



Agenda

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, July 9, 2026

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 July 9, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda

Presentations

Public Comments: Please limit public comments to 2 minutes per speaker.

Approval of Minutes (Approved by Motion)

2. Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes for the following:
 - May 14, 2026 Meeting and Special Workshop
 - May 28, 2026 Workshop
 - June 30, 2026 Special Workshop

New Business

3. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan
 - Chris Waite, Parks & Public Facilities Director

Unfinished Business

Council Liaison Report

Recreation Report

Parks & Public Facilities Report

Commission Comments

Adjournment

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

Richland City Hall is ADA accessible. Any individual who has difficulty attending the meeting in-person may request to provide comments remotely. (Ch. 42.30 RCW) 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
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: 7/9/2026

Agenda Category: Approval of Minutes

Prepared By:

Subject

Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes for the following:

- May 14, 2026 Meeting and Special Workshop
- May 28, 2026 Workshop
- June 30, 2026 Special Workshop

Department

Parks & Public Facilities

Recommended Motion

Summary

Fiscal Impact

Attachments

1. DRAFT 2026.05.14 PRC Meeting Special Workshop Minutes
2. DRAFT 2026.05.28 Parks and Recreation Commission Workshop Minutes
3. DRAFT 2026.06.30 Parks and Recreation Commission Special Workshop Minutes



Minutes

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting & Special Workshop
Thursday, May 14, 2026
Richland City Hall - Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order/Attendance

Chair Gutierrez	Present
Vice Chair Hodges	Present
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Thompson	Present
Commissioner Jones	Absent
Commissioner Watrous	Present
Commissioner Kries	Present
Commissioner Motkuri	Absent
Commissioner Morel	Absent

Also in attendance Council Liaison Holton, Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite, Recreation Manager Piper, and Administrative Assistant II Roe.

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the May 14, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON MOVED, AND COMMISSIONER KRIES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 14, 2026, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AND SPECIAL WORKSHOP AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

Public Comments

None, Public Comment closed at 6:02 PM

Approval of

Minutes

2. Approval of the April 9, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

VICE CHAIR HODGES MOVED, AND COMMISSIONER WATROUS SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 9, 2026, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

New Business

3. 2027-2032 Transportation Improvements Program

D’Alessandro, Public Works Director, presented the proposed 2027–2032 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as required by RCW 35.77.010. The TIP identifies priority transportation projects for future state and federal funding opportunities and includes projects impacting parks and recreation facilities. The presentation reviewed the public involvement process, upcoming public hearing requirements, and projects relevant to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission was asked to consider recommending approval of the proposed TIP.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON MOVED AND COMMISSIONER KRIES SECONDED THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE 2027-2032 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

Unfinished

Business Council

Liaison Report

Council Liaison Holten provided an update on recent City Council activities. Highlights included:

- The City Council continues to review and prioritize transportation and capital improvement projects, including discussion of the proposed 2027–2032 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Focus on long-range planning efforts that support community growth, infrastructure improvements, and quality of life initiatives.
- Ongoing discussions include budget planning, community development, and projects that enhance parks, trails, recreation, and public amenities.

Recreation Report

Recreation Manager Piper provided an update on current recreation programs, events, and seasonal operations.

- Spring recreation programs continued to experience strong participation, with youth sports, fitness classes, and community programs remaining well attended. Staff successfully concluded several spring activities while preparing for the transition into the busy summer recreation season.
- Planning was underway for summer camps, aquatics, special events, and seasonal programming, with registration numbers indicating continued community interest. Piper highlighted ongoing coordination with staff and community partners to ensure facilities, programming, and staffing were in place to support summer operations.
- Recreation Manager Piper recognized Dane Marlin, Pool Supervisor, for his commitment to professional development and excellence in aquatics. Dane recently attended a winter

aquatics conference, where he expanded his knowledge of industry's best practices and emerging trends in aquatic facility operations. Piper also recognized Dane for earning his Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) certification, a nationally recognized credential that demonstrates expertise in the safe operation, maintenance, and management of aquatic facilities.

Parks & Public Facilities

Director Chris Waite provided updates on current Parks and Public Facilities operations and several capital improvement projects.

- He shared progress on the West Village Playground, Leslie Groves Tennis Courts renovation, and Columbia Park Playfield Parking Lot improvements, noting these projects will enhance recreational opportunities, accessibility, and the overall park experience for the community.
- Director Waite also proudly recognized Recreation Manager Julie Piper for receiving the Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA) Citation of Merit Award – Individual Award. He explained that the award recognizes a parks and recreation professional whose significant contributions have advanced the parks and recreation profession and supported the mission of WRPA. Waite congratulated Piper on the well-deserved honor and acknowledged her leadership, dedication, and lasting impact on the City of Richland and the parks and recreation profession.
- Director Waite concluded by thanking Parks and Public Facilities staff for their continued commitment to maintaining the City's parks, trails, and public facilities while advancing capital improvement projects and preparing for the busy summer season.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM

Special Workshop

Discussion Item

4. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update

Staff and consultants from MIG presented a draft of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan for Commission review and discussion. The draft reflects extensive public outreach, technical analysis, and feedback received from the Commission throughout the planning process.

The workshop provided Commissioners with an opportunity to review the proposed goals, policies, recommendations, and capital improvement priorities outlined in the draft plan. Discussion focused on ensuring the document accurately reflects the community's recreation needs, park system priorities, and long-term vision for parks, recreation, trails, and open space.

Commissioners offered comments and suggested revisions for staff and the consultant

team to consider before finalizing the document. The updated draft will be brought back to the Commission at the next workshop before being presented to Council for final approval.

Special Workshop Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:08 PM

APPROVED ATTEST

Maria Gutierrez, Chair

Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II



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

Welcome

Attendance:

Chair Gutierrez	Present
Vice Chair Hodges	Absent
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Thompson	Present
Commissioner Morel	Present
Commissioner Watrous	Absent
Commissioner Jones	Absent
Commissioner Motkuri	Absent
Commissioner Kreis	Present

Also present were the Council Liaison Holten, Staff Liaison/Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite, and Administration Assistant II Roe.

Discussion Items:

1. Business Meeting Format and Review

The Parks and Recreation Commission and staff participated in a discussion regarding Robert’s Rules of Order and general meeting procedures for boards and commissions. The discussion served as a refresher on standard meeting practices, including the role of motions, voting procedures, agenda flow, and effective participation during Commission meetings and workshops.

Staff reviewed procedures intended to support consistent, efficient, and productive meetings. Commissioners had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss expectations related to meeting protocols, ensuring alignment and understanding of the Commission’s role and responsibilities during public meetings.

2. Parks and Recreation Commission Retreat Planning

Staff facilitated a discussion regarding the upcoming Parks and Recreation Commission Retreat scheduled for Saturday, July 18, 2026. Commissioners provided input on topics and areas of interest to help develop the retreat agenda and tour activities.

Potential discussion topics included recreation programs, parks and trails, department processes, contracts, current and future park projects, and City facilities. Commissioners were also invited to identify specific parks, sports fields, trails, facilities, and project locations they would like to include as part of the retreat tour. Staff will use the feedback received to finalize the retreat agenda and itinerary.

Adjournment

Adjourned 7:42 PM

APPROVED:

Maria Gutierrez, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair

PREPARED BY:

Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II



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

Welcome

Attendance:

Chair Gutierrez	Present
Vice Chair Hodges	Present
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Thompson	Present
Commissioner Morel	Present
Commissioner Watrous	Present
Commissioner Motkuri	Absent
Commissioner Kreis	Absent

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

Discussion Items:

1. Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan
 Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite

MIG Consultants and staff presented the public draft of the Parks, Recreation, & Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan for Commission review. The draft reflects community input, technical analysis, and feedback received from the Commission throughout the planning process.

Commissioners, staff, and MIG Consultants reviewed the draft plan in detail and discussed several sections of the document. Commissioners provided feedback, asked questions, and recommended revisions for staff and the consultant team to consider prior to finalizing the plan. The revised plan will be presented on July 9, 2026, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting for final review before being forwarded to Council for adoption.

Adjournment

Adjourned 7:52 PM

APPROVED:

Maria Gutierrez, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair

PREPARED BY:

Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: 7/9/2026

Agenda Category: New Business

Prepared By: Chris Waite, Parks & Public Facilities Director

Subject

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan

Department/Office

Parks & Public Facilities

Document Type

Parks & Recreation Commission Item

Recommended Motion

I move that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend that the Richland City Council adopt the proposed 2026–2031 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, incorporating the revisions presented by staff during today's meeting.

Summary

Staff will present the proposed final revisions to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan based on comments received during the public review process. The attached draft is the same version previously reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission during the workshop and is provided for reference only. Because the public comment period remains open through July 8, the agenda packet was required to be published before all comments could be received and incorporated.

Staff is working within a compressed timeframe to complete the PROS Plan and obtain City Council adoption by the end of July to maintain eligibility for Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant funding. During the meeting, staff will review all substantive revisions resulting from the public comment period and present the proposed final changes to the Commission for consideration prior to forwarding the plan to City Council.

Fiscal Impact

Attachments

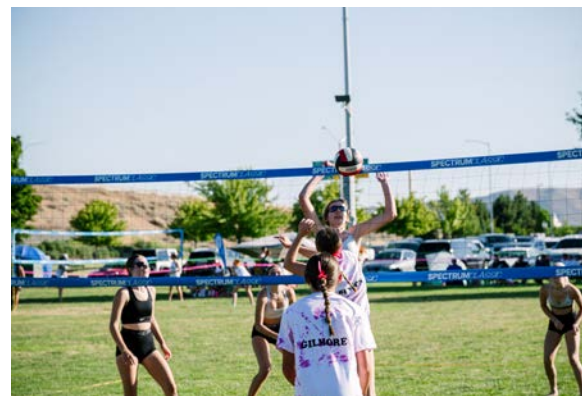
1. RichlandPROS_PublicDraft_062226_compressed (2)
2. RichlandPROS_Appendices_062226 (1)



CITY OF RICHLAND

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PUBLIC DRAFT - JUNE 2026





City of Richland

CITY OF RICHLAND

**PARKS,
RECREATION,
AND OPEN SPACE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

PUBLIC DRAFT - JUNE 2026





Howard Amon Park



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



TO BE INCLUDED.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The City of Richland is grateful to the community members, elected officials, and City staff who participated in this project at some point during the 14-month planning process. In addition to those listed below, numerous individuals provided their time, insight, and ideas to help inform and shape the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan (PROS Plan). A special thanks to:

CITY COUNCIL

Theresa Richardson, *Mayor and Position 2*
Shayne VanDyke, *Mayor Pro Tem and Position 5*
Jhoanna Jones, *Position 1*
Pat Holten, *Position 3*
Todd Samuel, *Position 4*
Kurt Maier, *Position 6*
Ryan Whitten, *Position 7*

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Maria Gutierrez, *Chair*
Karlee Hodges, *Vice-Chair*
James Buelt, *Member*
Patti Jones, *Member*
Sawyer Kreis, *Youth Member*
Sriyan Thallapally, *Youth Member*
Carl Thompson, *Member*
Matthew Watrous, *Member*

THE RICHLAND COMMUNITY

The City also acknowledges the participation of the many individual community members that provided valuable input in creating the PROS Plan.

CITY OF RICHLAND

Hollie Alexander, *Communications and Marketing Manager*
Jonathan Colvin, *Parks and Public Facilities Supervisor*
Tommy Garcia, *Parks and Public Facilities Supervisor*
Stacy Jackson, *Contracts Administrator*
Stan Johnson, *Parks and Recreation Coordinator*
Dane Marlin, *Parks and Recreation Coordinator*
Trisha Morasch, *Parks and Recreation Assistant*
Julie Piper, *Recreation Manager*
Patty Roe, *Administrative Assistant II*
Ryan Steele, *Parks and Recreation Assistant*
Chris Waite, *Parks and Public Facilities Director*
Donald Wieber, *Parks and Public Facilities Project Manager*

CONSULTANT TEAM



www.migcom.com



Chamna Natural Preserve (Source: Tapteal Greenway)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLAN PURPOSE

Richland's park and recreation system is deeply connected to community health and identity, economic vitality, and environmental sustainability. With a rapidly growing population and evolving community needs, the city today is faced with complex challenges from rising costs, to aging infrastructure, increasing maintenance needs, climate impacts, public safety concerns, and more.

Part of the City of Richland's Future in Focus planning initiative, this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan (PROS Plan) establishes a renewed vision to guide the provision of parks, recreation, and open space for the next six years and beyond.

Building on past plans and studies, the PROS Plan addresses shifts in community needs, demographics, planned growth, and budget realities to guide the City and Parks and Public Facilities Department (the Department) in making sound and forward-thinking decisions regarding the investment, management, and operations of its park and recreation system. The recommendations included in the PROS Plan aim to support the desired future shared by the community while providing the Department with the flexibility needed to achieve City goals and priorities.

City of Richland



Developed over an approximately year-long planning process, the PROS Plan:

- » Updates the park system inventory and analyzes the existing system;
- » Identifies system needs based on technical analysis and community engagement;
- » Develops updated goals and objectives grounded in systemwide values;
- » Identifies system-wide and site-specific recommendations for existing and proposed parks, natural open spaces, and facilities;
- » Develops an action plan for maintenance of the park system and implementation of the PROS plan's priority capital projects over the next six years; and
- » Prepares the PROS Plan for community review, refinement, and adoption.



Youth Flag Football at Howard Amon Park

COMMUNITY PROFILE AND PROJECTIONS

Richland and the broader Tri-Cities Metropolitan Area have experienced rapid population growth over the past decades and are projected to continue being one of the fastest growing areas in Washington State. Richland is estimated to have a population of approximately 91,890 people by 2046, over a 43% increase from today. The City also has an increasingly large youth population (residents under 18) as well as a growing Hispanic or Latino population which has more than doubled over the past 15 years. Understanding and responding to the evolving and diverse needs of the community are essential for Richland's continued growth and well-being.

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



64,190
Population (2024 estimate)



5.8%
Population Increase (2020-2024)



26,188
Housing Units



3.09
Persons per Households



\$92,550
Median Household Income

PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Richland has over 2,800 acres in its park system across 64 sites. Of this land, over 1,150 acres are developed, providing places to play and gather, and nearly 1,500 acres are natural open space for community members to experience nature, including dedicated natural open space and natural areas in other parks. The system also includes nearly 87 acres of undeveloped land dedicated to future parks and facilities either at undeveloped park sites or existing parks, and nearly 92 miles of trails that provide connectivity to, within, and between parks.

PARKLAND INVENTORY

PARK TYPE	TOTAL SITES	TOTAL ACRES
Regional Parks	2	134.4
Community Parks	5	238.5
Neighborhood Parks	26	89.1
Special Use Areas	11	887.4
Linear Parks	8	135.4
Natural Open Space	8	1322.7
Undeveloped Parks	4	15.9
Total	64	2823.3

PARK ACCESS AND CONDITION

The growing and diverse needs for parks and recreation place a greater demand on City services. Richland currently exceeds the City’s adopted parkland level of service standards established by the 2019 PROS Plan. The City’s overall parkland level of service is also well above the upper quartile for jurisdictions of a similar size. Despite this high level of service, there are areas of Richland that lack access to park and recreation opportunities.

Assessment of Richland’s park and recreation system also identified numerous maintenance needs and improvement opportunities, including a need to:

- » Increase **tree canopy** and **shade**;
- » Improve park amenities to support **user comfort** such as restrooms and seating;
- » **Diversify park activities**, amenities, and programming;
- » Strengthen **park identity** through design, amenities, and programming to create more memorable destinations; and
- » Address **deferred maintenance** and **aging park amenities**.



Leslie Groves Park

KEY COMMUNITY NEEDS

To augment the PROS Plan's technical analysis, the City conducted an inclusive, community-wide engagement process to learn about the opportunities and challenges facing the park system, and gather community feedback on future directions. Ranging from interviews with community groups to online community surveys yielding over 2,000 responses, as well as meetings with the Park and Recreation Commission, the engagement approach aimed to develop a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs and priorities.

Key themes identified through the PROS Plan engagement process include:

- » Broad **appreciation for Richland's park system**, including the quality of maintenance and upkeep;
- » **Limited access** to parks in some areas of the city;
- » Increased **natural area stewardship**;
- » Improved **safety and cleanliness** at certain parks;
- » More **user comfort amenities** like shade, restrooms, and seating;
- » Expanded **community events and programming**;
- » Better **communication and information sharing**; and
- » More **diverse, unique, and accessible facilities** including water and aquatic facilities, sports fields, unique and accessible play features, walking and biking trails, and dog parks.



Play Programming in Parks

“Add more amenities at each park. There are many parks in each neighborhood... but only offering limited activities. Maybe add more things at each. We need a variety of free activities to help foster more community.”

—Online Community Survey Response

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Driven by community voices and priorities paired with technical analysis findings, the PROS Plan presents a renewed Strategic Framework that outlines the community-driven values, goals, and objectives for the future of Richland’s park and recreation system. The Strategic Framework is centered around four goals and objectives that will shape Richland’s provision of parks, recreation, trails, natural open space, and other services for the next six years and beyond.

PARKS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT MISSION

“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.”

GOAL 1

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.

GOAL 2

Provide diverse and accessible parks, trail facilities, recreation programs and events that enhance quality of life, support healthy lifestyles, promote economic development, and meet the needs of all ages and income groups within the community.

GOAL 3

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

GOAL 4

Ensure parks, trails, facilities, and open spaces are safe, well-maintained, efficiently managed, and guided by transparent decision-making and responsible long-term stewardship.

SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

Building off the Strategic Framework, the PROS Plan presents a series of system recommendations to provide more specific direction and to accompany the capital improvement projects summarized in Chapter 6 and Appendix D. The recommendations are comprehensive and organized into four “building blocks” that reflect community priorities highlighted throughout the PROS Plan update process, along with findings from technical analysis of the parks and recreation system.

Recommendations range from systemwide operational and maintenance improvements to targeted investments in parks, trails, recreation facilities, natural open spaces, programs, and community amenities.

RECOMMENDATION BUILDING BLOCKS



SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS AND SERVICES



RIDGES, TO RIVERS, TO NEIGHBORHOODS



HIGH QUALITY REINVESTMENT



UNIQUELY RICHLAND

IMPLEMENTATION

The PROS Plan process revealed that Richland residents want an interconnected, well-maintained, and sustainable park and recreation system that highlights the City’s unique history and culture, supports a healthy natural environment, and responds to a diverse range of community needs. The City already maintains and operates an expansive park and recreation system that residents are proud of, although continued investment is needed to maintain what already exists and to create new opportunities that meet evolving needs and priorities.

The PROS Plan recommends 38 capital improvement projects to implement the community’s vision for the future of Richland’s park and recreation system. These projects are a direct result of the community input, local priorities, and technical analysis heard and conducted during the PROS Plan’s planning process.

The priority projects emphasize reinvestment in Richland’s existing parks and recreation system through targeted facility renovations, trail and marina improvements, playground replacements, master planning efforts, and enhanced recreational amenities.

MOVING FORWARD

The PROS Plan provides a community-driven decision-making framework and overarching guidance for the maintenance, renovation, and restoration of Richland's parks and facilities. The people of Richland have reaffirmed the desired future vision for a healthy, fun, and connected park and recreation system. The City is also committed to continuing its legacy of providing high quality parks and recreation services. Moving forward, City leaders, staff, partners, and the larger community will be critical to carry out the envisioned future of Richland's parks and recreation system over the next six years and beyond.



Relaxing in an Open Lawn



Playing on a Climbing Structure

NEXT STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- » Publicize the results of the PROS Plan to convey how community input shaped the Plan and its outcomes, and to **collaborate with partners and leverage donations**.
- » Use the PROS Plan and park condition assessment data to guide **ongoing phasing of needed improvements** to aging recreation facilities and park amenities.
- » Continue to **monitor staffing needs** to meet the demands of a high quality and growing park and recreation system.
- » With the PROS Plan as a foundation, the City should **continue to support programs and events** with sufficient staffing and infrastructure to sustain year-round activities.
- » Continue to **evaluate opportunities for transformational recreation investments** that address long-term community needs and enhance Richland's regional destination appeal.
- » **Develop a work plan** to coincide with the annual City budget process to reevaluate progress, to reassess priorities, and to adjust for new opportunities.







CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan (PROS Plan) by defining its purpose, describing the planning process, summarizing the planning context, and providing an overview of the PROS Plan’s community outreach efforts.

PLAN PURPOSE

Richland’s park and recreation system is deeply connected to community health and identity, economic vitality, and environmental sustainability. With a rapidly growing population and evolving community needs, the City today is faced with complex challenges from rising costs, to aging infrastructure, increasing maintenance needs, climate impacts, public safety concerns, and more.

This Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan (PROS Plan) establishes a renewed vision to guide the provision of parks, recreation, and open space for the next six years and beyond. Building on past plans and studies, the PROS Plan addresses shifts in community needs, demographics, planned growth, and budget realities to guide the City and Parks and Public Facilities Department (the Department) in making sound and forward-thinking decisions regarding the investment, management, and operations of its park and recreation system. The recommendations included in the PROS Plan aim to support the desired future shared by the community while providing the Department with the flexibility needed to achieve City goals and priorities.

CAPTION PLACEHOLDER



PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Development of the PROS Plan involved a nearly year-long planning process in four phases that combined ongoing public outreach with data-driven technical analysis to identify community needs and create an implementable action plan for Richland’s park and recreation system (Figure 1-1).



Play for Young Children

“I love living in Richland! Kudos to the Parks & Rec staff for making Richland a great place to live and play.”
—Online Community Survey Response

FIGURE 1-1: PLANNING PROCESS



PLANNING CONTEXT

The PROS Plan responds to guidance from the State of Washington, builds on findings from several local plans, planning efforts, and studies, and works in collaboration with concurrent City plans and initiatives.

STATE PLANNING GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT (GMA) AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Adopted in 1990, the Washington State Growth Management Act requires most jurisdictions to plan for population and employment increases while protecting critical areas and conserving natural resource lands. Comprehensive plans must include land use, capital facilities, and parks-and-recreation elements and must be reviewed and, if necessary, revised every ten years.

In Summer 2025, the City of Richland launched the Future in Focus planning initiative that includes three major efforts including updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan, City-wide Transportation Systems Plan, and this PROS Plan. As required by the GMA, the Comprehensive Plan must accommodate 20-year population and employment growth targets in addition to addressing new state legislative requirements related to housing, transportation, and climate. The PROS Plan incorporates these growth targets and serves as the implementing document for the Parks and Recreation element of the Comprehensive Plan.

“This is about more than just planning, Future in Focus is an opportunity for every resident to have a voice in building a city that works better for everyone—today and tomorrow.”

—Joe Schiessl, Richland Deputy City Manager



RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO) REQUIREMENTS

The Washington State RCO administers state and federal grant programs that fund park development, habitat conservation, and outdoor recreation. To remain eligible for most RCO grants, local governments must maintain an adopted parks, recreation, and open-space plan that is updated every six years, making this PROS Plan update essential for continued grant funding eligibility. The plan must include the following six elements: goals and objectives, inventory, public involvement, demand and need analysis, capital improvement program, and adoption.

PRIOR PLANNING EFFORTS AND PROGRESS

RICHLAND 2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Completed in July 2023, the Richland 2024-2026 Strategic Plan outlines five strategic priorities with desired outcomes, key outcome indicators, and performance targets to achieve the City’s targeted outcomes. The Strategic Plan’s strategic priorities include high-performance government; financial sustainability; focused development; quality of life; and engaged workforce. Parks, recreation, and open space will play an integral role in achieving numerous outcomes identified in the Strategic Plan and were considered in development of the PROS Plan. Relevant outcomes include:

- » Enhanced community engagement;
- » Strengthened partnerships;
- » Increased feeling of safety in the community;
- » Improved pedestrian and bicycle mobility;
- » Enhanced recreational opportunities (Community Event and Entertainment program); and
- » Staff capacity to meet service demands.

CITY OF RICHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN (2019)

In 2019, the City of Richland adopted the 2019-2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2019 Plan) through Resolution 94-19. The 2019 Plan establishes a framework for park and recreation services that balances community needs and the financial realities of Richland’s Parks and Public Facilities Department. Central to this framework is a six-year Capital Improvement Program

that outlines specific recommendations and projects guided by community input. Notably, the 2019 Plan resulted in numerous parks and facility upgrades, such as the construction of six acres of West Village Community Park, the addition of 17 acres to the Little Badger Trail System, and renovation of Sturgeon Cove Playground.

PARK-SPECIFIC MASTER PLANS AND STUDIES

In addition to the citywide plans above, the Project Team integrated numerous site-specific master plans, studies, and assessments throughout the planning process. These efforts provide more detailed guidance and recommendations for individual parks, facilities, trails, and natural open spaces areas, some of which are identified below:

- » Little Badger Mountain Trail Master Plan (2023) focused on the development and improvement of trails on Little Badger Mountain.
- » Badger Mountain Sub Area Plan (2010) planned for the future growth of the Badger Mountain South area, incorporating dedicated space for parks and recreational uses.
- » North Horn Rapids Area Master Plan envisioned the long-term development of the North Horn Rapids area, including park and recreation spaces.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The PROS Plan was grounded in an inclusive, community-wide engagement process that combined a range of activities to learn about the opportunities and challenges facing the park system, and gather community feedback on future directions. The engagement process was designed to:

- » Identify and alleviate barriers to participation;
- » Leverage local networks and existing community engagement efforts;
- » Ensure an accessible planning process;
- » Collaborate and inform decision-making;
- » Build long-term capacity for civic engagement around park design, development, and programming; and
- » Ensure accountability.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

The PROS Plan utilized multiple methods to gather input from residents, City leaders, user groups, community partners, and other interested parties. These included meetings with City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission; interviews with community groups and other interested parties; ambassador-facilitated meetings; and two online community surveys yielding over 2,000 responses (Figure 1-2). These activities highlighted key themes and priorities that influenced development of the PROS Plan.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

The Project Team met with the Richland City Council at key points throughout the process to provide updates on the planning process, report on outreach and technical findings, and gather their feedback on the process.

FIGURE 1-2: ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



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. On November 19, 2025, the Project Team shared the draft strategic framework and facilitated a discussion around priority recommendations, projects, and improvements. Lastly, the Project Team met with the Commission in July 2026 to solicit feedback on the Draft Plan.

COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS AND PLAN AMBASSADOR TOOLKITS

To help assess needs and opportunities, the Project Team conducted video conference interviews with a variety of groups, organizations, and individuals who represent specific community interests and perspectives. The Project Team held a total of five meetings with groups organized by interest and perspective, including accessibility, trails and conservation, large events, youth sports, and City partners. Each meeting 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. The Project Team also developed an Ambassador Toolkit that was distributed to over 52 community partners

and organizations to gather additional ideas, questions, and priorities, as well as providing a link to the online community survey.

ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY

The City launched an open access 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. 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 City shared information to complete the survey 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.

ONLINE COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION SURVEY

In the final stages of the planning process, the City launched a second online community survey to help prioritize potential park, facility, and natural open space projects for implementation over the next six years and beyond. The survey was available online from December 16, 2025, through January 11, 2026, and received a total of 1,208 responses.





**CHAPTER 2
COMMUNITY
PROFILE
AND SYSTEM
SUMMARY**

COMMUNITY PROFILE AND SYSTEM SUMMARY

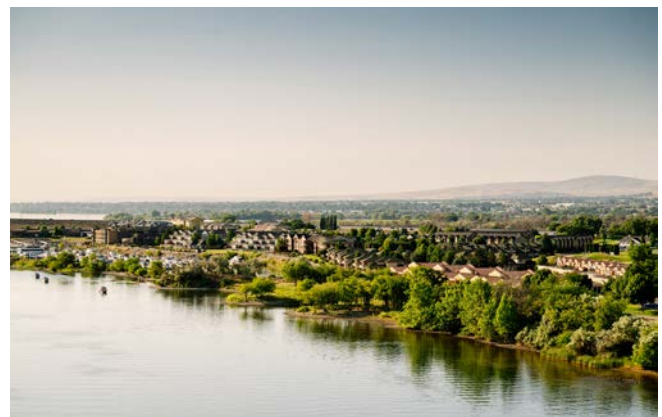
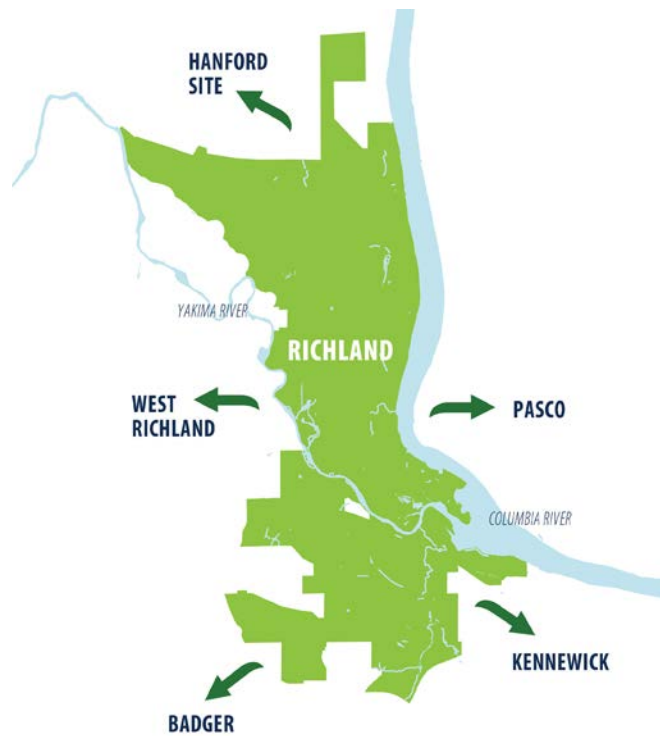
This chapter provides an overview of the City of Richland’s current park and recreation system, including Richland’s unique setting and context, community profile, existing parks, facilities, recreational programs, and services, as well as the Parks and Public Facilities Department’s maintenance, staffing, and operations.

SETTING AND CONTEXT

The City of Richland is nestled along the Columbia and Yakima rivers upstream from the Snake River in the geographic region known as the Mid-Columbia Basin. Richland is located in Benton County, bordered by the Columbia River to the east and the neighboring cities of West Richland to the west, Pasco to the east across the Columbia River, and Kennewick to the southeast (Figure 2-1). Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick are collectively referred to as the Tri-Cities.

The City of Richland shares geography with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), which encompasses the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes. The confluence of the Columbia, Snake, and Yakima rivers have been home to the Indigenous Peoples of the Columbia River Plateau since time immemorial. The City of Richland has long enjoyed a collaborative relationship with CTUIR and together they partner on a number of strategic initiatives.

FIGURE 2-1: REGIONAL CONTEXT



City of Richland

Richland’s natural setting is shaped by the shrub-steppe ecosystem, a priority habitat within the Columbia Basin characterized by sagebrush, native grasses, and drought-tolerant vegetation that supports wildlife adapted to the region’s arid climate. This landscape contributes to the community’s visual identity, open space character, and recreational environment. The City’s setting is further defined by the Columbia River Basalt Group, formed by successive fissure basalt lava flows, and by the Ice Age floods that sculpted the region’s rolling terrain, river corridors, and expansive vistas. Together, these natural systems form an essential part of Richland’s environmental context and continue to influence park planning, conservation priorities, and recreational opportunities.

Today, the Tri-Cities area is known for its sunny climate, diverse outdoor activities, river recreation, rich cultural history, and abundant open spaces. The local economy is anchored by science and technology sectors due to the presence of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Richland’s role in the historic Hanford Site, where plutonium was produced for the first atomic bombs as part of the Manhattan Project during World War II. The Hanford Site is located to the north of Richland and is undergoing environmental cleanup and a transition to clean energy generation by the United States Government.

Richland’s historical context is visible within the park and recreation system, in particular the REACH Museum which shares the history of the Hanford Reach National Monument and local ecology.



City of Richland



Hanford Site, 1960 (Source: United States Department of Energy)

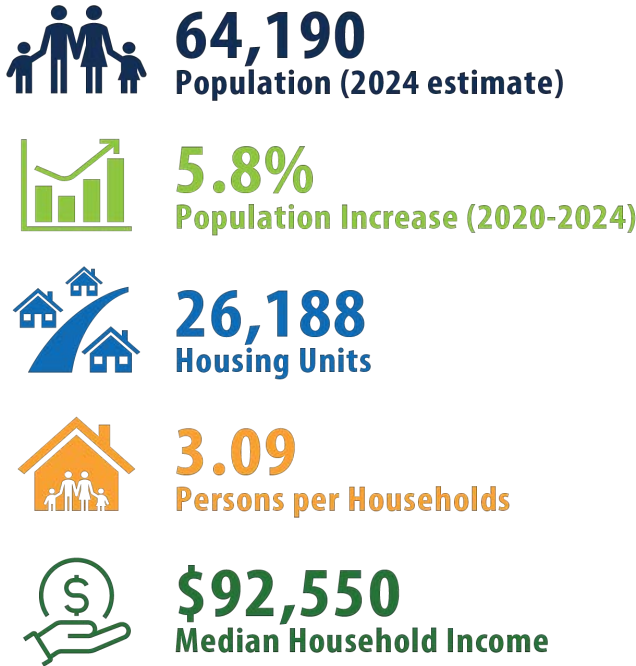


The REACH Museum (Source: Visit the Reach)

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Demographic conditions and trends play a major role in planning for parks and recreation. Understanding and responding to the diverse needs of the community are essential for Richland’s continued growth and well-being.

FIGURE 2-2: DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

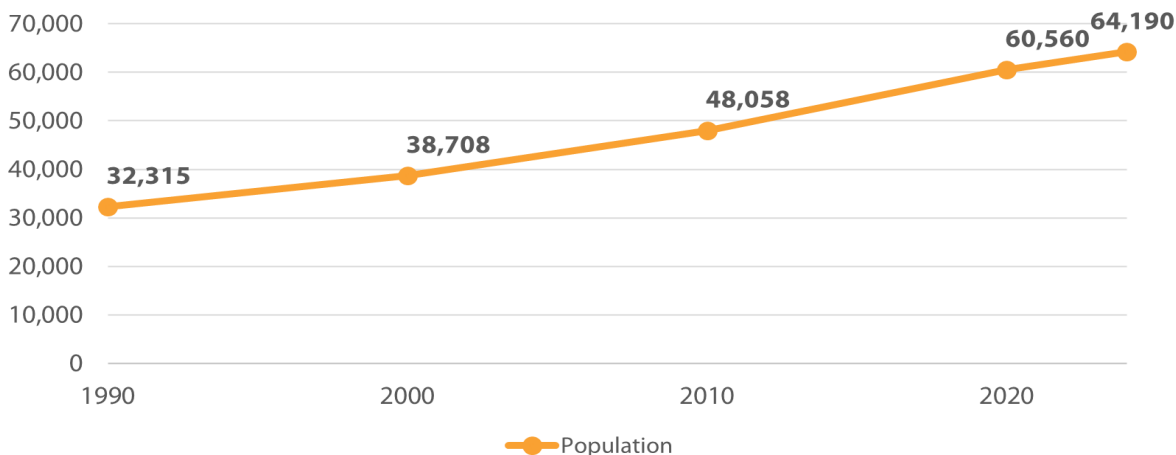


POPULATION GROWTH

Based on the most recent population estimates, Richland has a population of 64,190 residents (2024, Washington State Office of Financial Management). Richland and the broader Tri-Cities Metropolitan Area have experienced rapid population growth over the past decades. Between 1990 and 2024, Richland nearly doubled in size (Figure 2-3). The Tri-Cities Metropolitan Area remains one of the fastest growing areas in Washington State. This growth has largely been driven by job and business development, particularly in the research and science sectors.

