	✓				✓							✓		✓		✓	✓			
Total	3.87	3.87																						

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreation opportunities, primarily for passive and non-organized recreation activities. They are located within approximately 5-10 minute walking time (approximately ¼ - ½ mile) from local residences, without crossing major roads and/or other structures that can be considered barriers for safe and easy walking and biking. They serve up to a one-half-mile radius, although service areas are also influenced by neighborhood configuration, geographical and transportation barriers, and are generally 2-5 acres in size. Neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as playgrounds, outdoor sports courts, sports fields, picnic tables, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas. They may or may not provide off-street parking. Neighborhood parks can, when practical, be located next to elementary schools in order to provide more efficient use of public resources. Neighborhood parks should avoid inclusion of amenities that could be a draw to people travelling from further distances, such as dog parks, skate parks, and splash pads, unless appropriate support facilities such as restrooms and parking are also provided. Sandy currently has seven neighborhood parks, with four developed parks and three undeveloped parcels.



Deer Point Neighborhood Park

**TABLE 4
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK INVENTORY**

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS			Existing Amenities																					
Park Name	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Restroom	Drinking Fountain	Playground	Splash Pad	Picnic Shelter	Group Shelter	Picnic Tables	Stage / Amphitheater	Community Garden	Open Field	Baseball Field	Soccer Field	Skate-park	Sport Court	Parking	Benches	Dog Park Fenced	Dog Waste Station	Hiking / Walking Path	Bike Trails	Interpretive Area	Trail Signage
Bornstedt Park	5.03	5.03	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓	✓				
Cascadia Park	1.83	1.83	✓				✓	✓				✓						✓		✓	✓			
Champion Way Park	0.99	0.00																						
Deer Point Park	1.41	0.00										✓						✓		✓	✓			
Ponder Lane	2.00	0.00																						
Sandy Bluff Park	8.37	8.37	✓	✓								✓						✓	✓	✓	✓			
Tupper Park	1.66	1.66	✓	✓				✓			✓					✓	✓		✓					
Total	21.29	16.89																						

Community Parks



Stage at Meinig Community Park

Community parks 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 10 to 30 acres, depending on the spatial requirements of the facilities provided and the amount of land dedicated to natural resource protection. Community

parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community serving an area within approximately 15 minutes driving time or three miles. While community parks may be proximate to a neighborhood and can provide typical neighborhood park amenities, they are normally designed to be driven to. Community parks typically accommodate large numbers of people, and offer a wide variety of facilities, such as group picnic areas and large shelters, sports fields and courts, large 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 can also serve as regional trailheads. Sandy currently has two community parks, one of which, Meinig Park, is developed. Sandy Community Campus includes a few amenities such as fields that are left over from its prior role as a school campus, and it houses the Sandy Skate Park but it is primarily undeveloped. Both parks are at the small end of the potential size range which limits the quantity and size of amenities they can accommodate.

**TABLE 5
COMMUNITY PARK INVENTORY**

COMMUNITY PARKS			Existing Amenities																					
Park Name	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Restroom	Drinking Fountain	Playground	Splash Pad	Picnic Shelter	Group Shelter	Picnic Tables	Stage / Amphitheater	Community Garden	Open Field	Baseball Field ¹	Soccer Field	Skate-park	Sport Court	Parking	Benches	Dog Park Fenced	Dog Waste Station	Hiking / Walking Path	Bike Trails	Interpretive Area	Trail Signage
Sandy Community Campus & Skate Park	14.00	0.25										✓	✓ ¹	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			
Meinig Memorial Park	10.82	10.82	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓		✓	✓			
Total	24.82	11.07																						

¹ Field is unmaintained and in poor condition

Natural and Open Space

Natural areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and for visual aesthetics/ buffering. They may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as wildlife habitats, wetlands, riparian corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Natural areas can vary in size from small parcels (less than 10 acres) to large properties of more than 100 acres, and typically serve the entire community. Public access to natural areas may be limited due to the sensitive nature of the habitats and features. Some nature parks may be managed secondarily to provide passive recreation opportunities. These sites may contain trails, interpretive displays, viewpoints, picnic and seating areas. Sandy currently has six natural areas, four of which include trails and other light passive use. Natural area acreage is not considered developed at the same level as other park classifications, but may include developed areas such as trails and trailheads.



**TABLE 6
NATURAL AREA AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY**

NATURAL & OPEN SPACE			Existing Amenities																					
Park Name	Total Acres	Developed Acres ¹	Restroom	Drinking Fountain	Playground	Splash Pad	Picnic Shelter	Group Shelter	Picnic Tables	Stage / Amphitheater	Community Garden	Open Field	Baseball Field	Soccer Field	Skate-park	Sport Court	Parking	Benches	Dog Park Fenced	Dog Waste Station	Hiking / Walking Path	Bike Trails	Interpretive Area	Trail Signage
Knollwood Park	5.45	NA																✓		✓	✓	✓		
Sandy River Park	116.28	NA															✓				✓	✓		
Sandy River Park Addition	24.16	NA																			✓	✓		
Sandy Community Campus	7.10	NA																						
Tickle Creek Park	4.92	NA																			✓	✓		
Tickle Creek Open Space Parcels	66.73	NA																						
Total	224.64	NA																						

¹ Natural areas are generally not considered developed at the level of other park types

Special Use Areas



Centennial Plaza

The Special Use classification covers a broad range of park and recreation lands that are specialized or single-purpose in nature. Parks in this category can include waterfront parks, boat ramps, memorials, historic sites, waysides, sites with significant geologic or scenic features, and single purpose such as dedicated sports complexes, dog parks, skate parks, display gardens. Special use parks that have a community or regional draw may

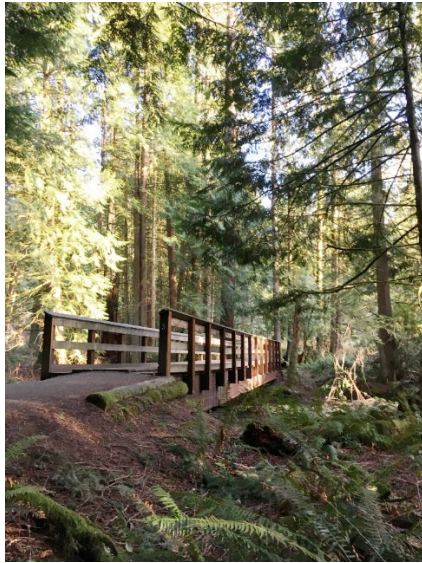
require supporting facilities such as parking or restrooms. Park size is dependent on the special use and can vary from very small to many acres. Sandy currently has four special use areas.

**TABLE 7
SPECIAL USE AREA INVENTORY**

SPECIAL USE AREAS			Existing Amenities																					
Park Name	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Restroom	Drinking Fountain	Playground	Splash Pad	Picnic Shelter	Group Shelter	Picnic Tables	Stage / Amphitheater	Community Garden	Open Field	Baseball Field	Soccer Field	Skate-park	Sport Court	Parking	Benches	Dog Park Fenced	Dog Waste Station	Hiking / Walking Path	Bike Trails	Interpretive Area	Trail Signage
Jonsrud Viewpoint	4.91	0.80	✓														✓	✓					✓	
Centennial Plaza	0.22	0.22	✓	✓			✓			✓														
Community / Senior Center	0.10	0.10	✓	✓													✓							
Veterans Memorial Square	0.04	0.04	✓																				✓	
Total	5.27	1.16																						

3.3 TRAIL SYSTEM INVENTORY

Trails



Bridge on the Tickle Creek Trail

The trail classification encompasses a number of trail types including shared-use and pedestrian, hard and soft surface trails and paths to accommodate a variety of activities such as walking, running, biking, dog walking, rollerblading, skateboarding, and horseback riding. Trails may be located within parks or along existing streets and roadways and can serve as part of the bicycle and pedestrian components of the City transportation system. Shared-use trails are designed for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders, wheelchairs, and other non-motorized vehicles. These trails are usually hard surfaced to provide accessibility for people with disabilities and wide enough to accommodate both bicyclists and pedestrians. Hard surfaced pedestrian trails are generally found within

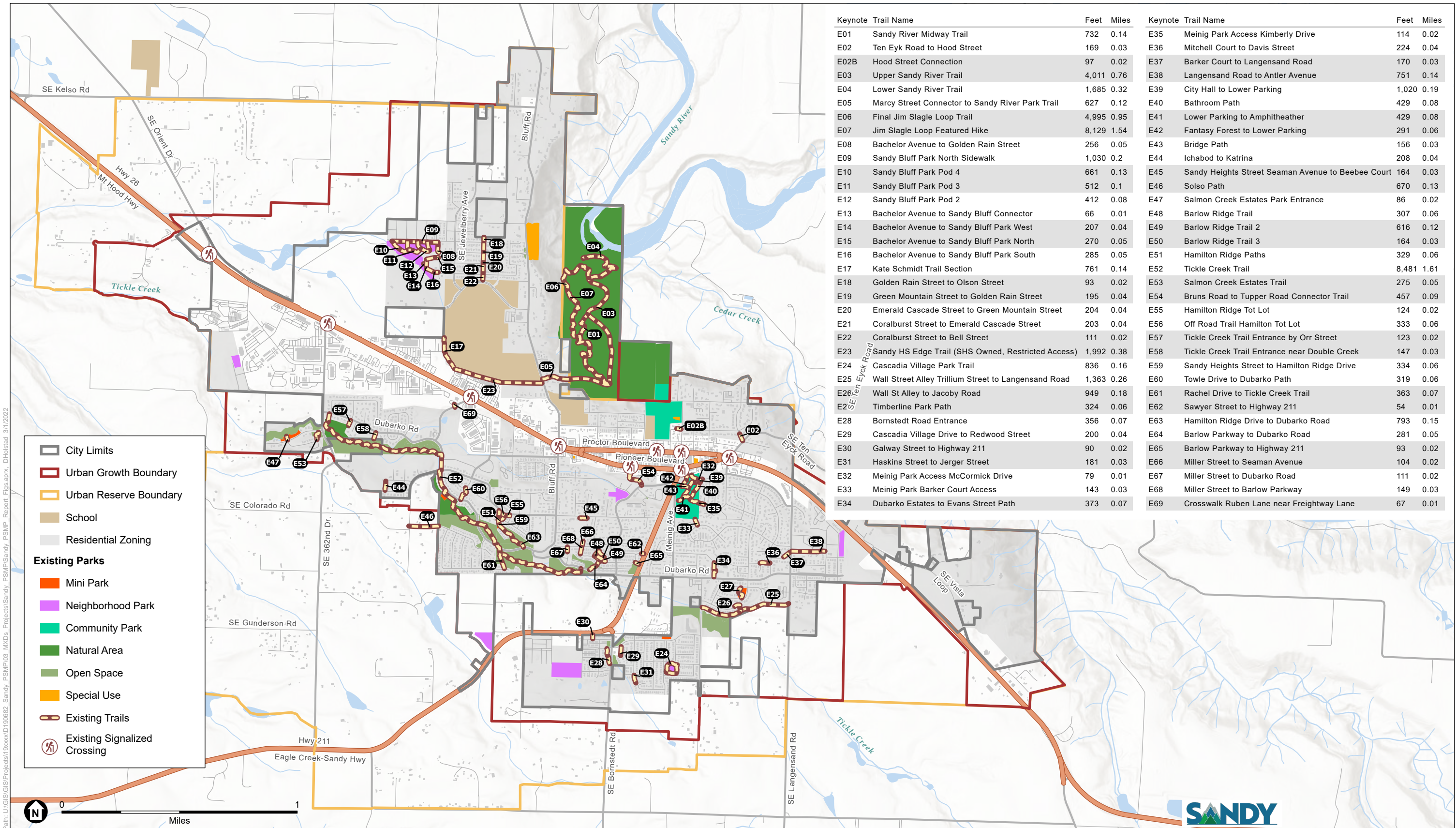
smaller parks and as secondary trails within larger parks. Soft surfaced trails are composed of soft-surface materials, such as soil, crushed rock, hog fuel, and wood chips. Most soft surfaces do not provide accessibility for people with disabilities but are preferable for some recreation activities,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

