



Agenda
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting and Special Workshop
Thursday, December 11, 2025
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order/Attendance:

Approval of Agenda: (Approved by Motion)

1. Approval of the December 11, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda

Approval of Minutes: (Approved by Motion)

2. Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Workshop, Meeting, and Special Workshop Minutes held on:
 - September 25, 2025
 - November 13, 2025
 - November 19, 2025

Council Liaison Report:

Recreation Report:

Parks & Public Facilities Report:

Public Comments: Public comments will be limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

New Business:

3. 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Chair and Vice Chair Election
 - Chris Waite, Parks & Public Facilities Director
4. West Village Community Park Playground Design Concept
 - Chris Waite, Parks & Public Facilities Director

Commission Comments:

Adjournment

Special Workshop:

Discussion Items:

5. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Project Plan Discussion
 - Chris Waite, Parks & Public Facilities Director

Commission Comments:

Special Workshop Adjournment:

This meeting will be broadcast live on [CityView Channel 192](#) on the City's website.

Richland City Hall is ADA accessible. Requests for sign interpreters, audio equipment, and/or other special services must be received 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling the City Clerk's Office at 509-942-7389.



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 12/11/2025

Agenda Category: Approval of Minutes

Prepared By: Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II

Subject

Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Workshop, Meeting, and Special Workshop Minutes held on:

- September 25, 2025
- November 13, 2025
- November 19, 2025

Department

Parks & Public Facilities

Recommended Motion

Motion to approve the following Parks and Recreation Commission minutes for September 25, 2025 Workshop, November 13, 2025 Meeting, and November 19, 2025 Special Workshop.

Summary

Fiscal Impact

Attachments

1. Draft - 2025.09.11 Parks and Recreation Commission Special Workshop Minutes
2. DRAFT 2025.11.13 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting and Special Workshop Minutes
3. DRAFT 2025.11.19 Parks and Recreation Commission Special Workshop Minutes



MINUTES
Richland Parks & Recreation Commission Special Workshop
Thursday, September 11, 2025
Richland Community Center – Meeting Room
500 Amon Park Drive

Parks & Recreation Commission Special Workshop - 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Attendance:

Chair Mason	Not Present
Vice Chair Gutierrez	Present
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Thompson	Present
Commissioner Hodges	Not Present
Commissioner Jones	Not Present
Commissioner Watrous	Present
Commissioner Thallapally	Not Present
Commissioner Kreis	Present

Also present were Staff Liaison/Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite, Recreation Manager Piper, and Administrative Assistant II Roe.

Discussion Items:

1. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Goal Discussion
MIG Director of Operations, Jon Pheanis & Planning Manager, Lauren Scott

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PRO) is being updated with guidance from MIG Consultants, who collaborated with the Commission to establish the plan's goals. The discussion centered on defining priorities for park acquisition, preservation, and enhancement, as well as improving connectivity and access to parks and trails, and incorporating sustainable stewardship practices. Community input has been gathered to ensure the plan reflects public needs and values, and the plan is being aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan and other strategic initiatives. The Commission reviewed draft goals and provided recommendations. The continued discussion will resume on September 25, 2025, at the Parks and Recreation Commission workshop.

Adjournment:

Workshop adjourned at 8:02 PM

APPROVED:

Samantha Mason, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair

PREPARED BY:

Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II

DRAFT



MINUTES
Richland Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting | Special Workshop
Thursday, November 13, 2025
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting | Special Workshop- 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

Chair Mason	Present
Vice Chair Gutierrez	Not Present
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Thompson	Present
Commissioner Hodges	Not Present
Commissioner Jones	Not Present
Commissioner Watrous	Present
Commissioner Thallapally	Present
Commissioner Kreis	Present

Also present were the Council Liaison/Mayor Pro Tem Kent, Staff Liaison/Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite, Recreation Manager Piper, Facilities Supervisor Colvin, and Administrative Assistant II Roe.

1. Approval of Agenda: (Approved by Motion)

COMMISSIONER BUELT MOVED, AND COMMISSIONER KREIS SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 13, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

2. Approval of Minutes: (Approved by Motion)

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON MOVED, AND COMMISSIONER KREIS SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations:

**3. Silas Education Solar System Project Presentation
Trevor Macduff**

Macduff presented an update on the Hanford Reach Solar System Project, a large-

scale outdoor model of the solar system located at The REACH Museum. The project places planet markers along regional trails at proportional distances to help the public explore astronomy through outdoor learning. The group reviewed current installations, future planned markers, and the educational and tourism benefits the project brings to Richland's parks and trail system.

4. See 3 Slam Annual Presentation Terry Fleischman

Fleischman provided an informational overview of the See 3 Slam 3-on-3 basketball tournament, discussing the event's history, community involvement, and interest in continuing or expanding the event within Richland's recreational offerings. The presentation introduced the commission to potential partnership or support opportunities.

5. Hanford Reach National Monument Citizens Committee Interpretive Kiosk Presentation Karyn Wiemers

The committee shared progress on the upcoming interpretive kiosk highlighting the Hanford Reach National Monument. They reviewed the kiosk design, planned interpretive content, and its purpose in educating park and trail users about the area's natural, cultural, and historical significance. The project is progressing through content review and installation planning, aimed at enhancing visitor understanding along Richland's waterfront and trail network.

Public Comments:

Laila Krowiak, Richland Resident

Krowiak, mother of a six-year-old, shared her perspective as a frequent bicycle commuter, praising the city's multi-use trails and wider bike lanes while noting safety concerns at certain intersections, such as G Way and Jadwin. She expressed alarm over high-speed e-motorcycles on trails, emphasizing that these are motor vehicles under Washington law but lack licensing or driver training requirements. She criticized the city's 15 mph trail speed limit as unenforceable and unfair to bicyclists, highlighting the lack of safe alternative routes and urging the city to provide more safe, comfortable, and clearly marked routes for both cyclists and pedestrians.

Sarah Letard, West Richland Resident

Letard expressed concern about misuse of the Riverfront trails, noting that some users travel at excessive speeds, small motorbikes are present, and trail users do not always share the path safely. The patron suggested the city consider improved signage and measures to enhance safety and encourage proper trail use.

Francesca Maier, Richland Resident

Maier, a certified League of American Bicyclists cycling instructor, provided information on proper bicycle etiquette and recommended the use of signage to

educate trail users about safe and respectful cycling practices.

Rich Mayer, Richland Resident

Mayer also agreed with the cycling instructor's comments, recommending improved education and signage to promote proper etiquette for bicycles, walking, and shared trails.

Mike Watkins, Richland Resident

Watkins, a certified League of American Bicyclists cycling instructor, provided information on a proposed resolution regarding shared trails and reiterated the importance of proper signage and education to ensure safe and respectful trail use.

Mike Weimers, Richland Resident

Weimers highlighted the distinction between e-bikes and motorcycles, discussed appropriate and safe trail speeds, and expressed the belief that the community can work together to help enforce safe trail use.

Ben Jensen, Richland Resident

Jensen suggested improved trail signage, thanked the City for renovating the tennis courts at Leslie Groves, and requested that pickleball lines be added to the courts.

Jim Hanson, Richland Resident

Hanson expressed confusion regarding the authority and responsibilities of park rangers, specifically related to their ability to enforce rules or provide education on park trails.

Dene Koons, Richland Resident

Krous reiterated previous comments, emphasizing that motorized vehicles on the trails are a significant safety concern.

Mike Walker, Richland Resident

Walker reiterated previous comments, emphasizing that ebikes and scooters on the trails are a significant safety concern. Also mentioned some maintenance issues that he would like to discuss with the proper staff later.

Eric Jensen, Richland Resident

Jensen reinforced previous comments, emphasizing that enforcing speed limits on the trails is a significant safety concern.

Richard Doval, Richland Resident

Doval reiterated previous comments, emphasizing that motorized vehicles on the trails are a significant safety concern and the city should use other ways of communicating to the community regarding the problems, rather than the use of social media.

Karyn Wiemers, Richland Resident

Weimers suggested a solution for improving trail safety and encouraged trail users to contact the police department's non-emergency line when issues arise.

Rebecca Burghart, Richland Resident

Burghart, an avid bicyclist, suggested setting a trail speed limit of 12–15 mph, noting that slower speeds can make it difficult for cyclists to maintain their balance.

Council Liaison Report:

Mayor Pro Tem Kent provided updates on city council initiatives and decisions affecting parks and recreation, including ongoing budget considerations, trail improvements, and support for community events. Kent also highlighted council interest in enhancing recreational infrastructure and coordinating with the Parks & Recreation Commission on long-term planning.

Recreation Report:

Recreation Manager Piper reported on current and upcoming programs, participation statistics, and facility use. Piper highlighted successful youth and adult recreation programs, noted community feedback, and discussed upcoming events and registration timelines. She also touched on efforts to improve program accessibility and promote community engagement.

Parks & Facilities Report:

Supervisor Colvin provided updates on parks maintenance, recent facility improvements, and ongoing capital projects. He discussed trail repairs, playground updates, and park safety initiatives, as well as scheduling and planning for upcoming park projects. He also noted challenges, including seasonal maintenance and staffing.

Parks & Public Facilities Report:

Director Waite presented a department-wide overview, which included major capital projects, park and trail improvements, and updates to public facilities. Waite highlighted coordination with other city departments, grant opportunities, and upcoming initiatives, including interpretive kiosks and educational projects. He also addressed staffing, community engagement, and strategies for maintaining and enhancing park assets.

New Business:**6. West Village Community Park Playground Design Concept
Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite**

Director Waite presented the concept design for the West Village Community Park playground, developed based on community input gathered during a May 2025 outreach event. This Phase 2 presentation highlights features and themes preferred by the community. Staff noted that additional funding is programmed for 2026 to support construction; the shade structure shown is not included in this phase, and the final design will utilize a uniform safety surface. This item was presented for discussion only and will be returned for approval at the December meeting.

7. Little Badger Mountain Trailhead Parking Lot Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite

Commissioner Waite provided an update on the implementation of the Little Badger Mountain Loop Trail Master Plan, focusing on the parking lot and trailhead project, which is currently at 30% design. A community meeting was held on November 6, 2025, to gather input on trail alignment, access, parking, and interpretive features. The City is collaborating with Friends of Badger Mountain and their consultants to advance the project, which will feature a loop trail, trailhead parking, and support the future Gage Road extension, thereby promoting access to recreation and environmental stewardship.

Discussion only.

8. Trail Etiquette and Safety Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite

Director Waite reported an increase in trail user conflicts and inappropriate use, including the use of high-speed e-bikes, failure to signal when passing, and the operation of motorized mini-bikes on non-motorized paths. Staff recommended that if park safety is retained as a 2026 PRC goal, a subcommittee be formed to collaborate with community stakeholders on an awareness campaign promoting proper trail etiquette and responsible recreation. Proposed efforts include establishing volunteer "Trail Etiquette Ambassadors," conducting a signage audit to clarify permitted uses, and providing recommendations to reinforce safe and respectful trail behavior. Staff also requested Commission input on the timeline for developing 2026 goals.

Discussion only.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Special Workshop

Attendance:

Chair Mason	Present
Vice Chair Gutierrez	Not Present
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Thompson	Present
Commissioner Hodges	Not Present
Commissioner Jones	Not Present
Commissioner Watrous	Present
Commissioner Thallapally	Present
Commissioner Kreis	Present

Also present were the Pro Tem Kent, Staff Liaison/Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite, Recreation Manager Piper, Parks and Facilities Supervisor Colvin, and Administrative Assistant II Roe.

Discussion Item:

1. Bike Park Discussion Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite

Representatives from the local chapter of the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance discussed potential future bike park and trail development in Richland. The discussion focused on opportunities to expand mountain biking amenities, enhance trail experiences, and collaborate with the City on locations and design concepts that support community recreation goals and sustainable trail practices.

Special Workshop Adjournment:

Special Workshop adjourned at 9:03 PM

APPROVED:

Samantha Mason, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair

PREPARED BY:

Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II



MINUTES
Richland Parks & Recreation Commission Special Workshop
Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Richland Community Center – Meeting Room
500 Amon Park Drive

Parks & Recreation Commission Special Workshop - 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Attendance:

Chair Mason	Present
Vice Chair Gutierrez	Present
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Thompson	Present
Commissioner Hodges	Present
Commissioner Jones	Present
Commissioner Watrous	Present
Commissioner Thallapally	Not Present
Commissioner Kreis	Present

Also present was the Staff Liaison/Parks and Public Facilities Director, Waite

Discussion Items:

**1. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan – Planning and Progress Update
Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite**

Director Waite and the consultant team provided an update on the PROS Plan, including a brief review of the project schedule, feedback received from the City Council on October 28, and preliminary park access mapping that highlighted current ten-minute walk gaps in the community. The Commission reviewed the draft Strategic Framework, which included updated values, goals, and system-wide objectives, and engaged in discussions on potential recommendations and capital improvement projects. Commissioners were asked to identify high-priority needs and offer input on project prioritization criteria to help guide the next phase of the Plan.

Adjournment

Workshop adjourned at 7:52 PM

APPROVED:

Samantha Mason, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair

PREPARED BY:

Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II

DRAFT



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 12/11/2025

Agenda Category: New Business

Prepared By: Chris Waite, Parks & Public Facilities Director

Subject

2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Chair and Vice Chair Election

Department

Parks & Public Facilities

Recommended Motion

I move to elect _____ as Chair and _____ as Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission for the 2026 calendar year.

Summary

The purpose of this agenda item is to elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Parks and Recreation Commission for the 2026 calendar year. These positions provide leadership for Commission meetings and serve as the primary point of coordination with staff.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Attachments



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 12/11/2025

Agenda Category: New Business

Prepared By: Chris Waite, Parks & Public Facilities Director

Subject

West Village Community Park Playground Design Concept

Department

Parks & Public Facilities

Recommended Motion

I move that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend that the City Council approve the final playground concept for West Village Community Park Phase 2

Summary

Staff is presenting the final playground concept for Phase 2 of West Village Community Park. In June, the City held an engagement event at the park and heard strong support for adding swings and incorporating a fire station theme. These priorities are included in the final concept.

The concept also shows the location of a future shade structure. This shade structure is not part of the current project scope or budget and is included only to illustrate how it will fit into the long term play area layout.

To deliver a larger and more inclusive community level playground, staff requested and received additional funds in the 2026 budget. The project will carry forward the original \$450,000 from 2025 and combine it with \$300,000 in new 2026 funding for a total project budget of \$750,000. This will be supplemented with an additional \$100,000 park reserve funding to reach the project total.

Commission feedback on the final concept is requested to recommend to City Council.

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission forward a recommendation to the City Council to approve the final playground concept for West Village Community Park Phase 2 and authorize staff to proceed with final design and preparation of construction documents.

Fiscal Impact

The project is funded with \$450,000 carried forward from 2025, \$300,000 allocated in 2026, and an additional \$100,000 in park reserve funds, for a total budget of \$850,000.

Attachments

1. West Village Playground - Concept



WEST VILLAGE PARK

OPTION B - REV 7

 Northwest Playground
EQUIPMENT INC.

 **PLAYWORLD**
The world needs play.

IHD 382 22BR7

Color Option : A

DESIGN SHOWN IS CONCEPTUAL ONLY. FINAL PRODUCTS MAY DIFFER.

COLOR KEY	POST & COMPONENTS			ROTO			SHEET PLASTIC		ROPE	DECK	DECK
											
	YELLOW	SAND	RED	CHARTREUSE	SKY	RED	BEIGE-RED	BEIGE	RED	RED	GRAY



WEST VILLAGE PARK

OPTION B - REV 7



IHD 382 22BR7 Color Option : A DESIGN SHOWN IS CONCEPTUAL ONLY. FINAL PRODUCTS MAY DIFFER.

COLOR KEY	POST & COMPONENTS			ROTO			SHEET PLASTIC		ROPE	DECK	DECK
	YELLOW	SAND	RED	CHARTREUSE	SKY	RED	BEIGE-RED	BEIGE	RED	RED	GRAY



WEST VILLAGE PARK

OPTION B - REV 7

IHD 382 22BR7

Color Option : A

Northwest Playground
EQUIPMENT INC.

PLAYWORLD
The world needs play.

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WEST VILLAGE PARK

OPTION B - REV 7

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WEST VILLAGE PARK

OPTION B - REV 7



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EQUIPMENT INC.



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WEST VILLAGE PARK

OPTION B - REV 7

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OPTION B - REV 7

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WEST VILLAGE PARK

OPTION B - REV 7

 Northwest Playground
EQUIPMENT INC.

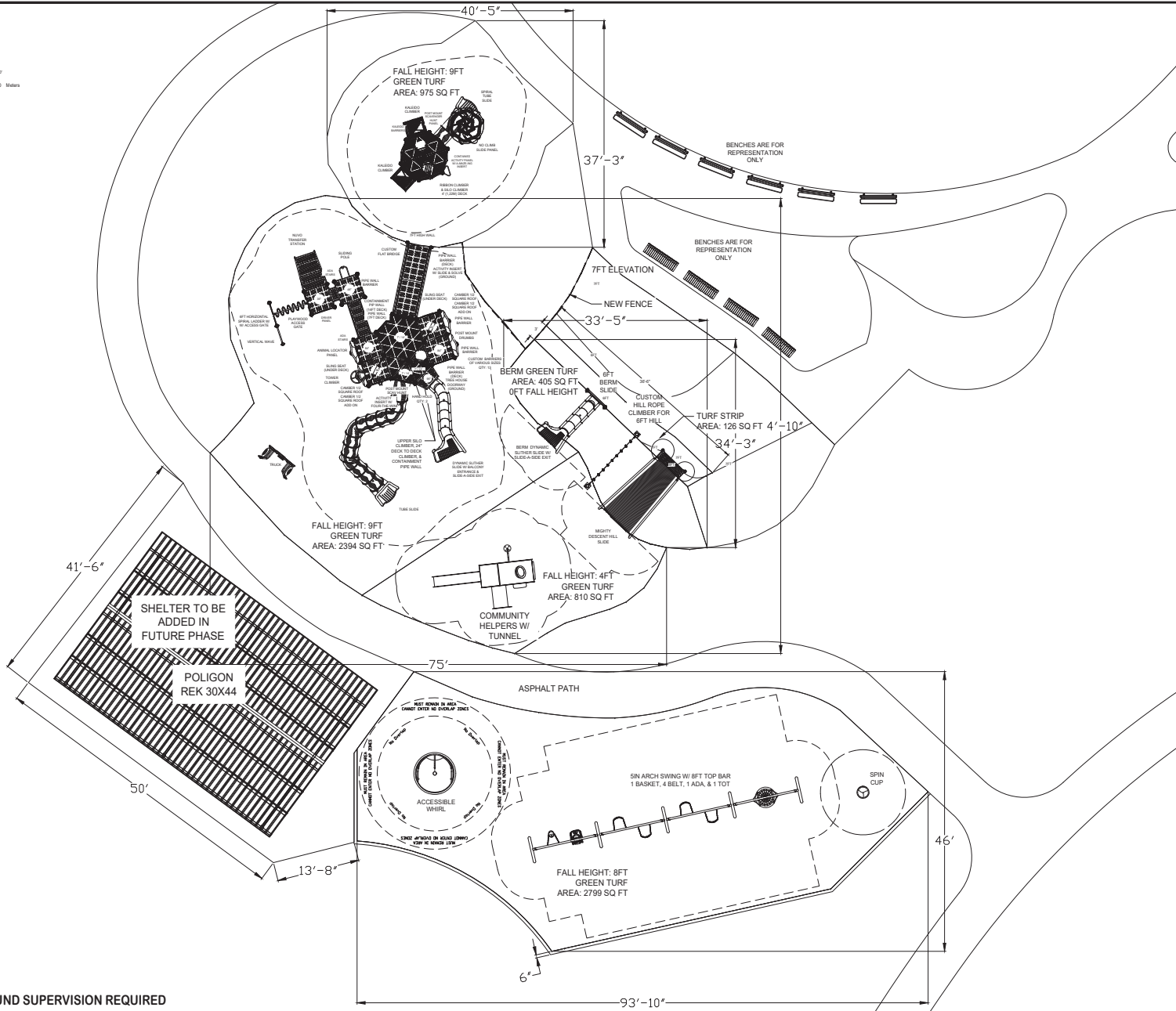
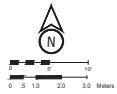
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	YELLOW	SAND	RED	CHARTREUSE	SKY	RED	BEIGE-RED	BEIGE	RED	RED	GRAY



*PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION REQUIRED

DESIGN FILE PATH: I:\WEST VILLAGE PARK\IHD_382_22BR7\DESIGN



Northwest Playground Equipment, Inc.
 BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PLAY
 P.O. Box 2410 Issaquah, WA 98027
 Toll Free: 1.800.726.0031
 www.nwplayground.com
 sales@nwplayground.com

EQUIPMENT SIZE:

USE ZONE:

AREA:
SEE PLAN

PERIMETER:

FALL HEIGHT:
SEE PLAN

USER CAPACITY:
185+

AGE GROUP:
2-5 & 5-12

ADA SCHEDULE	Total Elevated Play Activities: 14		
	Total Ground-Level Play Activities: 17		
	Accessible Elevated Activities	Accessible Ground-Level Activities	Accessible Ground-Level Play Types
Required	7	4	3
Provided	7	17	5

✓ ASTM F1487-17
 ✓ CPSC #325



PROJECT NO:
IHD_382_22BR7

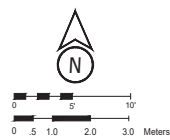
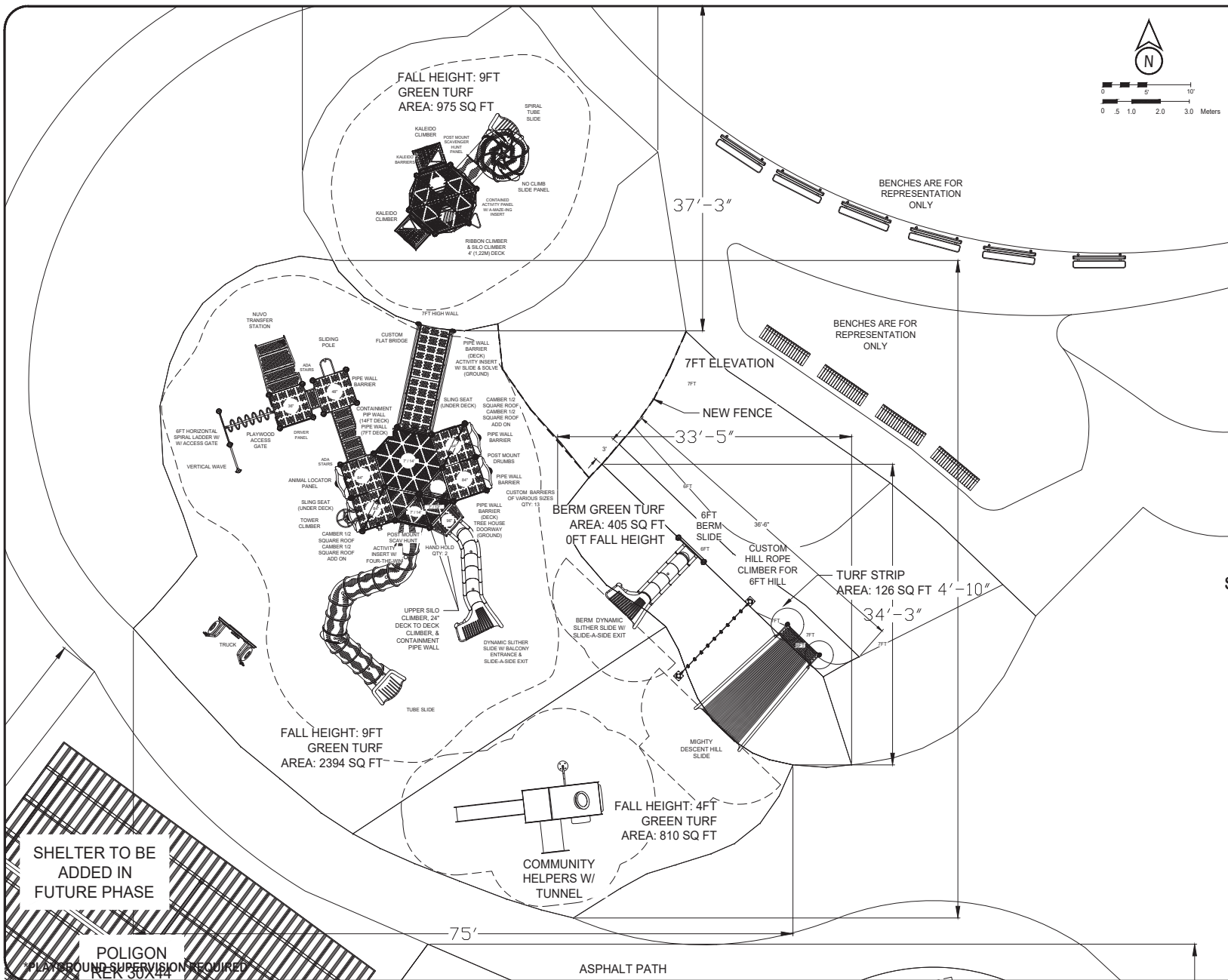
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BPL

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DATE:
24-Oct-25

WEST VILLAGE PARK
 OVERALL AREA - OPT B - REV 7



PLAYWORLD®

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 BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PLAY
 P.O. Box 2410 Issaquah, WA 98027
 Toll Free: 1.800.726.0031
www.nwplayground.com
sales@nwplayground.com

EQUIPMENT SIZE: _____

USE ZONE: _____

AREA: _____ PERIMETER: _____

FALL HEIGHT: **9 Ft.**

USER CAPACITY: _____ AGE GROUP: _____

SEE OVERALL PLAN 2-5 & 5-12

ADA SCHEDULE	Total Elevated Play Activities: 14		
	Total Ground-Level Play Activities: 14		
	Accessible Elevated Activities	Accessible Ground-Level Activities	Accessible Ground-Level Play Types
Required	7	4	3
Provided	7	14	5

- ✓ ASTM F1487-17
- ✓ CPSC #325

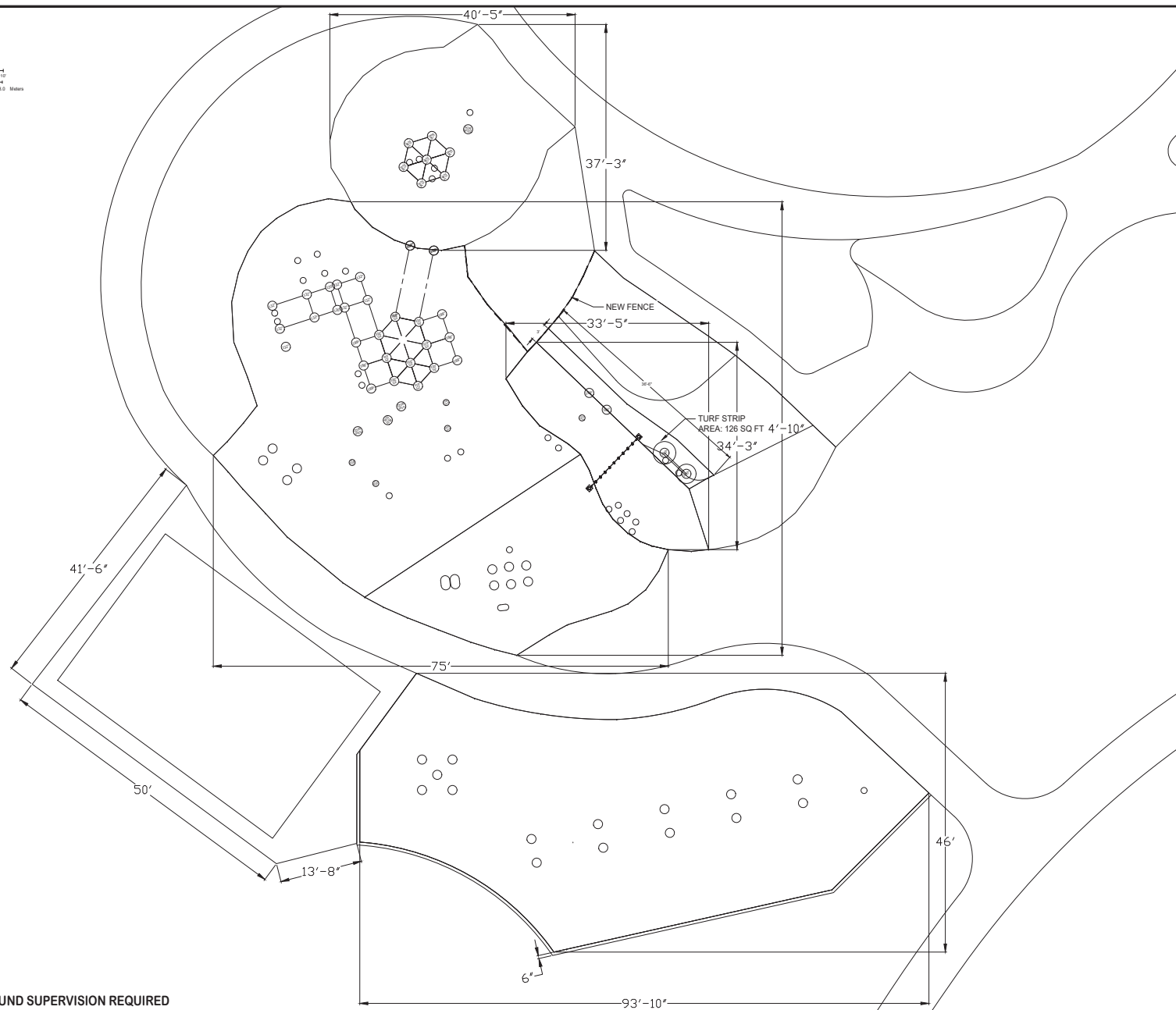
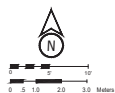


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DATE: 2-Dec-25	

WEST VILLAGE PARK
 MAIN PLAYGROUND AREA - OPTION B - REV 7

SHELTER TO BE
 ADDED IN
 FUTURE PHASE

POLYGON
 PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION REQUIRED
 PER 30X44

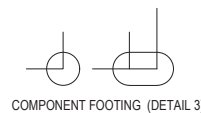


*PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION REQUIRED



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BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PLAY
P.O. Box 2410 Issaquah, WA 98027
Toll Free: 1.800.726.0031
www.nwplayground.com
sales@nwplayground.com

FOOTING LEGEND



COMPONENT FOOTING (DETAIL 3)



SPIRAL SLIDE CENTER POST FOOTING (DETAIL 1)



SUPPORT POST FOOTING (DETAIL 1 or 4)
(112" INDICATES POST LENGTH)



CANTILEVER, "T" POST, AND COMPONENT
POST FOOTING (DETAIL 2)
(ZZCH1850 INDICATES PART NUMBER)



GROUND ZERO POST FOOTING (DETAIL 2)
(144" INDICATES POST LENGTH)

PROJECT NO:
IHD_382_22BR7

SCALE:
1/16" = 1'-0"

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Paper Size

DATE:
2-Dec-25

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WEST VILLAGE PARK

OVERALL - REV 7 - FOOTING PLAN



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 12/11/2025

Agenda Category: Discussion Items

Prepared By: Chris Waite, Parks & Public Facilities Director

Subject

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Project Plan Discussion

Department

Parks & Public Facilities

Recommended Motion

Summary

This item provides a follow up to the November workshop presentation on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Staff will review the community survey results and preliminary project prioritization framework and invite any additional Commission comments or discussion. Feedback from this meeting will help refine priorities and guide development of the draft PROS Plan.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Attachments

1. RichlandParks_Brief #2_110725
2. Attachment A
3. RichlandParks_Strategic Framework_DRAFT_11052025



PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

BRIEF #2: NEEDS ANALYSIS

I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Richland is developing its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) to shape the future of citywide park and recreation services. In response to continued growth and evolving community priorities, the PROS Plan will address system-wide needs, identify specific improvements to park and recreation facilities, natural open spaces, and activities, and redefine goals and objectives to guide future investments, projects, programs, and maintenance.