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires jurisdictions to plan for a 20-year supply of needed housing and employment. For Richland, this includes accommodating a projected population of approximately 91,890 people by 2046, over a 43% increase from today. This rapid pace of growth has significant implications for the parks and recreation system due to more residents using parks and natural open space, and increased demand for recreation facilities, programs, and services impacting systemwide staffing and maintenance needs.

FIGURE 2-3: CITY OF RICHLAND POPULATION GROWTH (1990-2024)



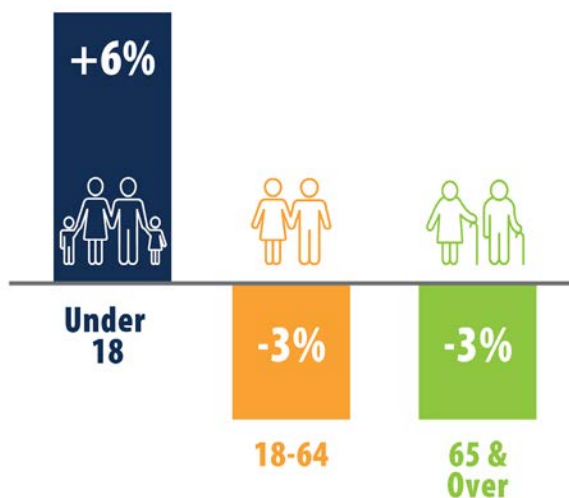
Source: 2024 Office of Financial management official population estimate, Decennial Census

AGE

A vibrant park and recreation system provides diverse opportunities for all age groups, such as spaces to learn and play for young children, safe places for teens, activities and services for older adults, and multi-generational spaces for gathering. Overall, Richland has a larger young population than the statewide average, with a similar share of older adults as both the county and the state.

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. Multi-generational 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 2-4: AGE RANGE CHANGE (2010-2023, CITY OF RICHLAND)



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



Play Programming in Parks

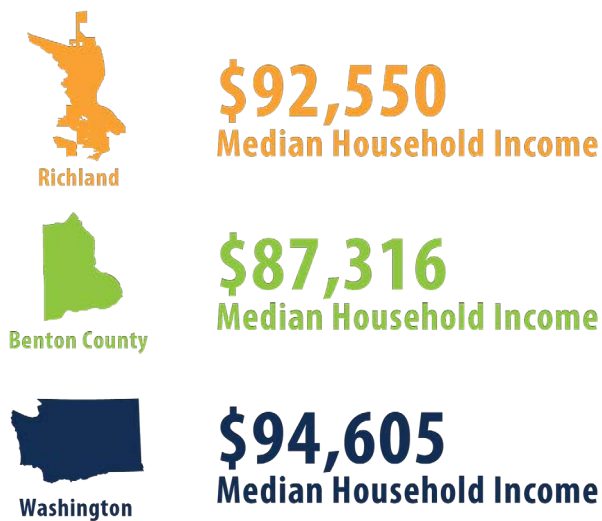
RACE AND ETHNICITY

Richland’s community composition continues to evolve and increase in 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. As the community’s diversity evolves, the parks and recreation system will need to adapt to a more diverse population, with additional 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.

INCOME AND POVERTY

An equitable park and recreation system is affordable to the widest possible segment of the community. Public parks and low-cost or no-cost options for different types of activities are especially important in areas with a higher share of low-income households. Income and affordability are additional key determinants that influence park use and participation in recreation programs. According to American Community Survey (ACS) 2023 5-year estimates, the median household income in Richland is \$92,550, which is higher than the Benton County average and slightly lower than the state average (Figure 2-5). In Richland, 9.3% of the population lives below the poverty line, indicating a relatively lower incidence of poverty compared to Benton County and Washington.

FIGURE 2-5: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2023)



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

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Parks and recreation opportunities are accessible when they offer many different options for enjoyment and participation, regardless of ability or disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits states and local governments from discriminating on the basis of a disability in the services, programs, or activities of all state and local government entities. According to US Census estimates, there are nearly 41 million people living with a disability across the country. In Richland, 13.4% of the population are living with a disability. People with different disabilities encompass a diverse range of individuals who may experience physical, sensory, intellectual, developmental, or mental health impairments that impact their daily functioning and quality of life. People with disabilities have diverse needs and preferences when it comes to recreation opportunities and community services, and these needs can vary based on factors such as the type and severity of disability, individual interests, abilities, and support requirements.



Chair Pilates and Balance Class at the Richland Community Center

PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Richland has over 2,800 acres in its park system across 64 sites. Of this land, over 1,150 acres are developed, providing places to play and gather, and nearly 1,500 acres are natural open space for community members to experience nature, including dedicated natural open space and natural areas in other parks. The system also includes nearly 87 acres of undeveloped land dedicated to future parks and facilities either at undeveloped park sites or existing parks, and nearly 92 miles of trails that provide connectivity to, within, and between parks. Table 2-1 summarizes the existing system’s inventory and Appendix A provides a detailed inventory. Map 2-1 shows Richland’s existing park and recreation system.



City of Richland

TABLE 2-1: PARKLAND INVENTORY

PARK TYPE	TOTAL SITES	DEVELOPED ACRES	NATURAL OPEN SPACE ACRES	UNDEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES
Regional Parks	2	77.4	57.0	0.0	134.4
Community Parks	5	88.5	78.9	71.1	238.5
Neighborhood Parks	26	82.5	6.6	0.0	89.1
Special Use Areas	11	771.2	116.2	0.0	887.4
Linear Parks	8	135.4	0.0	0.0	135.4
Natural Open Space	8	0.0	1322.7	0.0	1322.7
Undeveloped Parks	4	0.0	0.0	15.9	15.9
Total	64	1154.9	1581.4	87.0	2823.3

ELEMENTS OF THE PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

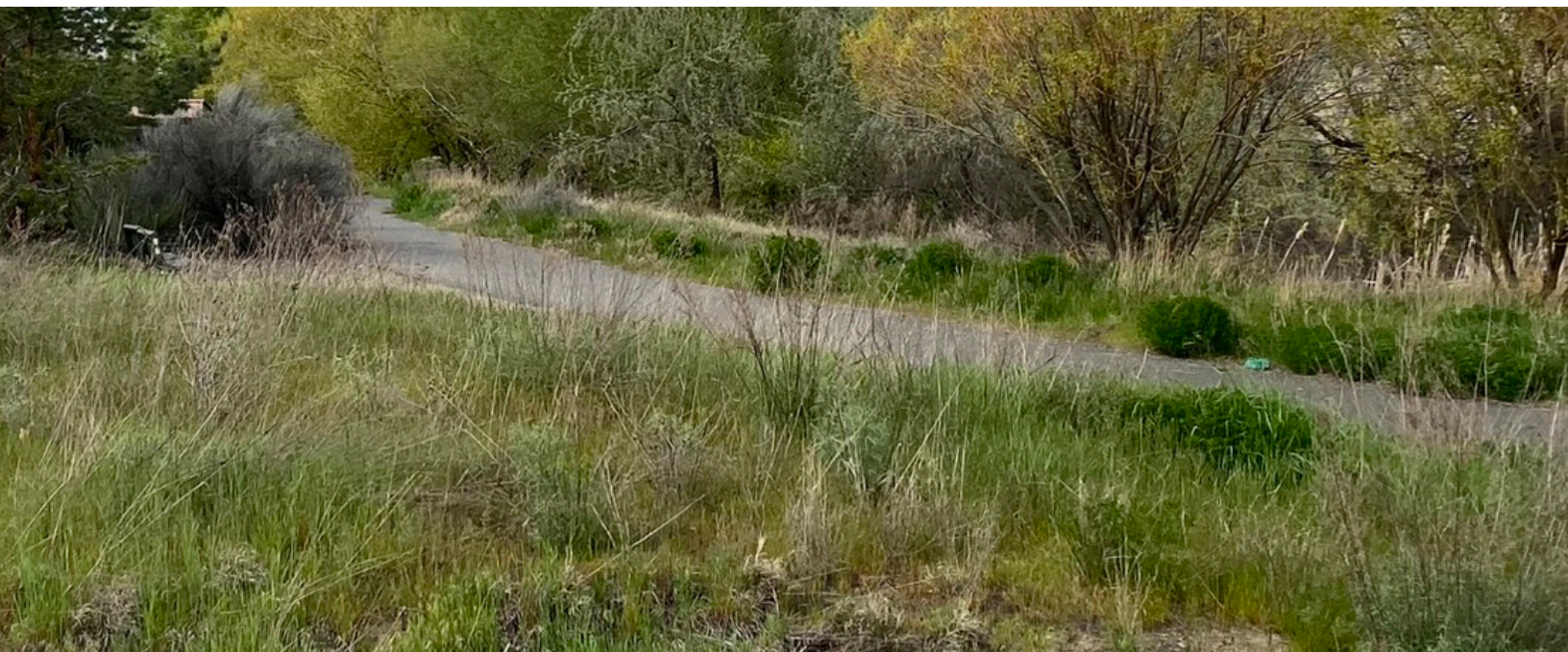
The PROS Plan uses the following terms to describe the park and recreation system:

Parkland (or Parks) describe City owned or maintained sites (including land, corridors, and buildings) that are managed to support recreation, social gathering, trail use, and/or greenspace.

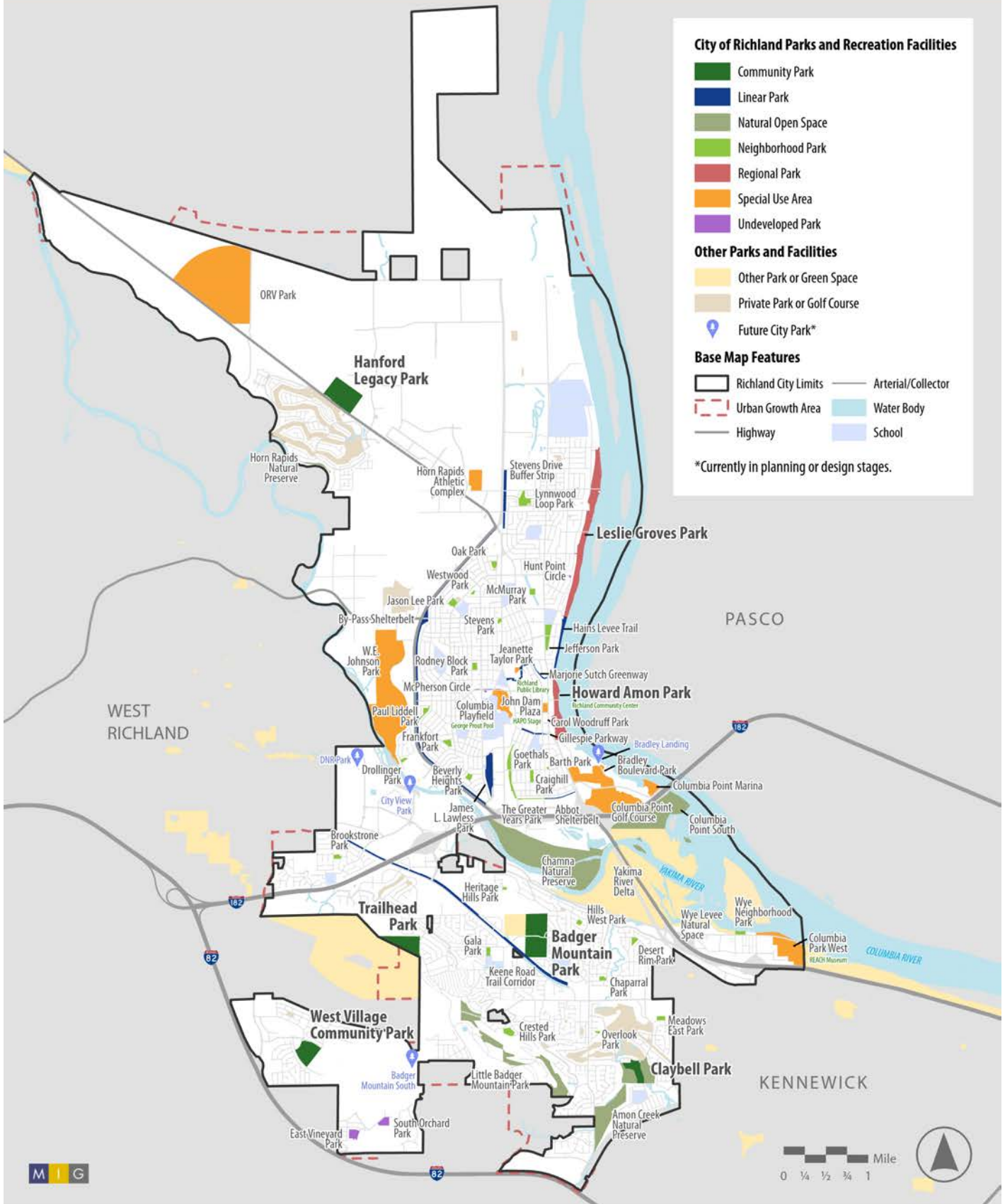
Major Facilities are City owned or operated sites that provide a unique or specific benefit to the community or user groups and require operations, staffing, and programming for use such as the City pool. They are called major facilities, because of their greater costs for development, maintenance, and operations.

Other Park Facilities include all developed outdoor or indoor elements that provide recreation opportunities in parks. Examples include playgrounds, sports fields, sports courts, picnic shelters, skate parks, and community gardens.

Park amenities are support features that facilitate the comfort, functionality, and use of parks. These include elements such as restrooms, parking lots, benches, tables, barbecue grills, lighting, bike racks, drinking fountains, art, and signage.



MAP 2-1: EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM



PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Richland classifies and categorizes its parks and facilities to evaluate park service and guide investments in the different park types and experiences desired by the community. Classifications consider the purpose or intent of the site, factoring in characteristics such as size, use, service area, and available amenities and facilities. The categorization informs decisions about the right amount of development, types of facilities, and levels of park maintenance and programming based on the intent for each park site. Richland has the following seven unique park classifications. Map 2-1 also shows four future parks that are currently in planning or design stages.

REGIONAL PARKS 2 PARKS / 134.4 ACRES

Regional Parks are large, multi-use sites that typically serve as destinations for events, programs, and activities, attracting visitors from across the entire city and beyond. These sites are often managed in partnership with other agencies and organizations.

Examples: Howard Amon Park, Leslie Groves Park



Howard Amon Park

COMMUNITY PARKS 5 PARKS / 238.5 ACRES

Community Parks include specialized attractions and/or a mix of active and passive recreation amenities that serve a substantial portion of the community or the entire city. Designed for large groups, intensive use, and longer stays, these parks include on-site parking, permanent restrooms, and similar support amenities to sustain longer visits for park users.

Examples: Badger Mountain Park, Claybell Park, Trailhead Park, & West Village Community Park



Badger Mountain Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

26 PARKS / 89.1 ACRES

Neighborhood Parks provide close-to-home recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance of residents. These sites are designed to support small group gatherings and active and passive recreation such as play, youth sports, picnicking, and walking or biking.

Examples: Goethals Park, Craighill Park, Wye Neighborhood Park



Goethals Park

SPECIAL USE AREAS

11 SITES / 887.4 ACRES

Special Use Areas are designed around a specialized facility or site use, such as an aquatic center or BMX track, or create a unique experience, such as a downtown plaza amphitheater. The size, capacity, and features vary depending on the purpose and function of the site.

Examples: John Dam Plaza, Columbia Point Marina Park, Columbia Playfield, Columbia Park West



Columbia Point Marina Park

LINEAR PARKS

8 SITES / 135.4 ACRES

Linear Parks provide trails and other recreational opportunities, allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian and bicycle movement throughout the community, and protect open space corridors. These typically link waterways, trail corridors, and shelterbelts. While trails are typical components of Linear Parks, they can also be found in many other park types in Richland.

Examples: : By-Pass Shelterbelt, Keene Road Trail Corridor, Hains Avenue Levee



Keene Road Trail



Chamna Natural Preserve

NATURAL OPEN SPACE

8 SITES / 1,322.7 ACRES

Natural open space areas are largely undeveloped and are intended to preserve the natural landscape and ecological functions of the site. These areas may include limited improvements such as multi-use trails, restrooms, interpretive signage, parking, and minimal site furnishings. Development is kept to a minimum to maintain the site's natural character and support passive recreational use such as walking, wildlife observation, and environmental education. Several of these sites are owned by the federal government, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and leased to the City of Richland.



Amon Creek Natural Preserve
(Source: Tapteal Greenway)

Examples: Chamna Natural Preserve, Columbia Point South, Amon Creek Natural Preserve

UNDEVELOPED PARKS

4 PARKS / 15.9 ACRES

Undeveloped parks are unimproved properties typically owned or maintained for future public parks, recreation areas, or natural open space development. These can be acquired by or dedicated to the City and will be planned and improved based on available funding.

