

PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

Purpose

This Element guides the development and stewardship of parks facilities in the city of West Richland. This element lays the groundwork for the future of the city's park system. This element includes inventories of existing parks and identifies current and future park needs.

Parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities are important components of the City and add immeasurably to the quality of life. Generally considered the counterparts of residential, commercial, and industrial development, these amenities are typically owned by the City and operated for the benefit of the community at large. The demand for more and varied community facilities increases as the City expands and living standards rise.

This chapter serves as an overview for Parks and Recreation in the context of other elements of the Comprehensive Plan, including Land Use, Capital Facilities, and Housing. In particular, this chapter addresses how development of parks in the city relate to other city activities and planning aspects. This chapter complements the plans already adopted by the city.

Supporting Plans and Policies

The city has adopted two planning documents related to parks, which are hereby adopted as components to this Comprehensive Plan:

Master Plan Update

The West Richland Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (2012) provides a guide for future park development. The document provides a detailed approach to maintaining current parks and expanding the parks system, to meet the demands of the growing community.



ADA Assessment and Transition Plan

In 2013, the City adopted an ADA Assessment and Transition Plan. The ADA Assessment and Transition Plan document guides the planning and implementation of City park facility modifications over the next 20 years and establishes the methodology for continued improvements to the City's parks beyond the 20-year plan. The ADA Assessment and Transition Plan affirms the City's commitment to the development and maintenance of facilities that include all of its residents and members of the public.

Mission and Vision Statement

The West Richland Parks and Recreation Mission and Vision Statements were established during the development of the Master Plan Update:

Vision

West Richland provides a quality park system with a diverse range of experiences, preserving local resources, and supporting safe, healthy, and enjoyable lifestyles.

Mission

Parks and recreation in West Richland will reflect the diverse interests and needs of residents. The City will creatively foster local and regional partnerships, encourage community engagement, and remain financially responsible.

Amenities Overview

The City of West Richland is rich with parks. The citizens of West Richland support fourteen developed parks with a variety of amenities. The Bombing Range Sports Complex services as a regional park; four parks are community parks offering a wide variety of activities from sports to concerts. The nine remaining parks are neighborhood parks offering family friendly play areas. Parks feature amenities such as baseball fields, soccer fields, and a football field, tennis courts, picnic areas, and playgrounds are provided in the parks system. Trails for walking, jogging, and cycling are abundant in West Richland.

Parks Programing and Operations

While West Richland does not currently have a formal recreation program sponsored by the city, many recreational opportunities exist including those offered through programs such as Little League, youth soccer, and youth football. Private organizations run seasonal programs at the local parks. The following sports associations have recently provided opportunities for youth and adult recreation within the city:

- Tri-Cities Youth Soccer Association
- Columbia Basin Soccer Association
- Academy of Soccer Excellence
- Greater Richland Little League
- Richland Youth Football League
- Three Rivers Soccer Club

The city currently administers a registration and reservation program for city parks. Reservations for large-scale community events (such as the annual Hogs and Dogs Family Festival and National Night Out), small personal events (such as birthday parties and retirement celebrations) and sports league usage are all coordinated through the city’s Community Development Department. The department also coordinates registration for use of gardening beds at the city’s community garden. The Community Development Department also coordinates to provide information to park users on scheduled maintenance and rules and policies for park usage.

The city’s Public Works department is responsible for park maintenance and upkeep, including safety and security features, grass cutting and fertilization, irrigation, tree planting, landscape maintenance, parking maintenance, and maintenance of amenities such as bathrooms and play structures.

In the future, West Richland may consider expanding city services and addressing emerging community needs for a formalized recreation program. Creating a stand-alone Parks and Recreation department would require dedicated and ongoing funding to support staffing and program costs.

Level of Service Standards

The city establishes the following level of service standards for parks. The level of service standards are measures of the minimum amount of a public facility that must be provided to meet the community’s expectations and needs. These standards are used to determine where deficiencies may exist, and to monitor the city’s ability to accommodate new growth. As the city’s population increases, the amount of park amenities must also increase to keep pace with the growth and the level of service that residents expect.