This Needs Analysis evaluates gaps in Richland's parks, recreation facilities, trails, programming, and maintenance. By gathering and analyzing data, the Needs Analysis helps determine the resources and services needed to meet the evolving needs of the Richland community. This in-depth look at Richland's system and community needs provides a vital basis for effective resource allocation, growth planning, and improving the overall quality of life and provision of equitable park and recreation services for years to come.

Beyond identifying gaps and needs in park and recreation services and infrastructure, this document identifies preliminary opportunities for improvement and new development. This includes the provision of additional recreation facilities to serve a growing population, better connectivity and access to key sites, and opportunities to optimize existing spaces for usability and enjoyment.

The Needs Analysis is a key deliverable for Phase 2, Needs, Opportunities, and Visioning, of the PROS Plan. This analysis will guide development of the PROS Plan's vision, goals, and recommendations in subsequent phases of the planning process. Figure 1 outlines the different phases of the planning process.

There are **eight sections** included in this summary:

1. Introduction
2. Community Engagement Overview
3. Evolving Demographics
4. Recreation Trends
5. Park and Facility Access
6. Park Conditions
7. System Needs
8. Next Steps

Attachments

- A. Community Engagement Summaries

FIGURE 1: PLANNING PROCESS



Needs Analysis Methodology

The Needs Analysis (Figure 2) is based on a multi-step process to evaluate community needs. It begins with community engagement, gathering preferences and desires from residents to shape the priorities. Demographic changes are then analyzed to understand diversity and growth patterns in the population. Trends are also considered, assessing evolving needs to create a responsive six-year plan. Level of service (LOS) was analyzed to understand how much and what types of amenities are required to meet Richland’s LOS goals as the city continues to grow. Park and facility access was analyzed to understand who has access to parks within walking distance and to highlight areas with higher needs. Finally, park conditions and tree canopy were assessed. Altogether, the methodology identifies specific needs such as parkland, access improvements, facilities and amenities, recreation programs, and resources such as maintenance, staffing, and funding.

FIGURE 2: NEEDS ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY



2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The PROS Plan will be grounded in an inclusive engagement process that combines a diverse range of engagement opportunities to gather comprehensive community feedback. The City conducted various outreach activities during the first planning phases to collect input from residents, City leaders, user groups, community partners, and other interested parties (Figure 3). Community input will continue to be gathered throughout subsequent phases of the planning process to ensure the PROS Plan is representative of community needs and priorities. Planned activities include a community prioritization activity, a community event, and additional meetings with the Parks and Recreation Commission, City leaders, and City staff. Refer to Attachment A for individual summaries of engagement activities.

FIGURE 3: ENGAGEMENT TO DATE



Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings

The Project Team first met with the Richland Parks and Recreation Commission on April 10, 2025, to discuss project objectives and the future parks and recreation system. Commissioners described key needs and opportunities, and ideas to ensure broad participation from the community. The Project Team then met with the Commission on September 11, 2025, to provide an update on the project, share key findings and outreach results, and to discuss the PROS Plan's vision, goals, and recommendations. Commissioners identified new values and goals and discussed key needs and priorities for the future of the park and recreation system.

Community Interviews

To help assess needs and opportunities, the Project Team conducted small group interviews with a variety of groups, organizations, and individuals who represent specific community interests and perspectives. The Project Team held a total of five community interviews with groups organized by interest and perspective, including accessibility, trails and conservation, large events, youth sports, and City partners. Each interview provided an opportunity to gather a diverse range of perspectives and to identify unique community needs and opportunities for various aspects of the park and recreation system.

Ambassador Meetings

The Project Team developed an Ambassador Toolkit that was distributed to over 52 community partners and organizations to gather additional ideas, questions, and priorities. The toolkit included a brief FAQ about the PROS Plan, easy instructions for facilitating the group discussion, four short discussion questions focused on park and recreation system needs and priorities, and a recording sheet to capture what people said. The toolkit also included a way to provide virtual feedback and a link to the community survey.

Community Survey

Complementing other engagement efforts, the City launched an online community survey to solicit broader community input on the status of parks and recreation, existing needs, and improvement priorities. The survey was available in English and Spanish via a link to the City's website from August 11th to August 29th, 2025. The survey included 17 questions with an additional six demographic questions, all of which were optional. Questions focused on how the Richland community uses parks, what new amenities or programs are desired, and which improvements are most important to shape future investments. The survey was shared with the community through several methods including a press release, radio and TV interviews, multiple posts across City social media channels, in-person staff outreach at events, printed postcards and flyers, postings on public facility reader boards, and notifications to City subscriber lists. A total of 818 people completed the community survey.



Key Engagement Themes

The following key themes emerged from the PROS Plan’s initial engagement efforts. These themes represent a collective snapshot of the opportunities, aspirations, and needs that were consistently highlighted across the engagement efforts.

Theme #1

Richland offers a varied and well-maintained system of parks, trails, open spaces, programs, and events that is well-loved by the community. Both City partners and park, trail, facility, program, and event users noted their appreciation for Richland’s park system.

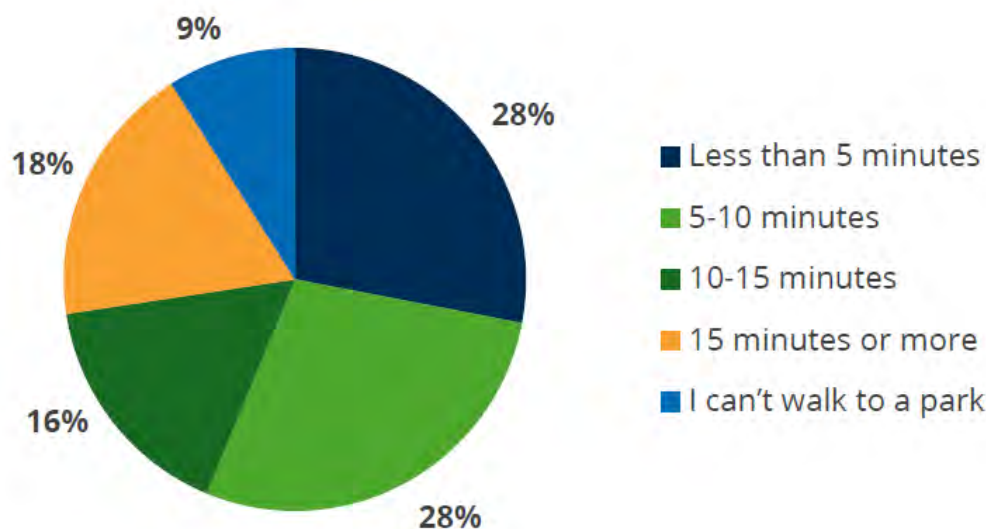
Theme #2

Access to parks can be limited by poor connectivity, barriers, unsafe walking or biking conditions, or overall distance from people’s homes to a park. Approximately 86% of community survey respondents said they typically drive to a park, and over 43% of community survey respondents said it would take them more than 10-minutes to walk to the nearest park to their home.



- Online Community Survey Respondent

FIGURE 4: COMMUNITY SURVEY - IF YOU WERE TO WALK TO YOUR NEAREST PARK, HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU?



Respondents to this question; n = 935

Theme #3

Natural areas are assets that provide benefits to both people and wildlife and **need to be taken care of**. Approximately 57% of community survey respondents said being surrounded by trees, plants, and wildlife was their top reason for visiting a park. Trail and conservation community interview respondents shared the following challenges for natural areas that should be considered during the planning process:

- Threats from growth, development, and public uses on natural areas;
- Management and maintenance practices for river corridors;
- Invasive species and climate impacts; and
- Cost of trail and open space acquisition and management.

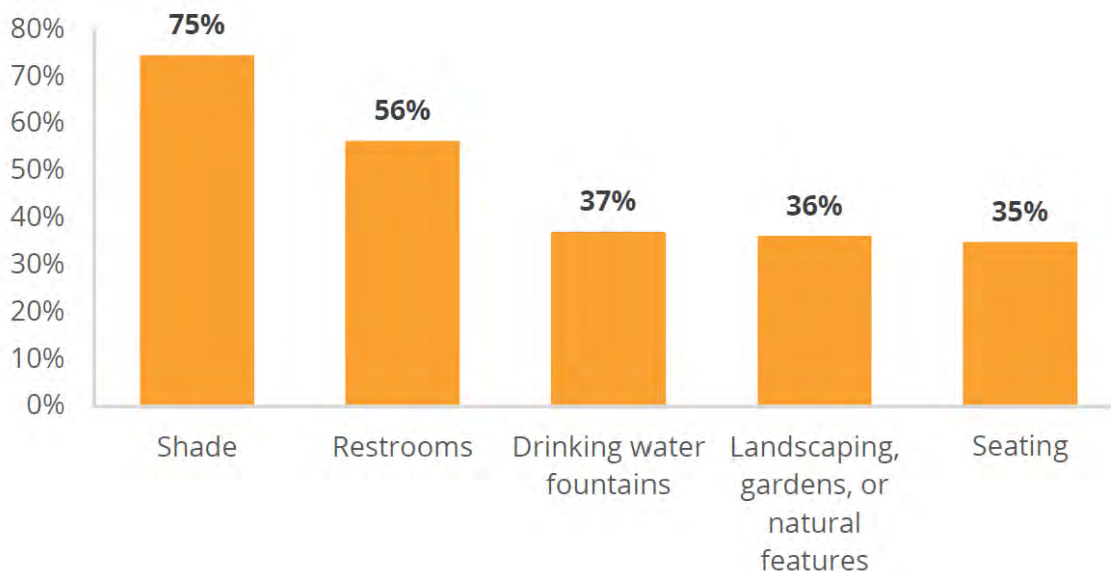
Theme #4

There are concerns about **safety and cleanliness at certain City parks** and a need for increased efforts to keep the park system **safe, clean, and welcoming**. Approximately 17% of open-ended community survey responses identified issues around park maintenance and cleanliness, while 13% identified issues around park safety and security (e.g. law enforcement, vandalism, and homelessness). Ideas shared by community members to address these concerns include additional lighting at parks, trails and facilities, increased City staff or uniformed officer presence at parks, and the installation of security cameras.

Theme #5

Parks need **amenities to increase user comfort** like shade, restrooms, and seating. Approximately 35% of community survey respondents chose added or improved comfort amenities as one of their top three improvements to parks. Shade was the most requested improvement to increase user comfort (Figure 5).

FIGURE 5: WHAT TYPES OF AMENITIES WOULD MAKE PARKS, TRAILS, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE AREAS MORE COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING?



Theme #6

Richland hosts well-known events and popular recreation programs but there are **challenges to organizing events and programs and increasing offerings**. Specific challenges include staff availability and capacity, facility space and site infrastructure, and sponsorships, partnerships, and available resources. Community members also expressed an interest in additional events and programs, particularly aquatics programs, cultural or arts programming (e.g. music and movies in the park, arts walks, shows, plays, performances, etc.), and outdoor education or nature programs.

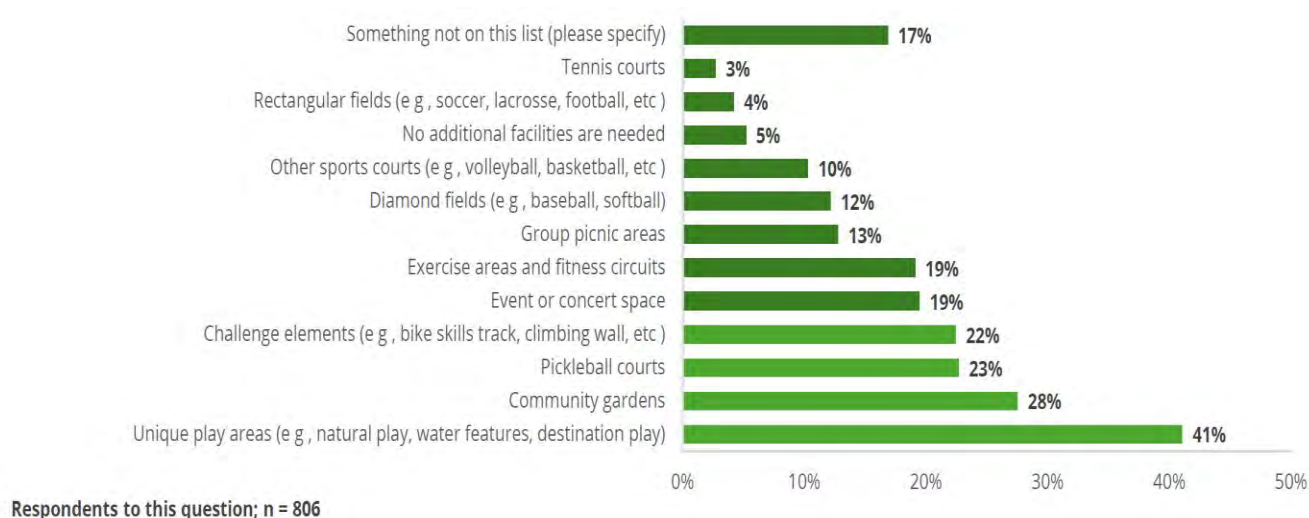
Theme #7

There is a desire for **better communication and information sharing** about parks, events, and programs. Approximately 59% of community survey respondents selected “lack of awareness” as an answer to what barriers they face in participating in Richland recreation programs. This result, combined with feedback from other engagement efforts, highlights the need for targeted and expanded outreach efforts to ensure all community members know what programs are available.

Theme #8

There is a **desire for more facilities** including water and aquatic facilities, sports fields, unique and accessible play features, walking and biking trails, and dog parks. Approximately 41% of community survey respondents requested more unique play areas (e.g. nature play, water features, and destination play) in Richland (Figure 6). This request was repeated throughout engagement efforts, along with a desire to ensure all facilities are accessible regardless of age or ability. More walking and biking trails was also a top request across engagement efforts, particularly those that increase connectivity and provide opportunities to connect with nature.

FIGURE 6: COMMUNITY SURVEY – WHAT TYPES OF FACILITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN RICHLAND PARKS?



3. EVOLVING DEMOGRAPHICS

Richland strives to provide a vibrant park and recreation system that offers diverse opportunities for residents of all ages, incomes, race/ethnicity, abilities, and varied interests. Evolving demographic conditions in Richland such as continued population growth, rising youth population, and shifts in race/ethnicity will impact recreation needs. By aligning activities and amenities with these evolving demographic trends, Richland will be better able to meet the diverse preferences and needs of all residents.

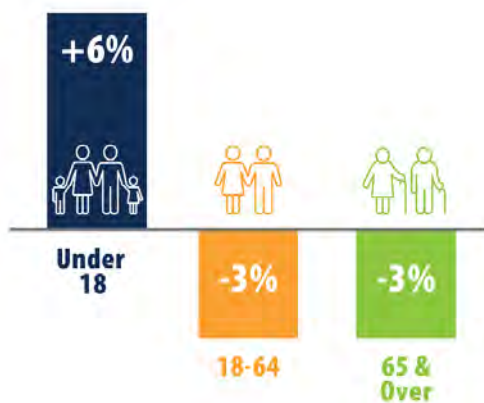
Anticipated Population Growth

Richland and the broader Tri-Cities Metropolitan Area have experienced rapid population growth over the past decades. Since 1990, Richland has nearly doubled in size. This rapid population growth is expected to continue. By 2045, Richland is projected to have a population of 82,196 people.¹ This represents a projected 28 percent population increase between 2025 and 2045. This growth will continue to place increased demand on Richland's park and recreation system, requiring adjustments to accommodate additional users and varied community needs.

Increasing Youth Population

Since 2010, Richland's population under 18 has increased by approximately 6%, while those ages 18 to 54 decreased by 3%, and the population ages 65 and older decreased by 3% (see Figure 7). Additionally, according to Census data, Richland's median age has decreased by over two years since 2010 to 36.4 years old. If the population continues to shift in this direction, the Richland parks and Public Facilities Department will need to adapt by incorporating more amenities and programming suited to youth, teens, and families for the rising younger population. Multigenerational opportunities that are accommodating to all ages and abilities, including older adults, will remain important, although the system is likely to experience increased demand for youth-centric programs and facilities.

FIGURE 7: 2010-2023 AGE RANGE CHANGE



SOURCE: 2010 and 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

¹ 2024 Office of Financial Management (OFM) official population estimate, Decennial Census; 2045 20-year population estimate provided by City of Richland staff

Increasing Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Between 2010 and 2023, Richland’s Hispanic or Latino population more than doubled, with a greater increase in population size than Benton County and Washington. Richland’s Asian population grew by 1.2%, while the White population saw a decrease of over 10% during the same period (see Table I). These shifts indicate that Richland is becoming more diverse, with significant changes in racial and ethnic composition of the community.

As the community’s diversity evolves, the parks and recreation system will need to adapt to a more diverse population. The increase in Hispanic/Latino and Asian populations suggests a growing need for culturally relevant programming and amenities that cater to these communities. This might include multilingual signs, culturally specific events and festivals, unique facilities, and inclusive design elements. City staff will want to ensure that parks and recreation facilities, as well as programming, reflect the evolving community's needs and preferences to foster inclusivity and engagement across all demographic groups.

TABLE I: 2010-2023 RACE/ETHNICITY CHANGE

RACE	STATE OF WASHINGTON		BENTON COUNTY		CITY OF RICHLAND	
	2010	2023	2010	2023	2010	2023
Hispanic or Latino	10.5%	14.1%	17.4%	24.8%	7.4%	14.1%
White	73.7%	64.3%	75.8%	65.7%	83.7%	73.6%
Black or African American	3.4%	3.8%	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.3%	0.8%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	0.2%
Asian	6.9%	9.3%	2.7%	2.9%	4.6%	5.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.7%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
Some Other Race	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.7%	0.1%	0.7%
Two or More Races	3.4%	6.5%	1.7%	3.8%	2.0%	3.9%

SOURCE: 2010 and 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

4. RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation trends shift and evolve over time based on changes in demographics, societal issues, environmental conditions, and the individual priorities of community members. Understanding recreation trends at the national, state, and local level provides context for new or emerging activities or experiences, providing key insights into how people play, use parks and trails, connect to nature, and relate to one another. This section outlines relevant national, regional, and local trends from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the 2023 Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and Visit Tri-Cities data.

Increasing Demand for Recreation Opportunities

Participation and demand for outdoor recreation opportunities have increased significantly at national, state, and local levels since the coronavirus pandemic. The 2023 SCORP showed increased participation and demand for nearly all recreation activities across the State of Washington. In the South-Central region, where Richland is located, the top four activities based on participation rates were walking on roads or sidewalks, scenic driving (sightseeing), walking or day hiking on trails, and wildlife or nature viewing.² These trends were echoed through PROS Plan outreach efforts, highlighting the importance of continued park and recreation planning for these activities and outdoor recreation overall in Richland.

Better Spaces and Opportunities for Youth

Richland's youth population is growing and currently represents approximately 20% of the city's population.³ Many park and recreation agencies are expanding youth offerings and taking a more holistic approach to youth development that goes beyond athletics and physical exercise to programming that promotes leadership skills, socialization, and intellectual growth. The aim is to improve early adult experiences in economic self-reliance, healthy social relationships, and community contributions. This approach also strives to involve young people in local decision-making, empowering them to shape their future and current environment.

Trails and Wildlife or Nature Viewing

Access to trails and pathways within and between parks continues to be a priority for communities across the country and Washington, including in Richland. Trails and pathways offer numerous benefits for the health and well-being of people and the environment. Creating safe, accessible connections to parks and recreation facilities increases exercise and physical fitness and reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other negative environmental impacts associated with vehicle travel. Trails and paths also provide valuable opportunities to connect with nature and view wildlife, which was identified as a community priority by PROS Plan outreach. The value of wildlife and nature viewing is also trending at the statewide level, with wildlife or nature viewing increasing by 28% statewide between 2017 and 2023.⁴

² 2023 Washington SCORP.

³ 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

⁴ 2023 Washington SCORP.

Climate Resiliency

Parks and natural areas are closely linked to cleaner air, cooler temperatures, improved water quality, and stronger neighborhoods. Parks and recreation agencies and communities across the country are focusing on designs and policies that restore natural systems to help create safer homes and neighborhoods that are more resistant to wildfires and a changing climate. Examples include green infrastructure that treats stormwater through natural systems; utilizing drought-tolerant and native plants in landscape designs; restoring and slowing urban waterways; increasing trail infrastructure to increase community connectivity and reduce carbon footprints; and urban forestry practices to shade neighborhoods with the warmest temperatures. Renewable energy and sustainable purchasing policies are also becoming increasingly common.

Tourism, Entertainment, and Economic Development

Many cities are strategically positioning their parks and recreation systems as drivers of economic development, and destinations for tourism and large events. Tourism amenities, rentable spaces, and event hosting are key considerations as cities consider how to invest in parks and recreation. This trend is apparent in Richland with the hosting of large events such as the Tri-Cities Ironman at Howard Amon Park and Columbia Point Marina. In addition to these large events, approximately 29% of community survey respondents would like to see more cultural or art-focused events and programming such as music and movies in the park, art walks, shows, and plays.

River Recreation

River recreation is an essential component of Richland's park and recreation system, and overall community identity. Richland and the broader Tri-Cities region is known for its river recreation activities due to its location on the confluence of the Columbia, Yakima, and Snake rivers. Popular activities include fishing, stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking, boating, and watersports. Approximately 58% of online survey respondents think that Richland should be known for its natural areas and riverfronts, and an additional 51% highlighted outdoor fitness and recreation opportunities (including paddling and swimming) as desired signature features for the city. Water and river recreation opportunities are also increasingly popular at the statewide level. Between 2017-2023, paddle sports (e.g. canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, rowing) increased by 28% statewide.⁵

History and Culture

Richland is known for its rich natural and cultural history as well as its heritage of scientific exploration and invention. Many cities and park and recreation agencies are making targeted efforts to highlight the unique cultural stories and histories of their communities to make parks and programs more diverse, welcoming, and inclusive. At the state level, visiting outdoor cultural or historical facilities increased by 27% between 2017 and 2023.⁶ To this aim, culturally-appropriate and adaptable programming – including recreational activities, classes, and events – as well as integration of historical or cultural elements into parks are becoming increasingly common.

⁵ 2023 Washington SCORP.

⁶ 2023 Washington SCORP.

5. PARK AND FACILITY ACCESS

Citywide parkland acreage is important to ensure sufficient recreational space for residents; however, parkland distribution is also key to equitable access to parks and recreational facilities. Park access refers to the ease and convenience with which residents can reach and utilize park spaces, as well as how well parks are integrated across the city. High-quality park access is characterized by close proximity, convenient travel modes, safe routes, and inclusive design, ensuring that people of all abilities can reach and enjoy the benefits of green spaces and facilities.

Park access has a significant impact on frequency of park use, as well as maximization of the economic, social, and health benefits that parks provide. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) have championed the national standard for providing parks within a 10-minute walk (or ½ mile) of all residents. This distance is the maximum distance most people will walk to a park. While Richland’s parks are well-distributed across the city, there are still residential areas that are further than a 10-minute walk from a park. According to TPL’s ParkServe data, over 20-percent of Richland’s residents do not have a developed park within a 10-minute walk from their home. These areas are considered “underserved” and should be a focus of City investment when planning for new parks or facilities.

To further evaluate park access, the Project Team used a digital mapping program (ArcGIS Network Analyst™) to identify areas served and underserved by existing developed parks. The Park Access Map (Figure 9) highlights areas in the community where residents are more than a 10-minute walk away from a park, creating noticeable gaps in access. These gap areas show where park resources are less accessible, impacting residents' ability to easily engage in outdoor activities and benefit from local park spaces. Figure 9 also shows how gaps in service impact different population groups in Richland, particularly historically underserved populations or those who may experience more significant barriers in accessing facilities. The equity index includes five scored indicators: communities of color, youth under 18, populations over 65, low-income, and population density. Together, these indicators help identify areas of Richland that are not only physically distant from parks but also face additional socio-economic challenges.

Figure 9 shows that there are gap areas in the northeast corner of Richland along Washington State Route 240 (SR 240), in South Richland between Interstate 182 and Interstate 82, as well as some small pockets in Central Richland.