Examples: East Vineyard Park, South Orchard Park



Leslie Groves Park

PARK AMENITIES AND FACILITIES

Richland’s parks offer a range of recreation facilities and amenities supporting play and gathering, sports/athletics, outdoor recreation, specialized uses, and connections to nature. Parks also typically include amenities such as seating, trash receptacles, picnic shelters, and restrooms supporting park functionality and user comfort. Figure 2-6 and the following sections summarize key facilities in Richland’s park and recreation system. A complete inventory of existing recreation facilities and amenities is found in Appendix A.

PLACES TO PLAY

Many of Richland’s developed parks feature playgrounds and play structures that support a variety of recreational opportunities for children of different ages and abilities. These areas are co-located with other amenities such as picnic shelters, open lawns, and walking paths, making them popular family destinations and important components of neighborhood and community parks.

PLACES TO COMPETE

Richland is regionally recognized for its well-maintained diamond fields, which regularly support league play and tournament events. Baseball and softball facilities are abundant and well-distributed throughout the city. In contrast, rectangular fields used for soccer, lacrosse, football, and other field sports are limited in number and experience high demand, particularly during peak seasons.

PLACES FOR TRAIL ACTIVITIES

Natural open space accounts for a significant portion of Richland’s park system, offering residents and visitors ample opportunities for walking, running, hiking, and wildlife viewing. These areas range from riverine environments with cottonwood forests and wetland habitats to upland shrub-steppe landscapes in the city’s hills. Locations like the Chamna Natural Preserve and Badger Mountain are widely valued for their access to nature and scenic views. These natural areas play an essential role in the recreation system, offering passive recreation and environmental education opportunities.

FIGURE 2-6: RECREATION FACILITY SNAPSHOT





Columbia Point Marina Park

PLACES TO SWIM OR ACCESS WATER

George Prout Memorial Pool is the city's only outdoor public pool and is heavily utilized by residents and community organizations (discussed further in a later section). In addition to the pool, Richland offers several other aquatic amenities: a splash pad and spray ground at Badger Mountain Park, a wading pool at Howard Amon Park and informal swimming beaches at Columbia Point Marina Park, Howard Amon Park and Leslie Groves Park. The Yakima River also provides water access at various points, which are frequently used for floating and tubing in the warmer months.

PLACES TO LAUNCH A BOAT

Richland offers a range of boating access options to accommodate different types of watercraft and recreational uses. Paved launches and moorage facilities support motorized boats and larger vessels, while primitive launch areas serve non-motorized users such as kayakers, paddleboarders, and river floaters. Some sites include transient moorage, allowing for short-term docking, while others are better suited for quick entry and exit. These facilities help connect the public to both the Columbia and Yakima Rivers and support year-round fishing, recreation, and regional water-based tourism.

MAJOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Richland is home to seven major recreation facilities that serve as community anchors for learning, gathering, competition, and cultural expression. Of these sites, five are owned and operated by the City while two have lease agreements with private operators.

RICHLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

The Richland Community Center opened in 2001 and includes 21,335 square feet of space for different functions including multipurpose rooms, a kitchen, games room, arts and crafts room, meeting room, wellness room, billiards, fitness room, lounge area, and lobby. The Richland Parks and Public Facilities Department has office space in the Community Center. The Community Center is open seven days a week, with varying hours. Several rooms are reservable for a fee. Located at Howard Amon Park, the Community Center hosts many of the City's recreation programs and serves as a base for several citywide events and hosts organizations such as the Richland Seniors Association, Meals on Wheels of the Mid-Columbia, and AARP Tax-Aide tax assistance programming.



Richland Community Center

GEORGE PROUT MEMORIAL POOL

Located adjacent to Richland High School and Columbia Playfield Softball Complex, George Prout Memorial Pool features a 25-yard, eight-lane public swimming pool with a high-dive and low dive in the attached 12-foot diving well, as well as a small wading pool with ADA-ramp access. It is the only public pool facility within the City of Richland. It serves a wide range of users, including the Richland and Hanford High School for Girls' swim team practices, YMCA and Skyhawks camps, the Boys and Girls Club, The ARC of Tri Cities, and Down Syndrome of the Mid-Columbia for iCan Swim Camps. Staff oversee daily drop-in use and provide swim instruction and special programming. The pool tanks and infrastructure are in good condition due to recent upgrades, which include resurfacing and re-tiling of the swim areas, and repairs to surge tanks in 2018. The pool offers private evening rentals during the summer, averaging one reservation per week.



George Prout Memorial Pool

CITY OF RICHLAND LIBRARY

The city-owned library operates in a 58,000 square foot facility that includes a multi-purpose STEAM room, two study rooms, two conference rooms, a 1,984 square foot gallery, a book sale room, and a two-story lobby used for community art exhibits and displays. The Library has completed the first phase of a new Outdoor Programming Space and Amphitheater in the northwest corner of the grounds. The Library holds a physical collection of over 167,000 items and offers thousands more titles online. In 2021, total circulation (physical and digital, including renewals) was 709,920. By early 2022, the library served over 46,000 cardholders. The Richland Public Library offers programming for all age groups and consistently ranks among the highest in per capita program engagement among Washington libraries serving populations between 25,001 and 100,000.

Two affiliated nonprofit organizations support the library. The Friends of the Richland Library provides supplemental funding and volunteer support through book sales and donations. The Richland Public Library Foundation raises private funds used solely for the benefit of the library, independent of the City budget.

REACH MUSEUM



City of Richland Library

The REACH Museum is operated by a Washington not for profit entity and was constructed by the Richland Public Facilities District. The Museum is located on United States Department of the Army Corps of Engineers property leased by the City. The campus is part of the Columbia Park West Master Plan and the plan contemplates additional cultural “attractors” on the campus. The REACH focuses on interpreting the history of the Manhattan Project and the natural and cultural significance of the Hanford Reach National Monument located upriver from Richland. Exhibits and programming explore local Native American history, the development of the atomic bomb, the experiences of workers at the Hanford Engineering Works, and the ecological importance of the Hanford Reach.

The museum serves as a regional educational resource, offering programs for K–8 students and their families. Educational services include field trips, workshops, outreach to schools, teacher training, and online materials. The REACH also functions as a tourism hub for topics such as the Ice Age Floods, Mid-Columbia River Basin history, and the local natural environment. Annual events include “Screech at the REACH,” which focuses on regional wildlife and environmental education, and Sensory Friendly Nights, which provide a more accessible museum experience.

The REACH is supported by the Reach Foundation, a nonprofit organization that raises funds to support museum operations and programming. The museum offers a membership program with reciprocal access to a wide national network of institutions.

COMMUNITY STAGE AT JOHN DAM PLAZA

The Community Stage, located at John Dam Plaza, opened on April 9, 2016. It was developed as part of the City's long-term master plan to provide an outdoor venue for a range of cultural and entertainment programming. The facility supports events such as Winter Wonderland, Fall Carnival, Cool Desert Nights' Party in the Park, the Live @ 5 summer concert series, and performances by both local non-profit choir groups, theatre productions, and recitals.

The stage includes 2,350 square feet of performance space and can accommodate up to 2,000 people in its main seating area, with room for an additional 1,000 people around the perimeter. Infrastructure includes an acoustical shell, amphitheater-style seating, food and beverage vendor pads, backstage areas, and professional-grade sound and lighting systems. The stage is located one block from the Columbia River and Howard Amon Park.

In 2016, the City entered into a 12-year agreement with HAPO Community Credit Union for naming rights to the stage. This partnership has supported the Community Stage's initial development and growth.



Community Stage at John Dam Plaza

HORN RAPIDS ORV PARK

The site includes the Horn Rapids Motorsports Complex and the Tri-City Kart Club track, along with an area designated for future soccer fields. Located off Twin Bridges Road and SR 240 (Vantage Highway), the park regularly hosts a variety of events. The off-road vehicle park features multiple facilities, including motocross and supercross courses, a sand drag strip, 4-wheel drive relay and obstacle courses, an ATV track, open trails, a mini/pee-wee motocross track, RV camping, four restrooms (two with showers), and two picnic shelters. The park is privately operated under a lease agreement with the City. It also houses two private clubs and one for profit business: the Tri-City Kart Club for go-kart racing, a paintball facility, and the Tri-City Radio Control Modelers, both of which lease space on-site.

COLUMBIA POINT GOLF COURSE

Columbia Point Golf Course is a city-owned, 18-hole municipal facility in Richland that opened in 1997. The course stretches 6,571 yards and offers a scenic clubhouse equipped with a full-service pro shop, café, covered patio with river views, driving range, and locker rooms. The course hosts events, provides lessons, and offers annual memberships.



Horn Rapids ORV Park



Columbia Point Golf Course

TRAILS

Richland maintains an extensive system of off-street recreational trails, pathways, and bikeways that link neighborhoods, parks, natural open space, and the Yakima and Columbia Rivers.

TRAIL CLASSES

Richland uses the following trail classifications which are summarized in Table 2-2:

- » **On-Street Routes:** On-street routes include a mix of dedicated bike lanes and shared street routes. These are addressed in the City’s Transportation System Plan.
- » **Class 1 Trails:** Paved, 10 to 12-foot wide corridors that serve as the arterial spine for walking, running, cycling, and other non motorized travel. Examples include the 7 mile Riverfront Trail through Howard Amon Park (part of the 23 mile Sacagawea Heritage Trail loop) and the Bypass Shelterbelt Trail.
- » **Secondary Trails:** Paved or compacted routes that connect neighborhoods to parks, schools, and commercial areas or complete shorter recreation loops within larger open space corridors.
- » **Soft Trails:** One to five-foot wide native-surface or gravel paths in natural areas such as W.E. Johnson Park, Chamna Natural Preserve, and the city’s hillsides. These minimize environmental disturbance and support hiking, trail running, and equestrian use.
- » **Park Paths:** Short loops and connectors entirely within developed park sites that provide circulation to playgrounds, courts, and picnic areas.



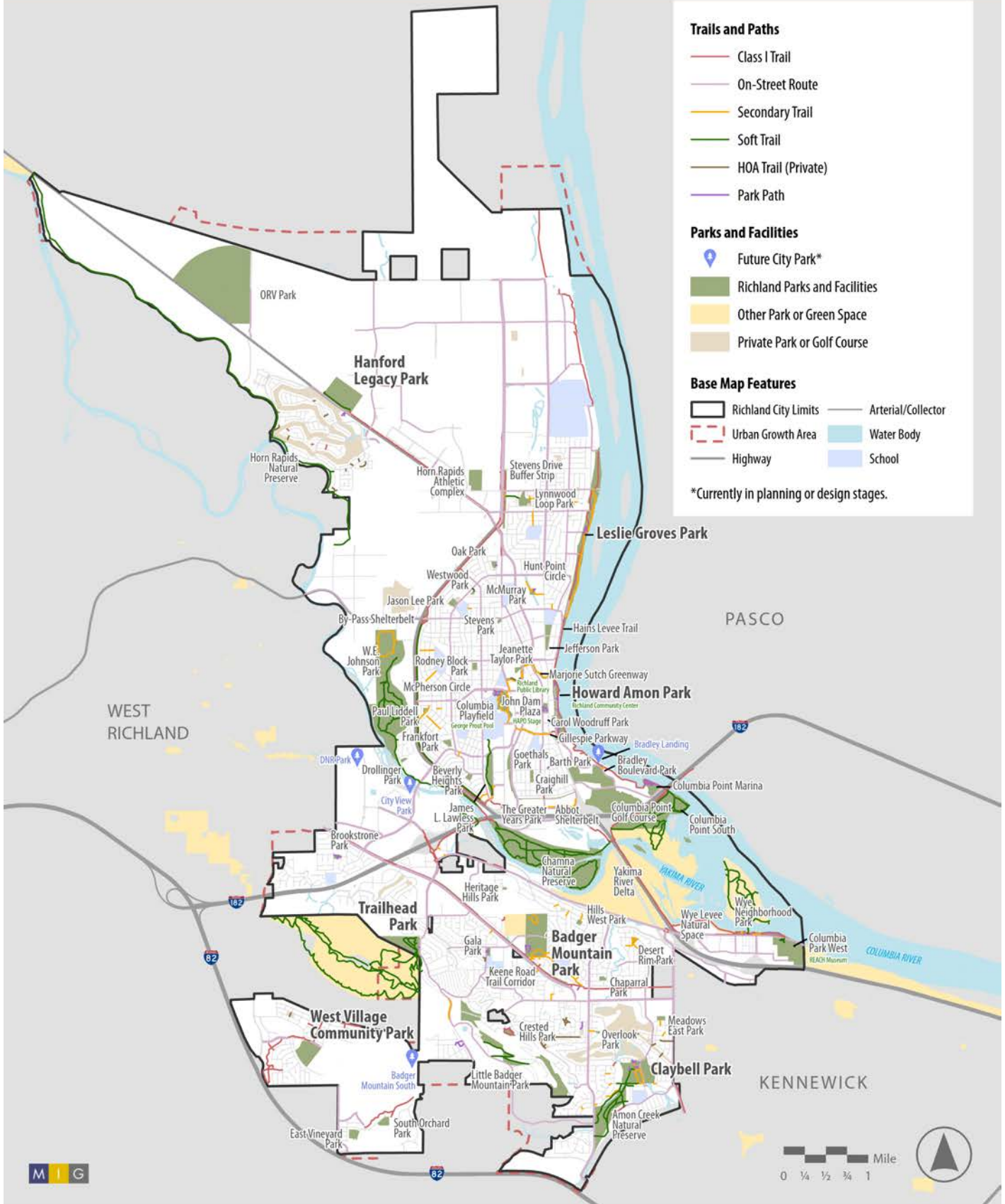
Badger Mountain

In addition to the City’s trail system, residents have access to approximately 1.8 miles of trails located within homeowner association (HOA) communities. While these trails are privately owned and maintained, they contribute to the broader network of recreational trail opportunities available throughout Richland. Residents and visitors also benefit from a variety of regional trail connections that extend beyond city limits. Additional information on regional trail systems and connectivity can be found in the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments Regional Pedestrian Trails Plan.

TABLE 2-2: CITY OR RICHLAND TRAIL SUMMARY

TRAIL CLASS	TOTAL MILES
On-Street Routes	117.5
Class I Trails	34.8
Secondary Trails	11.6
Soft Trails	43.2
Park Paths	2.3
Total	209.4

MAP 2-2: EXISTING TRAILS AND PATHS



Trails and Paths

- Class I Trail
- On-Street Route
- Secondary Trail
- Soft Trail
- HOA Trail (Private)
- Park Path

Parks and Facilities

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

Base Map Features

- Richland City Limits
- Urban Growth Area
- Highway
- Arterial/Collector
- Water Body
- School

*Currently in planning or design stages.



SIGNATURE TRAIL SYSTEMS

The following signature trail systems are key elements of Richland’s park and recreation system:

- » **Sacagawea Heritage Trail & Riverfront Trail:** A 23-mile paved loop on both banks of the Columbia River; Richland’s segment offers scenic river views, access to multiple waterfront parks, and direct connections to downtown and the Marina.
- » **Urban Greenbelt Trail:** A 3.25-mile paved circuit encircling central Richland, offering an easy, flat walking and cycling route with links to residential areas and civic destinations.
- » **Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve:** Features a network of steep, unpaved hiking trails with panoramic vistas. The City and Friends of Badger Mountain are planning a new 5.5 mile ridge top segment to link Little Badger Mountain with Badger Mountain and eventually Candy Mountain, creating a continuous ridge route.
- » **Tapteal Greenway and Water Trail:** Along the Yakima River corridor, a 35-mile soft-surface trail is mirrored by the non-motorized Tapteal Water Trail, which offers paddle access at seven formal launch and rest sites between Benton City and Bateman Island.

Trail-Based Recreation

- » **Equestrian Routes:** Approximately nine miles of soft-surface trail in W.E. Johnson Park and adjacent natural areas that are open to horseback riding; equestrian access is also permitted in Chamna Natural Preserve, South Columbia Point, Trailhead Park, and select shoreline segments under RMC 9.22.



Biking at Chamna Natural Preserve (Source: Tapteal Greenway)



Sacagawea Heritage Trail (Source: Visit Tri-Cities)

- » **Hiking, Trail Running, and Mountain Biking:** Richland has a popular and growing system of trails for mountain biking, hiking, and trail running, including shared use trails on Badger Mountain and in Chamna Natural Preserve. There are additional trails just outside of the city on public land maintained by Friends of Badger Mountain and by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- » **Birding and Wildlife Viewing:** While many of Richland’s parks provide access to nature, Leslie Groves Park, W.E. Johnson Park, and Chamna Natural Preserve are featured stops on Audubon Washington’s Great Washington State Birding Trail (Sun and Sage Loop), offering habitat diversity along both rivers.



Tapteal Water Trail (Source: State of Washington Tourism)



Little Badger Mountain Trail Work by Friends of Badger Mountain
(Source: Friends of Badger Mountain)



W.E. Johnson Park (Source: Tapteal Greenway)



Tapteal Greenway Wildlands Walk at Amon Creek Natural Preserve
(SOURCE: Tapteal Greenway)

RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The City of Richland provides a broad portfolio of recreation, culture, and wellness programs that foster community identity and elevate quality of life. Beyond City provided programs and services, residents also benefit from a broader range of recreational, educational, and wellness opportunities provided by schools, nonprofits, regional agencies, and private organizations throughout the community. Participation in City provided programs has increased since 2022, while PROS Plan outreach participants suggested that participation has also been rising in recreation programs provided by others.