**TABLE 8
TRAIL INVENTORY**

TRAILS & PATHS WITHIN PARKS		TRAILS & PATHS OUTSIDE PARKS	
Park Name	Miles of Path / Trail	Associated Feature	Miles of Path / Trail
Sandy River Park	3.85	Tickle Creek	2.10
Sandy Bluff Park	0.70	Sandy High School ¹	0.53
Cascadia Park	0.16	Neighborhood Paths	1.05
Timberline Park	0.06	Kate Schmidt Trail	0.14
Meinig Park	0.50	Total	3.82
Salmon Estates Park	0.07		
Barlow Ridge Park	0.21		
Hamilton Ridge Park	0.21		
Total	5.76		

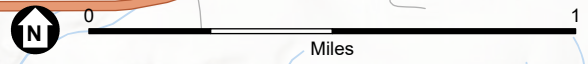
¹High School trail includes restricted access nature trail not always available for public use.

²Trail outside of parks have been converted from miles to acreage for level of service (LOS) in Table 9, based on an assumed 15-foot trail corridor width. Trails within parks are included in park LOS.



Keynote	Trail Name	Feet	Miles	Keynote	Trail Name	Feet	Miles
E01	Sandy River Midway Trail	732	0.14	E35	Meinig Park Access Kimberly Drive	114	0.02
E02	Ten Eyk Road to Hood Street	169	0.03	E36	Mitchell Court to Davis Street	224	0.04
E02B	Hood Street Connection	97	0.02	E37	Barker Court to Langensand Road	170	0.03
E03	Upper Sandy River Trail	4,011	0.76	E38	Langensand Road to Antler Avenue	751	0.14
E04	Lower Sandy River Trail	1,685	0.32	E39	City Hall to Lower Parking	1,020	0.19
E05	Marcy Street Connector to Sandy River Park Trail	627	0.12	E40	Bathroom Path	429	0.08
E06	Final Jim Slagle Loop Trail	4,995	0.95	E41	Lower Parking to Amphitheater	429	0.08
E07	Jim Slagle Loop Featured Hike	8,129	1.54	E42	Fantasy Forest to Lower Parking	291	0.06
E08	Bachelor Avenue to Golden Rain Street	256	0.05	E43	Bridge Path	156	0.03
E09	Sandy Bluff Park North Sidewalk	1,030	0.2	E44	Ichabod to Katrina	208	0.04
E10	Sandy Bluff Park Pod 4	661	0.13	E45	Sandy Heights Street Seaman Avenue to Beebee Court	164	0.03
E11	Sandy Bluff Park Pod 3	512	0.1	E46	Solso Path	670	0.13
E12	Sandy Bluff Park Pod 2	412	0.08	E47	Salmon Creek Estates Park Entrance	86	0.02
E13	Bachelor Avenue to Sandy Bluff Connector	66	0.01	E48	Barlow Ridge Trail	307	0.06
E14	Bachelor Avenue to Sandy Bluff Park West	207	0.04	E49	Barlow Ridge Trail 2	616	0.12
E15	Bachelor Avenue to Sandy Bluff Park North	270	0.05	E50	Barlow Ridge Trail 3	164	0.03
E16	Bachelor Avenue to Sandy Bluff Park South	285	0.05	E51	Hamilton Ridge Paths	329	0.06
E17	Kate Schmidt Trail Section	761	0.14	E52	Tickle Creek Trail	8,481	1.61
E18	Golden Rain Street to Olson Street	93	0.02	E53	Salmon Creek Estates Trail	275	0.05
E19	Green Mountain Street to Golden Rain Street	195	0.04	E54	Bruns Road to Tupper Road Connector Trail	457	0.09
E20	Emerald Cascade Street to Green Mountain Street	204	0.04	E55	Hamilton Ridge Tot Lot	124	0.02
E21	Coralburst Street to Emerald Cascade Street	203	0.04	E56	Off Road Trail Hamilton Tot Lot	333	0.06
E22	Coralburst Street to Bell Street	111	0.02	E57	Tickle Creek Trail Entrance by Orr Street	123	0.02
E23	Sandy HS Edge Trail (SHS Owned, Restricted Access)	1,992	0.38	E58	Tickle Creek Trail Entrance near Double Creek	147	0.03
E24	Cascadia Village Park Trail	836	0.16	E59	Sandy Heights Street to Hamilton Ridge Drive	334	0.06
E25	Wall Street Alley Trillium Street to Langensand Road	1,363	0.26	E60	Towle Drive to Dubarko Path	319	0.06
E26	Wall St Alley to Jacoby Road	949	0.18	E61	Rachel Drive to Tickle Creek Trail	363	0.07
E27	Timberline Park Path	324	0.06	E62	Sawyer Street to Highway 211	54	0.01
E28	Bornstedt Road Entrance	356	0.07	E63	Hamilton Ridge Drive to Dubarko Road	793	0.15
E29	Cascadia Village Drive to Redwood Street	200	0.04	E64	Barlow Parkway to Dubarko Road	281	0.05
E30	Galway Street to Highway 211	90	0.02	E65	Barlow Parkway to Highway 211	93	0.02
E31	Haskins Street to Jerger Street	181	0.03	E66	Miller Street to Seaman Avenue	104	0.02
E32	Meinig Park Access McCormick Drive	79	0.01	E67	Miller Street to Dubarko Road	111	0.02
E33	Meinig Park Barker Court Access	143	0.03	E68	Miller Street to Barlow Parkway	149	0.03
E34	Dubarko Estates to Evans Street Path	373	0.07	E69	Crosswalk Ruben Lane near Freightway Lane	67	0.01

- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Urban Reserve Boundary
- School
- Residential Zoning
- Existing Parks**
- Mini Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Natural Area
- Open Space
- Special Use
- Existing Trails
- Existing Signalized Crossing



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA; USFWS NWI, Open Street Map, City of Sandy, OR.



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3.4 OTHER PROVIDERS

Below are some significant parks and natural areas managed by other providers within a ten-mile radius of Sandy.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- **Sandy Ridge Trail System** – 15+ miles of single track mountain biking trails approximately 10 miles east of Sandy.

Oregon Parks and Recreation District (OPRD)

- **Milo McIver State Park** – 2,000-acre park with developed campgrounds, river recreation and fishing access, hiking and equestrian trails, and disc golf. Situated along the Clackamas River near Estacada.
- **Bonnie Lure State Recreation Area** – 150-acre passive day use nature park along the Clackamas River near Eagle Creek.

METRO

- **Oxbow Regional Park** – 2,000-acre park with developed campgrounds, river recreation and fishing access, hiking and biking trails, playgrounds, and wildlife viewing. Situated along the Sandy River east of Gresham.

Clackamas County Parks

- **Boring Station Trailhead** – Transition point between the Springwater Corridor and the Cazadero Trail. Small park in Boring with playground, restroom, picnic shelter.
- **Eagle Fern Park** – 360-acre day-use park with hiking, creek access, fishing, and picnic shelters.
- **Barton Park** – 300-acre park with developed campgrounds, hiking, multiple day use and event amenities, and a variety of river recreation opportunities. Situated along the Clackamas River.
- **Barlow Wayside Park** – 180-acre passive day use nature park with trails near the Sandy River and BLM Sandy Ridge Trail System



Barlow Wayside Trail – Clackamas County Parks

Portland Water Bureau

- **Dodge Park** – Day use river recreation, fishing, playground, and picnic facilities situated along the Sandy River north of Sandy.

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CHAPTER 4

Level of Service and Needs Assessment

The needs assessment provides the information necessary to make informed decisions on how many parks, trails, and facilities to provide in Sandy now and in the future. The community needs identified will be used as a basis for determining recommendations for system-wide improvements, including acquiring or developing new park sites and improving existing parks.

4.1 LEVEL OF SERVICE

The Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan defines level of service standards as “measures of the amount of public recreation parklands and facilities being provided to meet that jurisdiction’s basic needs and expectations.”

Level of service (LOS) standards are presented as a range and are meant to be flexible in accommodating the unique demographic, geographic, and economic characteristics of communities. LOS is usually represented as the ratio of park acres or trail miles per 1,000 residents.

Current Total LOS

Sandy’s current LOS was calculated to consider both total park acreage and developed park acreage for each classification. The Current City of Sandy LOS was then compared to the Standard that was established in the 1997 Parks Master Plan and the SCORP recommended ranges to evaluate progress since the last plan. The prior plan set aspirational goals to increase the level of service for almost all park classifications. Sandy has made substantial progress since the 1997 plan. The total park acreage LOS is currently 22.08 acres / 1000 population, which exceeds the standard of 17.40 acres / 1000 set in 1997. The total acreage is bolstered by significant increases in natural area and open space acreage. Analysis of the primary park classifications is summarized below:

- Mini parks - Sandy is exceeding the standard for mini parks, and is above average when compared to the SCORP.
- Neighborhood parks - Sandy is slightly exceeding the standard for total park acreage, with a developed park acreage that is slightly below the target City standard, and is in the middle of the SCORP recommended LOS range.
- Community parks – Sandy is below the standard in both total and developed acreage, and is at the low end of the recommended SCORP range.