FIGURE 8: POPULATION WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF A PARK



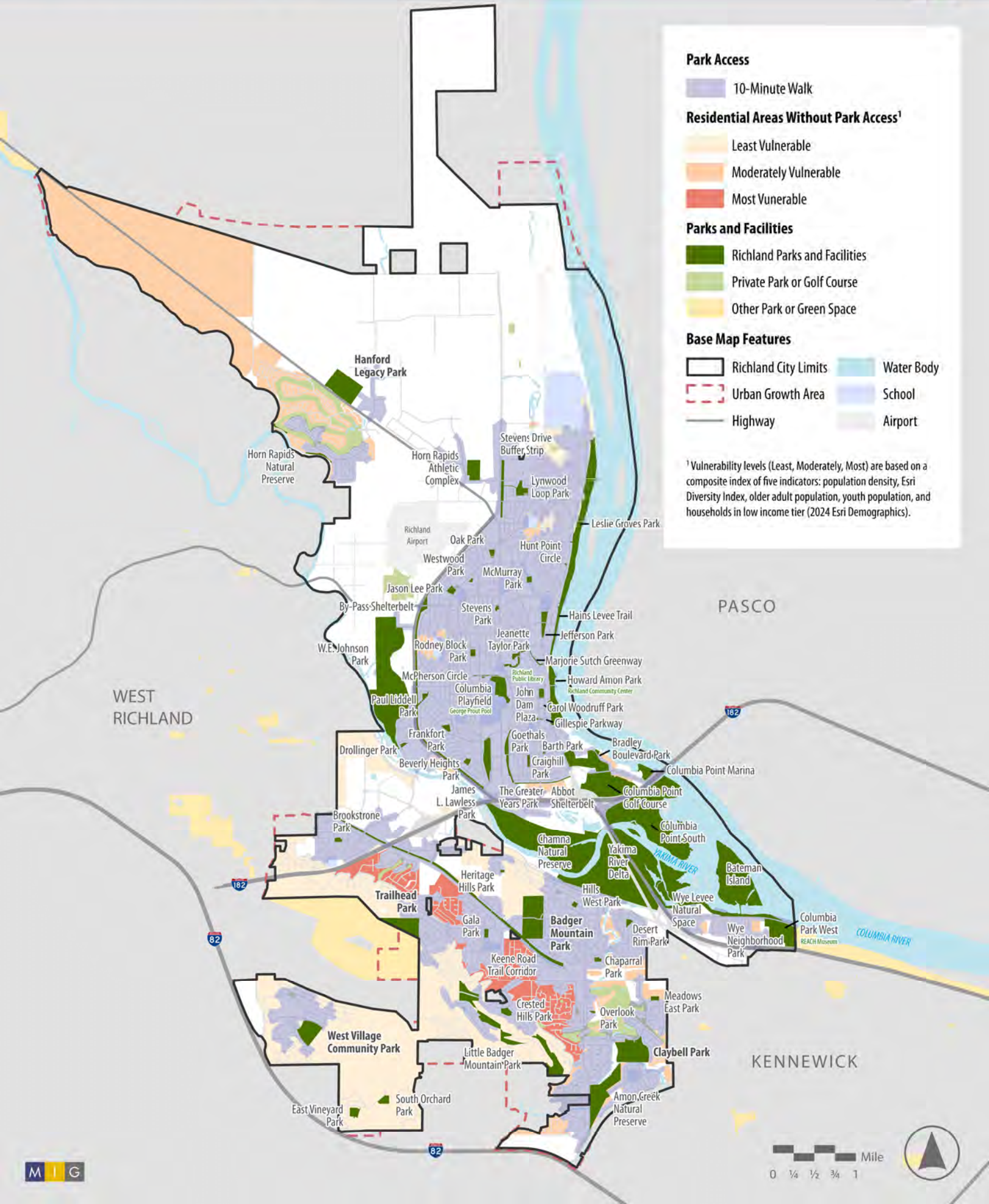
Percentage of city residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park



Percentage of the population living more than a 10-minute walk from a park

SOURCE: Trust for Public Land, ParkServe Access Statistics (August 2025)

Park Access Map (10-minute walk)



Park Access

10-Minute Walk

Residential Areas Without Park Access¹

- Least Vulnerable
- Moderately Vulnerable
- Most Vulnerable

Parks and Facilities

- Richland Parks and Facilities
- Private Park or Golf Course
- Other Park or Green Space

Base Map Features

- Richland City Limits
- Urban Growth Area
- Highway
- Water Body
- School
- Airport

¹ Vulnerability levels (Least, Moderately, Most) are based on a composite index of five indicators: population density, Esri Diversity Index, older adult population, youth population, and households in low income tier (2024 Esri Demographics).

Access to Essential Services

Beyond providing parkland within a 10-minute walk of all residents, a well-distributed park and recreation system provides equitable access to some of the most essential park and recreation services. These “essential services” are park and recreation activities or amenities that have been identified as the most important to the Richland community. The PROS Plan identifies three essential park services and where they are provided in the city.

- **Exercise, Sports, and Trails (50 sites):** includes sites that support individual, group, or team activities that support general health and wellness, competition, or teamwork. A wide range of facilities support these activities— from walking trails to sports fields and developed athletic complexes.
- **Experience Nature (23 sites):** includes sites that provide the opportunity to be surrounded by nature, come into direct contact with unique habitats or natural features, access water, or observe wildlife. This can include a wide range of activities from bird watching along the Yakima River to exploring a native planting area within a developed park.
- **Play for Children (30 sites):** includes sites with a space or facility designed specifically to encourage playful interactions for children. Examples include developed play areas (slides, swings, platforms, and installed toys), interactive water features designed for play (splashpads and spraygrounds), and specialized facilities such as a skatepark or swimming pool.

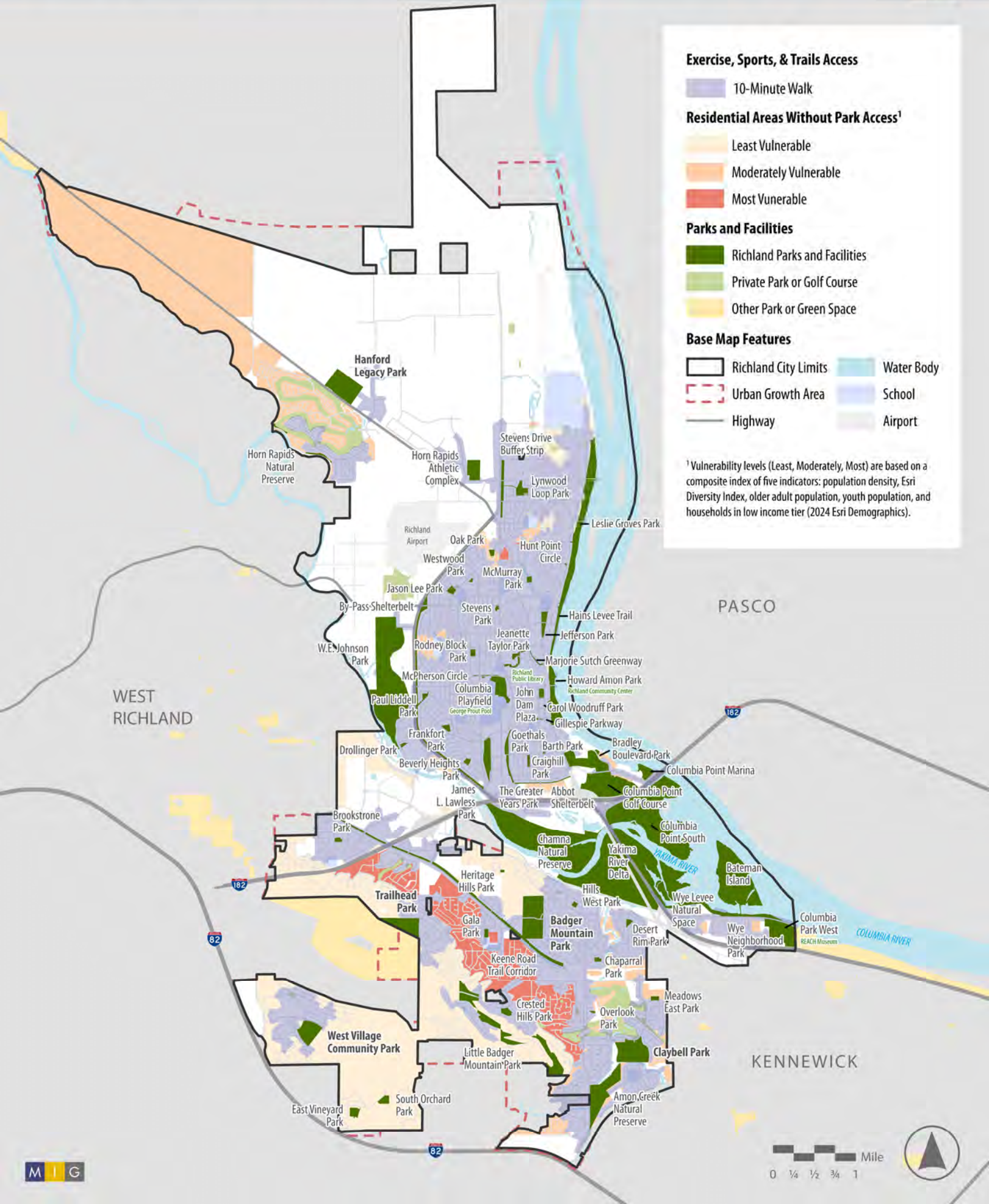
Six of Richland’s existing parks currently provide all three essential services: Howard Amon Park, Leslie Groves Park, Badger Mountain Park, Goethals Park, McMurray Park, and Columbia Point Marina Park. Parks that provide exercise, sports, and trail opportunities are the most prevalent (50 total sites) and parks that provide opportunities to experience nature are the least prevalent (23 total sites).

Key observations from the following maps (Figures 10-12):

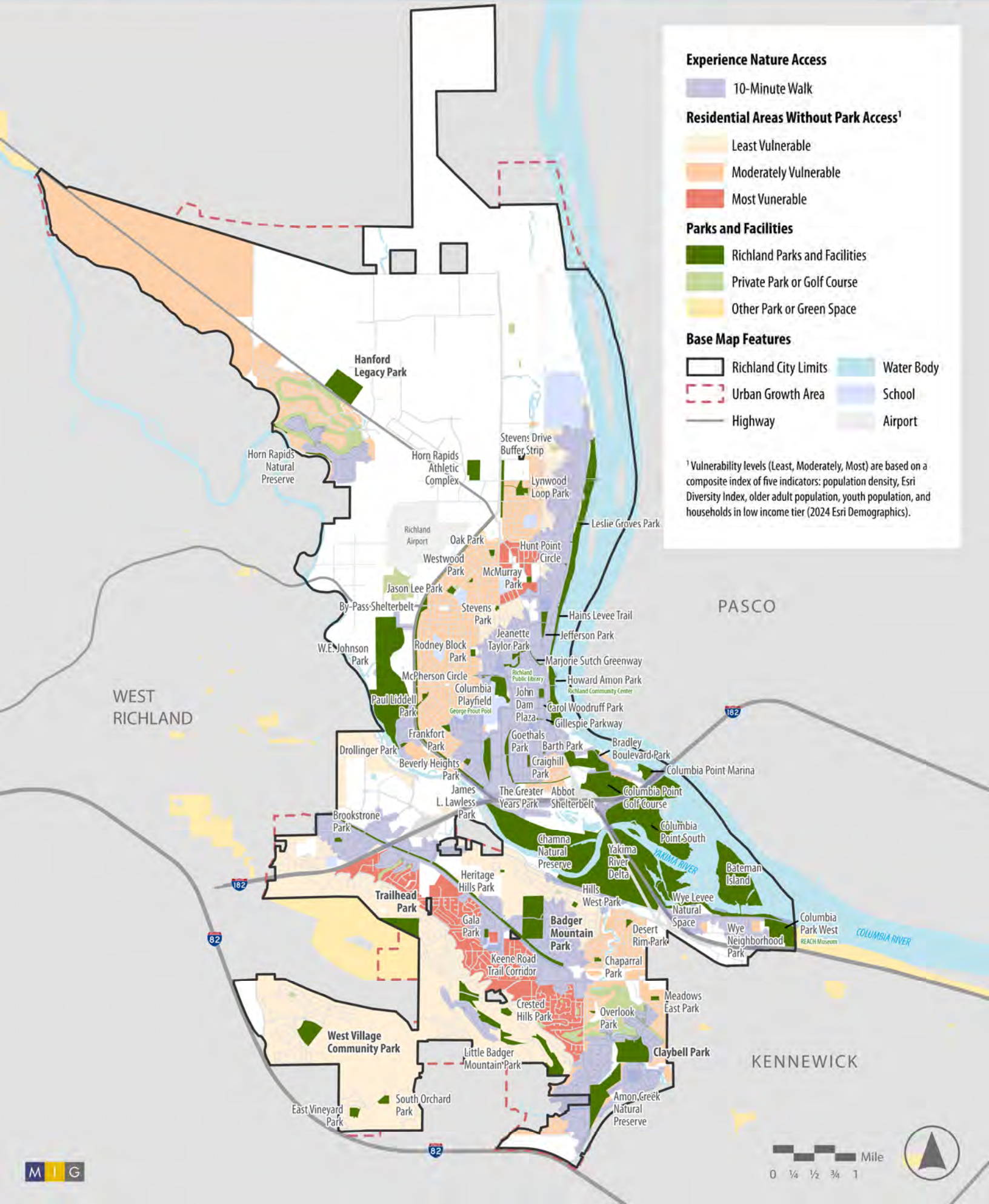
- There are greater opportunities for exercise, sports, and trails distributed throughout Richland than play for children and opportunities to experience nature.
- Access to parks with play for children is fairly well distributed throughout Central Richland although there are large gaps in both North and South Richland.
- Parks offering opportunities to experience nature are not well distributed across Richland of all three essential services with large gaps throughout all parts of the city. Some of these gaps are exacerbated by limited access points to parks that provide nature experiences.

While a useful tool, these gap areas tell one piece of the story and should be considered in the context of the various other ways that park and recreation needs may be met. Other considerations include access to privately owned sites such as HOA-owned natural open spaces, trails, parks, and recreation amenities; properties and playgrounds owned and managed by the Richland School District, which are available to the public during non-school hours; or living near a significant natural feature such as the Yakima and Columbia Rivers.

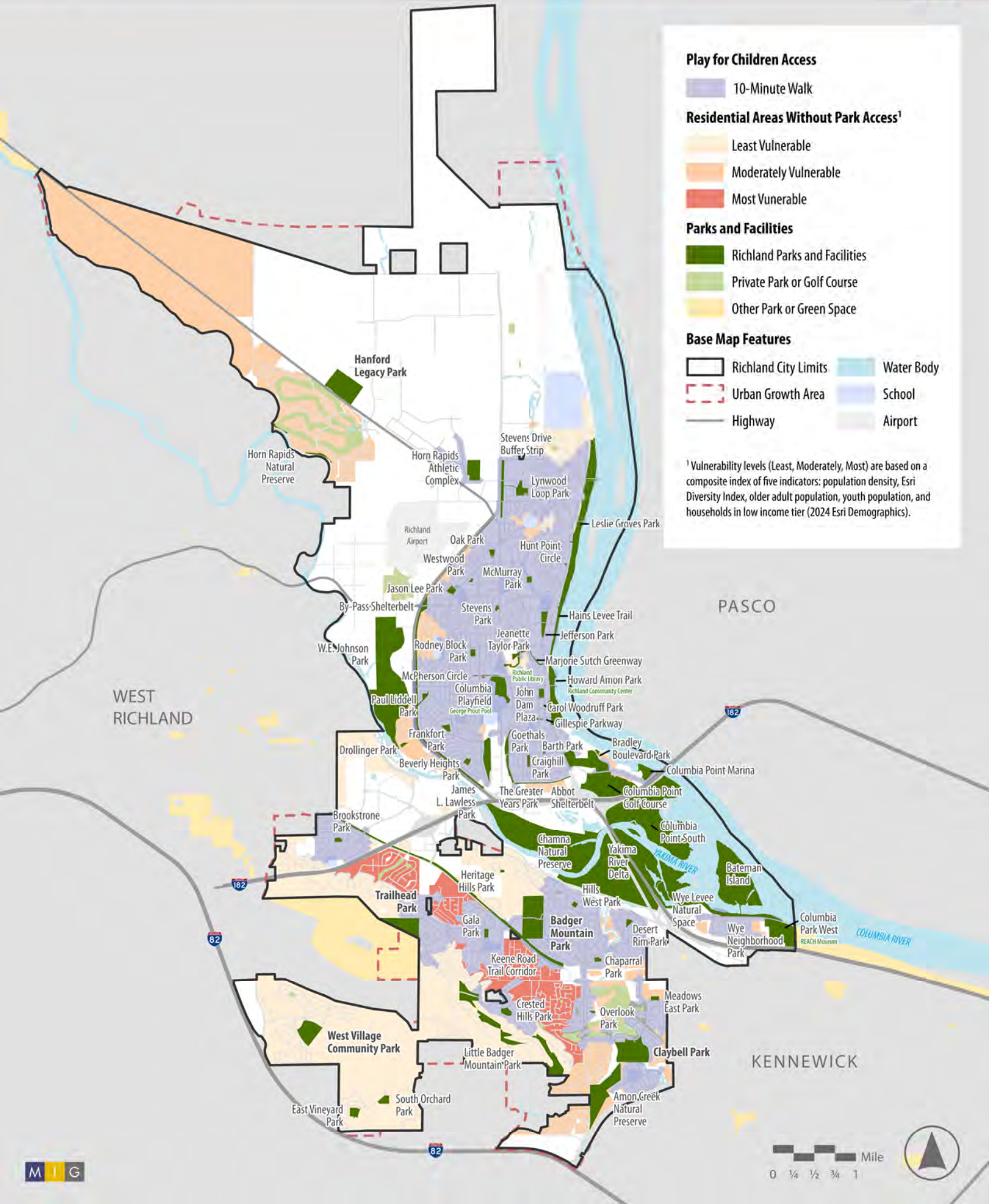
Exercise, Sports, & Trails Access Map (10-minute walk)



Experience Nature Access Map (10-minute walk)



Play for Children Access Map (10-minute walk)



Play for Children Access

10-Minute Walk

Residential Areas Without Park Access¹

- Least Vulnerable
- Moderately Vulnerable
- Most Vulnerable

Parks and Facilities

- Richland Parks and Facilities
- Private Park or Golf Course
- Other Park or Green Space

Base Map Features

- Richland City Limits
- Urban Growth Area
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¹ Vulnerability levels (Least, Moderately, Most) are based on a composite index of five indicators: population density, Esri Diversity Index, older adult population, youth population, and households in low income tier (2024 Esri Demographics).

6. PARK CONDITIONS

The Project Team is conducting detailed assessments to evaluate both the physical condition of park facilities and the extent and health of the city's tree canopy. Together, these analyses provide a comprehensive picture of existing assets, maintenance needs, and opportunities for improvement, helping to guide future planning, capital investments, and sustainability efforts.

Park Condition Assessment

The Project Team is in the process of conducting a detailed park condition assessment that will evaluate the overall quality, functionality, and safety of Richland's park system. This assessment will document the condition of existing amenities such as playgrounds, sports fields, courts, shelters, pathways, restrooms, and landscaping, as well as general site accessibility and compliance with current standards.

Findings from this assessment will help identify maintenance and reinvestment needs across the park system and establish priorities for repairs, replacements, and upgrades. The results will also provide valuable data to guide future planning efforts, inform the development of the Capital Improvement Plan, and ensure that resources are allocated effectively.

Tree Canopy Analysis

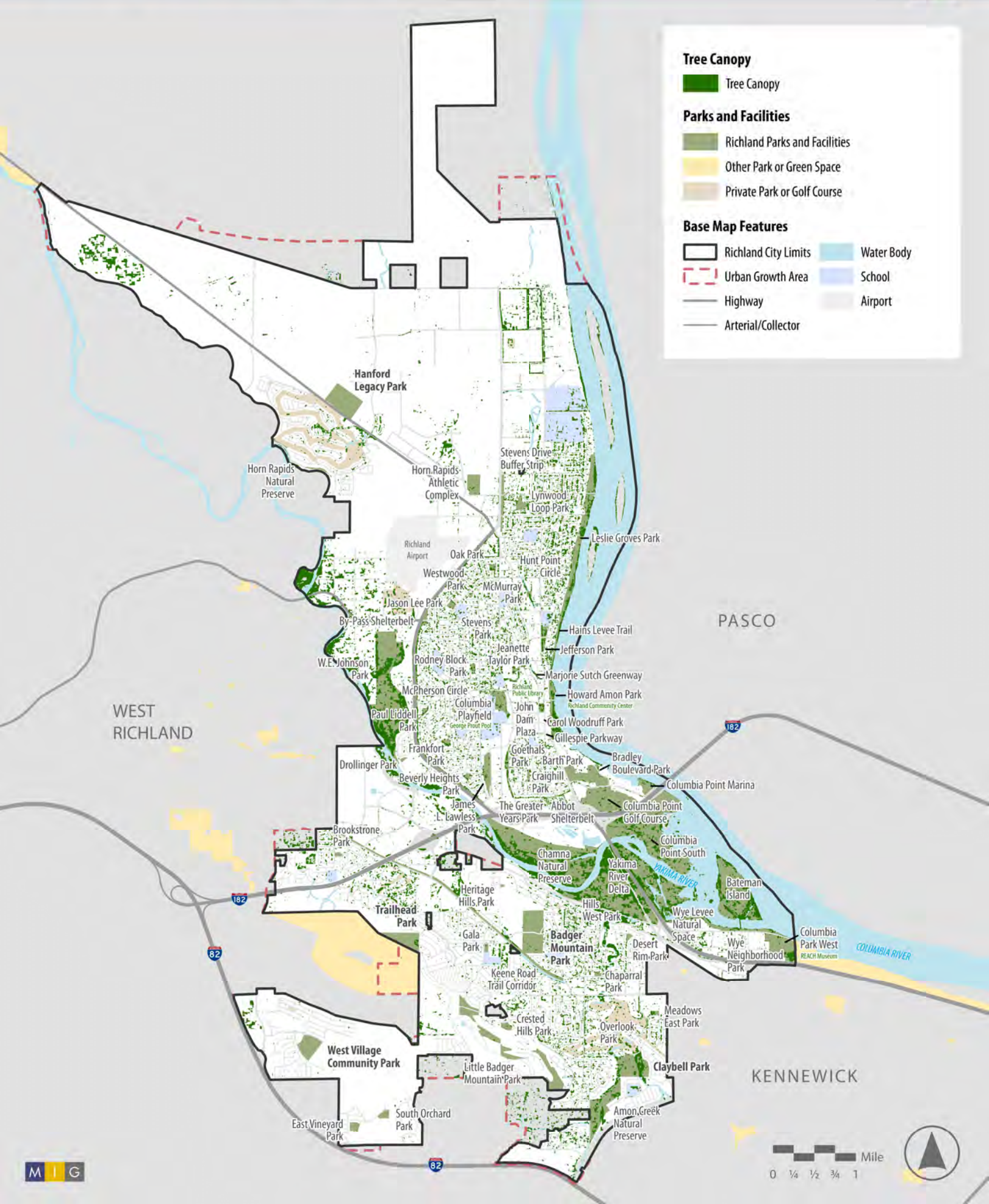
As part of the City of Richland's parks and recreation planning process, the Project Team conducted a detailed tree canopy analysis using current and historical aerial imagery. This analysis mapped the extent of the City's tree canopy, identified recent gains and losses, and assessed trends over time. The study provides a clear picture of where canopy coverage has been maintained, where it has declined, and where opportunities exist for future tree planting and preservation efforts.

Richland's landscape is characterized by arid conditions, shrub-steppe landscapes, and limited natural tree cover. These environmental and climatic conditions naturally constrain tree canopy coverage and influence the species that can thrive in the region. As a result, Richland's urban forest is largely concentrated in natural areas along the rivers, streetscapes, and residential areas, while natural areas and open spaces tend to be dominated by native shrubs and grasses rather than dense tree cover. Understanding these geographic and environmental factors is critical for realistic tree canopy planning and preservation.

This analysis was conducted to align with Washington State House Bill 1181, which among other elements, requires local parks and recreation plans to include mapping and assessment of tree canopy. HB 1181 also emphasizes the importance of identifying strategies and policies to maintain and enhance urban forest resources. By understanding the distribution and health of Richland's tree canopy, the City can make informed decisions that support ecological function, habitat connectivity, and community benefits such as shade, stormwater management, and climate resilience.

Findings from the tree canopy analysis will inform future policies and programs aimed at increasing canopy coverage, improving habitat, and supporting the City's broader climate and sustainability goals. The results also provide a foundation for integrating tree canopy considerations into park design, open space management, and community greening initiatives, ensuring that Richland's urban canopy contributes to both environmental and recreational objectives.

Existing Tree Canopy Map



7. SYSTEM NEEDS

This section describes facility needs identified through a combination of PROS Plan community engagement and technical analysis of Richland's park and recreation system. Key needs are identified for the following:

- Parkland and recreation facilities;
- Trails;
- Natural open spaces;
- Programming and events; and
- Maintenance, staffing, and operations.

Parkland and Recreation Facility Needs

This section identifies relevant benchmarks for the park and recreation system and identifies needs for different types of recreation facilities.

Parkland Level of Service

As Richland's population continues to grow, it is important to regularly assess the City's provision of parkland. Acreage Level of Service (LOS) Standards specifically measure the amount of parkland available to a community relative to its population size, expressed as a ratio of acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This standard is an indicator for determining whether the existing amount of parkland is adequate to serve the community's needs and is used to guide future park planning. A higher parkland LOS means more parkland per resident; a lower parkland LOS means less parkland per resident. While parkland LOS goals are an important measurement of the system, the physical distribution, type and quality of parkland should also be considered, as presented in the Park and Facility Access section.

As of 2025, Richland provides 72 parks spanning approximately 2,989 acres. With Richland's population of 64,190 (2025), this overall park acreage yields a LOS of 46.6 acres per 1,000 residents. When excluding natural open space, the overall park acreage yields a LOS of 19.5 acres per 1,000 residents. When compared to NRPA data, Richland provides a parkland level of service above the upper quartile for jurisdictions of a similar size, both with and without natural open space (16.1 acres per 1,000 residents). Table 2 summarizes the distribution and scale of Richland's different park classifications. As shown, there is a current and future deficit for regional, community, and neighborhood parks based on the City's adopted LOS standards.

TABLE 2: PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE (2025 AND 2045)

PARK TYPE	TOTAL ACRES	EXISTING LOS (2025)			FUTURE LOS (2045)	
		LOS (ACRES / 1,000)	ADOPTED PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE* (ACRES/1,000 RESIDENTS)	ACREAGE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	LOS (ACRES / 1,000)	ACREAGE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
Regional Parks	77.4	1.2	5	(243.5)	0.9	(260.5)
Community Parks	88.5	1.4	3.5	(136.2)	1.1	(199.2)
Neighborhood Parks	82.5	1.3	1.5	(13.8)	1.0	(40.8)
Special Use Areas	771.2	12.0	No LOS adopted	--	9.4	--
Linear Parks	141.9	2.2	No LOS adopted	--	1.7	--
Natural Open Space	1,740.2	27.1	5 acres	1,419.3	21.2	1,329.2
Undeveloped Parks	87.0	1.4	N/A	--	1.1	--
Total All Parks	2,989	46.6	--	--	36.4	--

Existing population is 64,190 (2024, Washington State Office of Financial Management); Future population is 82,196 (2045, City of Richland). *Level of Service Standards from the 2019 City of Richland Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Recreation Facility Level of Service

The 2019 City of Richland Parks and Recreation Master Plan also identified Facility LOS Standards to assess the City's provision of select recreation facilities. Table 3 provides a summary of selected recreation facilities in Richland by total existing and future population, with comparison to the adopted Facility LOS Standards. As shown, Richland does not currently meet the adopted standard for sand volleyball courts, tennis courts, community gardens, BMX tracks, skateparks, outdoor swimming pools, indoor swimming pools, or community centers. By 2045, Richland will also be deficient in basketball courts, and amphitheaters/stages.

TABLE 3: RECREATION FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE (2025 AND 2045)

FACILITY TYPE	TOTAL EXISTING FACILITIES	EXISTING RATIO (FACILITY / TOTAL 2025 POPULATION)	CITY OF RICHLAND STANDARD*	DIFFERENCE IN TOTAL FACILITIES	
				2025	2045
Baseball Field	30	1 Field / 2,140 Pop.	1 Field / 10,000 Pop.	23.6	21.8
Soccer/Football/Lacrosse Field	26	1 Field / 2,469 Pop.	1 Field / 6,500 Pop.	16.1	13.4
Disc Golf Course	2	1 Field / 32,095 Pop.	1 Field / 50,000 Pop.	0.7	0.4
Golf Course	1	1 Course / 64,190 Pop.	1 Course / 80,000 Pop.	0.2	0.0
Basketball Court	18	1 Court / 3,566 Pop.	1 Court / 3,750 Pop.	0.9	(3.9)
Sand Volleyball Court	3	1 Court / 21,397 Pop.	1 Court / 13,000 Pop.	(1.9)	(3.3)
Tennis Court	10	1 Court / 6,419 Pop.	1 Court / 5,000 Pop.	(2.8)	(6.4)
Pickleball Court	6	1 Court / 0,698 Pop.	1 Court / 18,000 Pop.	2.4	1.4
Dog Park	2	1 Park / 2,095 Pop.	1 Park / 50,000 Pop.	0.7	0.4
Community Garden	4	1 / 16,048 Pop.	1 Garden / 25,000 Pop.	1.4	0.7
Playground	33	1 / 1,945 Pop.	1 Playground / 2,500 Pop.	7.3	0.1
BMX Track	1	1 Court / 64,190 Pop.	1 Track / 50,000 Pop.	(0.3)	(0.6)
Skatepark	1	1 Court / 64,190 Pop.	1 Skatepark / 35,000 Pop.	(0.8)	(1.3)
Amphitheater / Stage	2	1 Park / 32,095 Pop.	1 Stage / 35,000 Pop.	0.2	(0.3)
Outdoor Swimming Pool	1	1 Court / 64,190 Pop.	1 pool / 35,000 Pop.	(0.8)	(1.3)
Indoor Swimming Pool	0	0 / 64,190 Pop.	1 pool / 70,000 Pop.	(0.9)	(1.2)
Community Center	1	1 Court / 64,190 Pop.	1 Community Center / 35,000 Pop.	(0.8)	(1.3)

Existing population is 64,190 (2025, Washington State Office of Financial Management); Future population is 82,196 (2045, City of Richland). *Level of Service Standards from the 2019 City of Richland Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Recreation Facility Needs

The City of Richland offers a wide variety of recreation facilities that provide valuable opportunities for residents and visitors to stay active, socialize, and enjoy the outdoors. As the community continues to grow and recreation trends evolve, it is important to maintain existing facilities while also planning for future needs. The following summary highlights the current conditions, key needs, and opportunities within each facility category of Richland's recreation system.