Table PR-1: Level of Service Standards – Parks

Park Type / Facility	Planned Level of Service (per 1000 residents)
Regional Park	2 acres
Community Park	2.75 acres
Neighborhood Park	1.25 acres
Open Space	1 acre
Trails	1 mile

Parks Inventory

The following inventory outlines features and amenities available in West Richland Parks.

Table PR-2: Regional and Community Parks

Name	Key Features	Description / Amenities
Bombing Range Sports Complex 3200 Bombing Range Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 25 Acres ▪ West lot: 137 paved parking spaces ▪ East lot: 117 paved parking spaces ▪ Restrooms ▪ Clubhouse ▪ Two concessions stands ▪ Electricity available ▪ Transit stop 	<p>This park features four baseball fields with backstops, scoreboard, dugout and fencing. The sports complex also has six soccer fields, a football field with goals and scoreboard, practice areas for baseball, soccer, football, benches, picnic tables, walkways, and large play equipment.</p> <p>Many local sports associations and leagues utilize these fields for practices, games, and tournaments.</p> <p>This park is the site of the annual “Hogs and Dogs Family Festival” and the annual Easter egg hunt.</p>
Flat Top Community Park 4749 W Van Giesen Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approx. 10 Acres ▪ 180+ Parking Spaces (paved, shared with park and ride) ▪ Restrooms ▪ Electricity available ▪ Community pavilion with sinks and workroom ▪ Transit stop 	<p>Flat Top Park is the city’s central and flagship park. There are playfields, a tennis/basketball court, swings, small playground equipment, paved pathways, a picnic area, BBQs, and horseshoe pits.</p> <p>A Veterans’ Memorial is located at the park.</p> <p>This park is the site of many annual events including Concerts in the Park, National Night Out, the Harvest Festival, and Carols & Cocoa.</p>
Park at the Lakes Access from 3600 block at Bombing Range Road, or via Lakeside Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nearly 20 acres ▪ 1.54-mile loop trail ▪ 29 Parking Spaces (paved, at Bombing Range Rd Trailhead) ▪ 6 Parking Spaces (paved, at Lakeside Ln. Trailhead) ▪ Two ponds and natural areas 	<p>This park features a paved trail, picnic tables, and benches.</p>

South Highlands Park 2010 Humming Bird Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2.5 Acres ▪ No Parking 	This park features picnic tables, BBQs, play structures, benches, basketball and tennis courts, and dog water stations. There are also bike racks.
Yakima River Gateway Park 3600 W. Van Giesen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under development: Will be approximately 1.5 acres and include 52 paved parking spaces. 	<i>This park is under development, scheduled to open in 2018.</i> This park will feature a non-motorized boat launch to the Yakima River, public access, viewpoints, parking, paved pathways, and bathrooms. Facilities will be ADA-accessible. Interpretive signage will provide interesting facts about cultural and natural features.

Table PR-3: Neighborhood Parks

Name	Key Features	Description / Amenities
Coyote Park 2401 S. Highlands Blvd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2.8 acres 	Picnic tables, shelters, play structures, benches, basketball court, horseshoe pits
Edgewater Park 4507 Chelan Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approx. 0.5 acre 	Play structure, swings, horseshoe pits
Glenn Memorial Park 5901 Gray Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.6 acres ▪ 24 parking spaces (shared with the senior center facility) ▪ Bathrooms (located within the senior center) 	Picnic tables, play structure, bathrooms, playfields, benches, basketball courts, and bike racks
Enterprise Park 4900 Spirea Ct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6 acres ▪ Parking off of Bombing Range Road 	Picnic tables and benches
Grant Court Park 3713 Grant Loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approx. 0.1 acre 	Play structure and a bench
Luanne Estates Park Fern Loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approx. 0.3 acre 	Play structure
Melinda Park 4313 Melinda Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approx. 0.75 acre 	
Paradise Park 1800 S Highlands Blvd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 Acre 	Play Structure
Yellowstone Trail Park 106 Austin Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approx. 0.9 acre ▪ 8 parking spaces 	A community garden with 42 raised garden beds available for rental. Handicap accessible plots are also available. The City will provide water and garden hoses, but gardeners are responsible for all tools.
Wildcat Park Paradise and 50 th Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approx. 0.2 acre 	Drinking fountain, some picnic tables