Swimming Lessons at George Prout Memorial Pool



Table Tennis at Richland Community Center

CITY PROVIDED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

City provided programs are anchored at the Richland Community Center and the City of Richland Public Library, with satellite activities in community and neighborhood parks, athletic fields, and along the Columbia River shoreline. Core categories include:

- » **Recreation & Enrichment:** A broad array of programs and experiences that support personal growth, wellness, creativity, and community connection.
- » **Youth Development & Enrichment:** Programs that support the learning, growth, and well-being of children and youth through structured and engaging experiences.
- » **Community Services & Resources:** Supportive programs and services that strengthen community connections, promote well-being, and enhance access to civic resources.

Table 2-3 provides an overview of Richland’s recreation and community service programs. Each category includes representative program examples, typical locations where programs are offered, and the primary age groups served. This summary reflects only City-operated offerings; additional opportunities are available through schools, nonprofits, and other community partners.

TABLE 2-3: RECREATION PROGRAM SERVICE AREA SUMMARY

PROGRAM SERVICE AREA	PROGRAM EXAMPLES
Recreation & Enrichment	
Aquatics: Recreational swim, lessons, lifeguard training, aquatics safety programs, open swim	Open swim session, George Prout Swim Team, swimming lessons, summer lifeguard certification class
Arts & Culture: Fine, cultural, or performing arts classes, activities, and events	Craft and DIY nights, dance classes, music classes, textile and fabric classes
Enrichment & Learning: Classes for continued learning, personal enrichment, and skill-building	STEAM programs, online language learning resources through the Library, lecture series, build-it classes
Health & Wellness: Movement and fitness classes, social gathering, mental health and recovery programs	Therapy dogs at the Library, Heart Safe Richland events, Chair Pilates and Balance classes, yoga and meditation classes, self-care for teens adults
Sports & Fitness: Organized athletic leagues, sports or fitness classes, camps, and specialized recreation activities	Youth basketball, volleyball, and flag football leagues, martial arts classes, golf, table tennis
History Interpretive Programs: Museum exhibits and tours, oral history and talks, and walking tours	Richland Walks (Wartime Houses, Mid-Century Modern Architecture, History through the Houses walking tours), greenbelt trail walks
Outdoor and Nature Programming: Outdoor recreation, environmental education, and nature-based experiences	Community gardens, 52 in '25 Park Tours, nature journaling
Special Events: Festivals and fairs, holiday events, movie nights, concerts in the park, and other annual or one-time events	Art in the Park Festival, Cool Desert Nights, Tumbleweed Music Festival, outdoor movie series, Live @5, Winter Wonderland, Fall Carnival, National Night Out/City Fair
Drop In, Pop-Up, or Open Play: Regular or one-time opportunities to participate in recreation activities	Pop-up Play Days, Open Play Volleyball, Tot Time at the Community Center, STEAMkids
Virtual Programs: Guides, tutorials, games, and activities that can be performed at home through online platforms	Richland Public Library digital resources, Virtual Recreation Center, some fitness classes offer a hybrid option via Zoom

TABLE 2-2: RECREATION PROGRAM SERVICE AREA SUMMARY (Continued)

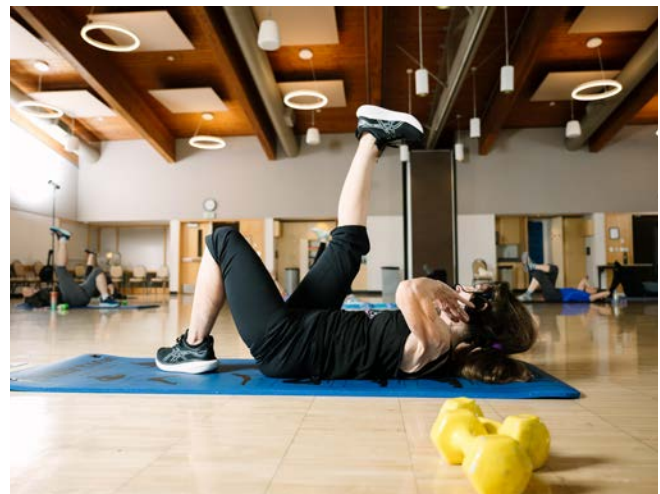
PROGRAM SERVICE AREA	PROGRAM EXAMPLES
Youth Development & Enrichment	
<p>Academic Enrichment and Expanded Learning: Youth programs provided for academic enrichment</p>	<p>Library-provided programming: Preschool STEAM, STEAMkids, story times, online touring services</p>
<p>Early Learning: Development and enrichment programs tailored to toddlers and preschool-aged children</p>	<p>Time for Tots, baby and toddler story times</p>
<p>Youth Workforce Development: Student projects, coaching, job skills resources, work readiness training, and work-based learning</p>	<p>Providing employment opportunities and training for teens/young adults – lifeguard, swim lessons, cashiering, games officials, and event helpers</p>



Youth Flag Football at Howard Amon Park



Richland Public Library



Fitness Class at Richland Community Center

TABLE 2-2: RECREATION PROGRAM SERVICE AREA SUMMARY (Continued)

PROGRAM SERVICE AREA	PROGRAM EXAMPLES
Community Services and Resources	
<p>Adopt-a-Park / Park Cleanups: One-day or short-term stewardship activities led by volunteers to improve parks, trails, and natural areas.</p>	<p>Litter pick-ups</p>
<p>Volunteerism: Activities, events, and programs that give individuals or groups the opportunity to give back to their community.</p>	<p>Youth flag football and youth basketball coaching, teach a class or activity opportunities</p>
<p>Emergency Response & Sheltering Support: Buildings activating as warming and cooling centers.</p>	<p>Cooling and warming centers at the Library and Community Center during extreme weather</p>
<p>Facility & Field Rentals: Scheduling and reservations for major facilities or park amenities for one-time and long-term community use</p>	<p>Pool rentals, Community Center rooms, and shelter, picnic, and sports fields rentals</p>
<p>Health/Wellbeing Information & Connections: Healthy living programs, health resources and referrals, lifestyle classes</p>	<p>Digital resources offered through the Library, fitness classes at the Community Center</p>
<p>Older Adults Services: Support programs, enrichment activities, and services for older adults</p>	<p>Library programming, Community Center classes</p>
<p>Outreach & Community Information: Newsletters, neighborhood information and outreach programs for City activities</p>	<p>Learn/Play/Live recreation guides, recreation class registration website</p>

MANAGING AND DELIVERING PROGRAMS

In addition to designing and delivering a diverse range of programs, the City of Richland invests in the systems that support, evaluate, and sustain them:

- » **Program Assessment & Review:** Programs are evaluated on participation, net cost and customer satisfaction. Underperforming offerings are reevaluated or retired; successful pilot programs scale up.
- » **Cooperative Programming:** Existing City of Richland resources do not allow for the provision of all programs, events, and services that the community desires. As a result, partnerships are sought with private program providers and formed as a way to expand and enhance levels of service. Community partners and contractors are sometimes able to provide a different service or higher level of service than the City based on their business model and existing market share, allowing the City to dedicate valuable resources elsewhere.
- » **Marketing & Promotion:** Programs are promoted through the department-produced Richland activity guide (offered in print and PDF versions), online via the City, Library website, targeted e-mail campaigns, social media, signage at facilities, and cross-promotion with community partners.

- » **Registration & Enrollment:** Many activities require advance registration via online or in-person at the Community Center. Drop-in options remain for opportunities like lap swim and select fitness classes.
- » **Programming Cost:** Richland residents enjoy discounted rates; non-residents pay a modest surcharge. Richland offers need-based scholarships and fee waivers through the Richland Community Center. Additionally, the City of Richland Library provides many free programs that do not require registration.

MAJOR EVENTS

The Parks and Public Facilities Department hosts and facilitates numerous major events throughout the year. Richland's signature events include a wide variety of seasonal City-run events, such as Winter Wonderland, the Fall Carnival, and the Summer Outdoor Movie Series. The City also works closely with event organizers to host private events in City spaces, such as the Live @ 5 Concert Series, Art in the Park, the Tumbleweed Music Festival, and Ironman. This mix of City-run and privately organized events draws thousands of residents and visitors to Richland's parks each year. These vibrant, family-friendly events activate public spaces, build community spirit, and provide free or low-cost entertainment for all ages.

Events require significant City resources, from planning and logistics, to setup, staffing, and programming support. However, these events also generate measurable economic benefits, supporting local vendors, attracting tourism, and driving foot traffic to nearby businesses and restaurants.



National Night Out



Art in the Park Festival



Winter Wonderland



Ready Set Hop!

MAINTENANCE, STAFFING, AND OPERATIONS

Maintenance and operations are key to a clean, safe, and sustainable park and recreation system. The Parks and Public Facilities Department is responsible for the management and maintenance of the City's parks, natural open space, and select special use areas. In addition to these sites, the Parks and Public Facilities Department's Facilities Maintenance Division takes care of the system's major facilities. The total operations and maintenance budget for 2025 was approximately \$13.2 million. Shoreline regional parks and sites with sports fields have the highest maintenance levels and conditions, while natural open space currently receive lower maintenance. Maintenance levels of natural open space were raised as a key concern across community outreach efforts, and by City staff. It was noted that natural open space areas require a different level of management, care, and expertise. Specific challenges include limited staff time and funding for natural open space management, managing invasive species and pests, and other threats out of the City's control such as a changing climate.



Richland Parks and Public Facilities Department Staff

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Parks and Public Facilities Department oversees the development, management, and maintenance of parks, major facilities, recreation programs, and library services for the City of Richland. The Department is organized into five divisions, each with their own role and responsibilities (Figure 2-7). The Department also plays a pivotal role in facilitating the Parks and Recreation Commission, which is tasked with advising the City Council on City-provided facilities, civic beautification, environmental and cultural preservation, and recreation programs.

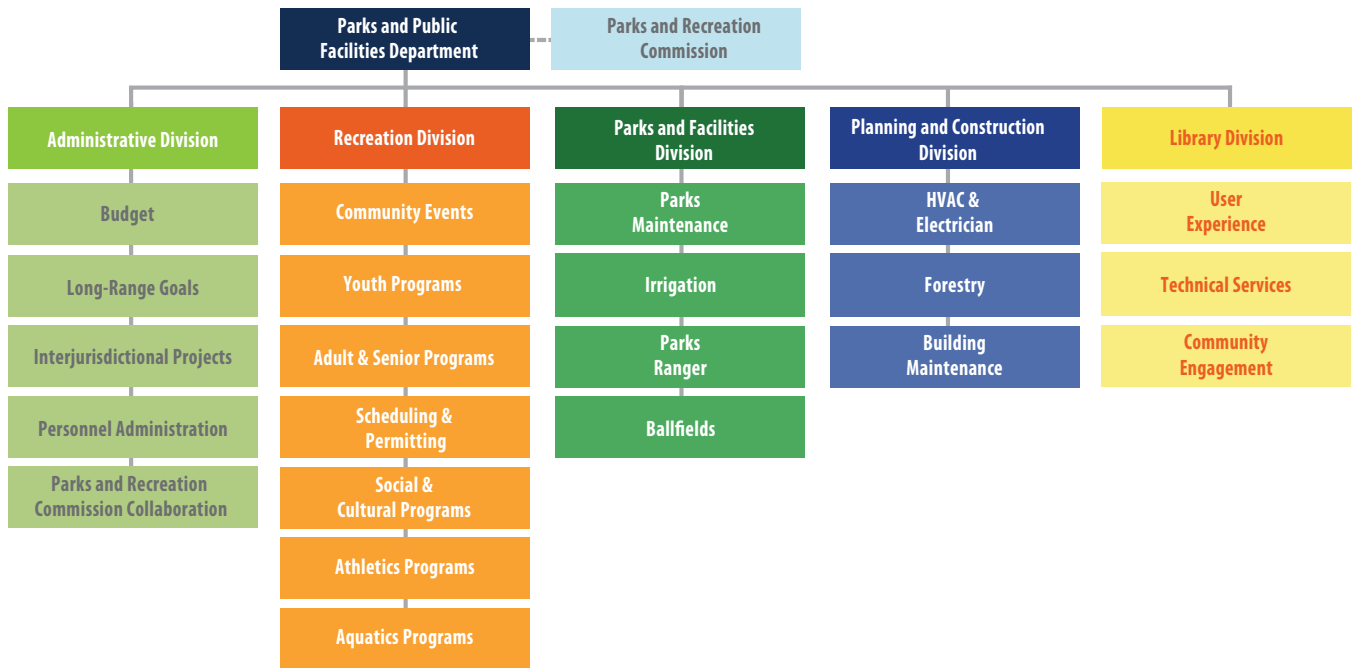
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division provides administrative oversight to all aspects of the Department, including the budget, long-range goals, community engagement, Parks and Recreation Commission, interjurisdictional projects, and personnel administration. As of 2025, the division employs three full-time employees, the Parks and Public Facilities Department Director, and two full-time administrative support staff members.

RECREATION DIVISION

The Recreation Division is charged with developing and administering the Department's recreation programs, activities, and events to meet the diverse needs and interests of the Richland community. The division manages the use of parks and facility scheduling and permitting, supports the Parks and Recreation Commission, and promotes tourism and commerce in Richland. As of 2025, the division employs six full-time employees, seven part-time employees, and fifty to sixty (50-60) seasonal/intermittent employees.

FIGURE 2-7: PARKS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PARKS MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Parks Maintenance Division maintains all City-owned parks and landscapes, including playgrounds, athletic fields, aquatic facilities, boat docks, and park structures. The division also includes the Park Ranger team. As of 2025, the division employs fourteen full-time employees and twenty seasonal/intermittent employees.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Facilities Maintenance Division maintains all City-owned facilities which includes plumbing, HVAC, carpentry, design and project construction. The Facilities Division also encompasses the ball fields maintenance team and forestry team. As of 2025, the division employs thirteen full-time employees and seven seasonal/intermittent employees.

LIBRARY DIVISION

The Library Division manages and operates the Richland Public Library. In 2023, the Library adopted a 10-year strategic plan to inform library policy, practices, services, and resource allocation decisions. As of 2025, the division employs eighteen full-time employees, seven part-time, and six intermittent.

PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

The Planning and Construction of parks and facilities is managed and led by the Parks and Public Facilities Department. Some plans and projects are administered within the department and others by the City’s Public Works Department.





CHAPTER 3

**PARK ACCESS
AND CONDITION
ASSESSMENT**

PARK ACCESS AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT

This chapter presents a technical analysis of Richland’s park and recreation system including a park and facility access analysis and condition assessment. These analyses, when combined with community outreach findings and recreation trends described in Chapters 1 and 4, identify gaps in access and opportunities to improve the use, comfort, and safety of Richland’s parks and facilities.

PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE

The City of Richland has historically measured parkland need by assessing acreage Level of Service (LOS) Standards that 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. A higher parkland LOS means more parkland per resident; a lower parkland LOS means less parkland per resident. The 2019 PROS Plan provides LOS standards for most park types, as well as for recreation facilities. At that time, the City conducted a detailed evaluation of its system including community input, benchmarking, and analysis of national and regional trends to establish quantitative targets for acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and desired service levels for different park types.

As of 2025, Richland provides 44 acres of City parks per 1,000 residents when including natural open space, and 23.4

acres per 1,000 residents when excluding natural open space, well exceeding the adopted parkland level of service standards established by the 2019 PROS Plan. When compared to national averages (NRPA data), Richland’s overall level of service is also well above the upper quartile for jurisdictions of a similar size, both with and without natural open space (16.1 acres per 1,000 residents). Refer to Appendix A for the sites included in the LOS calculations and Appendix E for more details about the LOS analysis.

With the city’s population expected to grow by 43% by 2046, the City’s overall parkland level of service is projected to decline for certain park types if no additional parkland is developed although it will likely remain above the 2019 level of service standards for all parkland. Despite this projection, it will be important for the City to continue to evaluate its parkland level of service over the 20-year planning horizon in combination with continued assessment of citywide park access and geographic contribution as Richland continues to grow.

While these metrics offer a point of comparison for evaluating whether the existing amount of parkland aligns with previously established goals, acreage alone does not fully reflect community experience. Factors such as the physical distribution, type and quality of parkland should also be considered.

PARK AND FACILITY ACCESS

The distance between parks and where people live, work, or go to school makes a big difference to how parks are used. In turn, so does the ability to benefit from the economic, social, and health benefits that parks provide. As a rapidly growing city, Richland must take proactive steps to ensure both existing and future residents have equitable access to parks and recreation opportunities.

Park access can be evaluated in a variety of ways. Two important measurements are the quantity of total parkland acreage and parkland distribution throughout the city. Taking a deeper look at parkland distribution allows a more complete picture of who is served and unserved by the City's existing parks.

Two of the nation's leading resources on parks and recreation—the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL)—suggest the need for 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 City of Richland parks are well-distributed across the city, there are still residential areas that are further than a 10-minute walk from a City 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 as of 2025. These areas are considered "underserved" and should be a focus of City investment when planning for new parks or facilities.

FIGURE 3-1: RICHLAND 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: TPL ParkServe (2025)



City of Richland

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 City parks. The Park Access Map (Map 3-1) highlights areas in the community where residents are more than a 10-minute walk away from a City park, showing noticeable gaps in access. While some residents in these areas may have access to other forms of greenspace and recreation opportunities, such as school grounds, private parks and facilities, or parks managed by other agencies, those resources are not included in the access analysis although the location of these resources are shown on the map.

The analysis is based on the way a person walks or rolls to a park; therefore, factors such as the safe street crossings and limited or no park access points all influence the extent of the 10-minute walk service areas. The map identifies locations where City provided park resources are less accessible, which may limit residents' ability to easily engage in outdoor recreation and benefit from local park spaces. The map also highlights higher density residential areas (gap areas) that are outside of a 10-minute walk to City parks and facilities, helping identify locations where future investments in park access may be needed.