Major Facilities

- The Richland Community Center is well-programmed, but there are opportunities to expand or diversify programming and facility use.
- Major community assets such as the Library and the REACH Museum receive strong operational and programming support from partner organizations, which significantly benefit these sites.
- Horn Rapids ORV Park is a successful example of a lease agreement with private user groups. There is additional City-owned land adjacent to the developed portion that could support expansion opportunities.
- The HAPO Community Stage is well programmed and actively used for events, there is an opportunity to further connect programs and events with Richland's identity and economic development.
- Event organizers for the stage at Howard Amon Park have identified the need for improved accessibility, better power connections, and additional backstage or storage space. At present, organizers rely on trucks for storage, which limits efficiency. These improvements may be challenging to implement due to existing space constraints and lack of available storage at the Community Center.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- There is a growing community interest in the creation of more community gardens and individual garden plots.
- Residents have expressed a desire for additional recreation facilities that include challenge or adventure elements, such as aquatics features, mountain biking trails, and climbing opportunities.

Sports Fields and Courts

- There is high demand and a limited supply of rectangular fields suitable for sports such as soccer and lacrosse.
- The City provides a greater number of diamond fields, but there could be opportunities to add more fields within future parks.
- Improved scheduling and field management could help make better use of existing facilities.

- Indoor recreation opportunities, particularly for soccer, would help meet community demand.
- The development of artificial turf fields presents an opportunity to extend field use and reduce weather-related limitations.
- There are opportunities to enhance concessions, storage buildings, scoreboards, and other support facilities at diamond fields.
- Some smaller parks contain underutilized fields that could be upgraded to serve as youth practice spaces.
- Some community members have expressed a strong interest in additional pickleball courts.

Playgrounds and Play Areas

- Many neighborhood park play areas are aging and will require replacement in the near future.
- As playgrounds are updated, there is an opportunity to introduce more variety, including universal play, nature play, water play, and themed play environments.

Support Amenities

- Shade and seating are consistently identified as needs across multiple recreation sites.
- Additional and improved restroom facilities remain a high priority for park users.
- Improved lighting would enhance both safety and usability, particularly during evening hours and community events.

Trail Needs

The City of Richland maintains a growing network of trails that support walking, running, cycling, and other forms of active recreation and transportation. These trails provide important connections within the community and link to a larger regional network that includes the Badger Mountain Trail system, the regional riverfront pathways, and the Columbia River Water Trail. Together, these trails enhance access to nature, encourage healthy lifestyles, and contribute to the City's overall livability. As use continues to increase, there are opportunities to expand and improve the network to better meet community needs and to ensure that trails remain safe, accessible, and enjoyable for all users.

Key Needs and Opportunities

- There is a continuing need to expand the trail network to improve community connectivity, provide additional recreational routes, and link existing trail segments.
- There is interest in supporting equestrian use by identifying and maintaining designated equestrian trails or shared-use routes where appropriate.
- There is an opportunity to promote trail use, safety, and etiquette awareness to help manage growing demand and reduce conflicts among different user groups.

Natural Open Space Needs

Richland's natural open spaces are essential to the community's environmental health, recreation opportunities, and overall quality of life. These areas include the city's shrub-steppe landscapes, riparian corridors, and shorelines along the Columbia and Yakima rivers, which together form a network of habitats and natural areas that define Richland's character. As the city continues to grow, the preservation, restoration, and thoughtful management of natural open spaces will become increasingly important. Collaboration among agencies, community partners, and regional entities will be vital to protect ecological values, ensure habitat connectivity, and maintain access for low-impact recreation.

Key Needs and Opportunities

- There is a need to establish clear guidelines for development within natural areas and open spaces to ensure that any new uses, facilities, or amenities are compatible with the intended purpose of the site.
- A detailed management plan is needed to guide maintenance and improvements, especially where cross-agency coordination is required for vegetation management, shoreline stabilization, and facility development or repair.
- Developing a coordinated shoreline plan involving resource agencies, the City, and Tribal governments would support both environmental protection and public access.
- The City can benefit from creating updated maintenance practices and guiding principles tailored to natural area management.
- Climate impacts such as extreme heat and drought present challenges for the sustainability of natural open spaces and should be factored into management strategies.
- Improved physical connectivity is needed between open spaces, rivers, trailheads, and surrounding communities to strengthen access and encourage outdoor recreation.
- There is an opportunity to expand water trails, multi-use paths, and equestrian trails that cross city boundaries and connect neighboring communities.
- Maintaining and enhancing habitat connectivity, including both riparian and upland habitats, will help preserve wildlife corridors and ecological functions.
- Current maintenance practices, including turf management and mowing, may need to be re-evaluated to better align with ecological goals.
- Efforts should be made to minimize habitat disruption and impacts from development, traffic, and infrastructure expansion.
- The cost of land acquisition, trail connection planning, and design should be considered in long-term open space planning efforts.
- Open space should be included as part of new development areas, ensuring that growth incorporates preserved natural land as well as developed park sites.

- As the city expands northward, there is a need to acquire, preserve, and restore shrub-steppe habitat to maintain the area's natural character.
- As development continues along the SR 240 corridor, additional natural open space could be added to the city's parks system, particularly within remaining shrub-steppe areas between Twin Bridges and Snively Road.
- There is an opportunity to create a trail connection between Candy Mountain and Red Mountain, enhancing regional recreation and habitat linkages.
- Non-native vegetation removal and replacement with native species should be prioritized to restore natural ecosystems.
- There are opportunities for specific improvements to the Tapteal Trail within Richland's jurisdiction to enhance access, habitat, and user experience.

Programming and Event Needs

The City of Richland provides a broad portfolio of recreation programs, classes, and activities across 21 program service areas. Programs and events are highly appreciated by the community, although there is a desire for a greater diversity of programs and events paired with higher community awareness of program offerings. With Richland's growing population and evolving demographics, recreation trends and demand are likely to shift. To prepare for these changes, the following needs were identified based on community feedback, recreation trends, and recreation participation data.

Diversify and Expand Programming

Although the City of Richland offers an extensive range of recreation programs and services, PROS Plan outreach efforts highlighted the desire for diversified and expanded programs and activities.

- There is a strong community interest in outdoor education and nature-based programs. Richland's extensive network of natural areas and open spaces provides an excellent foundation for expanding these types of learning opportunities.
- Cultural and arts programs continue to be in demand. The City already supports a robust schedule of cultural events and activities, and there is potential to build upon this success with additional offerings.
- Aquatics programs for all ages are highly desired, providing opportunities for recreation, fitness, and water safety education.
- There is growing interest in outdoor recreation programs that help participants develop new skills in specific hobbies such as mountain biking, kayaking, and other adventure-based activities.

Increase Awareness and Communications

PROS Plan outreach efforts revealed that the top barrier to participation in recreation programs in Richland was a lack of awareness of when or where programs were happening. To address this challenge, the City of Richland should update and expand its communication methods to improve

community information sharing about its parks, available programs, and upcoming events. Outreach participants noted that the City's website is not regularly updated and is not always user-friendly. The most requested information sharing platform was social media with 59% of community survey respondents identifying it as the best way to communicate with them about recreation programming and City events. Other suggested methods included:

- Digital flyers, catalogs, fact sheets, press releases, and/or newsletters (both emailed and clearly posted on the City website);
- Utility bill inserts or mailed flyers, fact sheets, press releases, and/or newsletters;
- City banners and flyers at key locations and/or City parks and recreation facilities; and
- Multilingual materials.

Expand Accessible and Inclusive Programming

The City of Richland has limited opportunities for individuals with disabilities to actively engage in recreation activities and programs. Community members across Phase 1 and 2 outreach efforts highlighted the need for more accessible physical spaces and programming to better meet their, or someone in their family's, needs. To address these needs, the City of Richland should consider developing and expanding accessible and inclusive recreation opportunities to create a more welcoming environment for individuals with disabilities. Potential opportunities to support a more robust adaptive recreation program include:

- Developing targeted programming tailored to the interests and needs of individuals with disabilities;
- Expanding inclusion services and training;
- Hiring additional staff who specialize in working with individuals with disabilities, including but not limited to a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS);
- Expanding partnerships with local organizations that specialize in disability services;
- Making physical updates to recreation facilities to ensure they are fully accessible and equipped with adaptive equipment; and
- Establishing a feedback mechanism to understand the experiences and needs of individuals with disabilities.

Cultural Events

Richland hosts a variety of iconic and well-known cultural events that celebrate the city's unique history, community identity, and natural setting. These events draw residents and visitors alike, fostering community pride and supporting local arts, heritage, and recreation. There is an opportunity to expand these offerings by highlighting Richland's distinctive nuclear history and integrating programming that emphasizes the city's rivers, natural areas, and outdoor experiences. By connecting cultural events to both local heritage and the surrounding environment, Richland can further enhance community engagement, tourism, and educational opportunities.

Maintenance, Staffing, and Operations Needs

Effective operations and maintenance are essential to sustaining the high quality and functionality of Richland's parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces. As the community continues to grow, so too does the demand for well-maintained facilities, responsive operations, and skilled staff capable of supporting a wide range of programs and events. Investing in maintenance systems, operational capacity, and staff development will ensure that the City can deliver high-quality and efficient services to residents while protecting long-term community assets.

Key Needs and Opportunities

- There is a need for a current capital project list to guide department work planning, scheduling, and resource allocation. Maintaining an updated list of projects will help staff track progress, coordinate across divisions, and align capital efforts with overall system priorities.
- As the City grows, there is an opportunity to establish additional maintenance yards or satellite facilities that allow crews to deploy from multiple points across Richland, improving efficiency and response times.
- Staffing levels need to keep pace with the continued expansion of parks, trails, recreation sites, and programming. Additional staff capacity is needed to maintain high-quality service as facilities and events increase.
- There is a need to dedicate more time and resources to staff training and skill development. Building a workforce with diverse abilities—such as arboriculture, carpentry, irrigation, and turf management—will strengthen operations and reduce reliance on contracted services.
- The addition of a dedicated project manager would improve coordination of capital projects, repairs, and special initiatives.
- Establishing a preventative maintenance program and a proactive scheduling system would help extend the life of facilities and reduce long-term repair costs.
- Improvements to the work order and scheduling process would enhance communication, accountability, and efficiency within maintenance operations.
- Staffing and team coordination are particularly important for large events and seasonal operations, where temporary and part-time employees play a key role in supporting community programming.
- Developing clear selection criteria for new programs and events would help staff evaluate proposed activities, balance resources, and ensure alignment with community goals.
- Limited budget capacity for experimental or pilot programs restricts the City's ability to test new ideas or respond to emerging recreation trends.
- Richland currently does not use a cost recovery model, which presents an opportunity to explore new approaches for balancing public service goals with financial sustainability.
- There is significant potential to expand sponsorships and partnerships, but the City lacks a formal process and adequate staff capacity to manage these opportunities effectively.
- Ongoing management of the riverfront and natural areas is critical to maintaining ecological health and public access.

- Disease and invasive tree species present challenges to vegetation management and long-term landscape stability.
- Foliage growth and sagebrush encroachment can impact visibility, access, and habitat conditions if not regularly managed.
- Increased monitoring and enforcement may be needed in natural areas and along the riverfront to ensure safe, appropriate use and to protect environmental resources.

8. NEXT STEPS

This Needs Analysis serves as a foundational component of the overall planning process for Richland's parks, recreation, and open space system. The plan framework will establish the core values, goals, and systemwide objectives that define the City's vision for parks and recreation. These guiding elements will ensure that all future improvements and programs align with community priorities and the City's long-term commitment to access, sustainability, and quality of life.

Information from this summary also directly informs the identification of site-specific improvements throughout Richland's park and recreation network. These site-specific improvements will address maintenance and modernization needs, enhance user experience, and ensure that parks and facilities serve the broadest range of residents possible.

The next phase of the planning process will include the preparation of a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP will outline planning-level cost estimates for proposed capital projects and improvements, helping the City prioritize investments and plan for implementation in a financially responsible manner.

Community engagement will remain central to this process. As the plan framework and site recommendations are developed, residents, partners, and stakeholders will be invited to provide input to help shape project priorities. This feedback will be essential in ensuring that the final plan reflects community values and results in a parks and recreation system that meets Richland's current and future needs.

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

TOPIC AREA: ACCESSIBILITY

DATE: JULY 8, 2025

PARTICIPANTS: THE ARC OF TRI-CITIES, VISIT TRI-CITIES

OVERVIEW

The City of Richland is developing its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) to shape the next six years of citywide park and recreation services. The PROS Plan will address systemwide needs, identify specific improvements to park and recreation facilities, natural open spaces, and activities, and redefine goals and objectives to guide future investments. To achieve these outcomes and elevate community needs and priorities, we need your help! The purpose of this focus group meeting is to gain your insight into the opportunities and challenges facing the City's parks, recreation facilities, and natural open spaces. Below are several questions to guide our discussion. Your feedback will inform the key needs and opportunities that help shape the PROS Plan's recommendations for the future.

The most important outcome is to understand your perspective on the opportunities, challenges, and priorities that should be addressed in the PROS Plan.

NOTES

IN GENERAL...

- How often do you visit Richland's parks, natural open spaces, or community recreation facilities?
 - Arc of Tri-Cities, advocate for individuals and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities
 - Visit Tri-Cities, destination marketing organization for the whole Tri-Cities region
 - Focused on bringing events, sports tournaments, and signature events (e.g. Iron Man, Special Olympics, etc.) to the region to create economic impact
 - Support partnerships
 - Tri-Cities Rivershore Enhancement Council
 - Sports Council

- How often do you interact with Parks and Public Facilities department staff in Richland?
Who do you typically work with to discuss improvements, ideas, or concerns?
 - Partner with the City on numerous large events and councils

OPPORTUNITIES

- What are some parks, natural open spaces, or community facilities, in Richland or elsewhere, that work well in terms of accessibility?
 - Howard Amon Playground
 - A great example of an innovative playground that is accessible to all
 - Lawrence Scott Park
 - One of the participants' children does therapy there and uses the park's amenities
 - Redevelopment of Rivershore system
 - Beach area at Columbia Point
 - Volleyball courts at Leslie Grove
 - Amenities and play areas at Richland's parks are great
- What do you feel are the greatest opportunities for Richland in terms of providing accessible parks, natural open spaces, community facilities, and recreation activities?
 - Fencing
 - Signage to request park gates and fencing remain closed
 - AAC board/devices at parks to support non-verbal park users
 - Continue to provide and expand rivershore access
 - Continue finding ways to encourage folks to get outside and be active
 - Safe connectivity between key destinations and local businesses
 - Continue improving accessibility of trail system

CHALLENGES

- What should the City be preparing for, to achieve a parks system that meets the needs of community members with a disability or those that are caring for someone with a disability?
 - Wayfinding and signage
 - Fencing and gates
 - Claybell Park
 - Shade structures, particularly over play areas in the summer months
 - Accessible wifi at facilities

- What do you feel are some of the biggest challenges facing the community regarding accessibility in Richland's parks, natural open spaces, community facilities, and recreation activities?
 - Lack of fencing around parks
 - Not every park needs to be fenced but a couple more would make a big difference
 - Summer heat
- Are there any specific barriers, needs, or improvements you would like to see addressed?
 - Technical connectivity and wifi
 - Can be a barrier to livestreaming events

PARTNERSHIPS

- Do you or does your organization currently work with the City to help maintain facilities or provide programs related to parks, natural open spaces, and recreation? If so, how can the City work with you to build on or enhance those efforts?
 - Large events
- If not, do you see opportunities for partnering with the City in the future to help address park, natural open space, and recreation needs and services?
 - Continue partnering with other jurisdictions and neighboring cities
 - This will remain important for the region

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

- What types of information do you find most useful to determine the level of accessibility of park, natural area, or recreation facility? How do you prefer that information be provided?
 - AAC boards (visual signage)
 - Website
 - The website can be difficult to navigate and find information
 - Not very user friendly
 - More information about accessibility accommodations offered in the system
 - Physical and virtual maps that are regularly updated

- How can we work with you and other community members to continue to promote engagement in this planning process?
 - Social media
 - Distribution of materials through the business community and Chamber of Commerce
- Are there other people or groups who we should hear from?
 - Participants will follow-up with any additional groups they recommend hearing from
- What types of communication and engagement processes work well for you and others?
 - Social media

OTHER

- Is there anything else you would like to share?
 - One participant reiterated how great Columbia Point is with restrooms, shade, trees, close access to hotels and local businesses, gathering spaces, Rivershore access, etc.
 - Gathering spaces should be prioritized

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

TOPIC AREA:	CITY PARTNERS
DATE AND TIME:	TUESDAY, JULY 8 TH 3:00 – 3:45 PM
PARTICIPANTS:	Senior Life Resources (Meals on Wheels of the Mid-Columbia), 70.3 Tri-Cities Washington Iron Man, Richland Chamber of Commerce, Richland Seniors Association (RSA), Tri City Sunrise Rotary

OVERVIEW

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To achieve these outcomes and elevate community needs and priorities, we need your help! The purpose of this focus group meeting is to gain your insight into the opportunities and challenges facing the City's parks, recreation facilities, and natural open spaces. Below are several questions to guide our discussion. Your feedback will help inform the key needs and opportunities that help shape the PROS Plan's recommendations for the future.

The most important outcome is to understand your perspective on the opportunities, challenges, and priorities that should be addressed in the PROS Plan.

NOTES

IN GENERAL...

- How would you describe your organization's role as it relates to parks, natural open spaces, or community recreation facilities?
 - Provide meals at City facilities
 - Large events at City parks and facilities (Iron Man, Cool Desert Nights, C3 Slam Basketball Tournament, etc.)
 - Activities and opportunities for seniors to socialize at Richland Community Center
 - Beautification projects at City parks and facilities

- How often do you interact with Parks and Public Facilities department staff in Richland? Who do you typically work with to discuss improvements, ideas, or concerns?
 - Frequently, especially surrounding events

OPPORTUNITIES

- What are some of the biggest existing assets related to parks and recreation in and around Richland?
 - Development along the riverfront and Richland Marina (walkways, bike trails, beaches)
 - Multiple participants highlighted this as a key community asset and driver of tourism
 - Partnership with cruise ships
 - City events
 - Howard Amon Community Center
 - Badger Mountain
 - Amon Creek
 - John Dam Plaza
 - Strong volunteer base and community involvement
- From your organization's perspective, are there emerging trends or community needs Richland should be preparing for over the next 5-10 years?
 - Housing challenges as prices continue to rise and incomes lower
 - Ageing population
 - Need for age-friendly parks, facilities, and community events
 - Mental health challenges
 - Climate change
 - Need for additional shade structures, cooling centers, and water fountains
 - Equitable Access
 - Need for more multilingual signage and outreach
 - Economic development and tourism
 - Continued support for large events (e.g. Iron Man)
 - Keeping up with regional and national trends
 - Support for local farmers market and community events
 - Respond to evolving business landscape (e.g. contracting, permitting, partnerships, etc.)
 - Growth and traffic impacts

- Integration of technology into City programming and operations
 - Need to ensure groups that lack access to technology are not left behind
- Year-round programs and activities
 - Richland excels in summer programming but is lacking in winter programming, especially events not tied to holidays

CHALLENGES

- What do you feel are some of the biggest challenges facing the community?
 - Affordable housing
 - Affordable food and services for vulnerable communities
 - Rising cost of living
 - Homelessness
 - Traffic issues
 - Automobile
 - Boating
 - Parking
 - Managing peak hours of operation at the City's most popular parks
 - Accommodating future growth both in Richland and the broader region
 - Equitable information sharing (e.g. diverse outreach methods, balancing in-person and virtual information sharing, connecting with hard to reach communities, etc.)
 - Limited mobility challenges for low-income and senior populations
 - Safety around E-bikes
 - Access issues, particularly for seniors and people with disabilities
 - This ties in with the need for information sharing on available resources
- What challenges do you face in coordinating with the City or other partners to deliver recreation programs?
 - Parking availability for events
 - Funding
 - Competition with other events (e.g. scheduling, attendance, etc.)
- From your perspective, are there individuals or groups who may have less access to parks and recreation opportunities? If so, what kinds of barriers might they face?
 - Low-income communities
 - Seniors
 - Minority communities
 - People with disabilities

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

- How can we work with you and other community members to continue to promote engagement in this planning process?
 - Implement a diverse range of outreach opportunities
- Are there other people or groups who we should hear from?
 - Low-income and minority populations
 - Columbia Ability Alliance
- What types of communication and engagement processes work well for you and others?
 - Physically delivering outreach materials to people's homes
 - Postcard with prepaid return postage or information about where to physically return
 - In-person community conversations and information sessions
 - Diverse outreach methods to touch as many groups as possible
 - A combination of in-person and virtual opportunities

OTHER

- Is there anything else you would like to share?
 - Participants did not have anything to share at this time but were welcomed to reach out to the project team with any other comments.

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

TOPIC AREA:	LARGE EVENTS
DATE AND TIME:	TUESDAY, JULY 8 TH 6:00 – 6:45 PM
INVITED PARTICIPANTS:	YES & PRODUCTIONS, BADGER MOUNTAIN GEAR, STEPHENS MEDIA GROUP, THREE RIVERS FOLKLIFE SOCIETY, NORTHWEST POWERBOAT ASSOCIATION

OVERVIEW

The City of Richland is developing its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) to shape the next six years of citywide park and recreation services. The PROS Plan will address systemwide needs, identify specific improvements to park and recreation facilities, natural open spaces, and activities, and redefine goals and objectives to guide future investments.

To achieve these outcomes and elevate community needs and priorities, we need your help! The purpose of this focus group meeting is to gain your insight into the opportunities and challenges facing the City's parks, recreation facilities, and natural open spaces. Below are several questions to guide our discussion. Your feedback will help inform the key needs and opportunities that help shape the PROS Plan's recommendations for the future.

The most important outcome is to understand your perspective on the opportunities, challenges, and priorities that should be addressed in the PROS Plan.

NOTES

IN GENERAL...

- How would you describe your organization's role in hosting or supporting large-scale recreation events in Richland's parks or public spaces?
 - Stevens Media Group, Live at 5
 - Tumbleweed Music Festival, Three Rivers Folklife
 - Yes & Productions, large scale musical production at Hapo Community Stage in August
- How would you describe your working relationship with City departments when planning or hosting large events?
 - Work with the City to provide large events

OPPORTUNITIES

- What are some of the biggest existing assets related to large events in and around Richland?
 - Howard Amon Park
 - Richland Community Center
 - Parks and Recreation Department Staff
 - Multiple participants acknowledged the strong, positive partnerships they have with the department
 - High volunteerism and community involvement
 - Many of the participants' events rely on a large amount of volunteers
 - Volunteers have been harder to source recently
 - Looking for more volunteers interested in leadership roles, particularly volunteers younger than 40
 - One participant noted that they have multi-generational volunteers, although this may be contributed to the family-oriented nature of large events
 - One participant noted that their volunteers lean older largely due to the busyness of young family schedules
 - One participant noted that partnering with the school district has been a good source of volunteers
 - Power/electricity is sufficient for some participants but not others
- What do you feel are the greatest opportunities facing Richland in the next 5-10 years relating to large events?
 - Virtual-hybrid event formats
 - Live streaming options
 - Wifi connections
 - Lighting infrastructure
 - Secure backstage/storage space
 - Fencing
 - Wings for entrances and exits that withstands wind
 - Power/electricity improvements (particularly for food vendors)
 - Banner infrastructure access improvements (cannot easily and safely access the eyelets)
 - Shade/awnings for performances
 - Parking options (e.g. additional parking areas, parking shuttle bus, etc.)
 - This is a concern across all large events

- Accessible seating and access
 - Electronic reader board
- Are there types of events or audiences currently underrepresented that you think the City could help attract or support?
 - Some accessibility improvements (e.g. seating, accessways, etc.) to expand access for community members with mobility concerns or disabilities

CHALLENGES

- What should the City be preparing for to achieve a parks and recreation system that meets the long-term needs of the community?
 - See opportunities section above
- Are there barriers that prevent certain community members from participating in or attending large events? (e.g., cost, transportation, language, accessibility, awareness)
 - See opportunities section above
 - Transportation and parking
 - Accessible seating and accessways
 - Publicity (virtual and print)
 - There are so many different community calendars, outreach methods, and social media platforms that it is difficult to know how best to reach people
 - One participant encouraged sharing to the radio stations
 - Possible solution: permanent electronic reader board near John Dam Plaza, Howard Amon Stage, G Way, or some other high traffic area (similar to what Richland Players have)
 - Ways to promote other community events at large events

PARTNERSHIPS

- What partners do you rely on (if any)?
 - City Departments:
 - Parks Department
 - Hotel Tax
 - Police Department
 - Pilgrim Media (sound capabilities)

- Stage partners
- Beer Garden partners
- Sponsorships
 - Essential for the success of these events
- What can the City do to build on or enhance your efforts relating to large events (e.g., coordination, permitting, marketing, or infrastructure)?
 - Support for infrastructure, sponsorship, and partnerships
 - Providing clear pathways for what is needed for these large events, available resources, and potential sponsorships/community partners, and other venue contacts that the City can provide to interested organizations (e.g. large event playbook)
 - Facilitate networking and connections between different events, organizations, other local venues, community partners, etc.
 - Smaller indoor event venues with extended hours
 - Currently one participant is holding these events at local churches but they recognize that some community members may not be comfortable at this venue
 - The Richland Community Center does not fulfill this need since it closes too early
 - Hold a roundtable for people who are going to use the space when identifying capital projects and/or new projects at venues for large events

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

- How can we work with you and other community members to continue to promote engagement in this planning process?
 - Hold another roundtable during the recommendations phase of the project relating to event spaces and/or subsequent rounds of capital projects
- Are there other people or groups who we should hear from (e.g., volunteers, event organizers, vendors, or other partners you work with)?
 - Not addressed

OTHER

- Is there anything else you would like to share?
 - Participants did not have anything to share at this time but were welcomed to reach out to the project team with any other comments

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

TOPIC AREA:	YOUTH SPORTS
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY JULY 10 TH 5:00 - 5:45 PM
MEETING LINK:	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87843580230?pwd=jHOGFeaWlaosbjmdavUITH52kpBDlp.1 MEETING ID: 878 4358 0230 PASSCODE: 792055
INVITED PARTICIPANTS:	TC STRIKE, THREE RIVERS SOCCER CLUB, TRI CITIES GIRLS FASTPITCH, RICHLAND NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE

OVERVIEW

The City of Richland is developing its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) to shape the next six years of citywide park and recreation services. The PROS Plan will address systemwide needs, identify specific improvements to park and recreation facilities, natural open spaces, and activities, and redefine goals and objectives to guide future investments.

To achieve these outcomes and elevate community needs and priorities, we need your help! The purpose of this focus group meeting is to gain your insight into the opportunities and challenges facing the City's parks, recreation facilities, and natural open spaces. Below are several questions to guide our discussion. Your feedback will help inform the key needs and opportunities that help shape the PROS Plan's recommendations for the future.

The most important outcome is to understand your perspective on the opportunities, challenges, and priorities that should be addressed in the PROS Plan.

NOTES

IN GENERAL...