TABLE 9
LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

Park Classification	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Current Total LOS	Current Developed LOS ¹	1997 Parks Master Plan Standard	SCORP Recommended LOS (Acres) ⁵
Mini Parks	3.87	3.87	0.31	0.31	0.10	0.25 to 0.50
Neighborhood Parks	21.29	16.89	1.69	1.34	1.60	1.0 to 2.0
Community Parks	24.82	11.07	1.97	0.88	2.60	2.0 to 6.0
Natural & Open Space ³	224.64	NA	17.81	17.81	12.00	2.0 to 6.0
Special Use Parks	5.27	1.16	0.42	0.09	1.10	No Guidance
Trails (Acres) ⁴	6.95	6.95	0.55	0.55	-	0.9 to 2.7
Total	286.84	39.94	22.74	20.98	17.40	6.15 to 17.2

¹ Level of Service (LOS) calculated based on Acres / 1000 Population

² Current Population based on U. S. Census 2020 of 12,612.

³ Natural Area level of service is based on total acreage.

⁴ Trail miles have been converted to acreage based on an average 15-foot trail corridor. Trails within parks are included under park classification LOS.

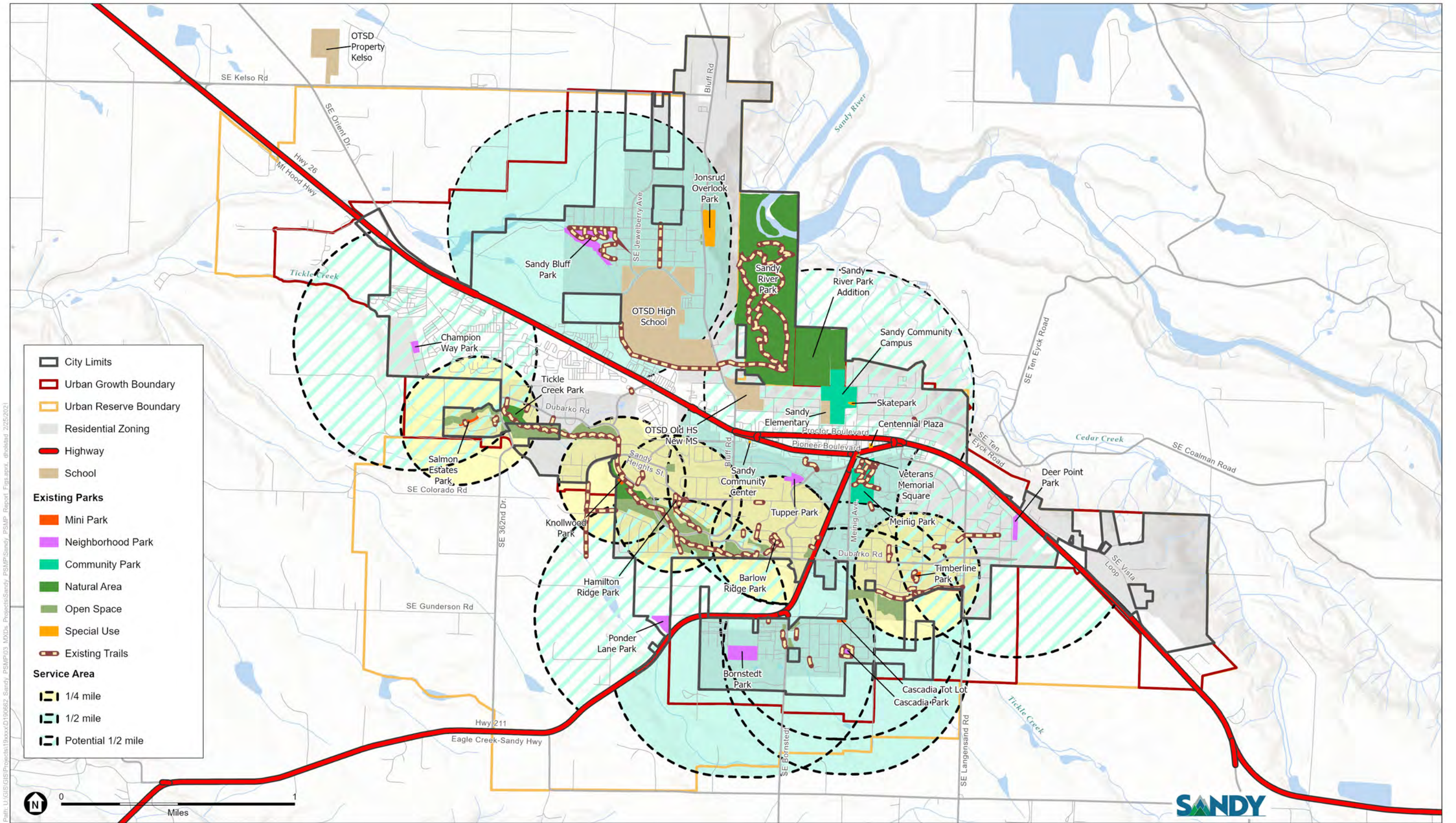
⁵ SCORP Recommended LOS for Trails is 0.5 to 1.5 miles per 1000 Population or 0.9 to 2.7 acres per 1000 based on the 15-foot corridor.

Current Geographic LOS

The geographic service area analysis examines whether residential areas in Sandy are within a reasonable travel distance of mini and neighborhood parks. Service areas for these parks range from 1/4- to 1/2- mile radius, the service areas for existing mini and neighborhood parks are featured in Figure 7.

Because mini and neighborhood parks are generally accessed by walking or biking, major roads, railroad tracks, and natural obstacles such as rivers are considered barriers to access that the service area may not cross. Minor roads, signalized intersections, crosswalks, bridges, under- and over-passes can provide safe crossing, and help to mitigate the access barriers. The following high volume roads are considered barriers:

- **Highway 26** (Pioneer/Proctor Boulevard) is a major regional state highway and bisects the town into north and south. There are multiple signaled pedestrian crossings west of downtown, however some users may feel comfortable crossing in the downtown area where the traffic is divided, the road narrows, and speeds are reduced.
- **Highway 211** begins at an intersection with Highway 26 at the east end of downtown and joins a series of smaller towns along its route to Woodburn. There are no signaled or signed pedestrian crossings, no sidewalks or bike lanes, and traffic flows at high speeds with limited visibility in some locations. This road is a significant physical barrier dividing neighborhoods south of downtown.



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA; USFWS NWI, Open Street Map, City of Sandy, OR.



Map 7
Existing Park Service Areas

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4.2 PARK AND TRAIL NEEDS

Communities establish their target park and trail LOS based on community values and goals and the availability of park land. The recommended LOS identified below is intended to balance the distribution of parks by classification to better meet the needs of the community. When compared to the SCORP recommended range, Sandy's target LOS for the 2035 planning horizon aims at the low end for mini parks, middle range for community parks and trails, high end for neighborhood parks, and a continuation of exceeding recommended acres of natural and open space. Specific figures are established in the table below.

TABLE 10
PARK AND TRAIL NEEDS ANALYSIS

Park Classification	Current Developed LOS ¹	SCORP Recommended LOS	Sandy LOS (Acres)	CURRENT	FUTURE	TOTAL
				Current Acres Needed ^{2,3}	Future Acres Needed ⁴	Total Acres Needed
Mini Parks ⁷	0.31	0.25 to 0.50	0.25	-0.72	1.62	0.91
Neighborhood Parks ⁷	1.34	1.0 to 2.0	2.00	8.33	12.98	21.31
Community Parks ⁷	0.88	2.0 to 6.0	3.00	26.77	19.46	46.23
Natural & Open Space ⁵	17.81	2.0 to 6.0	15.00	-35.46	97.32	61.86
Special Use Parks	0.09	No Guidance	-	-	-	-
Trails (Acres) ⁷	0.55	0.9 to 2.7	1.50	11.97	9.73	21.70
Total⁶	20.98	6.15 to 17.2	21.75	47.1	141.1	152.0

¹ Level of Service (LOS) calculated based on Acres / 1000 Population

² Current need based on 2020 United States Census population of 12,612.

³ Acres Needed includes development of existing undeveloped parcels and acquisition to meet current needs.

⁴ Future need based on Sandy Urbanization Study estimated an Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of 2.8%, for a 2035 population of 19,100.

⁵ Natural Area level of service is based on total acreage.

⁶ Total Current parks and acres needed excludes surplus acreage in mini parks and natural areas.

⁷ Parks subject to land dedication or fee-in-lieu to support growth, 6.75 Acres / 1000 Population.

Assessment

While Sandy has made much progress growing its parks and trail system, there is still work to do. Several neighborhood parks such as Champion Way, Deer Point, and Ponder Lane, as well as the newest community park, Sandy Community Campus, remain undeveloped open space which provides minimal recreational opportunity for neighbors. The large natural area of Sandy River Park and newly acquired adjacent parcel are underutilized by the broader community due to inadequate development of access points, trails and support facilities such as parking and restrooms. Over-development of mini parks has strained maintenance resources and resulted in service area gaps between parks.

Based on the recommended level of service target and planning for population growth, Sandy should plan to acquire and develop parks and acreage as noted in Table 10. This roughly equates to 2 mini parks, 9 neighborhood parks, 2 community parks, and nearly 20

miles of trails over the next 15 years. Natural areas will likely be acquired through donation or conservation easement with varying parcel sizes.

Geographic distribution of parks and trails should be equitable and responsive to natural and developed barriers that disrupt service areas. Non-standard amenities, such as skate spots, splash pads, dog parks, nature trails, etc., should also be distributed equitably across the system. This will likely require redevelopment of aging, existing facilities to add or expand amenities to avoid desirable public space clustering around new development.

As noted above, Sandy is currently underserved for developed community parks. This translates to below average access to larger active recreation facilities when compared to SCORP guidelines. Special urgency should be given to the development of community parks to meet demand for active recreation. Sandy's parks system is lacking in sport courts, sport fields, and other active use spaces like disc golf and off-road cycling. These uses are best incorporated into community parks along with a variety of other passive recreation opportunities that appeal to a broad swath of user groups. Amenities such as ball fields, skate parks, and pump tracks are usually located in community parks because they tend to be a regional draw, require adequate space to accommodate the diversity of uses, and need support amenities such as restrooms and parking.

Sandy should also prioritize the development of larger neighborhood parks with programming and space to serve multiple user groups over continued reliance on mini parks which serve a narrower demographic, offer fewer amenities, and require higher levels of maintenance. Larger neighborhood parks could help to improve geographic distribution of a number elements that are in the current park system, but not at the level necessary to serve all community members. Neighborhood parks can have the capacity to accommodate splash pads, dog parks and community gardens, if sited and distributed appropriately.



With its community garden, splash pad, and parking, Bornstedt Park provides elements with broader appeal than a traditional neighborhood park

4.3 RECREATION AMENITY NEEDS

In addition to park and trail needs, the quantity and distribution of specific recreation facilities, such as picnic tables, basketball courts, and sports fields was assessed. The level of service was determined based on the quantity of each item in the current park system relative to the quantity per 1,000 population.