Table PR-4: Dedicated Open Space

Name	Key Features	Description
Laurel Hill Addition Open Space Tract King Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 Acres 	Open space reserved in subdivision
Enterprise Middle School (NW corner) 5200 Paradise Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.3 Acres 	Open space, left undeveloped for squirrel and burrowing owl habitat <i>(Richland School District property)</i>
West Richland Golf Course (portion) 4000 Fallon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53 Acres - Developed 	Developed open space used for recreation. <i>(The West Richland golf course is developed over two parcels; the eastern parcel was acquired via a state grant and is owned by the city; it is leased to the golf course operator.)</i>
Paul Keith Wetland Preserve Off of Keene Road, near W. Lattin intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.5 Acres 	Open Space, natural areas <i>(A paved trail is planned for future development.)</i>

Future developable park areas

The city has identified several areas which could be developed as parks in the future:

- Collins Road Park** – The city has designated approximately 22.5 acres of land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for future park development, contingent on acquisition from the BLM and available funding to develop the site. The park would primarily serve as an open space feature, with some trails. The site is rather steep and irrigation would not be used, so there would be no sports fields.
- Westwood Park** – The city owns 1.5 acres on Topaz Ave in the Westwood Estates subdivision which is reserved for a future park. The city would like to acquire an additional 3.2 acres to the immediate east from the BLM, to combine the parcels for a neighborhood park.
- Old U-P Railway Tract** – The city owns former Union Pacific Railway right-of-way space on the south end of the city, near the Port of Kennewick’s former raceway site. The tracts are approximately 200 feet in width and create a long strip which could be developed as a 33-acre linear park. There are tremendous opportunities for trail development and other features at this unique site. This space could also be developed as an attractive gateway entrance to the city, for travelers arriving from the new I-82 interchange.

Additional Recreation Space

In addition to the city's park system, residents living in multi-family structures may also have access to additional park-like amenities located in developments, such as swimming pools, playfields, and play structures. These are private amenities not maintained by the city.

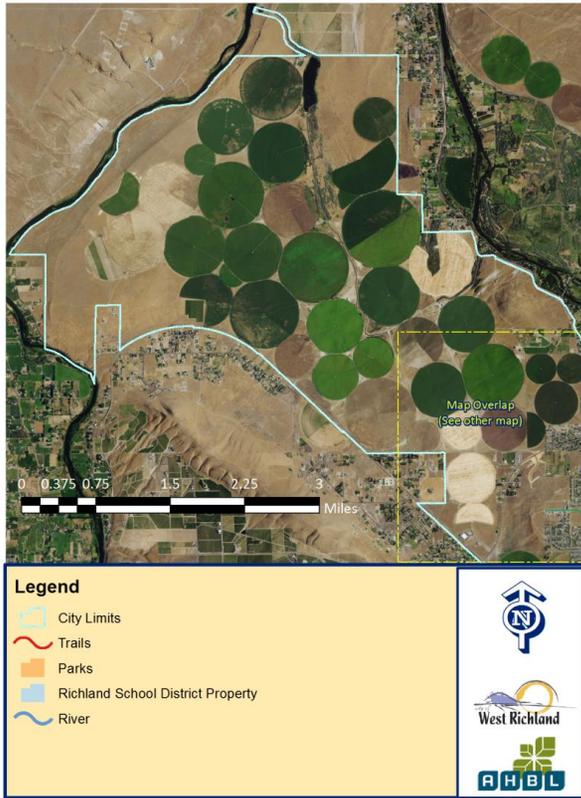
The Richland School District properties (such as Enterprise Middle School) feature playgrounds, sports fields, walking tracks, and open space features that are valuable to the community. While school grounds are closed to the public during school hours, some public access is available to the community according to the school district's policies. The Richland School District also allows sports leagues and community groups to reserve sports fields and recreation space.