- How would you describe your organization's role in supporting youth and/or organized sports in Richland's parks and recreation system?
 - Tri Cities Girls Fast Pitch (TCGF) – serve ~600-700 girls in their league each year
 - Richland National Little League (RNLL) – serve ~500 kids in the Richland area each year
 - Three Rivers Soccer Club – serve ~1000 recreational kids and ~1000 youth in their competitive leagues each year (rapidly growing)
 - TC strike (travel ball team) – serve six youth teams

- How often do you interact with Parks and Public Facilities department staff in Richland?
 - Regularly
 - All participants acknowledged a positive working relationship with department staff

OPPORTUNITIES

- What are some of the biggest existing assets related to sports and recreation in and around Richland?
 - Excellent department staff
 - Quality and maintenance of fields
 - One participant noted that they have heard from visiting teams that the City's baseball fields are some of the best in the state
 - Well maintained parks and community spaces
- Looking ahead 5–10 years, what opportunities do you see for expanding or improving youth and organized sports facilities, programs, or partnerships in Richland?
 - Ability to have more visibility of scheduling and what fields are available
 - Participants feel like sometimes there is underutilization of resources because there is not an easy way to see what is available
 - Good scheduling platform examples: Kennewick and Richland Public Schools
 - Secondary baseball/softball complex or updates to existing fields
 - Current fields are used to the max and cannot keep up with demand and increasing tournaments
 - Participants are worried that they will not be able to continue to provide at the level they are due to capacity constraints
 - Recreational opportunities are getting squeezed further and further
 - Youth teams are having to play later and later hours
 - Adult leagues are taking prime hours when youth games should be prioritized, especially during the school week
 - More utilization of Badger Mountain Community Park
 - Development of baseball/softball fields at future parks
 - Indoor recreation/sport facilities that can be utilized year-round
 - Similar to Southridge's indoor sports complex
 - Turf fields (both rectangular and baseball/softball)

- Participants currently only have access to public school turf fields which are expensive
- Investment in turf fields would support efficient utilization
- Participants would prefer additional fields vs. turfing existing fields
- ADA improvements to buildings at Horn Rapids and Columbia Play Fields to allow utilization
 - Currently only able to be used by umpires and feels like a safety hazard
- Concession improvements at Horn Rapids
 - Vendors are not interested in going here due to size and amenities
- Concession prices at Columbia Play Fields
- Shade structures for dugouts and stands
- Netting around backstops at Columbia Play Fields
- Security lighting around buildings and concession areas
 - Concessions have been broken into a few times
- Claybell Park needs more parking to accommodate pickleball demand
- One participant raised a concern about investing in facilities for the City without benefits in return – this discourages providers from investing in the facilities
- Scoreboards at Columbia Play Field
- Short-term investment in existing fields to make more useable for practice and games for younger players, this may take off some of the short-term stress on the larger facilities and offer a lower cost solution
 - Nine parks have fields that are currently unusable
 - Providers could be open to supporting some of these improvements
- Goals at Leslie Groves Park
 - One provider shared that they have had to replace the goals multiple times due to vandalism
- Cut grass slightly shorter at fields
 - Consider providing a dedicated mower for playing fields

CHALLENGES

- From a youth and organized sports perspective, what should the City be preparing for to meet long-term community needs?
 - See opportunities listed above

- More baseball and softball fields, current fields are 100%+ utilized and providers are turning to private and/or school providers which have their limitations
- What do you feel are some of the biggest challenges facing the community?
 - Limited field capacity and space in Richland and the broader Tri-Cities region
 - Limited field lighting
 - Scheduling/live field availability (need for an improved online platform)
 - Meeting growing demand for Richland and the entire Tri-Cities region
 - Facility/building access at Horn Rapids Park and Columbia Play Fields
 - Parking at Columbia Playing Fields
- Are there barriers that prevent certain community members from participating in sports or other recreation activities?
 - Field capacity
 - Parking

PARTNERSHIPS

- How can the City better support or collaborate with your organization to enhance sports programming, facility use, or participant experience?
 - Site improvements listed above
 - Clearer scheduling and live field availability system
 - More fields to accommodate demand and growth

OTHER

- Is there anything else you would like to share?
 - Participants did not have anything to share at this time but were welcomed to reach out to the project team with any other comments

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

TOPIC AREA:	TRAILS & CONSERVATION
DATE AND TIME:	TUESDAY, JULY 8TH 5:00 – 5:45 PM
MEETING LINK:	HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83011512207?PWD=ZECZBXA8APKAXJB4NPBBCWSNOKTHBB.1 Meeting ID: 893 3516 5505 Passcode: 620086
INVITED PARTICIPANTS:	FRIENDS OF BADGER MOUNTAIN, BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON, TAPTEAL GREENWAY, NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, BENTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOWER COLUMBIA BASIN AUDOBON SOCIETY, MID-COLUMBIA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL, CHINOOK BICYCLE, THREE RIVERS ROAD RUNNERS

OVERVIEW

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The most important outcome is to understand your perspective on the opportunities, challenges, and priorities that should be addressed in the PROS Plan.

NOTES

OPPORTUNITIES

- Collecting trail from the Columbia River to Yakima River and Benton City in the west (ridges to rivers)
- Open space habitat
- River and river pathways
- Work Audubon is doing to preserve and protect habitat

- Hanford Reach National Monument
- WEJ and Chamna significant habitat and important recreation areas
- Open space corridors important for migratory birds, which can be impacted by private / public maintenance practices
- Create new maintenance practices and guiding principles for natural areas
- Connectivity both physical to rivers/trailheads and to communities
 - Water trails, paths/trails, equestrian trails overcoming city boundaries/barriers to connect communities
- Habitat connectivity (riparian and upland)
 - Minimize disruption / habitat impacts from development and traffic
- Proactive planning both short-term and long-term
- Make Columbia Point South a natural area
- Cooling areas to combat extreme heat (shade + cooling centers)
- Add pollinator gardens at Leslie Groves (in the southern area) and asphalt ponds (near I-82 & Chamna)
- Acquire, preserve, and create shrub steppe habitat as city expands north
 - Ensure open space is provided with new development - not just developed recreation sites
- Trends: alternative mobility devices
- Candy mountain to red mountain trail connection
- Categorical exclusions for some shoreline areas where replanting and vegetation management could occur without impact to cultural, historic, or tribal resources
- New trail connection in Badger Mountain south area to trail
- Shoreline plan with resource agencies, city, and Tribes
- Removal of non-native vegetation or vegetation management and replacement with native plantings

CHALLENGES

- Trail user conflicts
- City growth and development threatens existing natural areas with overuse / capacity limits
- Management of river corridors and establishing new maintenance practices that are natural area-friendly
- River views not needed in every area, consider keeping vegetation and trees along river for habitat health
- Camping in natural areas
- Bird strike on buildings

- Rising E-bike use and resulting trail / path conflicts
- Cost of land acquisition and trail connection planning / design
- Existing maintenance practices and vegetation practices (turf, mowing, etc.)
- Climate impacts: extreme heat and drought
- Invasive weeds along shoreline
 - Problem is more widespread than any one area and more than one organization can address
- Light pollution and habitat degradation
- Clean restroom access at several natural area sites
- Car-centric planning and lack of public transit / safe connections to parks
- Balancing access and safety with preservation of natural areas
 - Some areas can be preserved without development for public access / use
- Fire suppression at Bateman Island with removal of causeway

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

TOPIC AREA: TRAILS AND CONSERVATION

DATE AND TIME: TUESDAY, JULY 8TH
5:00 – 5:45 PM

MEETING LINK:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89335165505?pwd=uMzy8o53hzBja3kl5LHRhuRzbEwBm4.1>

Meeting ID: 893 3516 5505
Passcode: 620086

INVITED

PARTICIPANTS: **OVERVIEW**

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, BENTON
CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOWER
COLUMBIA BASIN AUDOBON SOCIETY,
MID-COLUMBIA URBAN FORESTRY
COUNCIL, CHINOOK BICYCLE, THREE
RIVERS ROAD RUNNERS

FRIENDS OF BADGER MOUNTAIN, BACK
COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF
WASHINGTON, TAPTEAL GREENWAY,

The City of Richland is developing its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) to shape the next six years of citywide park and recreation services. The PROS Plan will address systemwide needs, identify specific improvements to park and recreation facilities, natural open spaces, and activities, and redefine goals and objectives to guide future investments.

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Tapteal Greenway 7-8-2025 (see separate list of TG priorities)

- How would you describe your organization's role as it relates to parks, natural open spaces, and recreation?

Tapteal Greenway's mission is conservation, recreation, and education along the lower Yakima River from Bateman Island to Benton City. We are a volunteer nonprofit and assist the City of Richland maintain natural open spaces (such as Chamna Natural Preserve, WE Johnson Park, and Amon Creek Natural Preserve), certain trail systems within those parks, and a linear trail generally following the Yakima River between Bateman Is and the city boundary at Snively Rd. These parks are mostly natural habitats and the trails are generally unpaved for equestrian, hiker, and mountain biker use. Tapteal Greenway advocated for and facilitated the purchase of lands that now comprise ACNP and owns open space properties adjacent to ACNP, a property just upstream of the Van Giesen Bridge over the Yakima River (Tapteal Bend), and certain islands in the river. We are advocates for adding natural open space habitats to the park system and for obtaining strategic properties to ensure a continuous linear trail system.

OPPORTUNITIES

- What do you see as the most valuable natural or environmental assets in and around Richland? What makes them successful or unique?

In TG's view, both upland and riparian habitats are really valuable. Natural open space parks are the greatest assets, but corridors along our rivers in manicured parks are also critical for nesting and migratory birds. The urban forest houses many species and populations of birds and insects important for our environmental health. The city can play a role by ensuring the long term health of these areas and using a light hand in NOS and corridor maintenance.

TG was formed (30 years ago), in part, to address the problem that natural open spaces within Richland were unmaintained, ignored, and being seriously abused. Uncontrolled access resulted in upland and riparian habitat destruction by motor vehicles and tremendous dumping. Many tons of garbage of all descriptions have been removed from these lands; as one example, the first cleanup at Chamna alone netted 16 tons. Gating Chamna was an important first step to allowing the Preserve to restore itself and create an open space park that citizens now embrace, rather than fear. Wildlife returned after vehicle restrictions, highlighting that light use and light maintenance allow nature to flourish. NOS parks and corridors still need maintenance to allow safe access and use but the maintenance requires a gentler touch, geared for values such as habitat diversity, cover, and solitude, contrasted to the approach used in manicured parks, which values lawns and river views.

- From your organization's perspective, are there emerging trends or community needs Richland should be preparing for over the next 5-10 years?

Trail and park use remain popular. Trails and parks along the Yakima are more natural and wild compared to those on the Columbia which are highly maintained with paved trails. This is a strength of the Richland park system, which offers opportunities for all types of users with all types of interests to get outside and recreate. As development moves north along the SR240 corridor, efforts should be made to add more natural open space lands to its parks mix using what remains of natural shrub steppe between Twin Bridges and Snively Rd.

Friends of Badger Mountain trails have grown in popularity, allowing users to take the high road, while Tapteal Trail users get to take the low road. Taken together, what is evolving is a broader regional Ridges to Rivers trail system (<https://ridgestorivers.wordpress.com/>). TG encourages the city to prioritize doing its part to complete the continuous trail network, as opportunities arise. Acquiring lands and easements will only become more difficult and expensive, so keeping this vision top of mind is important over the next decade.

CHALLENGES

- What ecological or natural resource concerns do you think should be prioritized in park and open space planning?

Development is taking place at a rapid pace. Habitats and trail connections need to be acquired before they are gone. Weeds continue to grow. Poison hemlock, Russian knapweed, cereal rye, and others need to be controlled. See TG's list of issues we think the plan should address.

- Are there communities that face barriers to accessing trails or natural open spaces? What factors limit their engagement or participation?

I'm not certain about communities, per se, but an increasing issue is acceptance of other trail users. Our trails are multiuse and non-motorized. Conflicts seem to be increasing between users that think that the trails are for them and no one else. Share the trail and trail etiquette signs are needed as a start.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Does your organization currently work with the City to help maintain facilities or provide programs related to parks, natural open spaces, and recreation? If so, how can the City work with you to build on or enhance those efforts?

Work from a standpoint of cooperation and partnership. Ultimately, these are city lands. But the city does not allocate sufficient resources to do what needs to be done. The Greenway will continue to provide our services free of charge on a best effort, volunteer basis as a community service to take care of these important spaces. We are not contractors and cannot assume liability for trail and park use outside of when we conduct our maintenance work.

- If not, do you see any opportunities for partnering with the City in the future to help address park, natural open space, and recreation needs and services?

Many. In almost everything we do.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

- How can we work with you and other community members to continue to promote engagement in this planning process?
- Are there other people or groups who we should hear from?

OTHER

- Is there anything else you would like to share?

Richland Park Plan 2025 – TG input 7-8-2025

Tapteal Trail:

- Ensure a permanent continuous Tapteal Trail from Bateman Island to the city boundary at Snively Rd. Make the Tapteal Trail a city park.
- Acquire lands or easements to ensure a continuous Tapteal Trail between WEJ Park and the Horn Rapids development.
- Make permanent the trail easements adjacent to the Horn Rapids development.
- Make permanent the trail corridor between Twin Bridges Rd and Snively Rd which includes the existing dirt road.
- Create a trailhead at Twin Bridges Rd for equestrian and other users of the Tapteal Trail.
- Make permanent the trail easement currently allowed by a temporary agreement between Interstate Concrete and Asphalt and the City of Richland, which allows Tapteal Trail users to skirt the Eucon/American Rock Products gravel pits. (TG calls this the “Chamna Backdoor”)
- Ensure that the Kingsgate extension from Horn Rapids development to Van Giesen St (see TIP) accommodates an unimproved trail easement for equestrian, pedestrian, and off-road bicycle use, separated from the road for user safety. The easement should be to the west of the roadway so that users do not need to cross Kingsgate to continue on the Tapteal Trail at Horn Rapids. There could also be a wide paved shoulder on Kingsgate for on-road bike use.
- Install a crossing light, possibly at Jones Rd, so that Tapteal Trail users can cross Van Giesen safely.
- Review signage to make clear that the Tapteal Trail, WE Johnson Park, and Chamna Natural Preserve are multiuse areas for non-motorized recreation (hike, bike, horse). Post trail etiquette rules and signs.
- Incorporate and make permanent the Tapteal Trail in the comprehensive plan and other planning documents and websites. Work with Tapteal Greenway to establish and/or correct trail names.
- Support efforts by Tapteal Greenway and Friends of Badger Mountain to create the regional Ridges to Rivers open space and trail network. <https://ridgestorivers.wordpress.com/>

Land Use:

- Rezone Chamna west end, except for the parking lot, from Parks and Public Facilities (or developed open space in the comp plan) to NOS

- The city should be responsible for weed control in its natural open spaces, especially along trails. Focus should be, at a minimum, poison hemlock; however, Russian knapweed is a continuing problem and cereal rye is a growing problem.
- The city should be responsible for trailhead maintenance, including parking lot repair and weed control, port-a-potties, doggy-do bags, entrance regulatory signage, and access control.
- As developments move north along SR240, create natural open space. Shrub steppe areas between irrigation circles from Twin Bridges road to Snively road should be preserved as a corridor from the Yakima River to the Hanford Reach National Monument.
- Figure out how to move the BMX etc area from Chamna (adjacent to the parking lot) to a more appropriate area. This current use, which has denuded the area, is incompatible with the city lease for Chamna as a Natural Preserve.
- Increase patrols of Amon Creek Natural Preserve to prevent damaging and inappropriate off-road bike use which is destroying Preserve habitat and impacting local residents. Improve signage within the preserve to make clear these activities are forbidden.
- Proactively investigate and rectify adjacent homeowner encroachment onto city parks and public lands. There have been issues at Claybell and Tanglewood where homeowners have extended their backyards inappropriately. Development in the Twin Bridges Rd area offer similar challenges that might be proactively prevented by ensuring public land limits are clearly made known to new homeowners.

Other:

- Work with state and federal agencies and city departments to create a wildlife crossing under Columbia Park Trail where Amon Creek crosses the road. TG has 3 years of roadkill data including deer, beaver, racoon, and many others. This stretch of road has for decades been known as a killing zone for animals moving between the Amon Creek drainage and the Yakima River and HMU lands.
- Don't give up on installing a pedestrian/emergency vehicle bridge to Bateman Island.
- Hire another full time year round park ranger. One ranger chasing homeless is insufficient to also adequately protect Amon Creek Natural Preserve from ongoing abuses.
- Be proactive in finding humanitarian solutions to the homeless problems in our parks. Evicting them to other parks or cities is not humanitarian. Eradication of habitats to make the areas less attractive to homeless is unacceptable.
- Devise a permitting system for events conducted in city parks, such as WEJ and Chamna. Devise a system for alerting the public that events are scheduled/occurring.
- TG is willing to work with the city to write IAC proposals etc to fund any of the above.

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

TOPIC AREA: DATE AND TIME: TRAILS AND CONSERVATION

INVITED PARTICIPANTS: FRIENDS OF BADGER MOUNTAIN, BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON, TAPTEAL GREENWAY, NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, BENTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOWER COLUMBIA BASIN AUDOBON SOCIETY, MID-COLUMBIA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL, CHINOOK BICYCLE, THREE RIVERS ROAD RUNNERS

TUESDAY, JULY 8TH 5:00 – 5:45 PM

A short list of discussion questions. These are not a strict agenda, but rather a guide to give you a sense of the topics we're hoping to explore. The conversation is intended to be free-flowing and informal.

IN GENERAL...

- How would you describe your organization's role as it relates to parks, natural open spaces, and recreation?
 - Our organization relies heavily on bike and e-bike access to parks and open spaces such as Chamna, Badger, and Candy. The bike path access on roads and through the city park network is critical for our club's function.
 - In general, we advocate for all cycling activities. While we do enjoy hosting competitive events, we are not solely a race club.

OPPORTUNITIES

- What do you see as the most valuable natural or environmental assets in and around Richland? What makes them successful or unique?
 - Chamna is our most popular mountain bike area and the most frequented location for our club-organized rides.
 - Badger and Candy Mountain have established wonderful recreation areas that are almost too popular. The community has spoken with its usage—we need more spaces like these.
 - These three spaces all have year-round usage, are well maintained throughout the year, include restrooms, have ample parking, offer nice views, and feel safe for all users. The nicely maintained grass and picnic area at Badger is a bonus. (Is Badger Park managed by the City?)
- From your organization's perspective, are there emerging trends or community needs Richland should be preparing for over the next 5-10 years?
 - eBike usage will continue to grow
 - As our population increases, the City will need to increase recreational opportunities.
 - We need to keep ebike access to all paths and open spaces available.

CHALLENGES

- What ecological or natural resource concerns do you think should be prioritized in park and open space planning?
 - With more recreational users, conflicts between users will also increase at the most popular locations. Toilets will need more frequent service, and more trails will be desired. Building additional trails is preferred over widening existing ones. The addition of cycling-specific trails to separate hiking and cycling conflicts at the most popular locations is already desired, as there have been usage conflicts and even fights. There are rumors that local neighborhood HOAs have resisted expansion to Little Badger.
 - We would love to see nicely supported expansion to areas like Little Badger.
- Are there communities that face barriers to accessing trails or natural open spaces? What factors limit their engagement or participation?
 - Some areas are being avoided due to riders not feeling safe. The homeless population and vandalism in the Columbia Park area near the REACH have intimidated many. Bathrooms need to be maintained and presentable.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Does your organization currently work with the City to help maintain facilities or provide programs related to parks, natural open spaces, and recreation? If so, how can the City work with you to build on or enhance those efforts?
 - Our club has participated in trail building and trail maintenance at Chamna, Badger, and Candy. We used to pay for the porta-potties at Candy and Chamna until the maintenance costs exceeded our budget. Chinook club members put in many hours each year to help maintain Chamna and Columbia Park trails.
 - We also enjoy putting on riding events at Chamna and Columbia Park Trail. We appreciate avoiding usage conflicts through formal event permitting, but the cost and liability policies imposed by the City have prevented our permitting participation.
 - We want to see the City encourage active recreation, trail maintenance, and event hosting through reduced costs and recognition of shared liability. Some organizations have embraced event planning by reducing or eliminating permitting costs and liability minimums. For example, Bennington Lake has lower liability requirements and waives the permitting costs for us as our event aligns well with their community support goals.
- If not, do you see any opportunities for partnering with the City in the future to help address park, natural open space, and recreation needs and services?

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

- How can we work with you and other community members to continue to promote engagement in this planning process?
 - We looked for open call plans on the Richland City website but found nothing published. This does not mean it was not published, but rather that we failed to find it. Publication of plans and open meeting times through a variety of media outlets will gather more input.
- Are there other people or groups who we should hear from?

OTHER

- Is there anything else you would like to share?
 - Thanks for inviting us to participate in your planning process.

Links / References we found:

- Richland Annex Map <https://arcg.is/1qqvaS2>
- Richland GIS Hub <https://richland-hub---gis-mapping-richlandwa.hub.arcgis.com/>
- It appears Badger and Candy Mountain are outside of the city limits.

Lauren Scott

Planning Project Manager | Senior Project Associate
she/her/hers



PLANNING | DESIGN | COMMUNICATIONS | MANAGEMENT | SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY

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City of Richland Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan

Online Community Survey Summary

Survey Period: August 11, 2025 - August 29, 2025



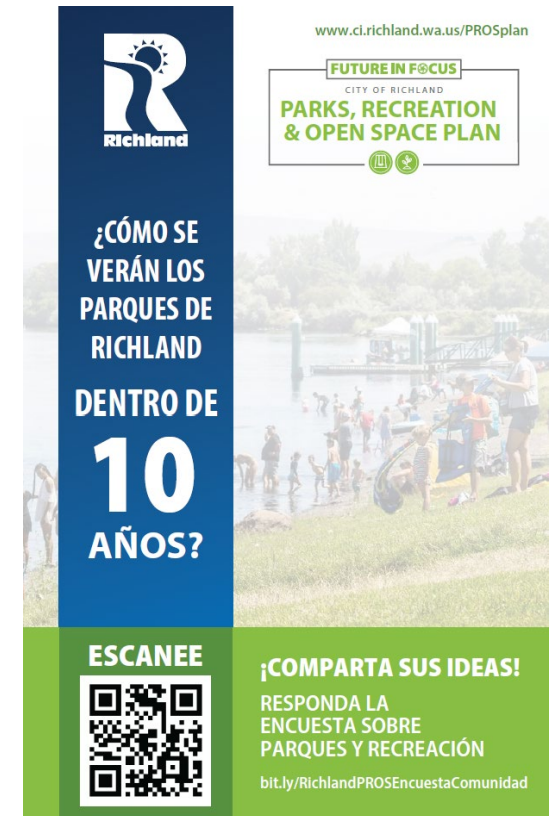
Survey Form & Purpose

- Available online from August 11th to August 29th 2025
- Included 17 questions with an additional six demographic questions (all questions, including demographic ones, were optional)
- Questions focused on:
 - How the Richland community uses parks
 - What new amenities or programs are desired
 - Which improvements are most important to shape future investments

Survey Promotion

The survey was shared with the community through several methods in both English and Spanish including:

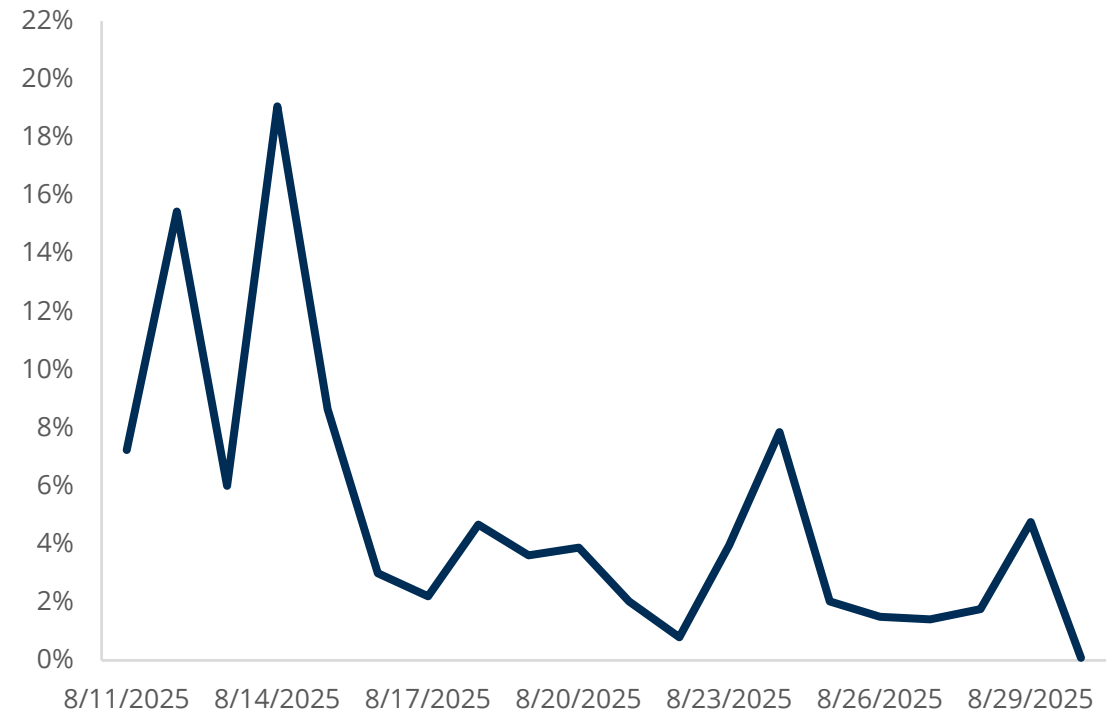
- A press release
- Radio and TV interviews
- Multiple posts across City social media channels
- In-person staff outreach at events
- Printed postcards and flyers
- Promoted on reader boards in public facilities
- Notifications to City subscriber lists, organization contacts, focus group participants, and others!



Responses

- 1,159 total “visitors” or people who clicked into or opened the survey
- Of that number, 818 fully completed survey responses (71% completion rate)
- MIG completed a data quality check to confirm that individual respondents are not duplicative and not automatically generated (bots)

SURVEY RESPONSE RATE OVER TIME AUGUST 11 – 29, 2025



Survey Summary

- Responses are summarized in graphs or charts with the survey question
- For some slides, differences in responses based on certain demographic questions are shown (e.g., those who indicated they had children in their household versus those that said they did not)
 - For these questions, the respondents shown answered both the main survey question and provided a response to the demographic question (e.g., they answered what improvements they would like to see in parks and where they lived)
- For questions with an open-ended response option, responses have been categorized by topic / message
- Raw data tables and complete open-ended responses are included as an attachment

Who Responded?

Frequent Park Users

34% said they visited a park daily or almost daily and 34% said about once a week.

Residents

84% of respondents said they were Richland residents. 38% said they lived in South Richland while 37% lived in North Richland and 25% in Central Richland.

Varied Ages

Respondents were largely split between the ages of 25 and 65 and over. The 35-44 and 65+ age groups had the largest share of responses across age groups (28% and 26%).

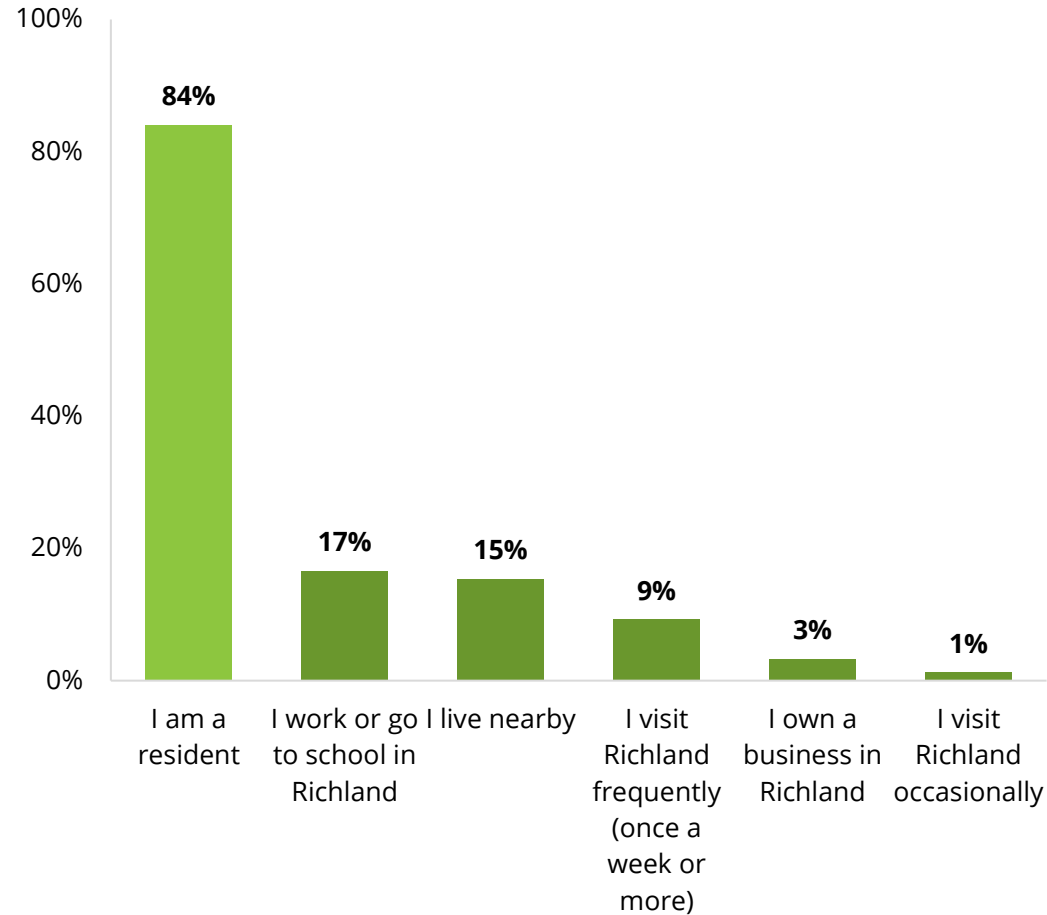
Evenly Split Households

44% of respondents did not have children under 18 living with them while 45% said they did.