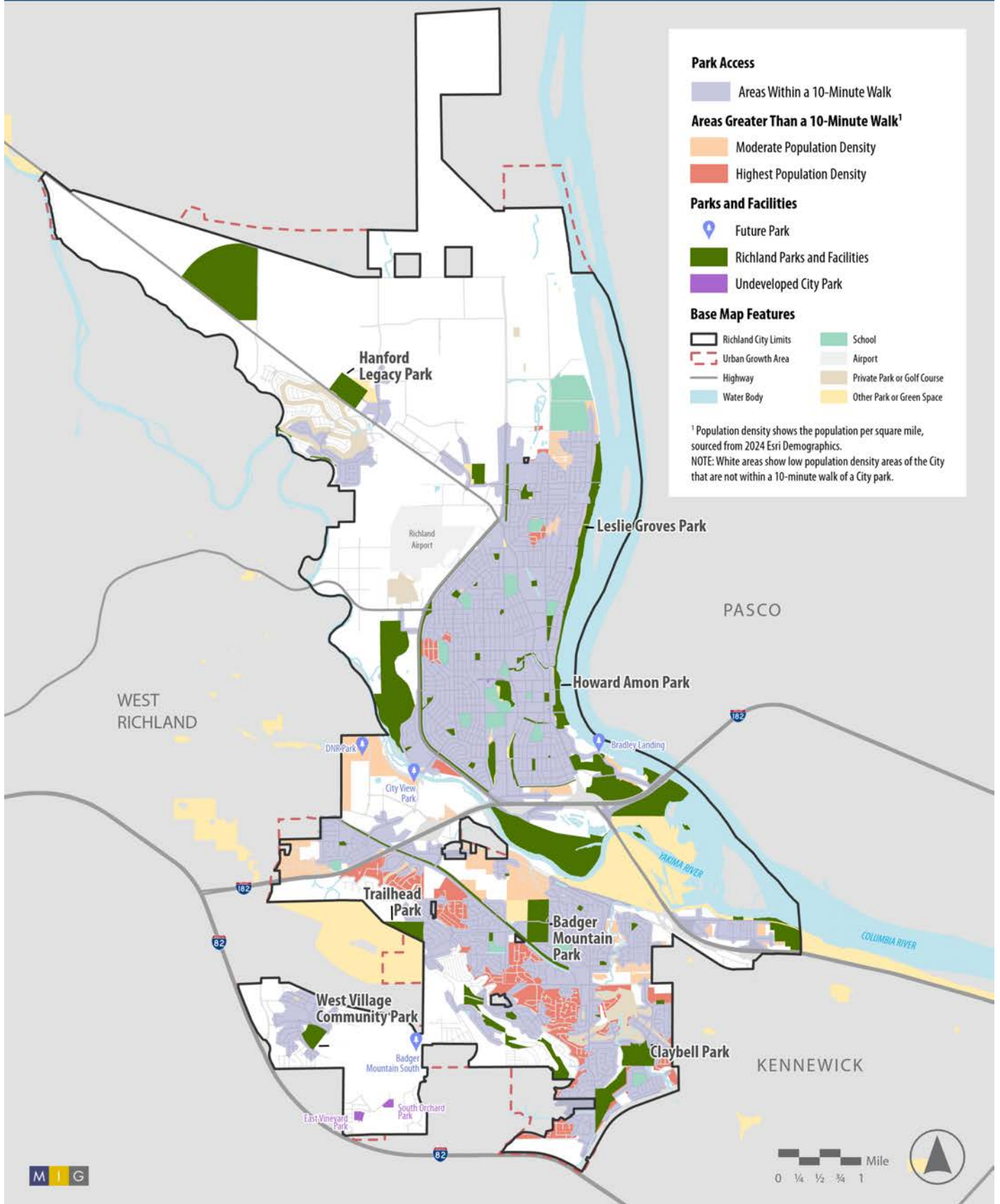
Map 3-1 shows that there are gap areas to City-provided parks in the northeast corner of Richland along Washington State Route 240 (SR 240), in South Richland between Interstate 182 and Interstate 82, as well as some small pockets in Central Richland although some of these areas will be served by the acquisition and development of planned future parks (e.g., City View Park, DNR Park, and Bradley Landing Park in Central Richland and Badger Mountain South in South Richland) as well as existing undeveloped parks in South Richland (e.g., East Vineyard Park and South Orchard Park). Nearly all of Richland's Columbia River frontage has a continuous trail connection, but some areas of the city have steep topography or busy streets such as George Washington Way that serve as a barrier to connecting to other neighborhoods. There is also potential for a consistent signage and wayfinding system to help people safely find and access parks.

¹ Population densities are based on population per square mile sourced from 2024 Esri Demographics data. A "moderate" population density score is 1,428-2,061 people per square mile while a "high" score is 2,455-9,820 people per square mile.

Claybell Park



MAP 3-1: PARK ACCESS (10-MINUTE WALK)



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.

- » **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, and installed toys), interactive water features designed for play (splashpads and spraygrounds), and specialized facilities such as a skatepark or swimming pool.
- » **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.

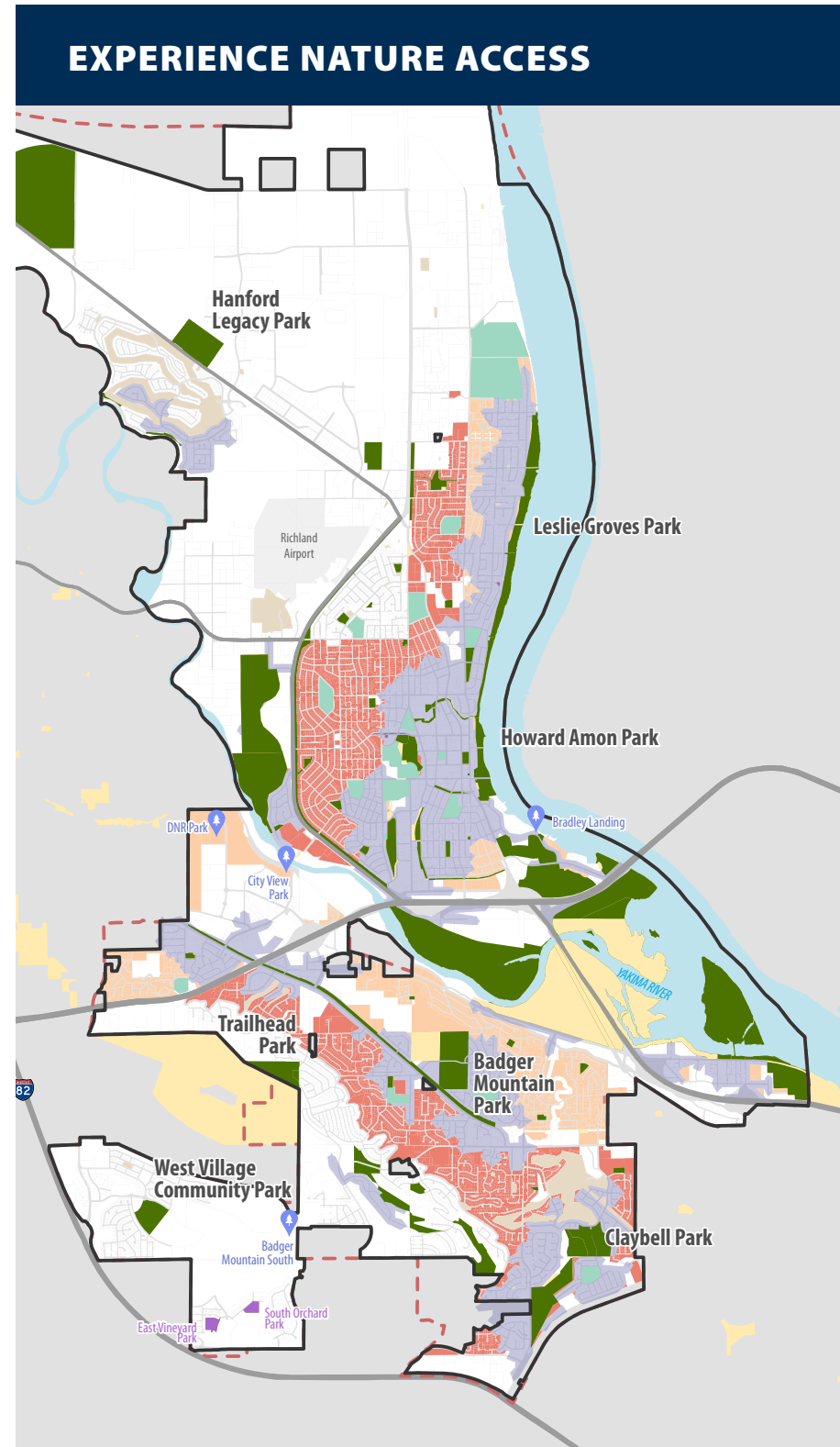
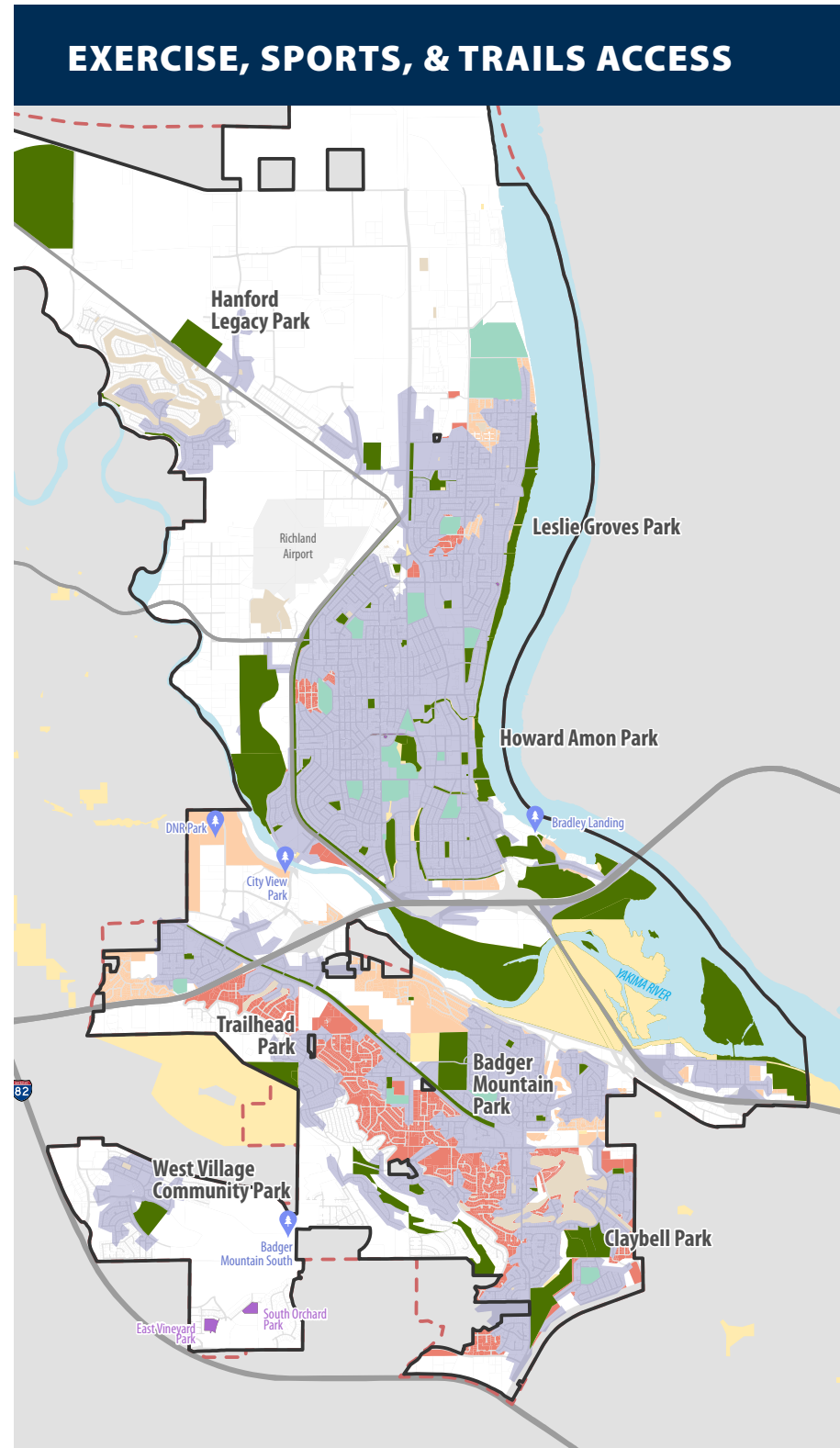
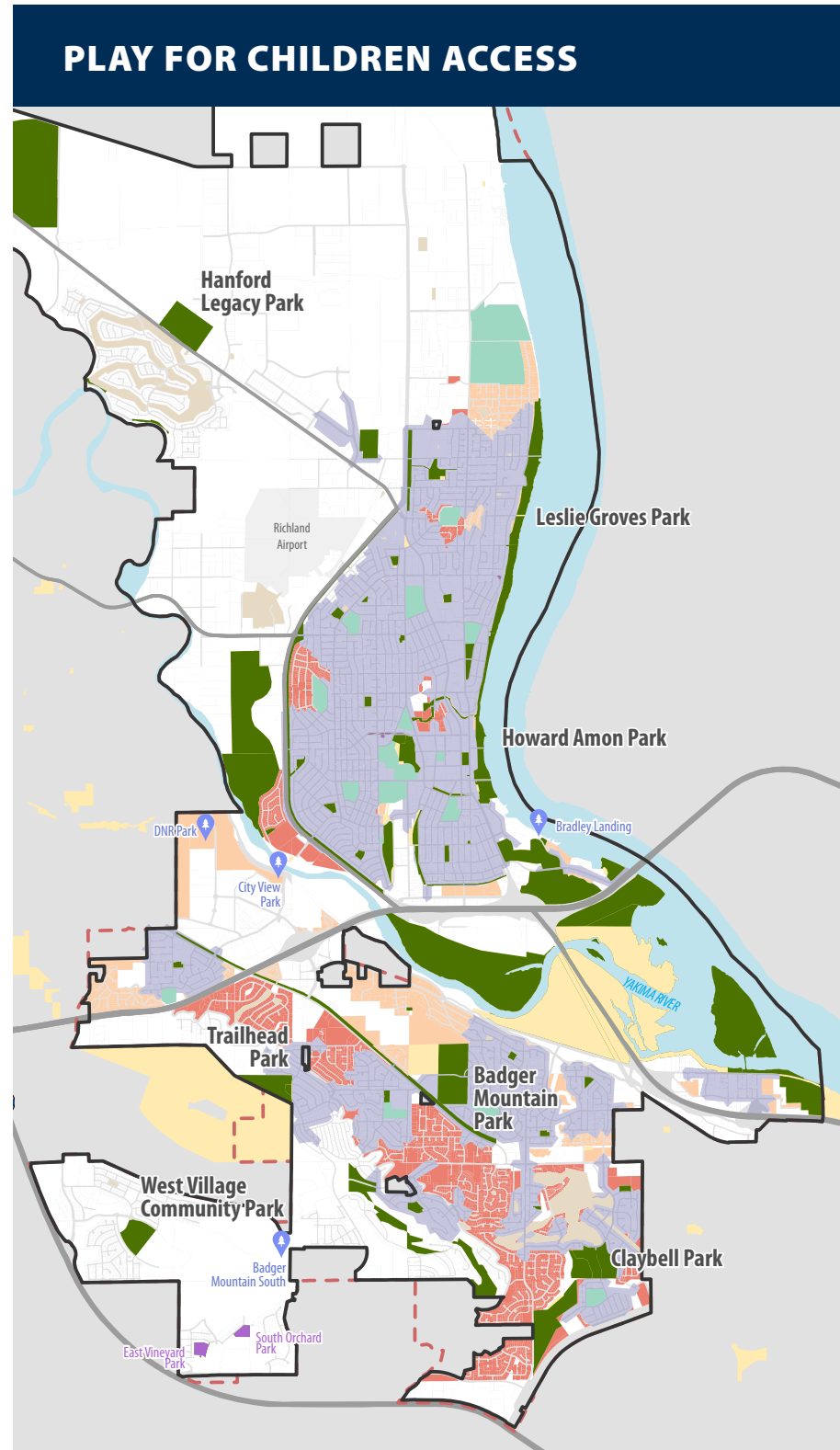
Six of Richland’s existing parks currently provide all three essential services: Howard Amon Park, Leslie Groves Park, Badger Mountain Community Park, Goethals Park, McMurray Park, and Columbia Point Marina Park. Parks that provide exercise,

sports, and trail opportunities are the most prevalent (50 sites) and parks that provide opportunities to experience nature are the least prevalent (23 sites). Figure 3-2 shows areas of Richland within a 10-minute walk to parks and facilities that provide one of the three essential services. Key observations show that:

- » There are greater opportunities for exercise, sports, and trails 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; and
- » Parks offering opportunities to experience nature are not well distributed across Richland with large gaps throughout all parts of the city. Some of these gaps are due to limited formal 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. Beyond these considerations, the City should also refer to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office’s statewide project needs mapping tool to identify high-need areas by census tract. This tool evaluates green space availability, social vulnerability, and poor health outcomes.