The resulting level of service was then compared to the SCORP recommended level of service for each facility type. Sandy is doing fairly well in providing access to most of the standard facilities, with a few areas that require attention to address current deficiencies. Facilities that are below the recommended level of service for the current population include volleyball, tennis courts, picnic tables, disc golf, baseball and softball fields. Optional facilities are things that a community may or may not choose to focus on as a priority. A pump track and an indoor swimming pool are the optional facilities that are currently below the recommended level of service and are likely not meeting the needs of the community based on public input. Sandy has one existing indoor pool which is currently closed and was not included as an available facility in the analysis. A non-motorized boat launch could potentially be provided in the future if an appropriate river front site becomes available. Sports fields have not been an historic priority for Sandy. However, multi-use fields could be developed to serve soccer, lacrosse and other field sport needs. While Sandy currently has a skatepark that meets the SCORP recommended level of service for current and future population, it is an older facility which is will be need in renovation or replacement in the near term.

TABLE 11
RECREATION FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE

Facility Type	Total Facilities in Community	SCORP Recommended Facility LOS ¹	Current Facility LOS ¹	Current Facility Need (Deficit)	Future Facility Need (Growth) ²
Standard Facilities					
Picnic shelters ^{3,4,5,7}	8	0.30	0.63	-4	2
Day-use picnic tables ^{3,4,5,7}	35	10.00	2.77	91	65
Basketball courts / multi-use courts ^{3,4,5}	3	0.20	0.24	0	1
Playgrounds ^{3,4,7}	10	0.40	0.79	-5	3
Soccer fields / Multi-use field ^{4,5}	1	0.20	0.08	2	1
Tennis / Pickleball courts ⁵	0	0.35	0.00	4	2
Off-leash dog parks ⁵	1	0.04	0.08	0	0
Disc golf courses ⁷	0	0.02	0.00	0	0
Volleyball courts	0	0.20	0.00	3	1
Skateboard parks ⁶	1	0.04	0.08	0	0
Amphitheaters	3	0.03	0.24	-3	0
Baseball & Softball fields	1	0.20	0.08	2	1
Optional Facilities					
Pump Track (not in SCORP) ^{3,5,6}	0	0.00	0.00	1	0
Indoor swimming pools ^{3,4}	0	0.05	0.00	1	0
Splash Pads (not in SCORP) ⁶	1	0.00	0.08	-1	0
Community Gardens (not in SCORP) ³	1	0.00	0.08	-1	0
Non-motorized boat launches	0	0.25	0.00	3	2
Lacrosse fields	0	0.15	0.00	2	1
Football fields	1	0.10	0.08	0	1

¹Level of Service (LOS) calculated based on Acres or Miles / 1000 Population

²Future need quantity assumes current need has already ben fulfilled

Top Priorities from Public Input

³PTSM Open House 1 Dot Exercise top 10, February 2020.

⁶PTSM Online Open House, October 2020

⁴PTSM Survey 1 top 10, February 2020.

⁷Longest Day Parkway Input, June 2018.

⁵PTSM Stakeholders interviews, January 2020.

In addition to the traditional facilities included in the SCORP, there are a number of emerging recreation trends that should be considered for addition to the Sandy park system including pickleball, a pump track, sensory gardens, and nature play. Passive recreation including unprogrammed spaces, natural areas, trails and paths are also priorities.

The priority deficiencies should be a focus that can be addressed as existing undeveloped park land is developed into neighborhood and community parks, as noted in the assessment above.

4.4 PLANNING, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Parks maintenance staff consists of three full time equivalent (FTE) positions and two ½ FTE position hired on a seasonal basis that are increasingly difficult to fill. Staff commit approximately 15% of their time to building maintenance at City facilities, in addition to overseeing about 275 acres of park land and nearly 10 miles of trails.

According to the National Recreation and Park Association, Sandy’s parks maintenance staff to population ratio is below the lowest end of the national average. Median FTE staffing for jurisdictions serving 20,000 residents or less is 10 per 10,000 residents. With an estimated 2020 population of 11,650 and density of over 3,000 residents per square miles, Sandy’s staffing is below the lower quartile of 5 FTE for sparsely populated jurisdictions (less than 500 residents per square mile).



Aging amenities at Tupper Park

Low staffing levels make it difficult to perform anything more than standard maintenance such as mowing, garbage collection, and restroom cleaning and replenishment. Routine maintenance activities that may be deferred due to limited staff resources can result in reduced longevity of park features, resulting in more frequent replacement. Structures for example require power washing, painting, refinishing, and maintenance checks on hardware and connections to prevent compounding damage from weather exposure that can lead to rot, rust, and structural failure.

Park amenities have finite lifespans and must be replaced at some point. Some low cost features, such as benches or tables, can be repaired or replaced as part of regular maintenance. In other cases, the entire park or portions of the park must be redeveloped to meet modern safety and accessibility standards, respond to increased use demands or environmental factors, or simply replace larger, more expensive elements like custom play structures or sport courts. This type of major maintenance is generally not factored into operations and maintenance budgets and should be considered in capital improvement plans.

CHAPTER 5

Recommendations

This chapter summarizes recommendations for the development of new parks and trails and non-capital recommendations for operations and maintenance. These recommendations are based on the combined results of the existing facilities inventory, needs assessment, and public and stakeholder engagement. Several overarching themes recurred frequently during the planning process including the need for walking and biking connections to parks, additional amenities at existing parks, equitable distribution of park programming and recreation types across the city, access to large, multi-use fields, and improvement of existing undeveloped sites.

5.1 GENERAL PRIORITIES

The following are general recommendations that should be considered in Park and Trail planning and development within the City of Sandy.

- Develop one new community park with sports fields
- Improve geographic distribution of key amenities: dog parks, community gardens, splash pads.
- Improve trail connections and pedestrian transportation throughout the city.
- Provide safe pedestrian crossings for Highways 26 and 211, and Bluff Road. Crossings could be signalized, over- or under-passes.
- Fill service area gaps so that all residential areas are served by either a neighborhood or mini park.
- Develop undeveloped park land: Champion Way, Deer Point, Ponder Lane, and Sandy Community Campus.
- Add unique amenities not currently offered in the park system such as a pump track, pickleball courts, a disc golf course, sensory gardens, nature play, sports field(s), and other unique features.
- Develop a new universal access playground that provides for a range of mobility types and user ages. The playground should be inclusive and provide for children with special needs, including fencing, sensory elements.
- Renovate existing parks to update aging equipment, such as playgrounds, sport courts, and paths: Tupper, Sandy Bluff, Meinig.
- Renovate existing paths and trails throughout the system to provide accessible routes to parks and amenities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design.

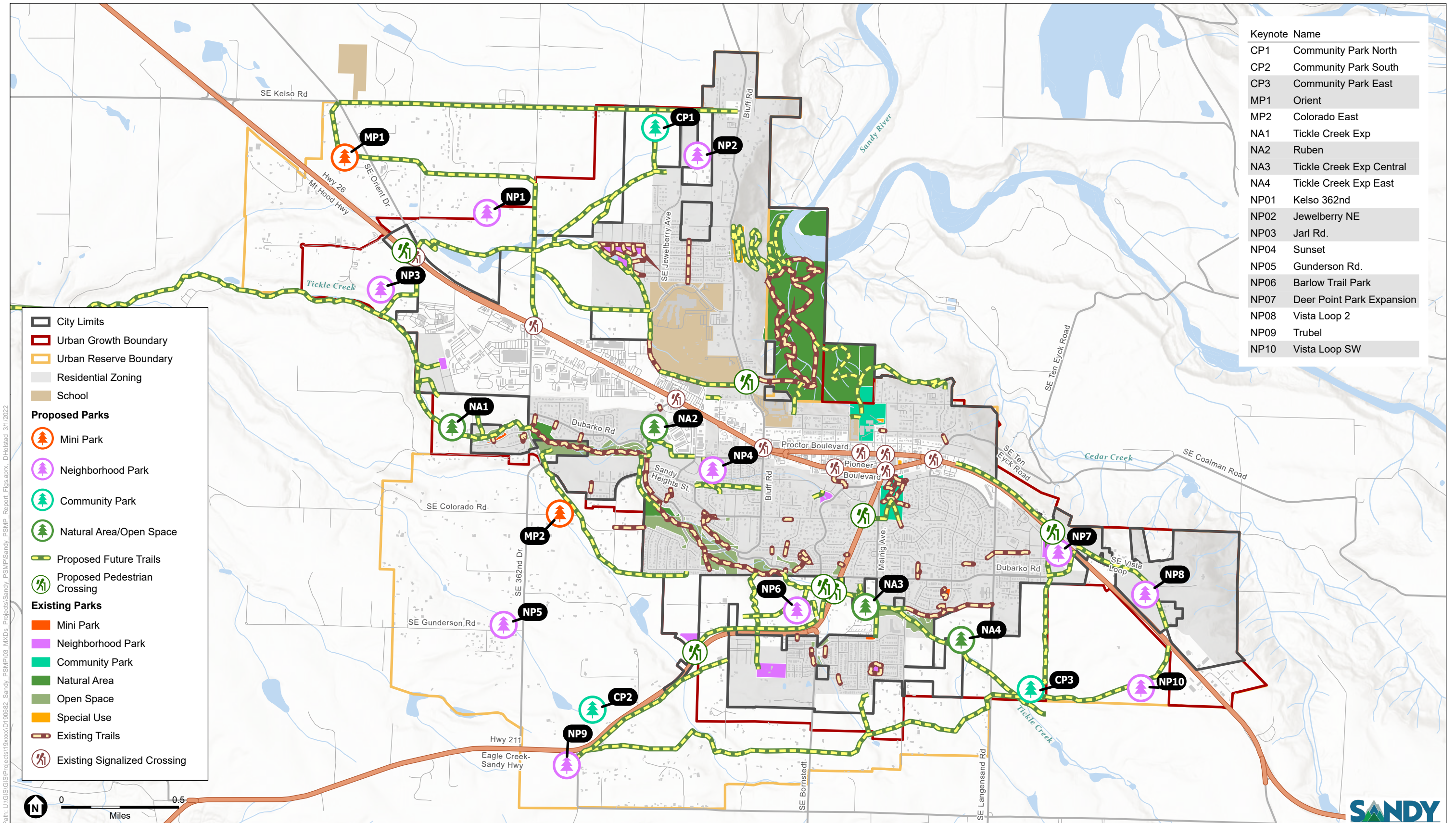
- Negotiate a public access easement with the Oregon Trail School District to allow unrestricted access/use of E17 and E23 trails along south edge of the high school.
- Focus on neighborhood and community park development.
- Minimize acquisition and development of mini parks to only highly constrained areas and small service area gaps without options for larger parcels.
- Prioritize neighborhood parks over mini parks when land is available.
- Residential areas should be served by the ¼-mile service area of a mini park or the ½-mile service area of a neighborhood park.
- Incorporate natural areas, wildlife habitat and native pollinator gardens into all park classifications.