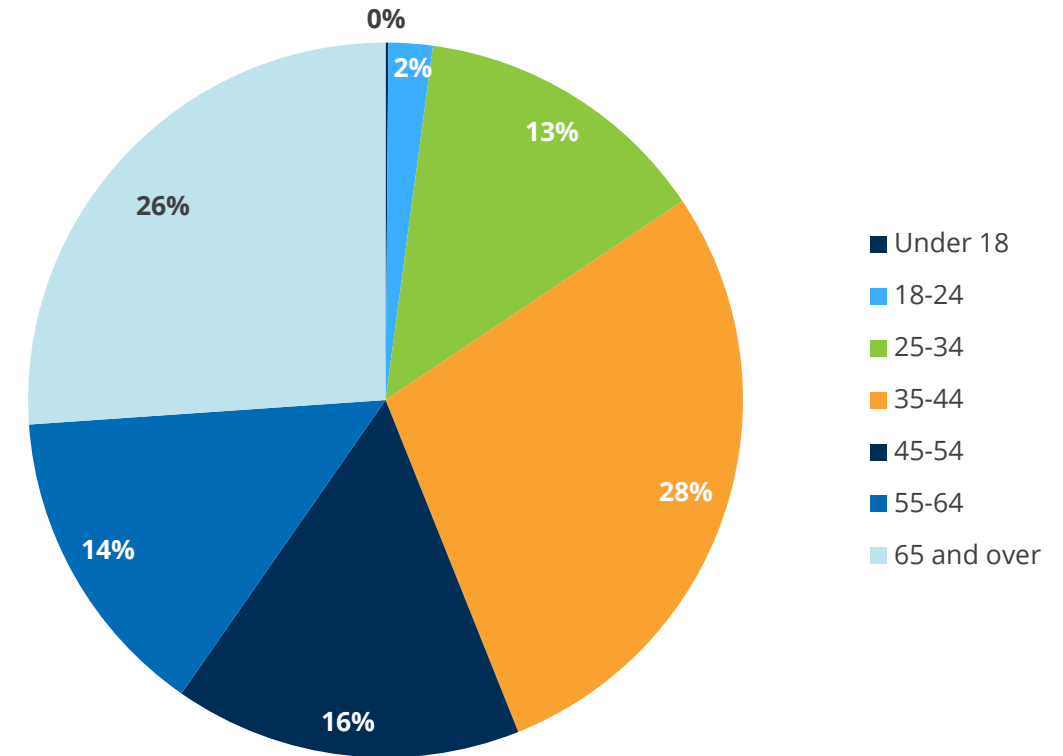
1,159 Total Respondents in
~3 weeks

What is your relationship to Richland? *(Choose all that apply)*



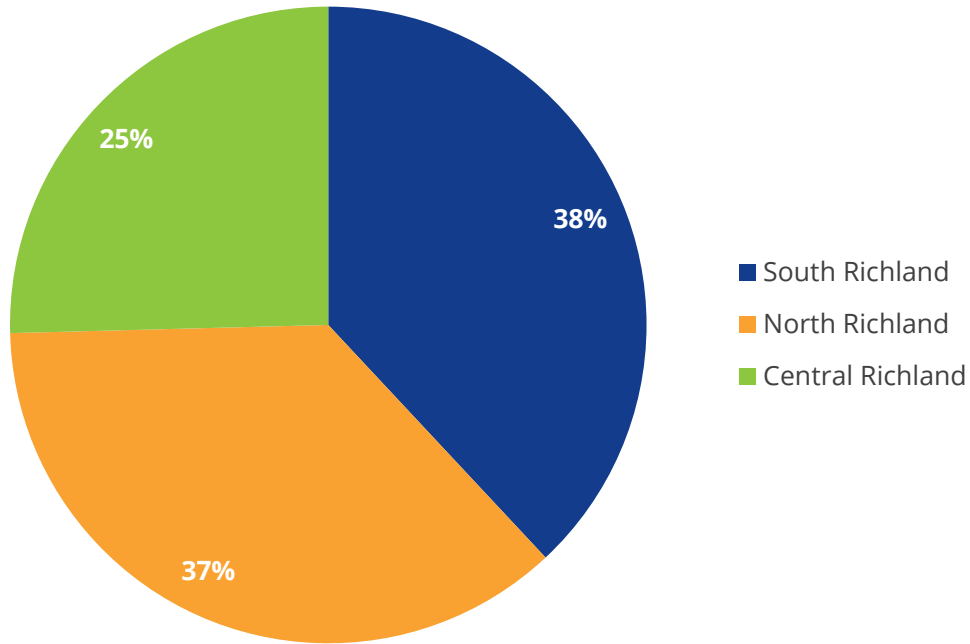
Respondents to this question; n = 812

What is your age?



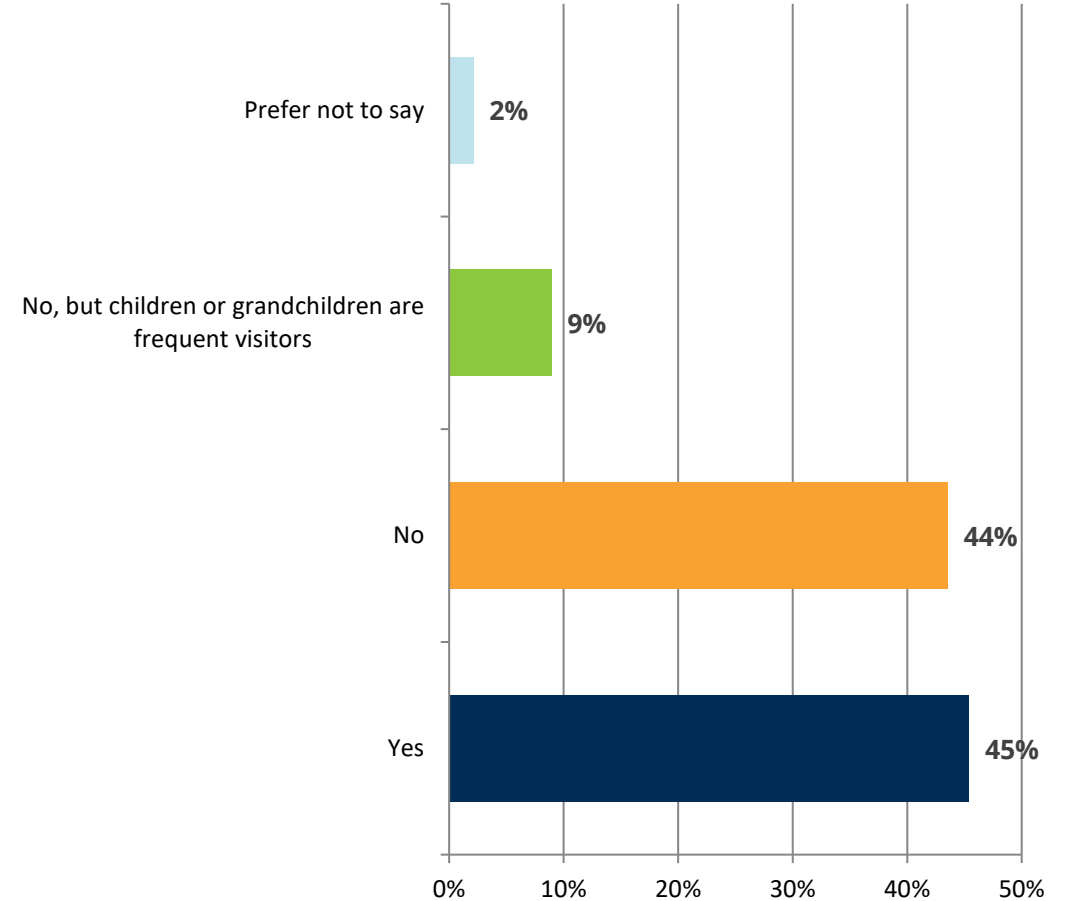
Respondents to this question; n = 801

What part of Richland do you live in?



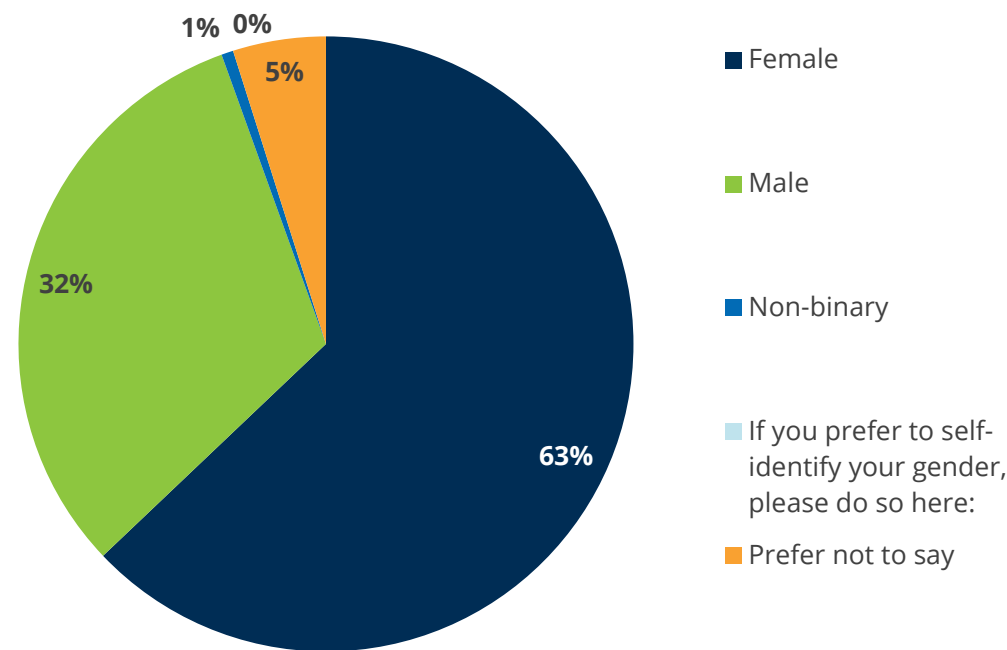
Respondents to this question; n = 673

Do you have children under the age of 18 living in your household? *(Choose one)*



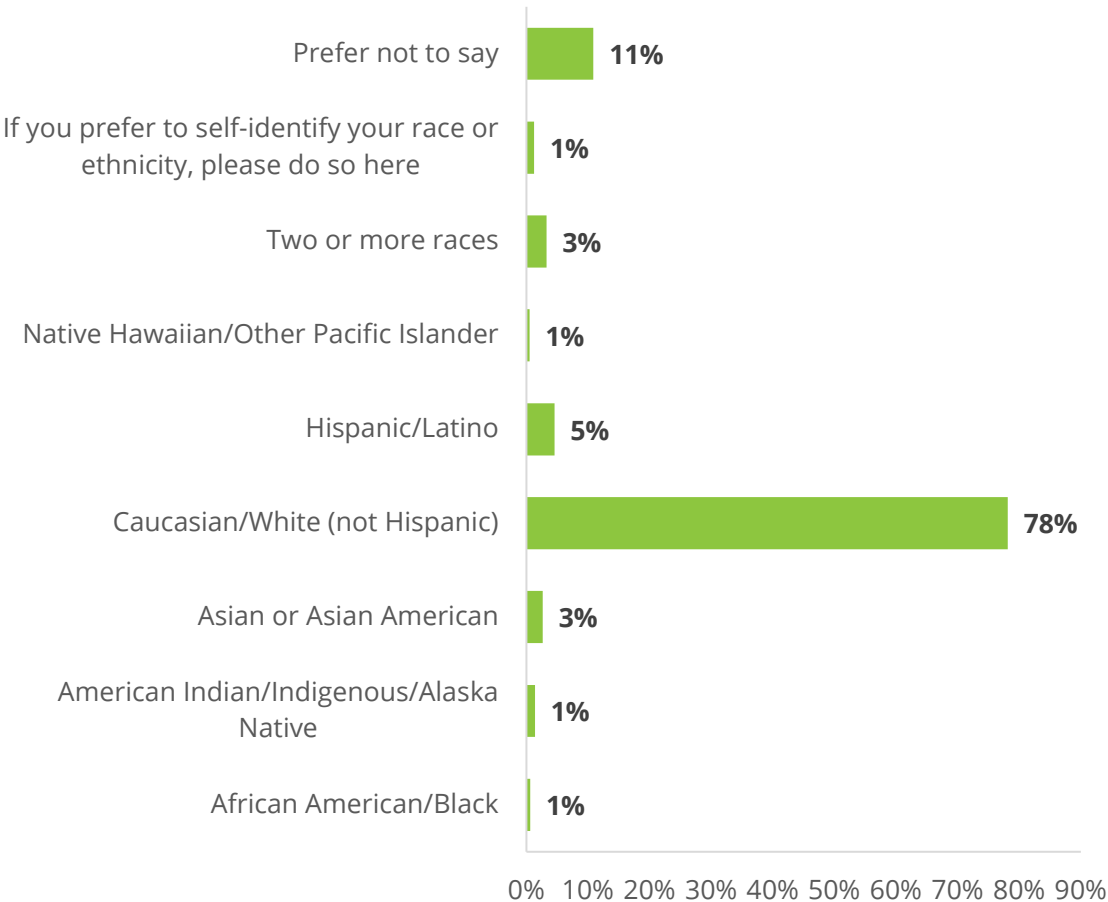
Respondents to this question; n = 806

How do you identify your gender? *(Choose one)*



Respondents to this question; n = 798

How do you identify yourself? *(Choose all that apply)*



Respondents to this question; n = 791

Values

Quality Parks

76% of respondents said the city should be known for high quality and well-maintained parks

Natural Beauty

After quality parks, respondents thought Richland should be known for natural areas and riverfronts (58%)

Access to the Outdoors and Nature

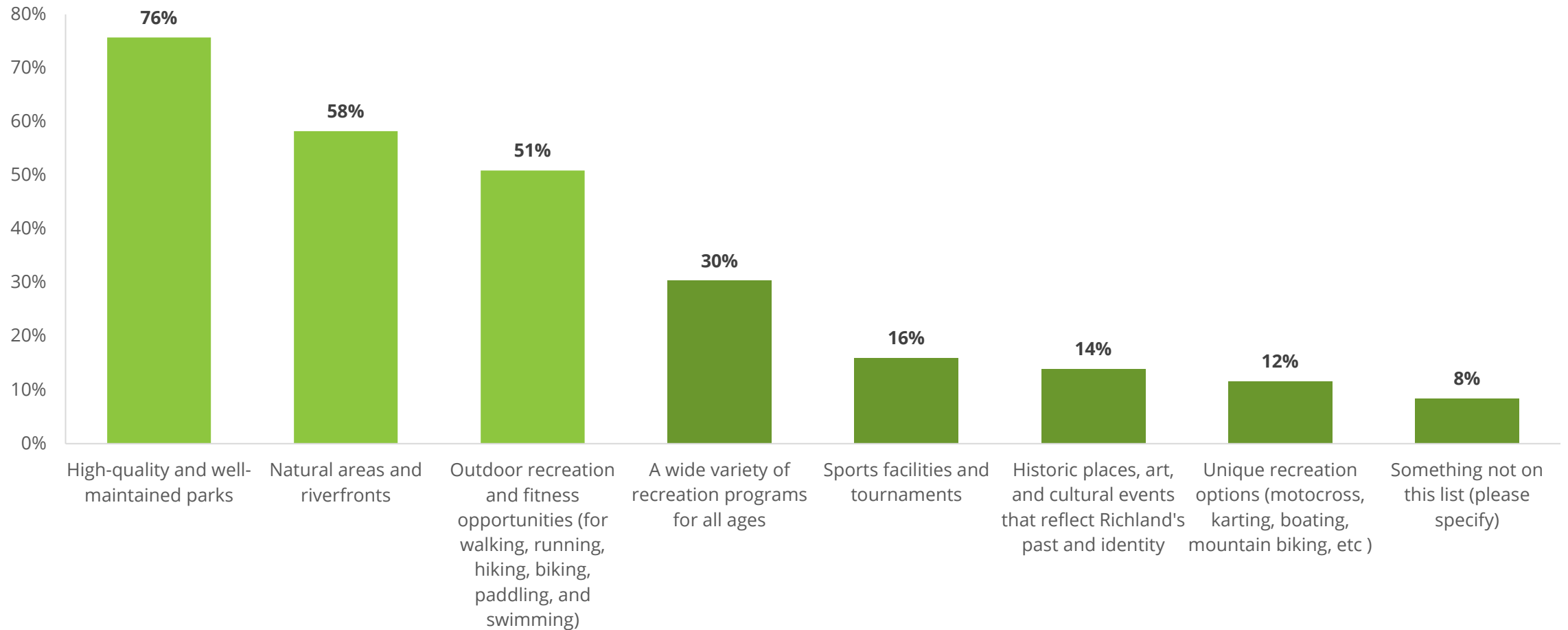
When asked what their top reason for visiting a park was 57% of respondents said being surrounded by trees, plants, and wildlife

Exercise and Activity

Across both questions, respondents participate in and value outdoor activities and exercise

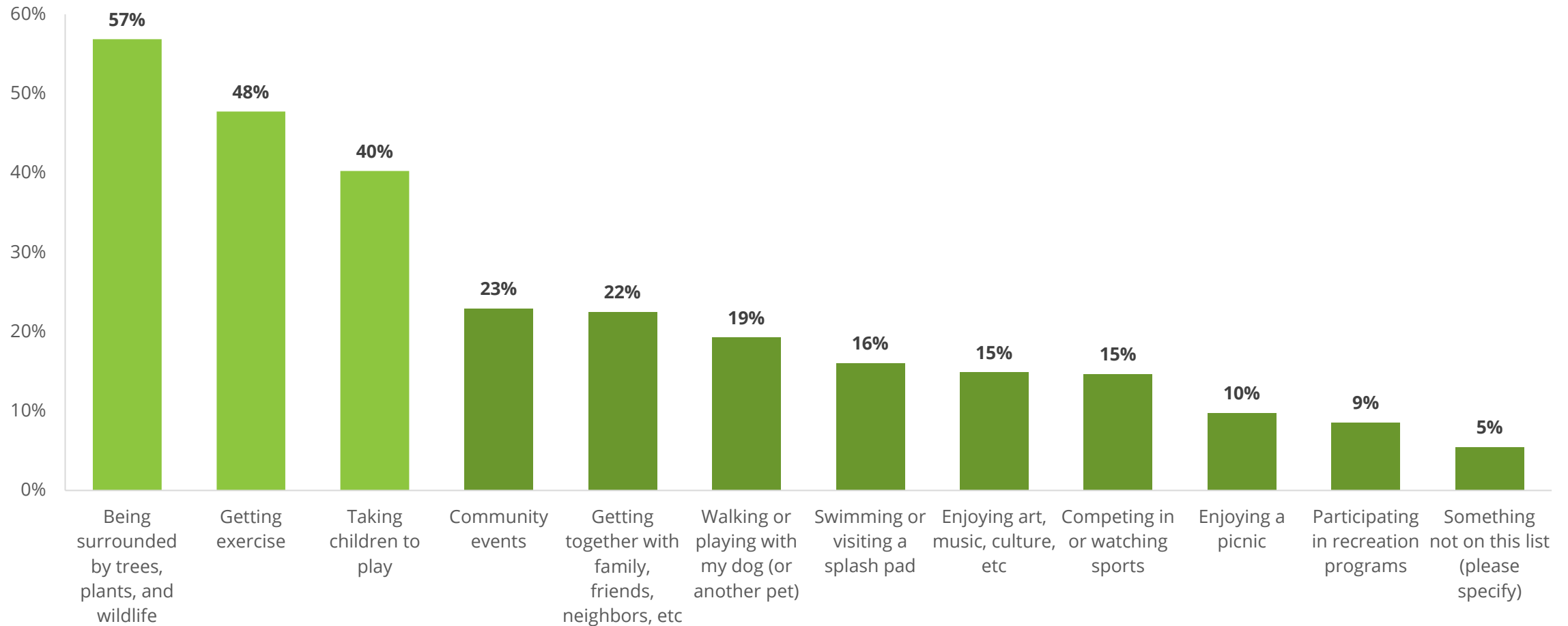


What do you think Richland should be known for when it comes to parks, recreation, and open spaces? *(Choose up to three)*



Respondents to this question; n = 939

What are your top reasons for visiting a park, recreation facility, or other open spaces/trails? *(Choose up to three)*



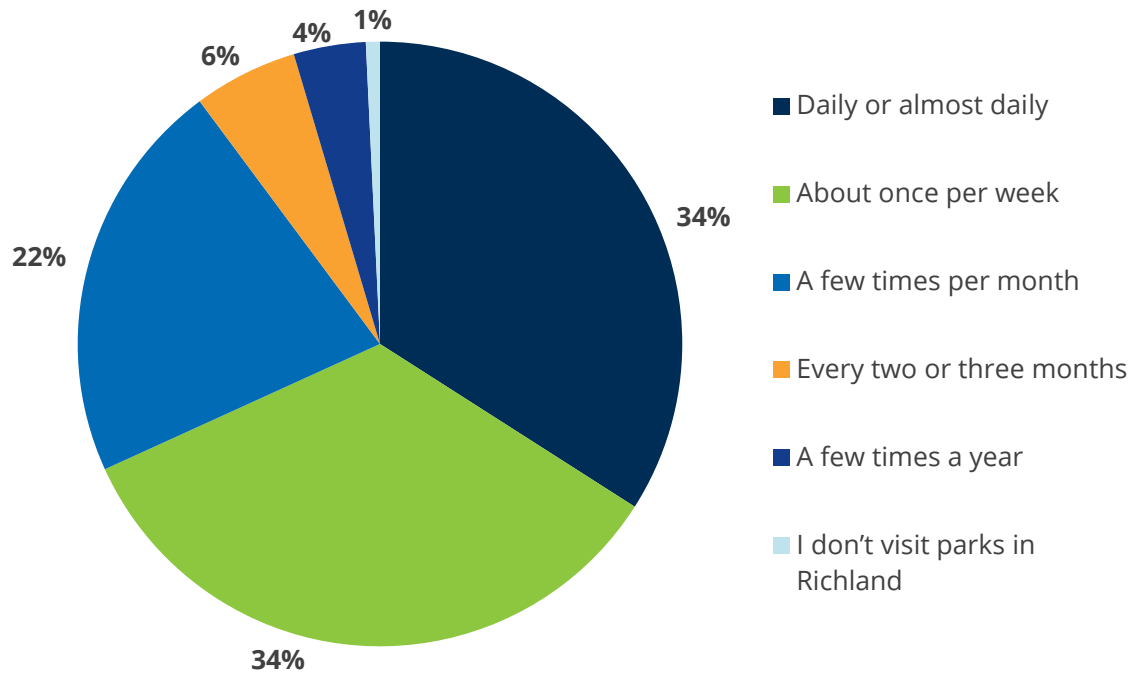
Respondents to this question; n = 934

Differences in Reasons to Visit

Do Responses Differ Based On Whether People Have Children in Their Household?

- **Getting Exercise:** Of respondents who indicated they had children under 18 living with them, or children were frequent visitors, only 34% said getting exercise was a reason to visit a park compared to 67% without children
- **Being Surrounded by Trees, Plants, and Wildlife:** Of respondents who indicated they had children under 18 living with them, or children were frequent visitors, 47% said being surrounded by trees, plants, and wildlife was a reason to visit a park versus 71% without children
- Those who said they had children under 18 living with them were more likely to respond taking children to play, competing in or watching sports, swimming or visiting a splashpad, and getting together with family, friends, and neighbors as reasons to visit a park compared to those without children living with them
- Those who said they did not have children under 18 living with them were more likely to respond community events or walking or playing with their dogs as reasons to visit a park compared to those with children living with them

How often do you visit parks in Richland? *(Choose one)*

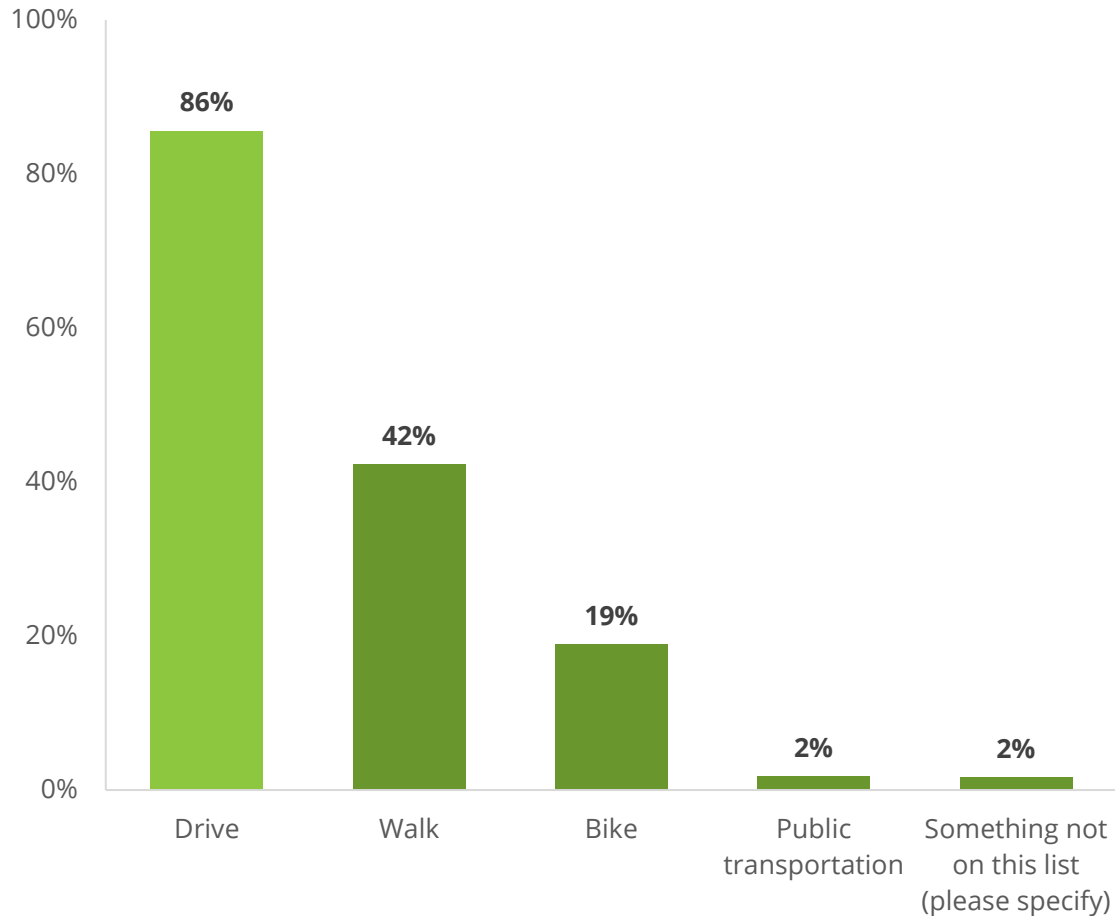


Respondents to this question; n = 934

Do Responses Differ Based On Where People Live?