FIGURE 3-2: ESSENTIAL SERVICE ACCESS (10-MINUTE WALK)



Essential Service Access

Areas within a 10-Minute Walk

Areas Greater Than a 10-Minute Walk

Moderate Population Density
Highest Population Density

City of Richland Parks and Facilities

Richland Parks and Facilities
Undeveloped City Park
Future Park

Base Map Features

Richland City Limits
Urban Growth Area
Highway
Water Body
School
Other Park or Greenspace
Private Park or Golf Course



¹ Population density shows the population per square mile, sourced from 2024 Esri Demographics.

PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

To further assess Richland’s park and recreation system, City staff conducted high-level observations of selected parks to better understand overall conditions, amenities, and user comfort. This snapshot assessment helps identify maintenance needs and improvement opportunities and provides direction for future planning, capital investments, and sustainability initiatives. In particular, expanding shade and covered spaces responds directly to community priorities and supports long-term climate resilience goals. Findings from this assessment directly informed development of the PROS Plan’s systemwide and site-specific recommendations summarized in Chapters 5 and 6. The following sections provide a high-level summary of key findings from the assessment.

TREE CANOPY AND SHADE

Addressing shade deficiencies responds directly to community priorities and supports broader goals related to comfort and climate resilience. These findings directly correlate with a Tree Canopy Analysis conducted for the project as well as community outreach feedback, underscoring the need for strategic investments in shade, including targeted tree planting in areas with the greatest loss and preservation of existing canopy, to encourage citywide climate mitigation.

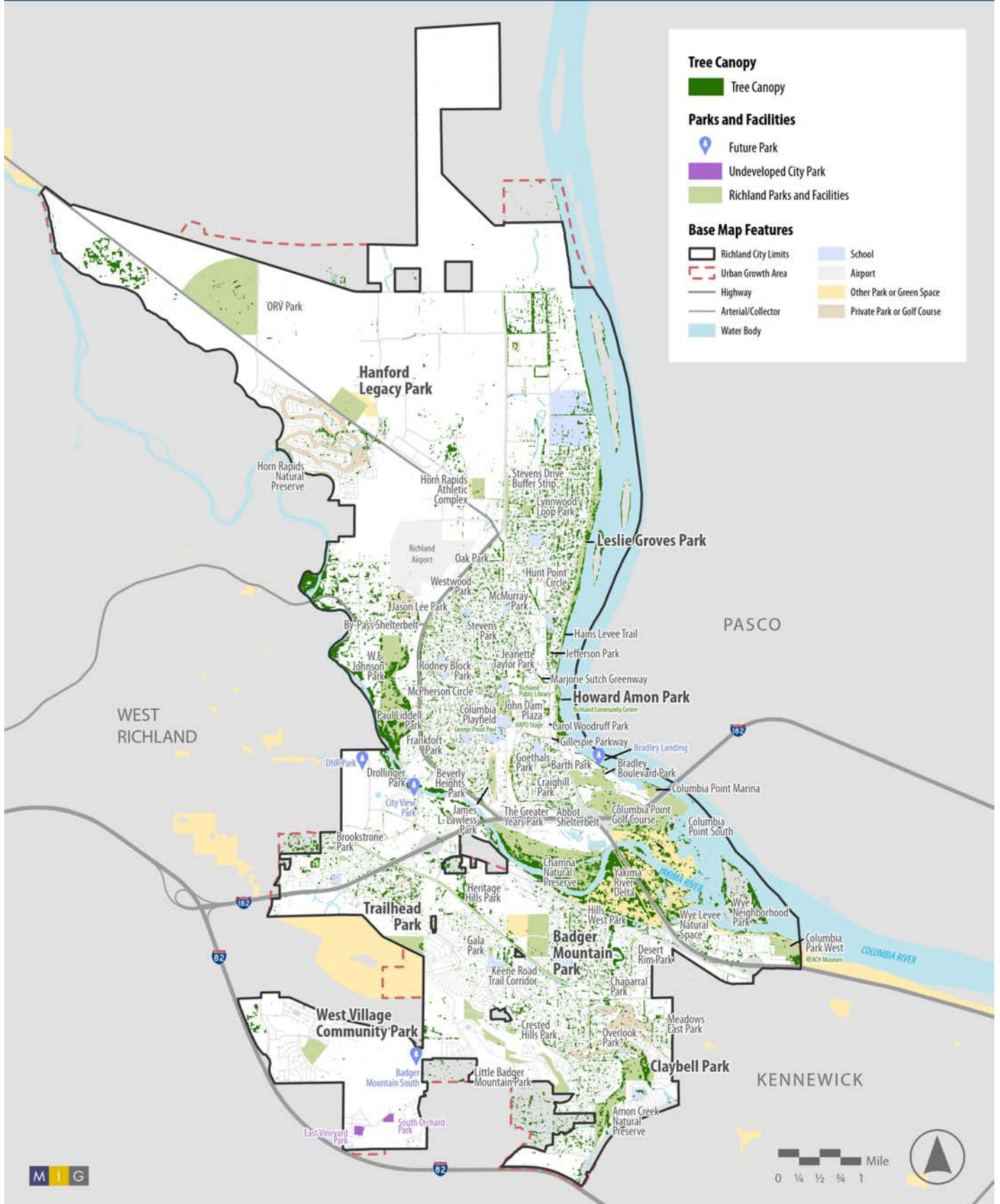


Leslie Groves Park

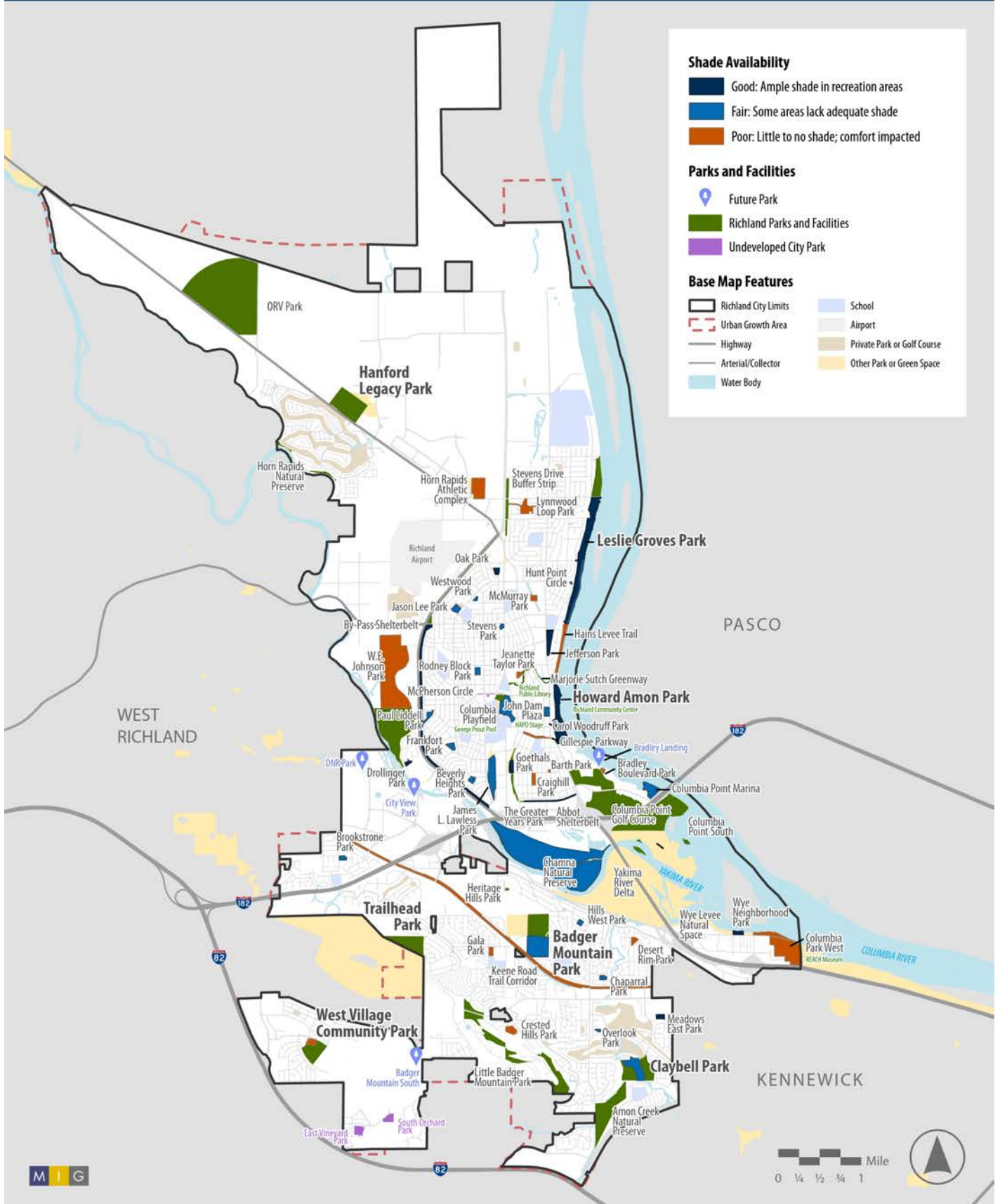
Richland’s landscape is characterized by arid conditions, shrub-steppe landscapes, and limited natural tree cover. These environmental and climatic conditions naturally constrain tree canopy coverage and influence the species that can thrive in the region. As a result, Richland’s urban forest is largely concentrated along the rivers, streetscapes, and residential areas, while natural open space areas tend to be dominated by native shrubs and grasses rather than dense tree cover (Map 3-2). Understanding these geographic and environmental factors is critical for realistic tree canopy planning and preservation.

Aerial mapping conducted for the Tree Canopy Analysis shows that Richland’s tree canopy has changed over time, with areas of loss and gain across the community. While historic images indicate canopy reductions associated with development, South Richland has also experienced notable gains in tree canopy despite new development. North Richland has similarly seen increases in canopy cover, particularly in and around Horn Rapids Golf Course, while Central Richland has experienced moderate canopy losses across that area. Overall, approximately two-thirds of assessed parks (67%, or 33 parks) were identified as having fair or poor shade conditions, highlighting a widespread opportunity for improvement (Map 3-3). Limited shade can reduce park comfort during warm months and constrain the length of time parks are usable throughout the day and year. Ultimately, targeted investments in tree canopy will be essential to the City’s overall climate resilience, ecological health, and year-round user comfort and public health benefits.

MAP 3-2: EXISTING TREE CANOPY



MAP 3-3: SHADE AVAILABILITY



DIVERSITY OF ACTIVITIES

Staff assessed whether parks offered a range of recreational opportunities—such as sports, informal recreation, nature exploration, or cultural activities—that appeal to diverse users. Of the 49 parks assessed, 25 parks were found to offer a range of activities, while 24 parks were identified as having limited activity options. Many parks feature multi-use fields for unstructured activities, presenting opportunities to broaden programming and amenities where appropriate.

Richland also offers valuable river recreation opportunities, but public aquatic facilities are otherwise limited. The City’s outdoor pool is the only public pool in Richland, and there is currently one splashpad. The wading pool at Howard Amon Park is well-utilized but aging, highlighting the need to evaluate future aquatic infrastructure and water play options which often require significant investment and maintenance.

Refer to Appendix E for more information on the City’s current recreation facility level of service by total existing and future population with a comparison to adopted level of service standards.



Aloha Volleyball at Leslie Groves Park



Playing on the Columbia River



Fitness Court at Howard Amon Park

UNIQUE IDENTITY

Parks were also evaluated for the presence of a distinct character, feature, or theme that differentiates them within the system. Of the 49 parks assessed, 12 parks were identified as having a unique identity. Strengthening park identity through design, amenities, or programming may help create more memorable destinations and support equitable access to diverse park experiences. Community input also emphasized this need, highlighting the desire for a variety of opportunities to celebrate and highlight Richland’s unique context. Recommendations include showcasing the City’s unique past and history of scientific innovation, Native American culture and history, and natural environment as guiding themes for park identity, storytelling, and placemaking across the system.

MAINTENANCE

Many parks, especially riverfront parks and athletic fields that receive greater use, have extensive maintenance needs. The Parks and Public Facilities Department also provides street maintenance and maintenance of stormwater retention ponds and some other city department facilities. The Department has a well-trained, experienced, and dedicated staff that's invaluable for the continuation of high-quality parks, facilities, programs, and ongoing relations with community partners.

Richland currently lacks a comprehensive management plan to care for and manage its natural open space areas, which make up the majority of the City's park acreage. These areas are subject to multiple layers of regulation (e.g., the Shoreline Management Program, permitting requirements, and consultation processes) which help protect sensitive environments but also require that any restoration or enhancement efforts be carefully planned and coordinated. Richland is also experiencing significant growth, notably in the Queensgate, Horn Rapids, and Badger Mountain South neighborhoods. While new parks and facilities are being developed in some of these areas, there are also deferred maintenance needs and aging parks and amenities in older neighborhoods that will need attention over the next several years.

USER COMFORT

All community engagement efforts highlighted the need for improved amenities that support user comfort such as restrooms and seating. This feedback was augmented by condition assessment findings. Across 39 sites assessed, benches were generally observed to be in excellent or good condition at 51% of assessed parks, while 49% were found to have benches in fair or poor condition, indicating ongoing maintenance and replacement needs. While 67% of assessed parks were found to have an adequate number of benches, public engagement feedback indicates a desire for a greater variety of seating options, including shaded seating, group seating, and flexible gathering spaces. Picnic tables were largely observed to be in fair (48%) or good (27%) condition. However, 35% of assessed parks were identified as needing additional picnic tables, suggesting a mismatch between existing amenities and community demand for casual gathering and social spaces.

National Night Out





Horn Rapids





CHAPTER 4
TRENDS,
COMMUNITY
NEEDS, AND
OPPORTUNITIES

TRENDS, COMMUNITY NEEDS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

This chapter summarizes national, regional, and local park and recreation trends as well as the key community needs and opportunities for Richland’s park and recreation system.

National, regional, and local recreation trends help create a more complete understanding of Richland’s needs and opportunities in the coming years. These trends and community outreach key themes directly informed development of the PROS Plan’s strategic framework, recommendations, and capital improvement plan that are shared in Chapters 5 and 6.

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. The following pages outline 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.

Playing on a Climbing Structure



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, provides mobility options, and reduces vehicle miles traveled. 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 Estimates.

⁴ 2023 Washington SCORP.



“Space for wilderness and wildlife is essential to the continued beauty and ecological diversity of the area. People will benefit from having parks and recreation spaces that thoughtfully encourage sharing space with our wild neighbors.”

—Online Community Survey Response

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. Please refer to the City of Richland Comprehensive Plan's Climate Element for more specific information and guidance relating to the City's climate and climate-related goals, including greenhouse-gas emission reductions and climate resiliency.

TOURISM, ENTERTAINMENT, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Many cities are leveraging 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 Park. Results of the Online Community Survey also show that 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.



Art in the Park Festival

“The community events at Howard Amon have a large impact on visits to the park. Small scale events at other parks, highlighting the various ways to get there would increase interest.”

—Online Community Survey Response

“I’d love to see... trails with plants and trees and interesting habitats for our native wildlife AND humans.”

—Online Community Survey Response

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 and tubing, boating, and watersports. Approximately 58% of Online Community 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. canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, 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.



Paddleboarding on the Columbia River (Source: Aqueous SUP)

“[I would like to see more] river activities such as kayaking, swimming, boating, paddle board.”

—Online Community Survey Response

“Keep our treasured open spaces along our rivers natural to protect our precious wildlife. Maintain and add walking/biking paths so we can keep enjoying our open and natural spaces.”

—Online Community Survey Response

COMMUNITY NEED KEY THEMES

Across all engagement efforts, participants expressed appreciation for Richland’s existing parks, trails, natural open spaces, and recreation opportunities while also providing a variety of different ideas and needs for the future. The following key themes emerged as top priorities to address in the PROS Plan. These themes represent a collective snapshot of the opportunities, aspirations, and needs that were consistently highlighted across engagement efforts, with additional information provided in Appendix C.

APPRECIATION FOR THE EXISTING SYSTEM

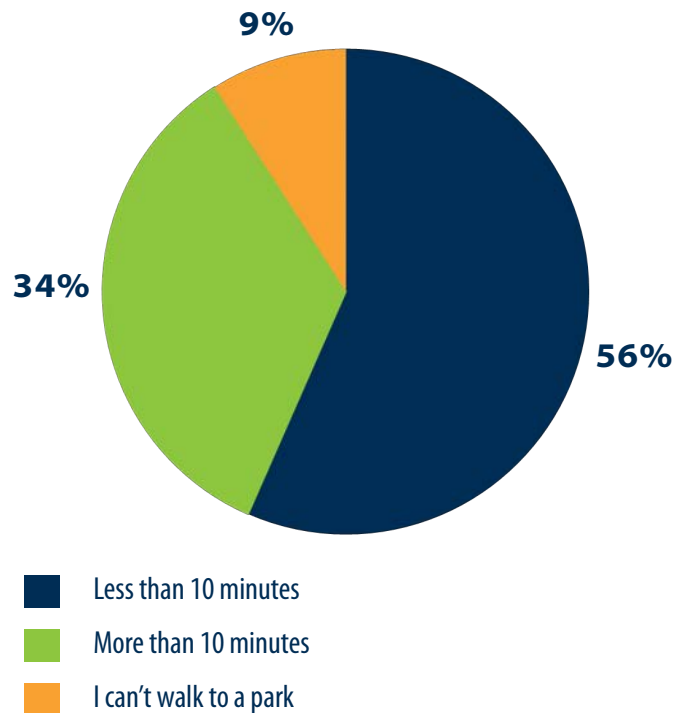
Richland offers a varied and well-maintained system of parks, trails, open spaces, programs, and events that is well-loved by the community. Both City partners and park, trail, facility, program, and event users noted their appreciation for Richland’s park system, including the quality of maintenance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

PARK ACCESS

Access to parks can be limited by poor connectivity, barriers, unsafe walking or biking conditions, or overall distance to reach 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 or that they can’t walk to a park from their home (Figure 4-1). Findings from the park access analysis summarized in Chapter 3 reinforce this feedback, showing that numerous moderate- and high-density residential areas throughout the city do not have access to a City park within a 10-minute walk. Although this community

feedback suggests that the access analysis may overstate the level of park access experienced by residents on a day-to-day basis. While geographic proximity is an important measure, actual accessibility is often influenced by on-the-ground conditions that are not fully captured in a network analysis. Factors such as missing or incomplete sidewalks, steep topography, barriers created by major roadways, limited crossing opportunities, and other connectivity challenges can make parks more difficult to reach than the analysis suggests. As a result, some residents who technically live within a 10-minute walk of a public park may perceive access as inconvenient or unsafe. Addressing these physical barriers through investments in pedestrian infrastructure, trail connections, and safer street crossings can improve both actual and perceived park access and help ensure that parks are accessible to residents of all ages and abilities.