5.2 PARK AND OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed Parks

The proposed park system is depicted in Figure 8. It identifies general areas where park land might be acquired to help expand the park system. Many of the proposed parks are located in the Urban Growth Boundary or the Urban Reserve Boundary and would serve new areas of the City in the future. The plan provides a conceptual distribution of proposed parks within the planning area to serve the needs of the current and future population. Specific land acquisitions will be determined based on land availability, areas of residential development, and site suitability for park development. Due to potential variability in park land availability and parcel size, a few additional park sites have been included on the map. After acquisition, park sites will proceed through site specific master planning, which may include site analysis, public outreach, and conceptual design, prior to proceeding with permitting, design, and construction.





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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA; USFWS NWI, Open Street Map, City of Sandy, OR.



Map 8
Proposed Park System

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Existing Parks

Several existing parks within the City include undeveloped or underutilized areas that could better serve the community if they were renovated or expanded to increase the availability of popular amenities.

Bornstedt Park Phase 2

Phase 1 is complete and includes a looped path, splash pad, playground, picnic tables, a community garden, and two picnic shelters. As depicted in Figure 9 below, Phase 2 will include a half-sized basketball court, viewing mound, a community center, and parking, and half street improvements along the north and west sides. This park offers the only splash pad in the city, and even without the planned parking lot, there is ample street parking. These factors combine to make this a destination park and the city should consider including a plumbed restroom as surrounding development continues and use intensifies.



Figure 9 Bornstedt Park Master Plan

Jonsrud Viewpoint

Access to Jonsrud Viewpoint is narrow, and highly constrained by Bluff Road on the west and the steep slope below to the east. It currently functions as single lane pull through drive aisle with a few parallel parking spaces along the side. If a trail connection is developed to connect Jonsrud down the bluff to Sandy River Park, other improvements should be considered at the viewpoint, including accessibility and safety improvements for pedestrian paths, parking reconfiguration, picnic tables, and additional benches.

Meinig Memorial Park

The Fantasy Forest is a wooden play structure, and will require major redevelopment at some point in the future, although maintenance staff estimates at least 10 additional years of use. Although Meinig Park has one plumbed restroom, the City should consider locating another in closer proximity to the heavily used playground and event stage area. An undeveloped portion of the park with informal natural surface trails is separated from the larger park by a small stream and steep slope. This area could be programmed, but consideration should be given to its quality as natural and open space. Trails throughout the park are being undermined by the creek or damaged by tree roots, and may require replacement within the next few years. General park improvements could include delineating circulation and improving structures at event space, adding lighting, and improving paths to meet accessibility standards.



Fantasy Forest Playground at Meinig Park

Sandy Bluff Park

Sandy Bluff Park includes the only dog park in the City, as well as a playground, looped trails, and a bench. Near term priorities for improvement at the park include adding shade structures and other amenities to the dog park, replacing the play structure and improving accessibility to it, and adding picnic facilities and more benches.

Sandy Skate Park

The Sandy Skate Park is currently a standalone special use facility on the edge of the Sandy Community Campus. The skate park is at least 20-years old. There have been significant design and technological advancements in skate parks over its lifespan and its showing its age. A new or revamped skate park was a high priority during public outreach, and is included a potential element of the Sandy Community Campus (SCC) redevelopment. The skate park could be replaced in its current location or combined with the SCC and relocated within the broader planned park improvements.



Sandy Skate Park



Tupper Park

Tupper Park

This aging neighborhood park will require significant redevelopment in the near term. The play structure is at the end of its life span and the sport court pavement is failing. The sport court and much of the lawn are often unusable from poor drainage. Sandy should consider daylighting the creek, adding accessible routes to features, and improving drainage as part of any redevelopment plans.

Sandy River Park

The City should consider implementation of the previously developed Sandy River Park Master Plan. The park currently has no dedicated parking facilities and a few trails. The plan describes an expanded hierarchical trail system, parking and restroom facilities, wayfinding, and riverbank restoration. The plan includes offsite trail connections to other nearby parks including Jonsrud Viewpoint and Sandy Community Campus, which could contribute to an off-street trail network on the north side of Sandy. The plan should be updated to reflect the recent purchase of the adjacent forested parcel to the east and describe the trail connections to the Sandy Community Campus in greater detail.



Jim Slagle Loop Trail at Sandy River Park

Undeveloped Parks

The following concepts present possible solutions for undeveloped parcels that could be developed into new parks. Three of these are classified as neighborhood parks: Champion Way, Deer Point, and Ponder Lane. The Sandy Community Campus is an underdeveloped community park located at the site of the former Cedar Ridge Middle School. See Appendix D for additional details on each of these park sites.

Planning for these new parks should include a focus on filling some of the specific amenity needs within the community, such as a pump track, sport field(s), disc golf, and other features noted elsewhere in this plan.

Champion Way Neighborhood Park

Champion Way is an existing, undeveloped 0.99-acre park located on the west side of Sandy, just south of Highway 26 and the Sandy Cinema. The gently sloping park is bounded by fenced retaining walls on both street frontages, houses and an alley on a third side, and transitions to a steeply sloping forested area on the fourth. The concept would introduce standard neighborhood park amenities including an accessible looped path, playground, open lawn, picnic shelter and tables, and screening planting.

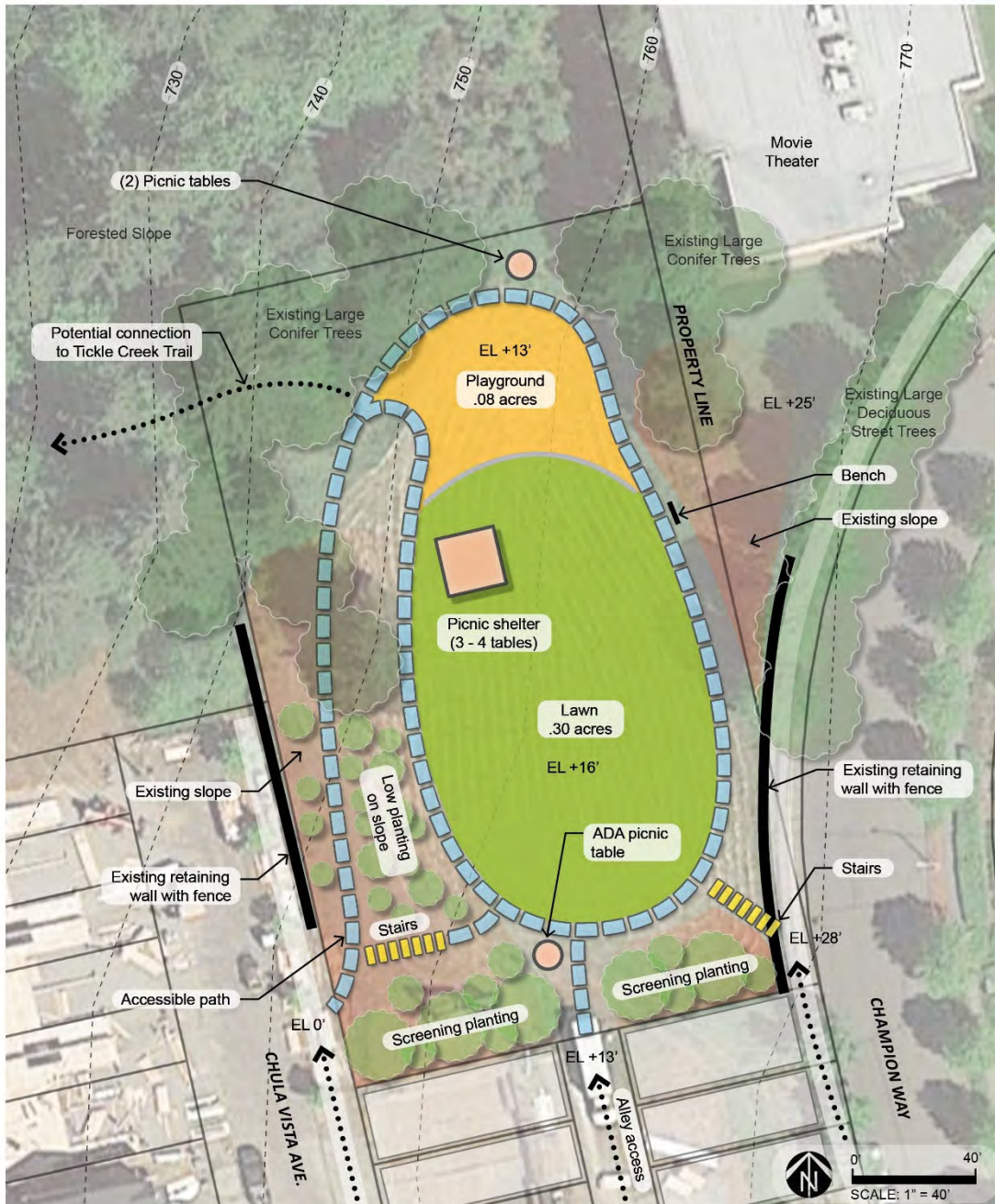


Figure 10
Champion Way Neighborhood Park Concept

Deer Point Neighborhood Park

Deer Point is an existing, undeveloped 1.41-acre park located on the east side of Sandy, just south of Highway 26 and Sandy Vista apartments. The long, narrow, gently sloping parcel is bounded by neighborhood streets on two sides, Highway 26 on a third, and fields with clusters of mature trees to the east. The concept provides standard neighborhood park amenities including an accessible looped path, playground, multi-use field, picnic shelters and tables, and a sport court with the option to expand east into the undeveloped parcel identified as NP 7, Deer Point Expansion on **Figure 8**.



Figure 11
Deer Point Neighborhood Park Concept

Ponder Lane Neighborhood Park

Ponder Lane is a recently acquired, undeveloped 1.94-acre parcel located on the south side of Sandy. The gently sloping park is bounded on the east by a single family residence, Highway 211 to the south, and an under-construction Gunderson Road and neighborhood development to the west and north, respectively. The concept would introduce standard neighborhood park amenities including an accessible looped path, playground, multi-use field, picnic shelter and tables, a fenced off-leash dog park, and a small parking area. See Appendix E for additional detail.



Figure 12
Ponder Lane Neighborhood Park Concept

Sandy Community Campus

This underdeveloped community park consists of school buildings, pool (currently closed), parking lot, and the surrounding land which includes the skate park, football field, track, and trails that connect to Sandy River Park natural area. The pool and buildings will remain closed for the time being and are not considered part of this master plan. City Council is studying options for the Cedar Ridge pool and buildings.

A preliminary concept for redevelopment of the park was created as part of the Aquatic Facility Analysis. The entire park will be too expensive to develop all at one time. The concept was broken into four phases.