- **Daily or Almost Daily Visitors:** Of respondents who indicated they live in North Richland, 44% visit a park daily or almost daily compared to 32% in South Richland and 37% in Central Richland
- **Once a Week Visitors:** Of respondents who indicated they live in Central Richland, 41% visit a park about once a week versus 33% in South Richland and 29% in North Richland
- **A Few Times a Month Visitors:** Of respondents who indicated they live in South Richland, 26% said they visit a park a few times a month compared to 16% in North Richland and 17% in Central Richland
- Lower rates of park use (ranging from a few times per month to never visiting parks) were consistent across Richland

How do you typically get to parks, recreation facilities, or open spaces in Richland? *(Choose your top two most frequent methods for getting to a park)*

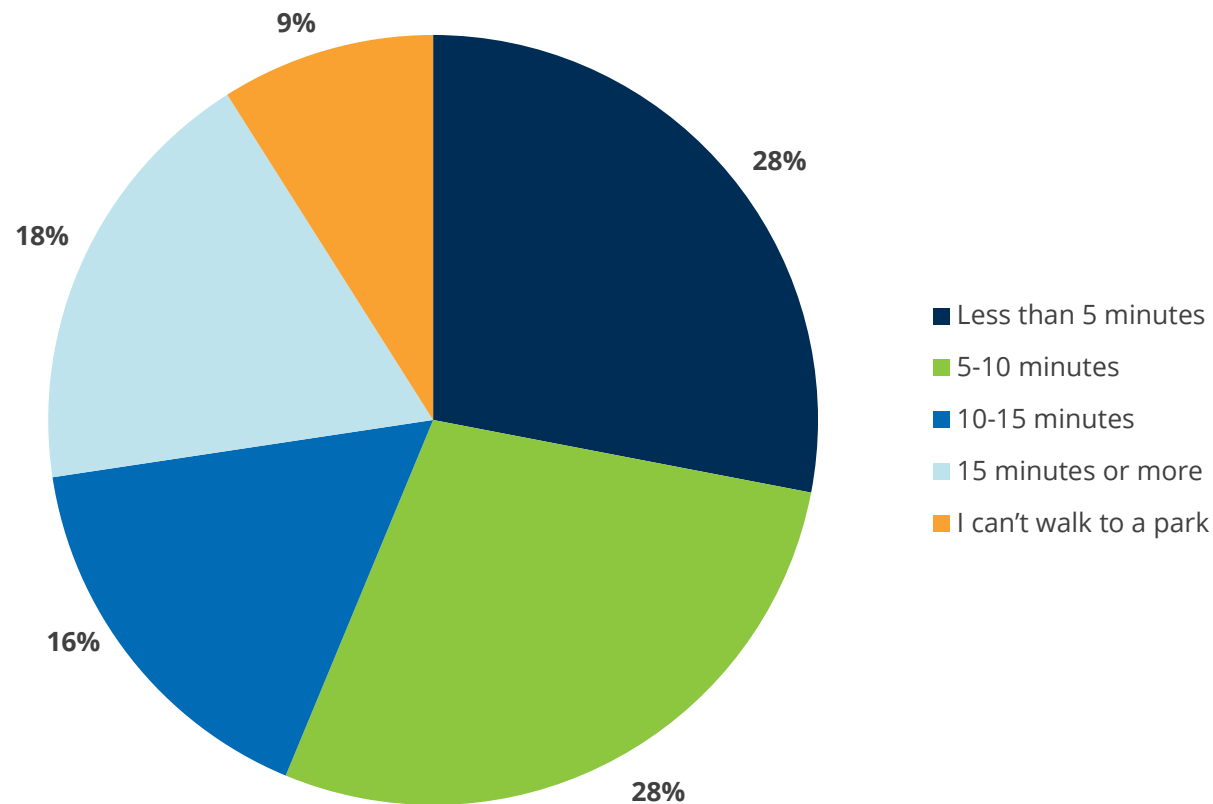


Respondents to this question; n = 933

Do Responses Differ Based On Where People Live or Whether They Have Children?

- Of those who told us they were from South Richland and how they got to parks, 96% percent of respondents said they drive, compared to walking (39%) or biking (11%)
- Rates of driving to parks were slightly lower for North Richland and Central Richland residents (72% and 81%) while rates of walking (57% and 53%) and biking (28% and 24%) were higher
- Of those who told us they drive to parks, 91% had children under the age of 18 living with them or had children as frequent visitors, slightly higher than those who said they did not have children and drove (78%)
- Rates of walking to parks were similar between households with children versus those without

If you were to walk to your nearest park, how long would it take you?

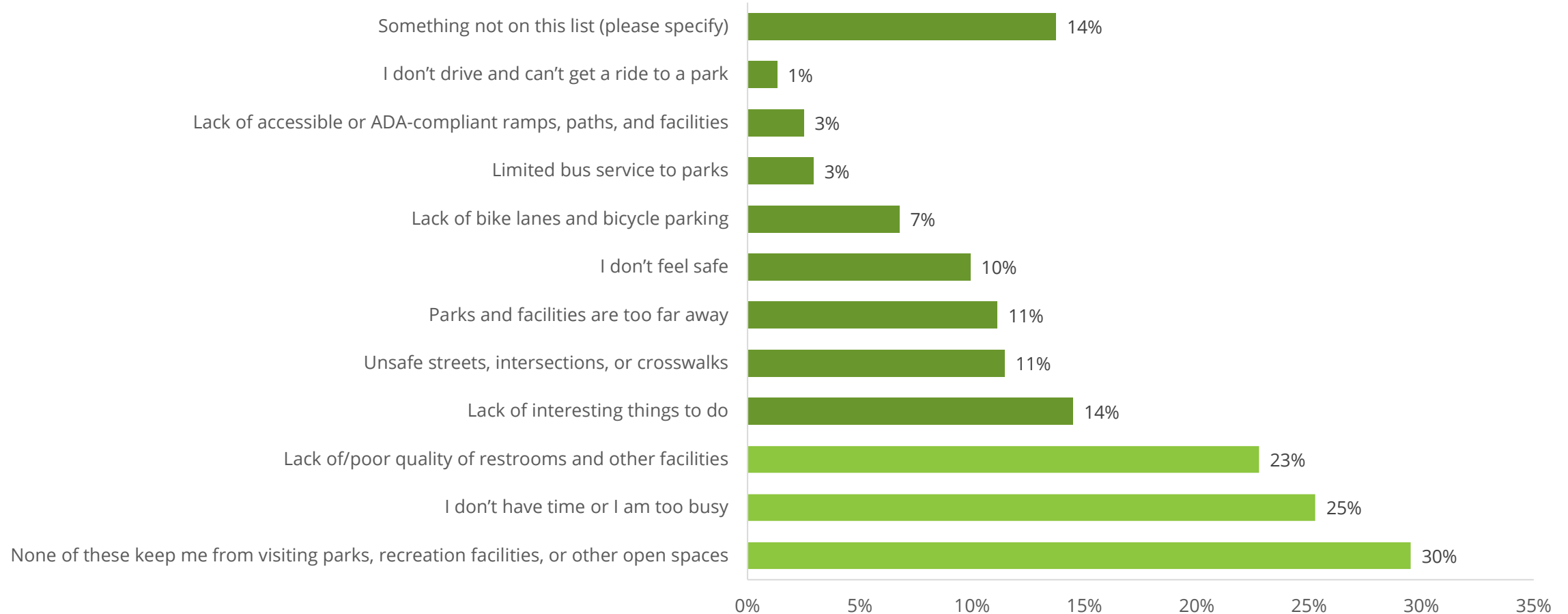


Respondents to this question; n = 935

Do Responses Differ Based On Where People Live?

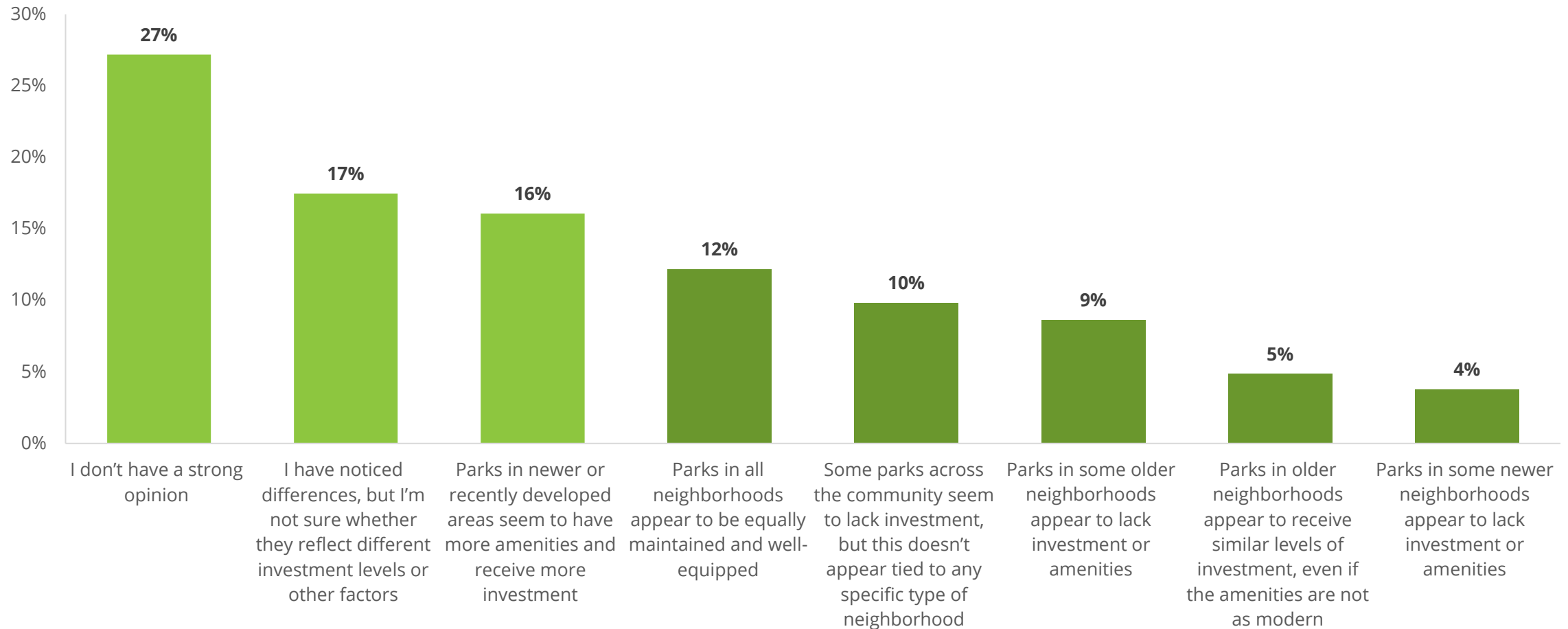
- **Less than 5 Minutes:** Of respondents who said they lived in South Richland 25% said they could walk to a park in less than 5 minutes compared to 32% in North Richland and 40% in Central Richland
- **15 Minutes or More:** Of respondents who said they lived in South Richland, 20% said they could walk to a park in 15 minutes or more compared to 14% in North Richland and 12% in South Richland
- **Between 5-15 Minutes:** Percentages were similar across areas of Richland for those who said it would take them 5 to 15 minutes to walk to a park

What prevents you from visiting parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces in Richland more frequently? *(Choose all that apply)*



Respondents to this question; n = 918

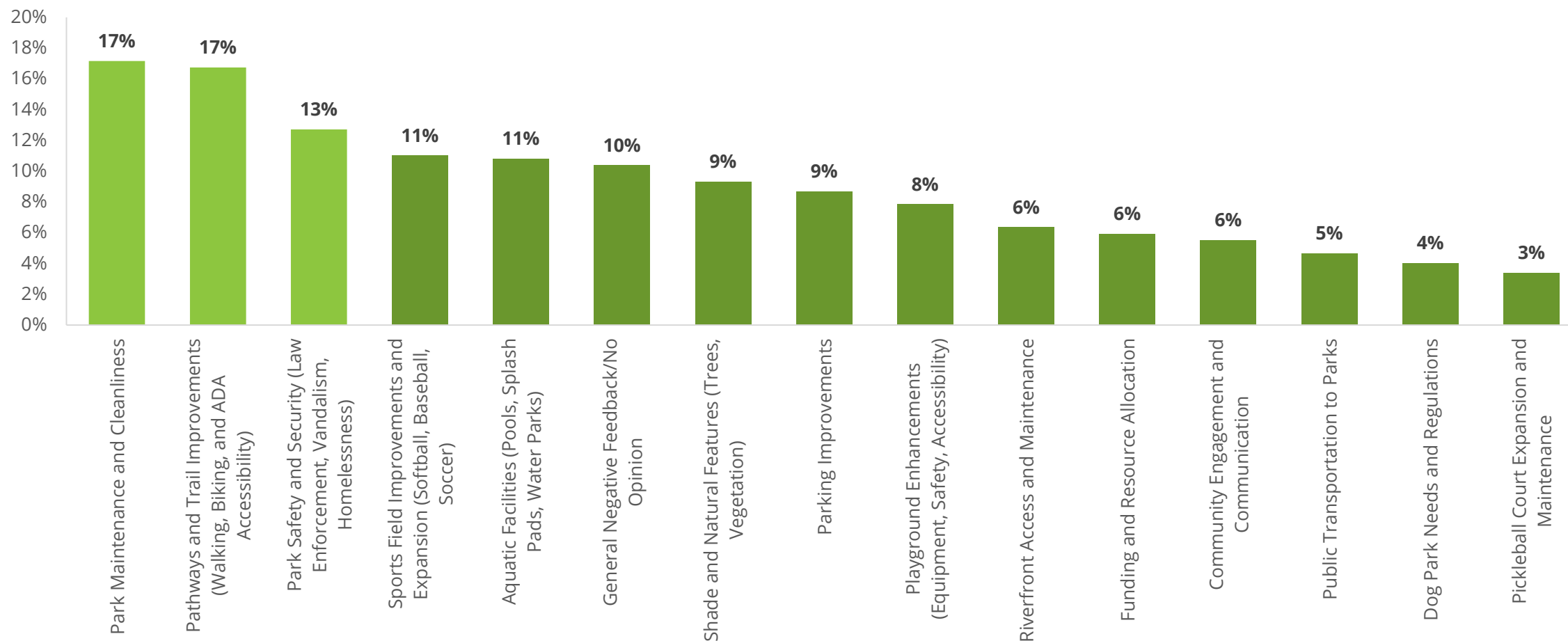
How would you describe the distribution of amenities and investments in parks across different neighborhoods? *(Select the option that best reflects your perception)*



Respondents to this question; n = 927

Do you have any ideas or thoughts on how the City can better support access to parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces?

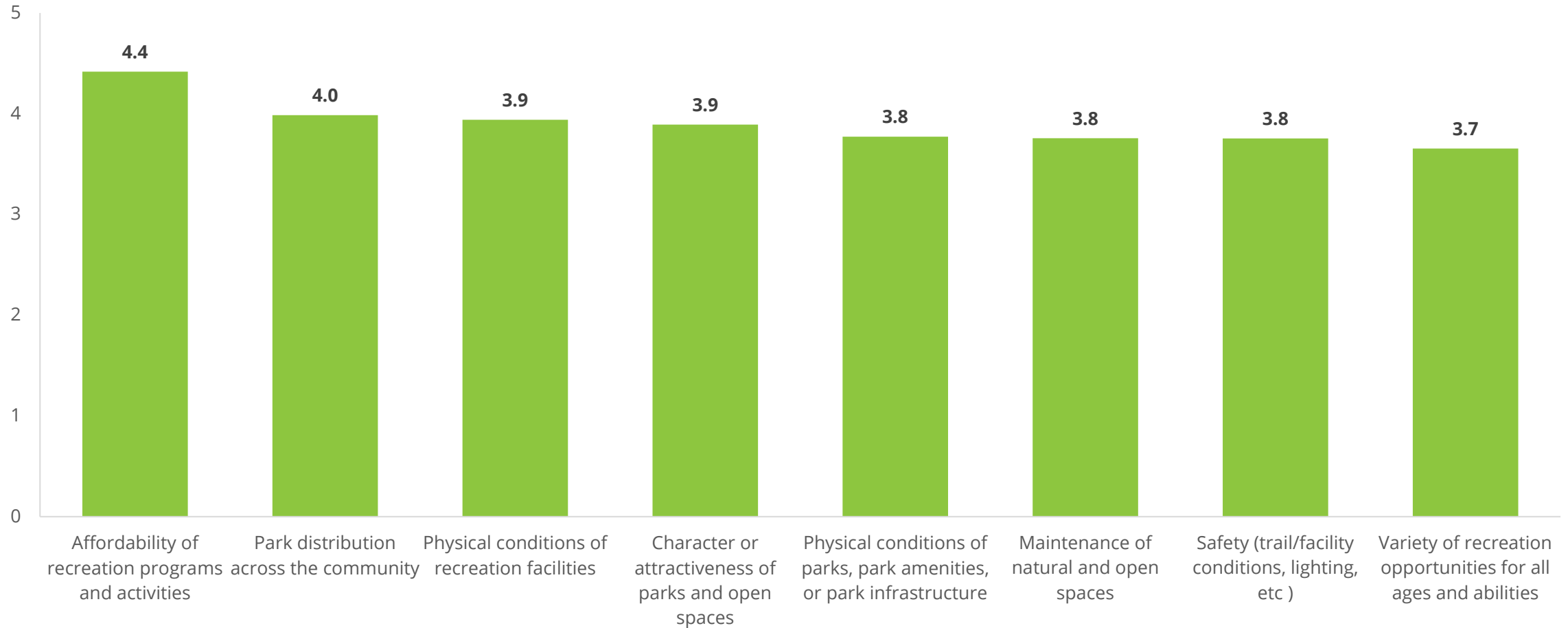
**Note that these are open-ended responses that have been categorized*



Respondents to this question; n = 472

Average rating of parks and recreation amenities in Richland

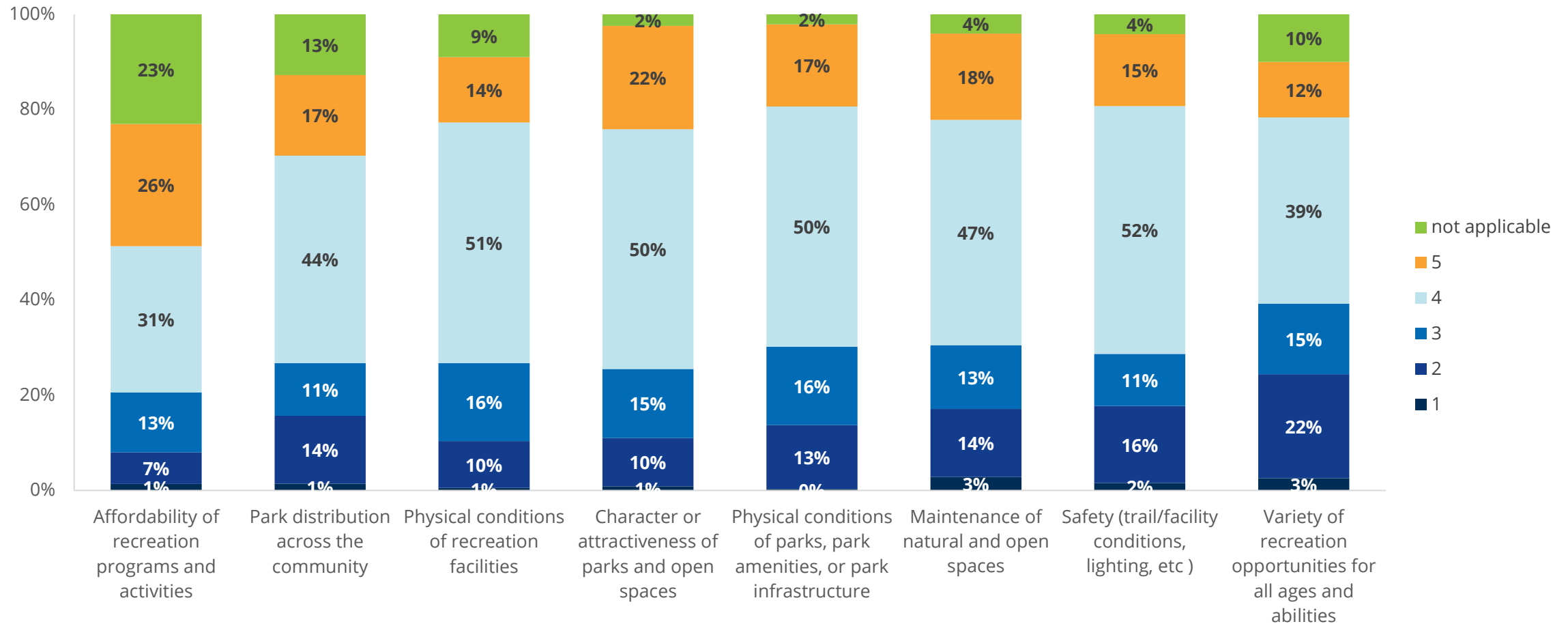
(respondents rated each aspect on a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good))



Respondents to this question; n = from 568 to 648 as not all respondents rated every single aspect

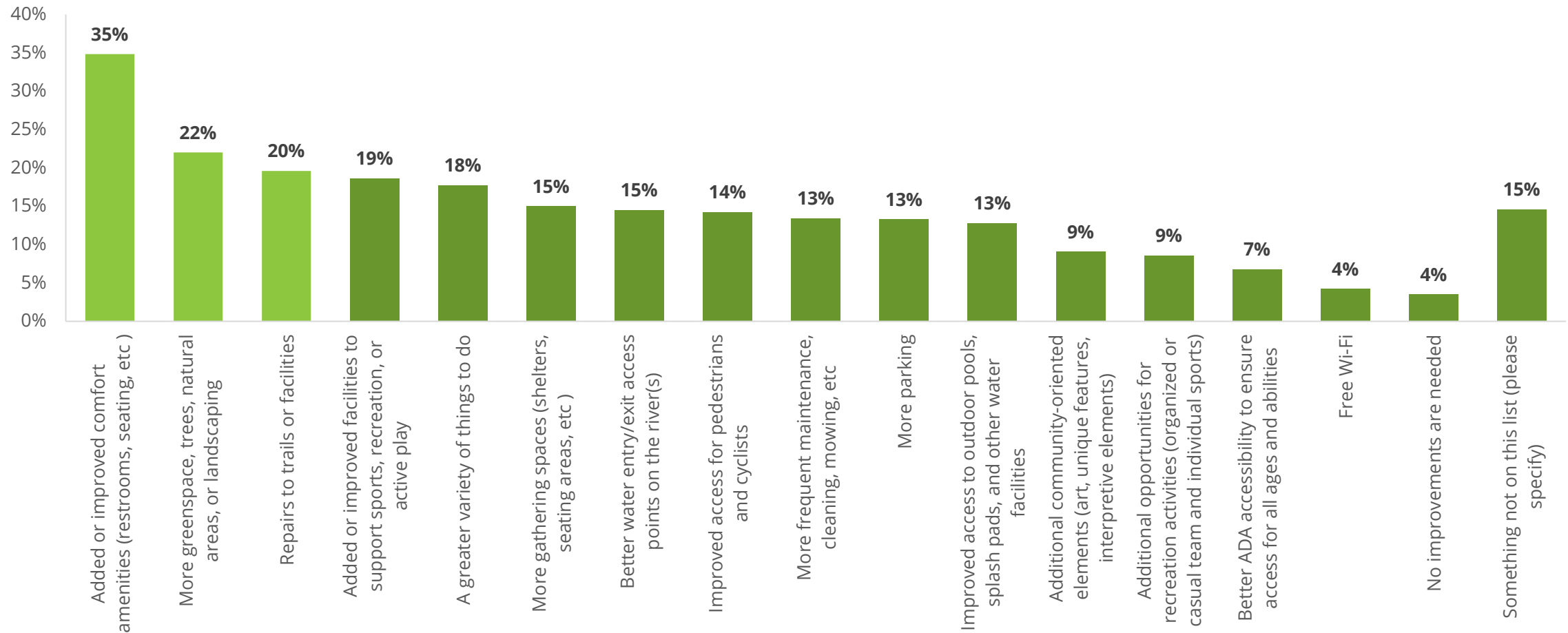
Individual rating of parks and recreation amenities in Richland

(respondents rated each aspect on a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good))



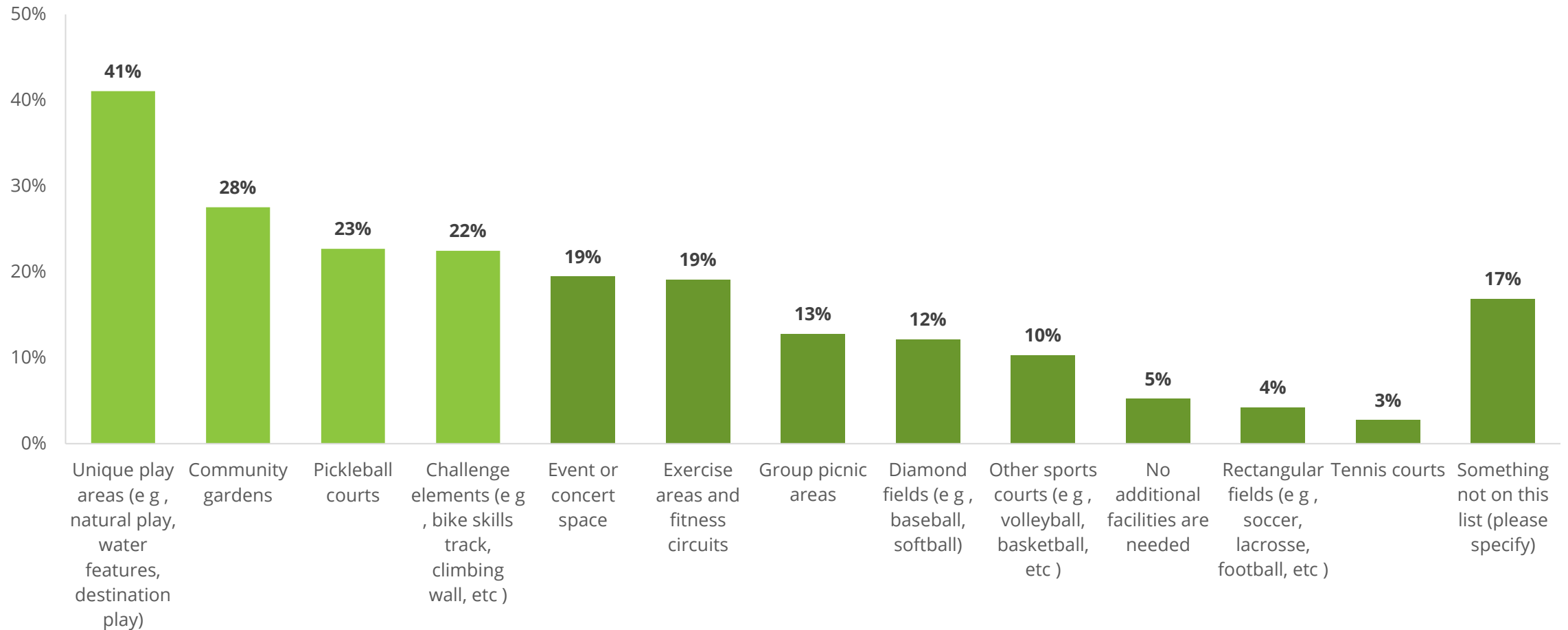
Respondents to this question; n = from 568 to 648 as not all respondents rated every single aspect

What are the top improvements that would make parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces even better for you and your family? *(Choose up to three)*



Respondents to this question; n = 827

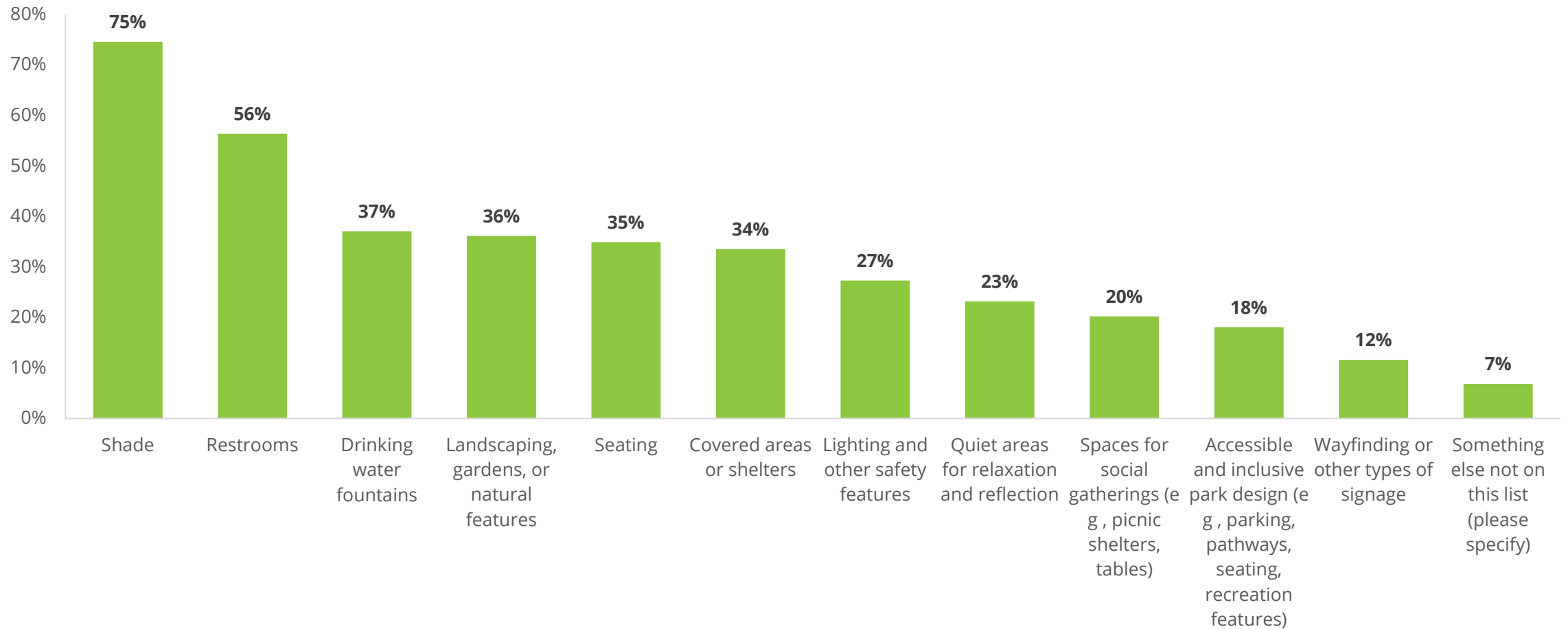
What types of facilities would you like to see more of in Richland parks? *(Choose up to three)*



Respondents to this question; n = 806

What types of amenities would make parks, trails, recreation facilities, and open space areas more comfortable and welcoming?

