



MINUTES
Richland Parks & Recreation Commission Special Workshop
Wednesday, September 25, 2025
Richland Community Center – Meeting Room
500 Amon Park Drive

Parks & Recreation Commission 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	Present
Commissioner Kreis	Present

Also present was the Staff Liaison/Parks and Public Facilities Director, Waite, Lieutenant Hupf, and Administration Assistant II Roe.

Discussion Items:

1. Richland Police Department Park Safety Discussion

Richland Police, Lieutenant Hupf

Lieutenant Hupf from the Richland Police Department (RPD) reviewed current safety concerns and trends in city parks with staff and commission. RPD provided an update on recent crime data, the use of new safety tools—including mobile security trailers—and shared observations following the closure and reopening of Columbia Park West. The discussion also addressed after-hours activity, vandalism, and potential strategies to improve overall park safety and security for the community.

2. Irrigation Trail Discussion

Parks and Public Facilities Director, Waite

Staff and the Commission discussed opportunities to expand public access to trails along irrigation canals and considered forming a subcommittee to work with local irrigation districts. The conversation focused on how a subcommittee could explore partnership opportunities, assess feasibility, and engage stakeholders to determine whether portions of canal corridors could be opened for recreational

use. This effort aims to identify potential new trail connections that could enhance the community's overall trail network and improve access to outdoor recreation.

3. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Discussion (PROS Plan)

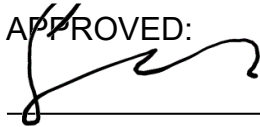
Parks and Public Facilities Director, Waite

Staff and the Commission continued to review information gathered to date for the PROS Plan update, including data from the community survey and the system inventory. Staff and the Commission discussed current plan goals, potential areas for refinement, and overall progress in the planning process. The discussion helped identify emerging priorities and ensured the plan continues to align with community values and anticipated future needs as it advances to the next phase of development.

Adjournment:

The workshop was adjourned at 8:02 PM

APPROVED:



Samantha Mason, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair

PREPARED BY:



Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II