The proposed Phase 1 schematic design is below. The final design is likely to evolve, but this concept provides guidance on the type of improvements that could be included in Phase 1. The Phase 1 park concept focuses on redevelopment of the east portion of the park and includes a parking lot, a playground, picnic area, basketball court, and a community garden. Sandy Community Campus will also fill a neighborhood park service area gap for community members within ½-mile of the park. The community expressed interest for prioritizing a pump track and the skate park replacement in Phase 1, while reducing parking.



Figure 13
Sandy Community Campus Phase 1 Concept

5.3 TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed trail system map includes potential local and regional trails throughout the city. Some of the trails have also been identified in the Transportation System Plan or other regional planning documents or could be incorporated into the new Transportation System Plan update. The goal of the proposed trail system is to create a looped network of trails that connects parks and neighborhoods, and provides opportunities for alternative transportation and recreation throughout the city.



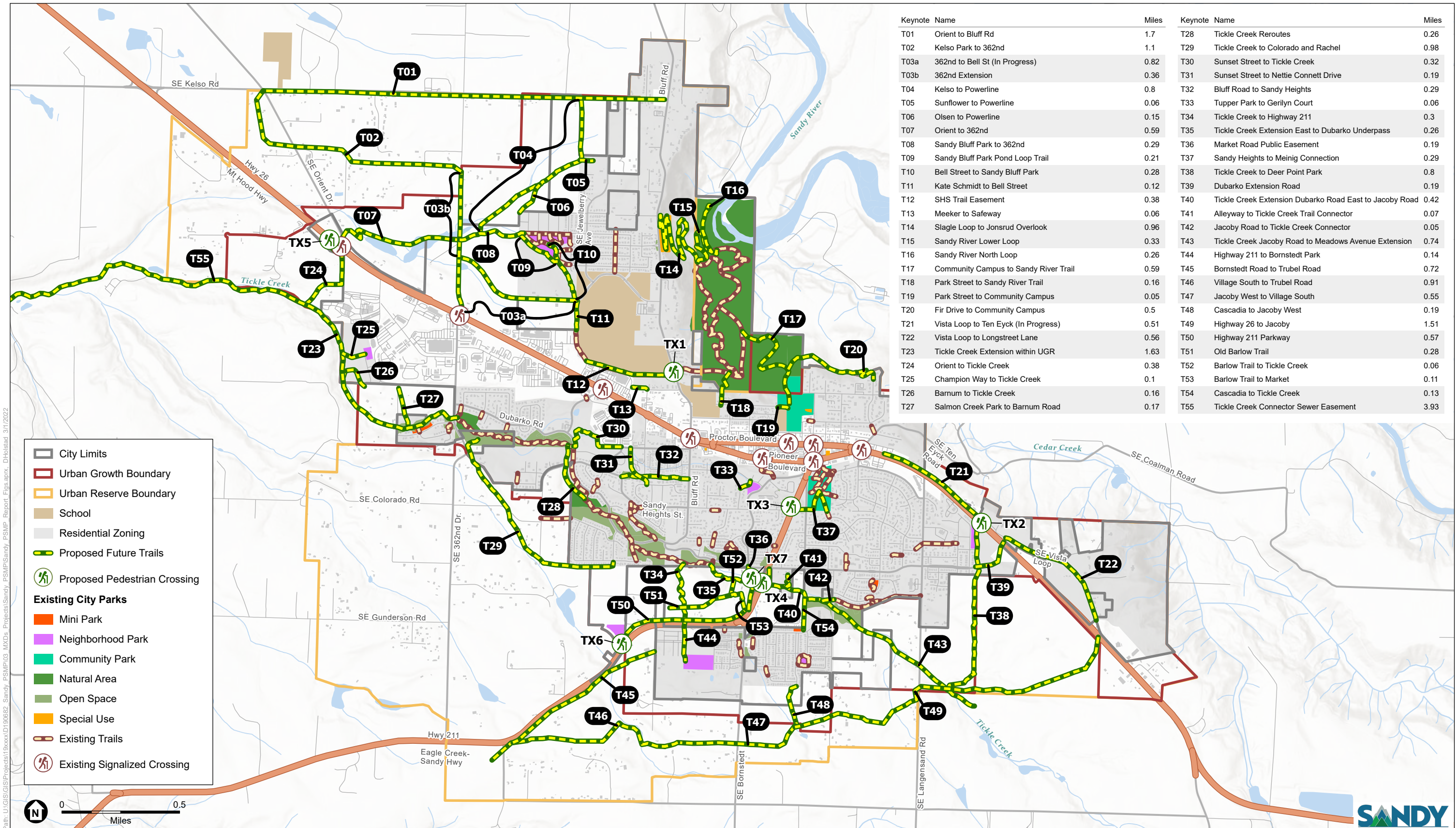
Pedestrian under-pass under Highway 20 in Bend, Oregon

To achieve this goal, an extensive network of trails has been proposed, as depicted in Figure 14, including several major highway crossings. The proposed trail system provides conceptual trail alignments that are intended to provide an alternative pedestrian network, not to replace the sidewalk network or paths associated with road improvements in the Transportation System Plan. Where proposed trails and roads follow similar alignments, trails may be developed initially as gravel multi use paths to serve current needs prior to eventual replacement with paved sidewalks or pathways associated with planned road improvements. Individual trails will require planning and analysis to refine the alignments to meet design criteria, including accommodating steep terrain, avoiding wetlands, potential creek crossings, and connections with other trails. Trail design criteria are further described in Appendix B.

The plan includes new pedestrian crossings at both the east and west ends of the City to facilitate safe crossing of Highway 26, Mt Hood Highway. The plan also includes three crossings of Highway 211, and one crossing of Bluff Road near the high school. The pedestrian crossings could take a number of forms: mid-block crossings with rapid flashing beacon, signalized street intersection, or a grade separated pedestrian bridge or under-pass.

Many of these crossings would be major multi-agency collaborations involving Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Sandy Public Works, Clackamas County, and others. These projects have been identified in this plan as critical to a safe, linked trail system within the City, but they have been omitted from the CIP list, due to the scale and scope of the projects, combined with the necessary buy-in of ODOT and the likely long range implementation.

Budget estimates for the crossings and assumptions on crossing type have been included in the Capital Improvement Plan. Actual project costs will be determined by the type of crossing that is used, and the extent of permitting, design, and agency coordination required for the project. The crossings may also be included as transportation facilities in the Transportation System Master Plan.



Keynote	Name	Miles	Keynote	Name	Miles
T01	Orient to Bluff Rd	1.7	T28	Tickle Creek Reroutes	0.26
T02	Kelso Park to 362nd	1.1	T29	Tickle Creek to Colorado and Rachel	0.98
T03a	362nd to Bell St (In Progress)	0.82	T30	Sunset Street to Tickle Creek	0.32
T03b	362nd Extension	0.36	T31	Sunset Street to Nettie Connett Drive	0.19
T04	Kelso to Powerline	0.8	T32	Bluff Road to Sandy Heights	0.29
T05	Sunflower to Powerline	0.06	T33	Tupper Park to Gerilyn Court	0.06
T06	Olsen to Powerline	0.15	T34	Tickle Creek to Highway 211	0.3
T07	Orient to 362nd	0.59	T35	Tickle Creek Extension East to Dubarko Underpass	0.26
T08	Sandy Bluff Park to 362nd	0.29	T36	Market Road Public Easement	0.19
T09	Sandy Bluff Park Pond Loop Trail	0.21	T37	Sandy Heights to Meinig Connection	0.29
T10	Bell Street to Sandy Bluff Park	0.28	T38	Tickle Creek to Deer Point Park	0.8
T11	Kate Schmidt to Bell Street	0.12	T39	Dubarko Extension Road	0.19
T12	SHS Trail Easement	0.38	T40	Tickle Creek Extension Dubarko Road East to Jacoby Road	0.42
T13	Meeker to Safeway	0.06	T41	Alleyway to Tickle Creek Trail Connector	0.07
T14	Slagle Loop to Jonsrud Overlook	0.96	T42	Jacoby Road to Tickle Creek Connector	0.05
T15	Sandy River Lower Loop	0.33	T43	Tickle Creek Jacoby Road to Meadows Avenue Extension	0.74
T16	Sandy River North Loop	0.26	T44	Highway 211 to Bornstedt Park	0.14
T17	Community Campus to Sandy River Trail	0.59	T45	Bornstedt Road to Trubel Road	0.72
T18	Park Street to Sandy River Trail	0.16	T46	Village South to Trubel Road	0.91
T19	Park Street to Community Campus	0.05	T47	Jacoby West to Village South	0.55
T20	Fir Drive to Community Campus	0.5	T48	Cascadia to Jacoby West	0.19
T21	Vista Loop to Ten Eyck (In Progress)	0.51	T49	Highway 26 to Jacoby	1.51
T22	Vista Loop to Longstreet Lane	0.56	T50	Highway 211 Parkway	0.57
T23	Tickle Creek Extension within UGR	1.63	T51	Old Barlow Trail	0.28
T24	Orient to Tickle Creek	0.38	T52	Barlow Trail to Tickle Creek	0.06
T25	Champion Way to Tickle Creek	0.1	T53	Barlow Trail to Market	0.11
T26	Barnum to Tickle Creek	0.16	T54	Cascadia to Tickle Creek	0.13
T27	Salmon Creek Park to Barnum Road	0.17	T55	Tickle Creek Connector Sewer Easement	3.93

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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA; USFWS NWI, Open Street Map, City of Sandy, OR.



Map 14
Proposed Trail System



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The City of Sandy Trail system also has the potential to extend and connect to the larger regional trail network beyond the City planning area. Regional trail connections should be wide, paved multi user trails such as Class 1 or 2 as defined in Appendix B, the Park & Trail Design Guidelines. Regional trails may not be eligible for SDC's because they extend beyond the planning area. The City should work with regional partners such as Metro, to identify and pursue grants and other funding sources. Regional trails that could connect to or through the City of Sandy in the future include:

- Extending the Tickle Creek Trail west to connect with the Springwater Trail
- Extending east to the Sandy Ridge bike trail system and the extensive trail network in Mount Hood National Forest.
- Extending south along Highway 211 to connect to the Cazedero Corridor.



Tickle Creek Trail

5.4 PLANNING, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE

The following recommendations pertain to non-capital planning, operations and maintenance needs:

- Revise the City of Sandy Development Code, Chapters 17.32 and 17.86, to reflect new parks policies identified in this plan.
- Update Goal 8 of the City of Sandy Comprehensive Plan to align with recommendations included in this plan.
- Update the System Development Charge Methodology to reflect current demographics, population growth projections, and level of service recommendations identified in this plan.
 - Consider including a reimbursement fee for surplus park classifications such as mini parks and natural areas.
 - Include all capacity increasing improvements in the SDC, including new amenities at Meinig and Tupper Parks that are excluded in the current SDC.
 - Update SDC fees annually during the budget cycle relative to economic indices.
 - SDC should be updated based on official 2020 census data when available.
 - Consider SDC fee estimates with and without a General Obligation (GO) Bond. Adjust the rate accordingly if GO Bond isn't passed within 5 years.