Trails

Because of their value to the multi-modal transportation network, trails are discussed in detail in the Transportation Element of this plan.

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CITY OF WEST RICHLAND: Parks and Trails



Goals and Polices

Parks and Recreation Goals, Policies and Strategies

The Parks and Recreation goals, policies, and strategies are provided below. (Goals are shown and numbered in boldface type, with strategies given in bullets below the polices.)

Additional related goals and polices are located in the Land Use and Transportation Elements of this plan. Those items which are sourced from the city's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update document (2012) are marked with a symbol: ◆

Comment [NS1]: Note to the City: We have organized the Parks and Rec goals, policies and strategies found in the current comprehensive plan as shown below. We have added sub-headings to organize these topics by themes. We have also noted recommended additions and deletions from the original text via "tracked changes."

Serve Community Needs

PR-1 Provide a variety of well-distributed, accessible parks and recreational facilities for persons of all ages, including individuals with special needs.

PR – 1.1 Plan new parks, and develop parks and recreation programs based on current and anticipated community needs as identified in the City's Parks Plan, and to maintain desired Level of Service (see Capital Facilities Element).

- Provide parks, trails and recreational facilities that reflect the ability to serve a diverse public. ◆
- Upgrade parks, trails and recreational facilities to address management challenges and to meet the needs of current users. ◆

PR – 1.2 Provide a range of programs and facilities for year-round recreational choices.

PR – 1.3 Develop a system of trails and paths ~~inter~~connecting local and regional destinations.

- Provide trails for walking, bicycling, hiking, jogging, and horseback riding.
- ~~Maintain trails to provide a safe and aesthetically pleasing~~ activity and to provide facilities necessary for the comfort of the public. Design such facilities to be compatible with adjacent land uses and to be aesthetically pleasing.
- Create trails harmonious and compatible with existing resources and park and recreational facilities.
- Support the Tapteal Greenway Plan to provide recreational opportunities adjacent to the lower Yakima River Greenway.
- Establish a regional trails collaboration program that can advance the pursuit of trails that connect communities within Benton County and the Tri-Cities region. ◆

PR – 1.4 Promote citizen involvement in in council decisions involving dedication and development of parks and open space ~~decisions~~.

PR – 1.5 Identify sustainable funding sources to continue park operations and to provide new parks and recreational opportunities.

- Consider the creation of a Metropolitan Park District.

Comment [NS2]: Based on SFA 4 Goal 3

PR – 1.6 Promote and encourage the addition of amenities through volunteer projects and initiatives, such as Eagle Scout Projects.

Comment [NS3]: Based on SFA 4 G2-O2

PR – 1.7 Respond to security and safety issues.

- Continue to enhance safety and security in parks, trails and recreational facilities that encourages positive use of community amenities. ◆

PR – 1.8 Work to increase the compliance with ADA accessibility standards.

- Use the city’s approved ADA Transition Plan document to provide guidance over prioritization and schedule for implementation at each park.

~~PR – 1.5 Retain proceeds from the sale of city parks and open space for park or open space acquisition.~~

Comment [NS4]: We recommend deleting this if the city does not have plans to sell any city parks.

PR-2 Identify sustainable funding sources to continue park operations and to provide new parks and recreational opportunities

Comment [NS5]: “Preservation of open spaces.” Goal and subsequent policies were moved to the Land Use element

PR – 2.1 Collect and expend Park Impact Fees to provide new park facilities and amenities, to acquire new land for parks and recreational trails, and to construct new recreational trails, in order to maintain level of service standards for a growing population.

Comment [NS6]: From SFA 4 Goal 3

Efficient Use, Maintenance, and Operations

PR-3 Promote efficient use of park, recreation, and open space resources.

PR – 3.1 Consider potential future and current needs of private recreational facilities and programs when planning, designing, and locating City facilities.

PR – 3.2 Coordinate and participate in regional efforts for the promotion of parks, recreation, and open space with other agencies and jurisdictions.