(Choose all that apply)



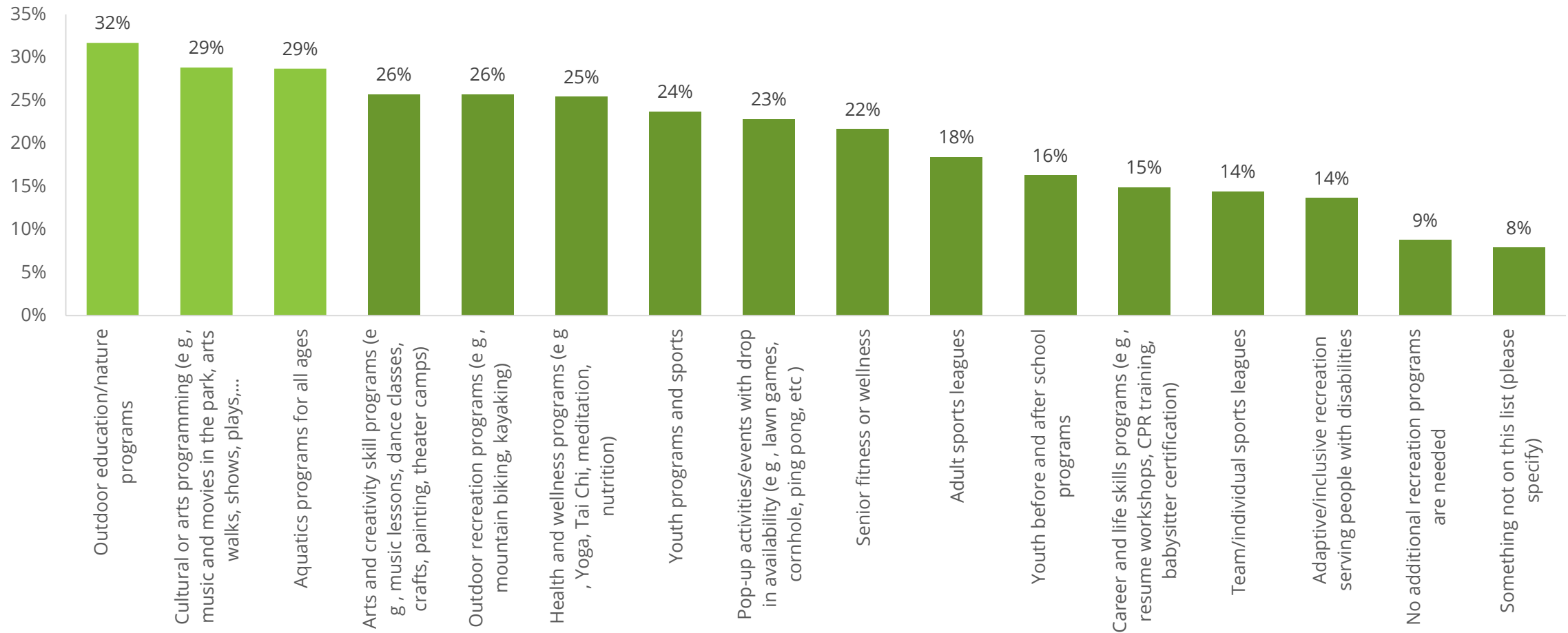
Respondents to this question; n = 802

Differences in Desired Improvements

Do Responses Differ Based On Whether People Have Children in Their Household?

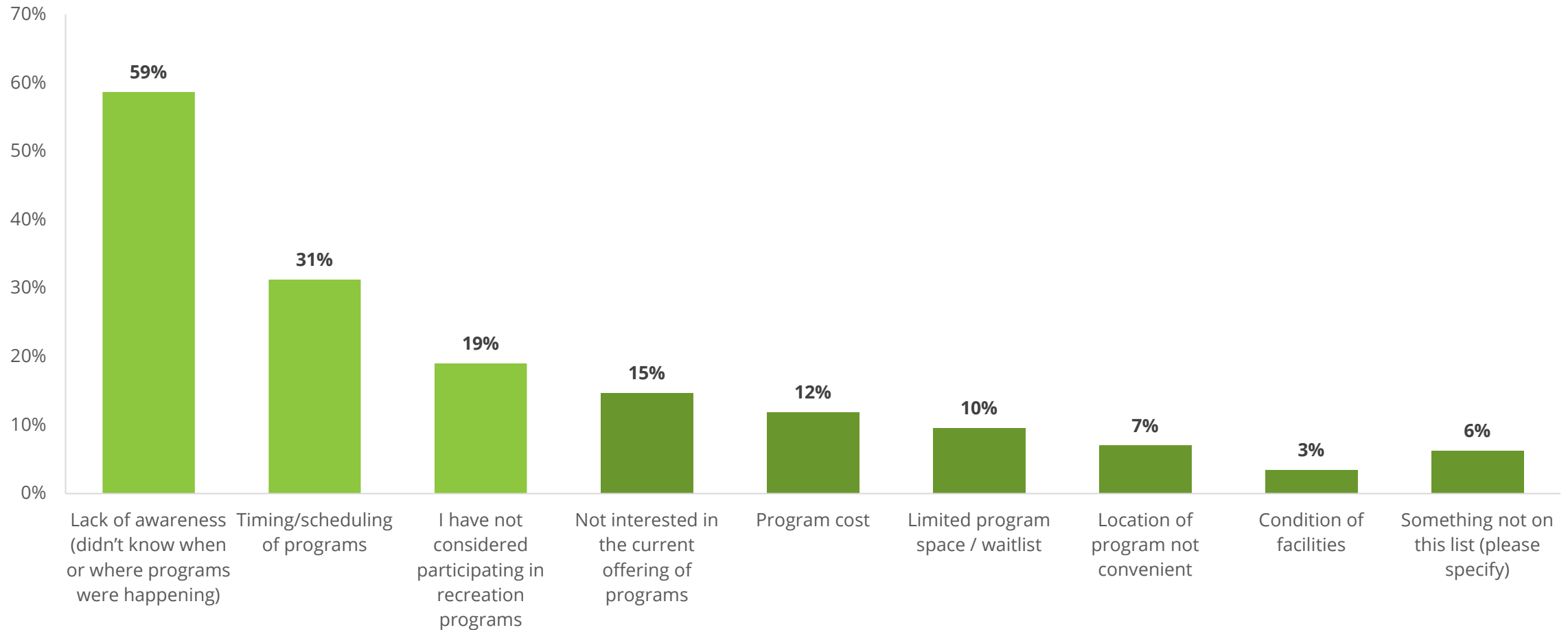
- **Top Improvements:** Respondents who wanted added or improved comfort amenities like restrooms and seating, added or improved facilities for sports, recreation or active play, and improved access to outdoor pools, splashpads, and water facilities were more likely to have children living with them or children as frequent visitors. Respondents who wanted repairs to trails or facilities and improved access for pedestrians and cyclists were more likely to not have children living with them.
- **Top Amenities:** Respondents with children living with them or children as frequent visitors prioritized adding more shade, restrooms, and seating compared to those respondents that did not have children living with them.
- **Top Facilities:** Respondents with children living with them also desired more unique play areas, challenge elements, sports courts, and diamond fields at slightly higher rates compared to those without children living with them. Respondents without children living with them desired more pickleball courts and exercise areas/fitness circuits at slightly higher rates than those with children living with them.

What types of recreational programs or activities are missing, or you would like to see more of in Richland? *(Choose all that apply)*



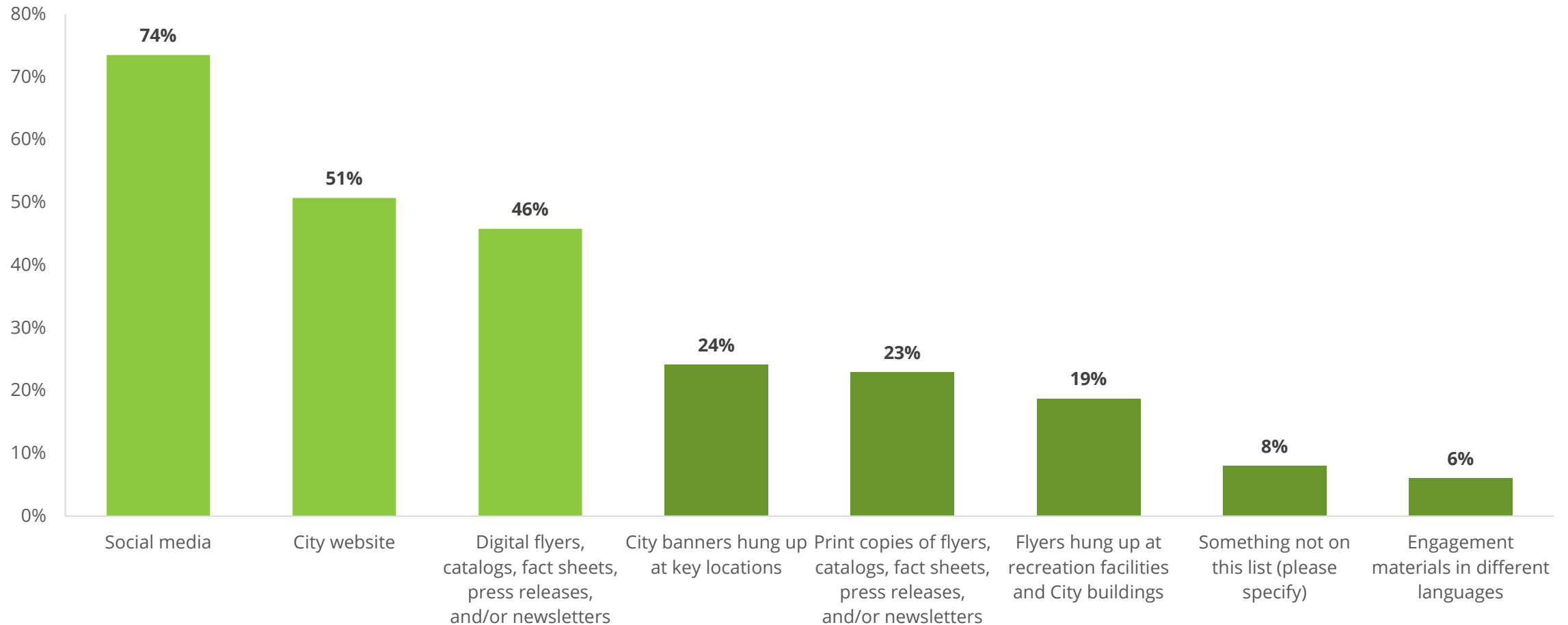
Respondents to this question; n = 798

If you have considered/participated in any recreation programs in Richland, what challenges did you face? *(Choose all that apply)*



Respondents to this question; n = 784

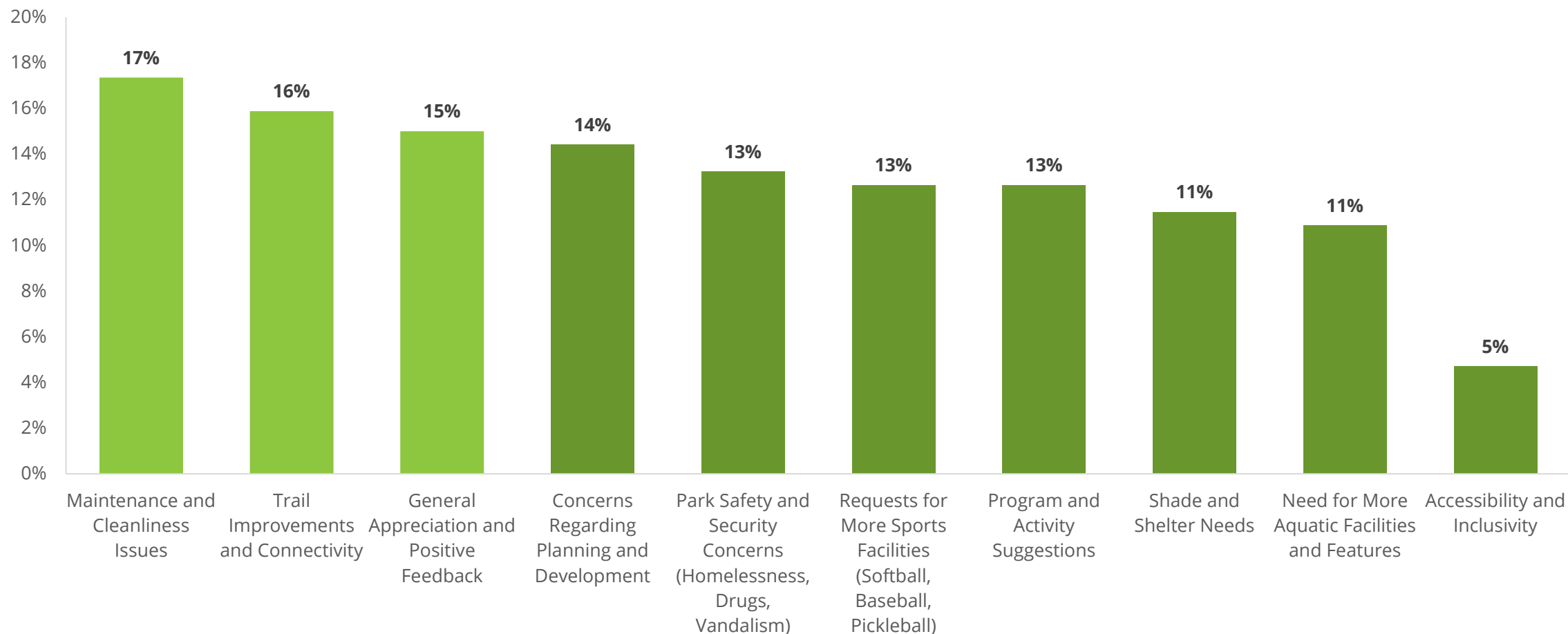
How can the City best communicate with you about recreation programming and City events? *(Choose all that apply)*



Respondents to this question; n = 812

Do you have any other comments or ideas you would like to share about parks, recreation, or open spaces in Richland?

**Note that these are open-ended responses that have been categorized*



Respondents to this question; n = 340



City of Richland Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan

Online Community Survey Summary

Survey Period: August 11, 2025 to August 29, 2025



SYSTEMWIDE VALUES, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

I. INTRODUCTION

This document presents the updated values, goals, and objectives for the City of Richland's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan). Informed by technical analysis and community engagement completed in prior phases of the planning process, this document provides the foundation for Phase 3, Action Planning, of the PROS Plan (Figure 1). The values, goals, and objectives provide overarching, systemwide directions for park system management.

After City review and refinement of the systemwide values, goals, and objectives, the Project Team will develop specific site recommendations and a prioritized Capital Improvement Plan to shape the next six-plus years of park and recreation investment and opportunities in Richland.

There are **four sections** included in this summary:

1. Introduction
2. City of Richland Vision
3. Department Mission
4. Renewed Strategic Framework

FIGURE 1: PLANNING PROCESS



CITY OF RICHLAND VISION

The City of Richland established the following vision statement to guide all City planning efforts:

Richland, a dynamic city built on a foundation of leading technology, extensive natural resources, diverse recreational amenities, and a supportive business climate. The City is safe, vibrant, and family-friendly. The community you'll want to call home.

While the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan update establishes a renewed Strategic Framework, the PROS Plan's values, goals, and objectives align and support the City's vision for the future.

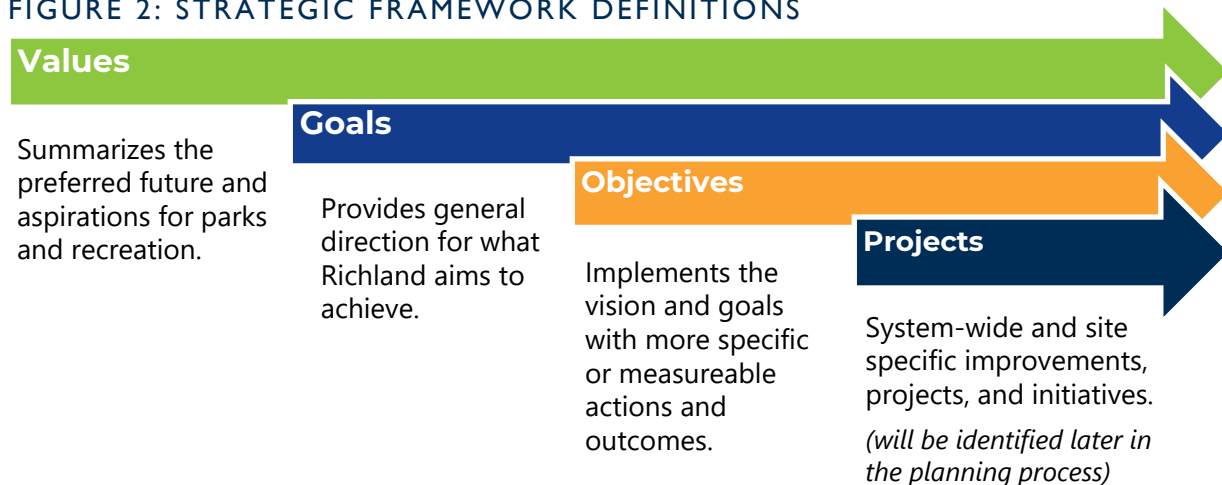
DEPARTMENT MISSION

The Richland Parks and Public Facilities' Department (Department) also has its own mission that explains why the department exists, and what purpose it serves: **"Provide premiere parks, public facilities, recreational activities and library services for our community. Every decision made on behalf of the community will be to ensure that we are fiscally responsible and provide outstanding value."**

RENEWED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The renewed Strategic Framework outlines the community-driven values, goals, and objectives for the future of Richland's park and recreation system. Informed by existing goals and objectives, community engagement, and PROS Plan technical analysis, the framework provides systemwide direction for park development, administrations, operations, maintenance, management, and programming (Figure 2). The Project Team will develop specific site recommendations in the next phase of the planning process based on community needs and this Strategic Framework.

FIGURE 2: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK DEFINITIONS



Values

Building on community, staff, Parks & Recreation Commission, and City Council insight, the PROS Plan's values statements guide the Department's future initiatives, from its mission to its goals and objectives.

- ❖ We value **healthy, welcoming, and resilient spaces**—from ridges to rivers—that enrich life, inspire joy and belonging, encourage learning and exploration, and support the health and well-being of our people.
- ❖ We value a **thriving community** supported by active and connected neighborhoods, welcoming programs and events, and innovative, high-quality services.
- ❖ We value **careful stewardship** of natural areas, trails, and open spaces for future generations, along with opportunities to expand the knowledge and celebration of our unique environment and history.
- ❖ We value our **parks and recreation system as the cornerstone of our community**, providing the foundation for a healthy environment, a strong local economy, and a distinctive sense of place.

Goals and Objectives

The PROS Plan's goals and objectives provide guidance to improve the park and recreation system, to plan for future growth, and to invest strategically in long-term and sustainable initiatives. The framework builds on existing goals and objectives from the 2019 City of Richland Parks and Recreation Master Plan, along with community and staff input.

Goal 1

Existing Goal Language: Identify, prioritize, and acquire unique natural habitat, ecologically sensitive areas, shorelines, ridgelines, and significant landforms adding to the region's integrated open space and trail network to preserve habitat, enhance Richland's natural beauty and provide opportunities for recreation.

Proposed Goal Language: Preserve and protect unique natural habitats, ecologically sensitive areas, shorelines, ridgelines, and significant landforms to sustain healthy ecosystems, enhance Richland's natural beauty, and support sustainable, nature-based recreation while adding to the region's integrated open space and trail network.

- **I-1:** Provide opportunities to experience unique natural areas.
- **I-2:** Evaluate opportunities for land acquisition and conservation easements to protect high-value habitat and sensitive areas.
- **I-3:** Develop management plans for natural open space lands and river shorelines to ensure ecological health and appropriate public access.

- **I-4:** Maintain and enhance relationships with conservancy and stewardship groups (i.e. Tapteal Greenway, Friends of Badger Mountain, and Native Plant Society).
- **I-5:** Promote environmental education, stewardship, and volunteer programs to engage the community in habitat protection and restoration.
- **I-6:** Implement best management practices that protect and enhance water quality in rivers, streams, wetlands, and stormwater outflows.
- **I-7:** Coordinate with regional agencies and partners to expand and connect open space and trail networks.
- **I-8:** Protect, expand, and manage Richland’s urban tree canopy to enhance climate resilience, improve air and water quality, and reduce heat impacts.

Goal 2

Existing Goal Language: Provide diverse and accessible parks, trail facilities, recreational programs and events that enhance quality of life, support active lifestyles, and promote economic development.

- **2-1:** Develop and update individual park master plans that include future trails and facilities.
- **2-2:** Maintain a capital improvement program and operating budget, which specifies a schedule for acquisition and development of park and recreation facilities that support identified recreation programs.
- **2-3:** Develop parks, trails, and recreation facilities to serve growing and emerging neighborhoods (i.e. Badger Mountain South and Horn Rapids) based on level-of-service standards and community input.
- **2-4:** Incorporate accessibility and universal design principles into new park development and renovation projects to ensure equitable access for users of all ages and abilities.
- **2-5:** Evaluate underutilized park areas and aging facilities for redevelopment or replacement that reflects emerging recreation trends, diversifies park experiences, and meets evolving community needs.
- **2-6:** Expand and develop the comprehensive trail system that connects users to recreational amenities, parks and schools, commercial areas, and the Columbia and Yakima Rivers, linking to regional trails and destinations.
- **2-7:** Collaborate with regional partners and tourism experts for a balanced mix of recreation programs and community events.
- **2-8:** Plan, design, and construct lighted, multi-purpose sports fields that optimize field use, incorporate sustainable lighting technologies, and serve both community and regional recreation demand.

Goal 3

Existing Goal Language: Provide safe parks, trails, recreational facilities, and natural open space areas that maximize accessibility for all ages and abilities.

Proposed Goal Language: Reinvest in and maintain safe, welcoming parks, trails, recreational facilities, and natural open space areas that maximize accessibility, comfort, and safety for all ages and

abilities.

- **3-1:** Expand the Park Ranger program to increase visibility and oversight of activities, events, and ongoing education of park rules.
- **3-2:** Conduct regular assessments of park and facility conditions to identify and prioritize reinvestment, maintenance, and upgrades for safety, accessibility, and functionality.
- **3-3:** Develop and implement an asset management and life-cycle replacement program to maintain existing parks and facilities in good condition and extend their useful life.
- **3-4:** Improve accessibility across the park system through barrier removal, inclusive design, and compliance with ADA standards and best practices.
- **3-5:** Evaluate lighting, park access control and park hours to enhance safety and maintenance as appropriate.

Goal 4

Existing Goal Language: Develop and improve recreational programs and community events to attract community members of all ages, incomes, and abilities.

Proposed Goal Language: Develop, promote, and manage recreational programs and community events that engage all ages, incomes, and abilities.

- **4-1:** Engage community members of all ages and abilities in the process to identify recreational program needs and facilities required to support new and expanding programs to serve all areas of the community.
- **4-2:** Identify additional opportunities for community and tourism events that utilize existing facilities while balancing staffing capacity and resource constraints.
- **4-3:** Maximize underutilized facilities for recreational programming to expand access and diversity experiences.
- **4-4:** Spread destination points and signature events across Richland's park system to distribute participation, reduce crowding, and increase visibility of underutilized facilities.
- **4-5:** Continuously monitor participation trends, program attendance, and community feedback to ensure programs meet evolving community needs.
- **4-6:** Improve communication, outreach, and marketing of recreational programs and events to reach all community members, including underrepresented populations.
- **4-7:** Develop partnerships with community organizations, local businesses, and tourism stakeholders to enhance programming, share resources, and expand program capacity.
- **4-8:** Evaluate staffing and volunteer needs for signature and high-attendance events to maintain safety, quality, and visitor experience.

Goal 5

Existing Goal Language: Encourage expansion and development of existing and new collaborations with neighboring communities, public and private entities to ensure parks and recreational services delivery are effectively and efficiently coordinated.

Proposed Goal Language: Foster partnerships and collaborative agreements with public and private organizations to ensure efficient, coordinated, and high-quality delivery of parks, trails, and recreation services to meet Richland’s growing community needs.

- **5-1:** Encourage private sector investment and development of facilities that serve specialized communities or meet regional economic development goals.
- **5-2:** Collaborate with and encourage private sector development to share in providing neighborhood park and recreation facilities in growing neighborhoods. (i.e. Badger Mountain South).
- **5-3:** Actively participate in planning efforts to identify opportunities, needs, and partnerships for the development of regional athletic and recreation facilities.
- **5-4:** Engage adjacent communities to coordinate development of linkages and trails of all types throughout the region.
- **5-5:** Establish and maintain interlocal agreements with school districts and public agencies to optimize joint use of recreation facilities and expand program capacity.
- **5-6:** Maintain and enhance relationships with youth sports associations.
- **5-7:** Leverage partnerships to share resources, funding, and expertise, ensuring efficient and cost-effective parks and recreation service delivery.
- **5-8:** Continuously identify and pursue new collaboration opportunities with public, private, and nonprofit organizations to respond to evolving community needs and growth trends.

Goal 6

Existing Goal Language: Encourage ongoing community involvement and public participation as a cornerstone for decision-making about parks, recreation programs, trails and open space.

Proposed Goal Language: Foster inclusive, transparent, and ongoing engagement to ensure that all voices are heard in decision-making for parks, recreation programs, trails, and natural open spaces.

- **6-1:** Invite park and facility user groups, community organizations, and other interest groups to present at Parks & Recreation Commission meetings to share updates, needs, and perspectives.
- **6-2:** Integrate public participation into all phases of individual park master planning, updates, and capital improvement planning.
- **6-3:** Provide multiple, accessible avenues for community input—including online platforms, surveys, public workshops, and pop-up engagement at parks and events.
- **6-4:** Collaborate and consult with Native Nations to incorporate cultural knowledge, heritage, and stewardship values into park planning, programming, and interpretation.
- **6-5:** Regularly evaluate and report back to the community on how input has influenced decisions to build trust and transparency.
- **6-6:** Encourage community-led stewardship, volunteer programs, and advisory committees to strengthen engagement and foster a sense of ownership over parks and open spaces.

- **6-7:** Maintain an intuitive, easy-to-use online platform for engagement, information, and feedback to ensure broad community access.

Goal 7

Existing Goal Language: Provide efficient and high-quality maintenance of parks, facilities, and natural open spaces.

Proposed Goal Language: Provide efficient, well-managed, and high-quality maintenance and administration of Richland’s park and recreation system through effective staffing, systems, and internal processes that guide long-term decision-making and resource allocation.

- **7-1:** Develop and implement facility lifecycle plans to guide long-term reinvestment, replacement, and rehabilitation of park assets.
- **7-2:** Develop and implement preventative maintenance programs.
- **7-3:** Evaluate and optimize the structure, staffing, and deployment of parks and facility work crew teams to maximize efficiency and service quality.
- **7-4:** Implement efficient administrative systems and internal processes to support planning, scheduling, tracking, and reporting for park development, maintenance, and operations.
- **7-5:** Create clear internal procedures for sponsorships, program evaluation, and funding opportunities to ensure consistent, accountable, and effective decision-making.
- **7-6:** Provide staff training and professional development programs to ensure high-quality maintenance, operational excellence, and readiness for future system growth.
- **7-7:** Regularly review and update policies, standards, and procedures to adapt to evolving community needs, best practices, and efficiency improvements.