- Update the fee in lieu calculations related to parkland dedication as defined in the City of Sandy Development Code, 17.86, and update the fees annually during the budget cycle relative to economic indices.
- Establish a method for acquisition of Community Park land, such as through fee in lieu or SDC.
- Investigate the potential to implement a General Obligation Bond to help fund park development and major renovation projects identified in the CIP.
- Investigate the potential to implement a Parks Utility Fee to help fund park maintenance and operations.
- Investigate applying stormwater user fees to supplement parks maintenance funding.
- Develop an asset management program including a detailed inventory and assessment of existing amenities to help plan for and prioritize life-cycle renovation and replacement for the existing park system.
- Increase Parks staffing levels to match system growth, including adding a park planner, up to two maintenance and operations staff to meet current needs.
- Consider adding a volunteer coordinator position.
- Consider shifting contracted landscape maintenance in-house (with commensurate staffing increase) or consolidating under a single contract to reduce management and coordination.



Light bollard, drinking fountain, and picnic table in various conditions at Timberline Ridge mini park



CHAPTER 6

Implementation

This chapter identifies a strategy to implement and fund the improvements recommended in this Plan. This is a long range plan that is anticipated to be implemented over the next 15+ years. As the economy, population, development, and other factors evolve and change, the plan will need to be reevaluated, updated, and modified to keep pace with current community needs and align with actual population growth. Capital Project Lists and Cost Estimates were developed to reflect Sandy's park needs through 2035. These projects are organized based on prioritization criteria developed to guide future decision making. Non-Capital costs to maintain the park system and available and potential funding sources are also discussed.

6.1 PRIORITIES

Projects in this plan have been prioritized as short term (Tier 1, 1 to 5 years), mid term (Tier 2, 6 to 10 years), and long term (Tier 3, 11+ years) to distribute park and trail development over the length of the planning period. Key criteria to guide this prioritization were developed from public input, the needs analysis, and general parks goals and policies. The list below is ranked in approximate priority order:

- Develop undeveloped park sites to serve existing neighborhoods.
- Acquire and develop new park land to meet current and future needs, with a particular focus on community parks and existing neighborhood park service area gaps.
- Develop trails to improve connectivity throughout the city, including safe separated crossings of Highways 26 and 211.
- Renovate and upgrade existing parks to expand capacity.
- Distribute parks equitably throughout the city.
- Plan for future growth within the UGB expansion areas, prioritize based on projected timing and location of future growth.

Short term projects have been selected based on these prioritization criteria. Final project selection and development will be determined by City staff, the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee, funding availability, and other factors. Community priorities and focus areas may change over the course of the plan. The priorities and the proposed project lists should be reviewed biennially during the budget cycle to ensure that they align with economic and demographic changes.

6.2 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The City's capital improvement plan (CIP) is a combination major renovation, and development projects. The list accounts for the priorities identified above. Projects in the CIP are funded through a variety of sources including SDC's, grants, and donations. A general obligation (GO) bond, if approved by voters, could also be a source to fund significant acquisition and development projects. Partnerships, volunteers and other alternative sources may also assist with funding and executing projects, sometimes in the form of in-kind donations of labor or materials. The City General Fund is primarily reserved for Parks Department planning, operations, and maintenance activities and has not been included as a source of funding for capital improvements. Similarly, the land fee-in-lieu funds have not been allocated within the CIP but could be used for acquisition of a large community park parcel identified for development in the CIP.

Costs used in the Capital Improvement Program were derived from a variety of sources.

- Itemized cost estimates were prepared in association with concept plan development for the existing undeveloped park sites (Champion Way, Deer Point, and Ponder Lane), and are included in Appendix D.
- Cost estimates developed through prior park master plan efforts were reviewed. Costs were escalated to account for cost increases since the year the plan was adopted. (Bornstedt, Sandy River Park, and Sandy Community Campus).
- Park development cost estimates for future parks are based on an average size and cost per acre for that park classification, with the assumption that the site is reasonably flat and developable, and is designed to include all standard amenities, some optional amenities, and some half street improvements scaled to the park size.
- Trail development costs are based on a unit cost per linear foot depending on the trail classification, which defines the surface type and width.
- Soft costs, including survey, permitting, design, and project management costs are included in the cost for each project.
- Land acquisition costs were not included in the cost estimates. Land values are highly volatile, and dependent on parcel size, location, development pressure and other factors. Further analysis is anticipated during the Land Dedication / Fee-in-lieu policy review and update.

These costs should be considered to be preliminary budget-level estimates only. Actual project costs will be established for each site as part of the planning and development process. The capital costs included in Table 12 and Appendix A were developed with the following assumptions:

- Costs are based on Quarter 1 of 2021 dollars.
- Costs derived from other planning efforts have been escalated at 3% per year to the current year.
- Annual operations and maintenance fees are excluded from the estimates.
- Land acquisitions costs are excluded from the estimates.

TABLE 12
TIER 1 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Map ID	Site	Improvements	Cost
Tier 1 Existing Parks			
NP	Deer Point Park	Design, permitting, & development	\$ 1,442,800
NP	Champion Way Park	Design, permitting, & development	\$ 998,700
NP	Ponder Lane Park	Design, permitting, & development	\$ 1,848,000
NP	Sandy Bluff Park	Dog Park; Playground; Picnic Area	\$ 250,000
CP	Sandy Community Campus - Phase 1	Parking area, playground, picnic, skate park	\$ 3,633,200
CP	Meinig Memorial Park	Path renovations, creek restoration	\$ 100,000
NA	Sandy River Park - Phase 1	Trailhead, trails	\$ 800,000
Tier 1 Existing Park Improvement Cost			\$ 9,072,700
Tier 1 Proposed Parks			
NP 4	Sunset	Fill service area gap on portion of City owned parcel	\$ 1,700,000
NP 7	Deer Point Expansion	Expand existing undeveloped park	\$ 1,700,000
CP 1	Community North	Develop future community park in north	\$ 5,900,000
NA 1	Tickle Creek Expansion - West	Opportunity acquisitions/ donations along creek	\$ -
Tier 1 Proposed Park Improvement Cost			\$ 9,300,000
Tier 1 Proposed Trails			
T03 (P21)	362 nd	8' wide asphalt trail	\$ -
T04	Kelso to Powerline	6' - 8' wide gravel trail	\$ 185,800
T05	Sunflower to Powerline	5' concrete path	\$ 32,500
T06	Olson to Powerline	5' concrete path	\$ 81,300
T08 (P19)	Sandy Bluff Park to 362 nd	8' wide asphalt trail	\$ 198,100
T09 (P19)	Sandy Bluff Park Pond Loop Trail	8' wide asphalt trail	\$ 143,500
T10 (P19)	Bell Street to Sandy Bluff Park	8' wide asphalt trail	\$ 191,300
T11 (P19)	Kate Schmidt to Bell Street	8' wide asphalt trail	\$ 82,000
T12 (P19)	SHS Trail Easement 1	8' wide asphalt trail	\$ 259,600
T13	Meeker to MH Athletic Club	5' concrete path	\$ 32,500
T17	Community Campus to Sandy River Trail	3' wide natural surface trail	\$ 23,700
T19	Park Street to Community Campus	3' wide natural surface trail	\$ 2,000
T21	Vista Loop to Hood Street	6' - 8' wide gravel trail	\$ -
T28 (P16)	Tickle Creek Reroutes	8' wide asphalt trail	\$ 93,750
T30	Sunset Street to Tickle Creek	3' wide natural surface trail	\$ 12,800
T31	Sunset Street to Nettie Connett Drive	5' wide concrete path	\$ 103,000
T32	Bluff Road to Sandy Heights	3' wide natural surface trail	\$ 11,600
T33	Tupper Park to Gerilyn Court	5' concrete path	\$ 32,500
T35 (P17)	Tickle Creek Extension East to Dubarko Underp.	6' - 8' wide gravel trail	\$ 125,000
T38	Tickle Creek to Deer Point Park	5' concrete path	\$ 432,000
T39	Dubarko Extension Road	8' wide asphalt trail	\$ -
T40 (P22)	Tickle Creek Extension Dubarko East to Jacoby ³	8' wide asphalt trail	\$ 400,000
T41	Alleyway to Tickle Creek Trail Connector	5' concrete path	\$ 37,500
T42	Jacoby Road to Tickle Creek Connector	5' concrete path	\$ -
T44	Bornstedt Park	5' concrete path	\$ 78,000
T50 (P23)	Highway 211 Parkway	8' wide asphalt trail	\$ 406,250
T54	Cascadia to Tickle Creek	6' - 8' wide gravel trail	\$ 30,200
TX1	Bluff Road Crossing (Mid-block)		\$ -
Tier 1 Proposed Trail Improvement Cost			\$ 2,995,000
Total Tier 1 Cost			\$ 21,367,700

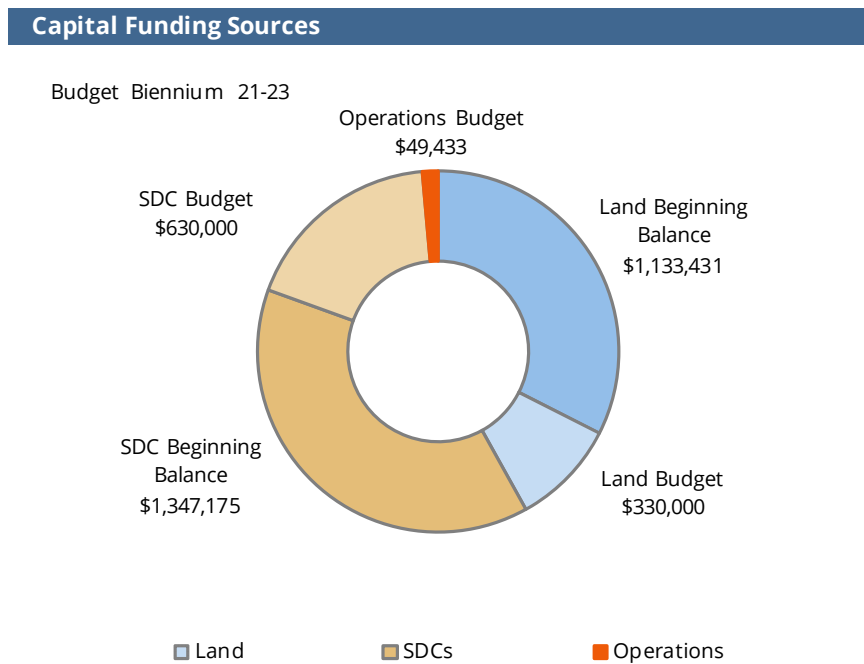
Assumptions:

1. Capital project cost estimates are based on 2021 dollars. Costs derived from other planning efforts include escalation of 3% per year up to 2021 dollars
2. Annual operations and maintenance fees are excluded from the estimates
3. Costs include soft costs (master planning, survey, design, permitting) of 30%
4. Land Acquisition costs are excluded from the estimate

The complete Capital Improvement project lists for the 15-year planning period in this plan is included in Appendix A. Tier 1 or near term projects have been identified and prioritized for development within the next five years. These projects generally fulfill the top priorities identified above.