- Continue participation in the regional “Geo-Coin Challenge” event, subject to funding.
- Develop a formalized on-going community outreach strategy to expand awareness of parks and recreation services offered to the community. ◆

PR – 3.3 Pursue private dedication of private land to facilitate access to, or continuity of, the park system.

PR – 3.4 Design parks, recreational facilities, and programs that meet changing community recreational values and needs.

PR – 3.5 Develop landscaping and landscape maintenance standards to best use capital, labor, climate, and natural resources in beautification and administration of City parks and recreational facilities.

- Promote the use of native and drought-tolerant landscape plantings.
- Encourage the planting of Plant appropriate trees in City parks through the use-development and implementation of a tree plan ~~and the development of~~ a list of recommended trees.

PR – 3.6 Administer a park reservation system to serve the community’s needs.

- Assist local leagues and recreational sports groups to reserve fields and facilities for their sports seasons.
- Review and update terms of agreements with existing partners utilizing City of West Richland parks and facilities for public or private events. ◆

Comment [NS7]: See SFA 4 G3-06

PR-4 Seek grant funding, and coordinate development of parks with grant funding.

PR – 4.1 Ensure proper maintenance and upkeep of parks and park amenities funded through grant funding, and ensure that all public access and use standards are continued according to the grant agreement and/or recorded covenant.

PR-5 Maintain and enhance parks, trails and recreational facilities to promote community interaction, healthy lifestyles and safety. ◆

PR – 5.1 Care for and enhance the quality of current park sites, facilities, and amenities of the City of West Richland Parks and Recreation System. ◆

PR – 5.2 Pursue responsible new improvements of the parks, trails and recreational facilities in areas of the greatest growth and unmet needs. ◆

PR – 5.3 Leverage a variety of resources to support capital and operational needs of the City of West Richland Parks and Recreation System. ◆

Comment [NS8]: These were listed as “strategies” in the park plan, but they do seem to work as policies, so we have included them as policies here.

PR-5 Update and utilize standards for acquisition, development, design, operations, and maintenance of parks, trails and recreational facilities.

- Utilize consistent standards for acquisition of new park lands, trails, or park amenities. ◆
- Utilize consistent design standards in park and facility development for landscaping, amenities, and infrastructure. ◆
- Establish standards and parameters for partnerships within both the public and private sectors to augment the capital and operational resources of the City. ◆
- Enhance communications in marketing and promotions of City parks, trails and recreational facilities to improve community awareness of programs, services, and facilities, as well as to diversify usage of amenities and expand public feedback opportunities. ◆
- Maintain consistent and updated standards for asset and amenity management in order to maximize and expand their useful lifespan. ◆
- Maintain local, state, and national recognition as a best practices organization. ◆
- Maintain compliance with all existing and applicable laws and regulations. ◆

PR-6 Provide balance and consistency in delivery of programs and services by meeting the needs of the diverse residents of the City of West Richland.

- Enhance support of recreational program and service providers that utilize City parks and recreational sites and facilities to sustain and potentially expand community participation. ◆
- Develop an interpretive signage program that appropriately interprets the significance of the natural, cultural and historic resources of parks and landscapes within the City of West Richland. ◆

PR-7 Manage parks, trails and recreational facilities and programs that support the financial goals and policies of the City of West Richland.

- Establish alternative funding policies and procedures that support capital and operating expenses. ◆
- Maximize the capability of new and existing technology to enhance business practices. ◆

- Develop a comprehensive cost recovery plan for programs, services, and facilities that appropriately balances public funding support with earned revenues, and that balances affordability and entrepreneurialism in the programs and services of the City. ♦

PR-8 Maximize resources through mutually acceptable partnerships that leverage parks, trails, and recreational facility development and program opportunities.

- Develop a sustainable partnership with an established non-profit organization to leverage private sector funding to support select capital projects and programs. ♦
- Play an active role in the network of park, trail, and recreational services and opportunities available to residents, organizations and businesses in West Richland and the surrounding area. ♦

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