6.3 FINANCING STRATEGIES

There are numerous funding sources available to address both capital and non-capital funding needs for park and trail acquisition and development. The most commonly used funding sources are outlined below. A summary of additional potential grant options is included in Appendix E. Sandy uses a variety of funding approaches to achieve parkland acquisition and park and trail construction. The existing beginning balance and forecast budget from the primary funding sources (land fee in lieu and SDC’s) for the current biennium are depicted in Figure 15. No other funding sources, such as grants, were included in the City budget for Parks and Trails.



Source: City of Sandy Draft Budget Biennium 21-23

Figure 15
FY 2021-2023 Budget Parks Capital Funding

This budget information was reviewed and updated to reflect current available balances and develop capital funding estimates for the next 5 years. Funding levels can be expected to fluctuate from year to year and are influenced by the economic climate, population growth, construction activity and other factors. The Tier 1 capital project list exceeds the available funding from the current funding sources alone. In addition to the funding sources included in the biennial budget, the capital funding estimate includes the assumption that additional funding sources will be leveraged to fulfill the plan

goals. These additional funding sources include grants, donations, volunteers, urban renewal funds, and a general obligation bond. The annual SDC estimate is based on the FY 19-21 biennial budget and is likely to adjust upward with an SDC update and increase in residential development generating more funding than in prior budget cycles.

TABLE 13
CAPITAL FUNDING ESTIMATE

Funding Source	Amount
SDC Annual Budget Estimate	\$ 315,000
General Fund	\$ -
Grants	\$ 100,000
Donations / Volunteers	\$ 50,000
Estimated Annual Revenue	\$ 465,000
Estimated 5-year Revenue	\$ 2,325,000
Park System Development Charge (SDC) Balance ¹	\$ 1,355,028
Urban Renewal Funds	\$ 3,300,000
General Obligation Bond	\$ 15,000,000
Estimated 5-Year Capital Funding Total	\$ 21,980,028

¹ Fund balance as of 4/27/2021

Currently, the primary funding source for land acquisition has been either land dedication or fee-in-lieu funding. This process is described in greater detail in the following section. Similar to the SDC's, the fees collected have not kept pace with the current cost of land in the area. Due to this, the revenue generation has been below the potential, and is anticipated to improve after Chapter 17.86 of the Sandy Development code is updated. Additional funding sources that could be used for land acquisition in addition to development include grants and bonds. The available balance could be used to acquire new park land to help fulfill needs identified through this planning process.

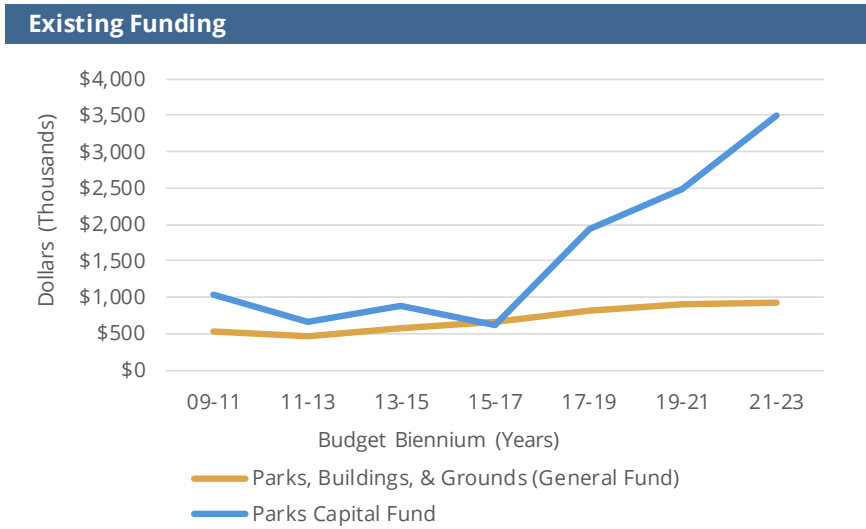
TABLE 14
LAND ACQUISITION FUNDING ESTIMATE

Funding Source	Amount
Land (Fee in Lieu) Annual Budget Estimate	\$ 165,000
Estimated 5-year Land (Fee-in-Lieu) Revenue	\$ 825,000
Land (Fee in Lieu) Beginning Balance ¹	\$ 1,133,431
Estimated 5-Year Land Acquisition Total	\$ 1,958,431

¹ Fund balance as of 4/27/2021

6.4 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

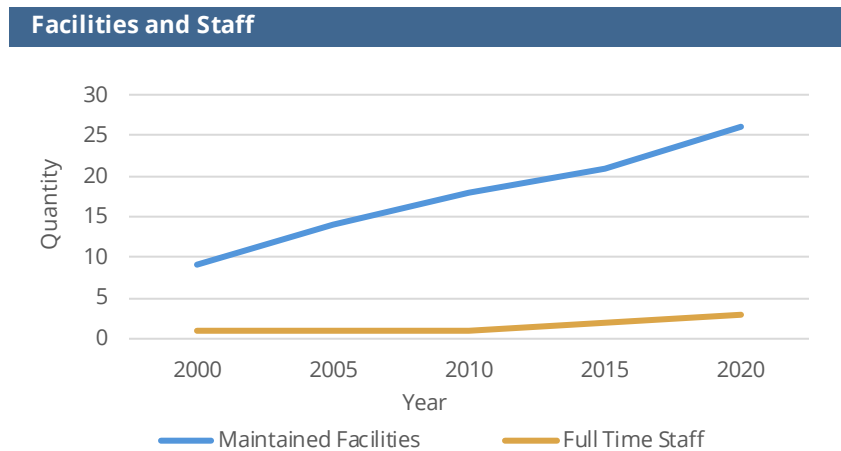
Operations and maintenance budgets are currently funded through the City General Fund. Figure 16 below shows a comparison of the parks maintenance funding and the parks capital fund. The parks capital fund is a combination of SDC's and fee in-lieu funds collected. The steep growth aligns with population growth and development in recent years.



Source: City of Sandy Biennial Budgets

Figure 16
Existing Funding Trend

Figure 17 depicts the relationship between the number of full time staff and the number of maintained facilities over the previous 20 years, and closely correlates with the increased capital funding in Figure 16. Nearly half of the park system’s facilities have been added in the past 15 years. As noted previously staff are already stretched to adequately maintain the current parks and trails. As these facilities age, and the park system expands, the maintenance burden will increase. The City should plan for additional staff and increased maintenance costs when drafting future budgets.



Source: City of Sandy Biennial Budgets, Google Earth

Figure 17
Maintenance Staff Levels and Facilities Maintained

Operations and maintenance can be funded through a variety of sources. The general fund provides the current funding, but is stretched by many demands. As the park system grows, other funding sources should be explored. Sources of funding for operations and maintenance are more limited than those for capital projects. Two options to consider to fund maintenance of the growing park system are a parks utility fee and a local option levy.

6.5 FUNDING SOURCES

Existing Funding Sources

Park Land Dedication Policy

The park land dedication policy is defined in Chapter 17.86 of the Sandy Development Code and used to acquire land. New residential subdivisions, planned developments, multi-family or manufactured home park developments are required to provide park land to serve future residents of those developments.

Since the adoption of the 1997 Plan, the City has had the option to choose to require land dedication or collect fee in lieu funds on a case-by-case basis as development occurred. When park or trail land dedication is required, a formula is used to determine the acreage required based on the number of residential units and anticipated population. The land dedication requirement is in addition to SDC's collected for development.

The land dedication generally provides smaller neighborhood parks to serve new subdivisions. Fees collected can be combined to purchase larger parcels, such as community parks.

In addition, developers may propose the designation and protection of open space and/or greenway corridor areas as part of the City platting process. This open space does not count towards parkland dedication requirements. Open spaces may include natural areas of undisturbed vegetation, steep slopes, stream corridors, wetlands, or restored vegetation areas. Greenway corridors may link residential areas with parks and open space areas and may contain pedestrian and bike paths.

System Development Charges

Parks and trails system development charges (SDCs) are one-time fees assessed on new development to cover a portion of the cost of providing parks and trails to serve population growth associated with new development. The fees are assessed as part of building permits and may include two components: 1) a reimbursement fee to recover the cost of eligible existing improvements in the transportation and parks systems that will serve the new development and 2) an improvement fee to contribute to the cost of planned, eligible capacity-increasing park improvements which will serve the new development. Sandy's current park and trail SDC's have not been increased regularly to keep pace with market growth and development pressure, and are currently among the lowest in the region. As

noted in the recommendations in Chapter 5, an SDC methodology update should be implemented as soon as possible, to bring Sandy's rates in line with our communities in the region and insure that new development is paying an appropriate share of the current and future park system.

Potential Funding Sources

Grants

Historically grants have been used to assist in development of some parks in the City of Sandy. A wide array of grants are available from or administered through a number of sources including Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Block Grants. They generally require a percentage funding to be matched from another source. The match can be SDC's, donated or volunteered time, or recent prior expenditures such as land acquisitions. Additional detail on selection of specific grants that are likely to be most applicable to the Sandy park and trail system are included in Appendix E.

General Obligation Bond

There are several types of bonds that can be used a variety of public improvements. A general obligation bond can be used to fund capital improvements, renovations, and new facilities if approved a vote. A bond could form the basis for a comprehensive funding package to implement major acquisitions and development. A general obligation bond has been included in the 5-year revenue estimate.

Parks Utility Fee

A parks utility fee could be implemented a fee added to the monthly utility bill. The fee level would be determined by the revenue generation desired to support parks maintenance and operations, or could be divided between operations. The City Council has the authority to impose a fee without a vote of the electorate. A utility fee could be combined with other funding sources to provide revenue for maintenance or to support capital improvements funded through other sources. Implementing a fee of \$3.00 per month per single family residence and \$2.25 per multi family residence could generate adequate funding to support one or two additional FTE positions for operations and maintenance. Revenue generated by a utility fee could also be divided between parks operations and debt service on a bond.

Local Option Levy

A local option levy could be used to generate revenue to fund operations, maintenance, and/or capital projects. It is a tax based on assessed property value and must be approved in an election. The levy period is dependent on the intended use of the funds. An operations and maintenance levy would assess additional property taxes for a fixed period, after which time it would need to be renewed by another round of voter approval.