FIGURE 4-1: ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY - IF YOU WERE TO WALK TO YOUR NEAREST PARK, HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU?



NATURAL AREA STEWARDSHIP

Natural areas are assets that provide benefits to both people, wildlife, and the environment and **need additional care**. 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:

- » 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.

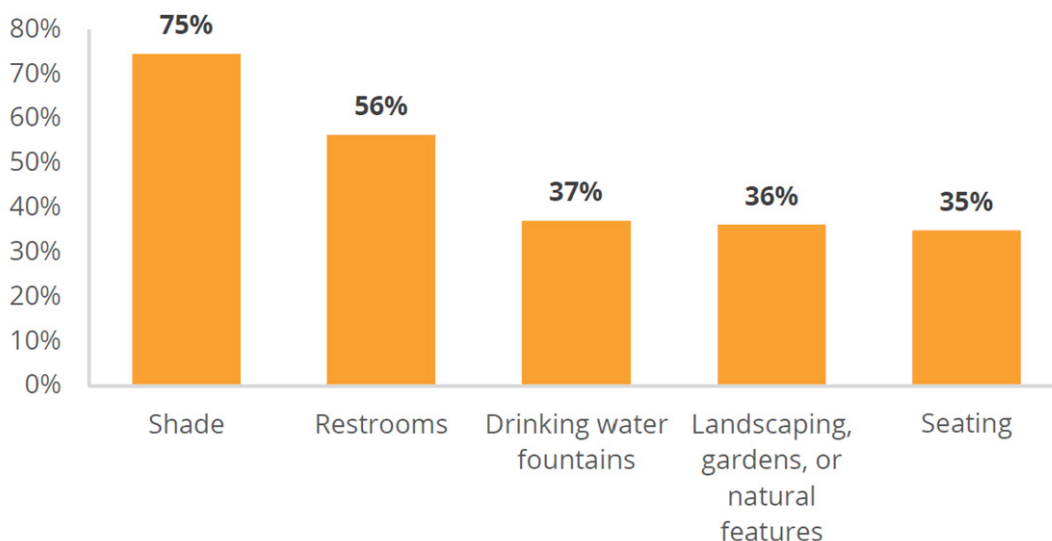
PARK SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

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, with examples noted such as 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.

COMFORT AMENITIES

Parks need amenities to increase user comfort like shade, restrooms, and seating. 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 4-2).

FIGURE 4-2: ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY – WHAT TYPES OF AMENITIES WOULD MAKE PARKS, TRAILS, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE AREAS MORE COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING?



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

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, 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, guided or self-guided arts walks, shows, plays, performances, etc.), and outdoor education or nature programs. Demand for youth swim lessons and lap swimming is high, particularly from local triathletes and Ironman participants.

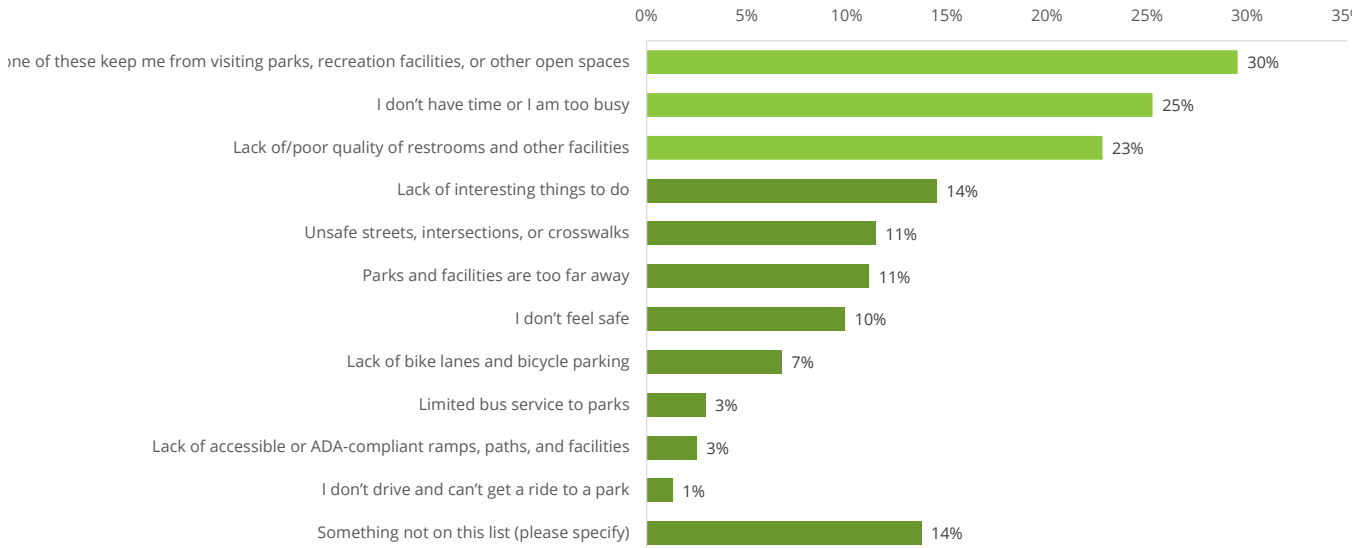
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

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 and Parks and Recreation Commission feedback, highlights the need for targeted and expanded outreach efforts to ensure all community members know what programs are available. All communications should align with the Citywide Communications Plan.

Fall Festival



FIGURE 4-3: ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY – WHAT TYPES OF FACILITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN RICHLAND PARKS?



DIVERSE, UNIQUE, AND ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES

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 4-3). 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 were also a top request across engagement efforts, particularly those that increase connectivity and provide opportunities to connect with nature.

As the City evaluates future recreational facility needs, it will be important to consider Richland’s role within the broader regional parks and recreation system. While residents seek additional amenities, not every recreational need must be met within Richland itself. Coordination with regional partners can help ensure residents have access to a diverse range of recreational opportunities while allowing the City to focus investments on facilities that best serve local community needs.



Community Garden at McMurray Park



Nature Play at Goethals Park



Informational signpost with a wooden roof and multiple panels. The panels contain maps, a "NOTICE" sign, and a "Borrow One Here!" sign. A large blue and white sign with a "R" logo is also visible.

NOTICE

Borrow One Here!

RENTAL





CHAPTER 5 GOALS, POLICIES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

HIKER ONLY TRAIL
PLEASE STAY ON THE TRAIL
WARNING
fall can be slippery.
be at your own risk.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter introduces the City of Richland’s vision, the Parks and Public Facilities Department’s mission, and the PROS Plan’s values, strategic framework, and recommendations. Driven by community voices and priorities, each of these elements will guide systemwide investment in Richland’s park and recreation system for years to come.

CITY OF RICHLAND VISION

The PROS Plan is informed by Richland’s vision statement that guides all City planning efforts, including the PROS Plan’s values, goals, and objectives (2024-2026 Strategic Plan).

*“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.”*

PARKS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT MISSION

The Richland Parks and Public Facilities Department’s (Department) mission summarizes 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.**”*

Columbia River Shoreline



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 technical analysis, the framework provides systemwide direction for park development, administrations, operations, maintenance, management, and programming (Figure 5-1).



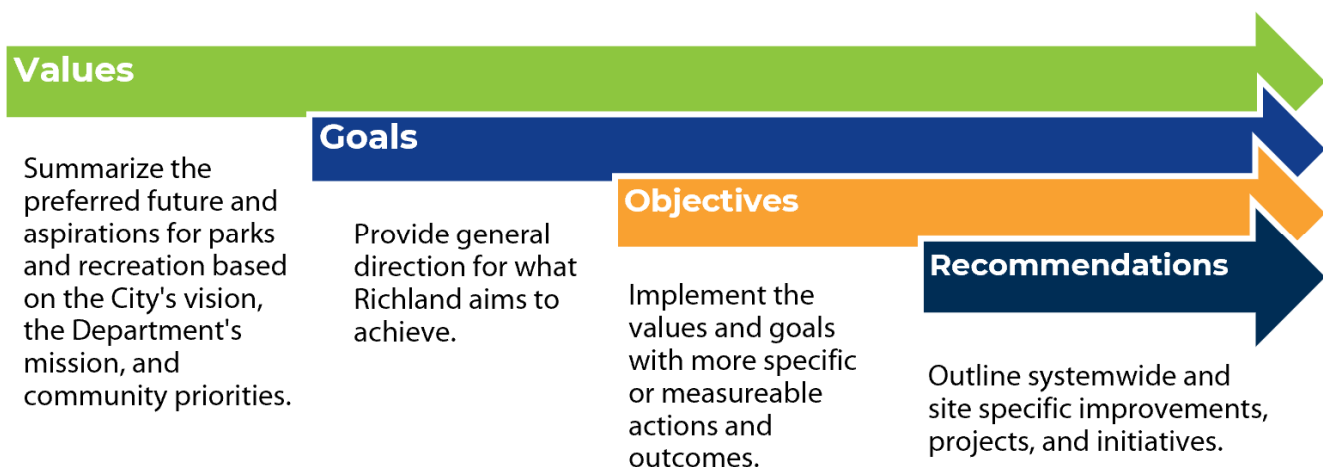
Howard Amon Park

VALUES

Building on community, staff, Parks & Recreation Commission, and City Council insight, the following value statements guide the Department’s future initiatives, from its mission to its goals and objectives. These values provide a strong foundation for the Department to navigate Richland’s large and unique park and recreation system as well as evolving community needs and priorities.

- » 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 **park 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.

FIGURE 5-1: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK DEFINITIONS



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The PROS Plan is centered around four goals and objectives that will shape Richland’s provision of parks, recreation, trails, natural open space, and other services for the next six years and beyond. The goals and objectives provide direction to decision-makers and staff to plan for future growth, respond to community needs, and invest strategically in long-term and sustainable initiatives, policies, and recommendations that ensure a consistent long-term direction.

GOAL 1

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.

OBJECTIVES

- » **1-1:** Provide opportunities to experience unique natural areas.
- » **1-2:** Evaluate opportunities for strategic land acquisition and conservation easements to protect high-value habitat and sensitive areas.
- » **1-3:** Develop management plans for natural open space lands and river shorelines to ensure ecological health and appropriate public access.
- » **1-4:** Maintain and enhance relationships with conservancy and stewardship groups (i.e. Tapteal Greenway, Friends of Badger Mountain, and Native Plant Society).
- » **1-5:** Promote environmental education, stewardship, and volunteer programs to engage the community in habitat protection and restoration.
- » **1-6:** Implement best management practices that protect and enhance water quality in rivers, streams, wetlands, and stormwater outflows.
- » **1-7:** Coordinate with regional agencies and partners to expand and connect open space and trail networks.
- » **1-8:** Protect, expand, and manage Richland’s urban tree canopy to enhance climate resilience, improve air and water quality, and reduce heat impacts.
- » **1-9:** Protect and enhance shrub-steppe habitats and associated wildlife corridors through strategic conservation, restoration, and land management efforts. Coordinate with regional partners to support evolving habitat preservation and mitigation strategies, including evaluating opportunities for City-owned lands to contribute to regional habitat mitigation and conservation programs where appropriate.



Chamna Natural Preserve

GOAL 2

Provide diverse and accessible parks, trail facilities, recreation programs and events that enhance quality of life, support healthy lifestyles, promote economic development, and meet the needs of all ages and income groups within the community.

OBJECTIVES

- » **2-1:** Develop and update individual park master plans that identify future trails and facilities.
- » **2-2:** 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.
- » **2-3:** Encourage private sector investment and development of facilities that serve specialized communities or meet regional economic development goals.
- » **2-4:** Collaborate with and encourage private sector development to share in providing neighborhood park and recreation facilities in growing neighborhoods. (i.e. Badger Mountain South).
- » **2-5:** Incorporate accessibility and universal design principles into new park development and renovation projects to ensure equitable access for users of all ages and abilities.
- » **2-6:** Evaluate underutilized park areas and aging facilities for redevelopment or replacement to reflect emerging recreation trends, diversify park experiences, and meet evolving community needs.
- » **2-7:** Expand and develop the comprehensive trail system to better connect users with recreation facilities, parks and schools, commercial areas, and the Columbia and Yakima Rivers, while also linking to regional trails and key destinations outside of city limits.
- » **2-8:** Collaborate with regional partners and tourism experts for a balanced mix of recreation programs and community events.
- » **2-9:** Plan, design, and construct lighted, multi-purpose sports fields that optimize field use, incorporate sustainable lighting technologies (e.g., high-efficiency LED systems, smart lighting controls, dark-sky compliant shielding, etc.), and serve both community and regional recreation demand.



Howard Amon Park

GOAL 3

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

OBJECTIVES

- » **3-1:** 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.
- » **3-2:** Identify additional opportunities for community and tourism events that utilize existing facilities while balancing staffing capacity and resource constraints.
- » **3-3:** Maximize underutilized facilities for recreational programming to expand access and diversify experiences, spreading out destination points and signature events across Richland’s park system.
- » **3-4:** Continuously monitor participation trends, program attendance, and community feedback to ensure programs meet evolving community needs.
- » **3-6:** Improve communication, outreach, and marketing of recreational programs and events to reach all community members, including underrepresented populations.
- » **3-7:** Develop partnerships with other public agencies, community organizations, local businesses, and tourism stakeholders to enhance programming, available facilities, share resources, and expand program capacity.
- » **3-8:** Evaluate staffing and volunteer needs for signature and high-attendance events to maintain safety, quality, and visitor experience.
- » **3-9:** Maintain, update, and strategically pursue interlocal agreements with school districts and public agencies to optimize joint use of recreation facilities and expand program capacity.
- » **3-10:** Encourage community-led stewardship, volunteer programs, and advisory committees to strengthen engagement and foster a sense of ownership over parks and open spaces.



Swim Lessons at George Prout Memorial Pool



Adult Fitness at the Richland Community Center

GOAL 4

Ensure parks, trails, facilities, and open spaces are safe, well-maintained, efficiently managed, and guided by transparent decision-making and responsible long-term stewardship.

OBJECTIVES

- » **4-1:** Develop and implement asset management and facility lifecycle plans to guide long-term reinvestment, replacement, and rehabilitation of park assets.
- » **4-2:** Identify and document accessibility issues across the system and create a plan to prioritize and address them.
- » **4-3:** Establish and apply sustainable maintenance and operational standards for lighting, access control, park hours, and related infrastructure, and incorporate these standards into the design and upgrade of facilities.
- » **4-4:** Provide structured opportunities for park and facility user groups and community organizations to advise the Parks & Recreation Commission on system-wide priorities and emerging needs.
- » **4-5:** Integrate public engagement into park master planning and capital improvement projects at key decision points.
- » **4-6:** Provide multiple, accessible avenues for community input—including easy-to-use online platforms, surveys, public workshops, and pop-up engagement at parks and events—and regularly communicate how that input informs decisions to strengthen transparency and trust.
- » **4-7:** Collaborate and consult with Native Nations to incorporate cultural knowledge, heritage, and stewardship values into park planning, programming, and interpretation.
- » **4-8:** Evaluate and optimize staffing structure, deployment, and administrative systems to maximize efficiency, service quality, and readiness for future growth.
- » **4-9:** Provide training, professional development, and clear internal procedures to ensure high-quality maintenance, operational excellence, and accountable, effective decision-making.



Richland Community Center



Columbia River Shoreline

SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the Strategic Framework, the following recommendations provide more specific direction and should be used to accompany the six-year capital improvement projects identified in Chapter 6. These recommendations are comprehensive and organized into four “building blocks” that reflect community priorities highlighted throughout the PROS Plan update process, along with findings from technical analysis of the parks and recreation system.



**SUSTAINABLE
SYSTEMS AND
SERVICES**



**RIDGES TO
RIVERS TO
NEIGHBORHOODS**



**HIGH QUALITY
REINVESTMENT**



**UNIQUELY
RICHLAND**



Sustainable Systems and Services address the administration, operations, and maintenance that keep the parks and recreation system running. Recommendations promote responsible stewardship of resources, efficient service delivery, and ongoing operational practices that ensure the Richland parks system remains reliable, resilient, and responsive to community needs over time.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- » **Formalize program selection and evaluation criteria:** Using this Plan, develop consistent and transparent criteria for program offerings to reduce reliance on individual instructor availability or expertise. Use pilot programs to test innovative ideas while documenting outcomes to inform long-term program decisions.
- » **Address special event growth strategically:** Plan for increasing special event demand by creating standardized procedures, leveraging volunteers, and coordinating with public safety and maintenance teams. Use scheduling tools and cross-department collaboration to manage logistics without necessarily requiring proportional increases in staffing.
- » **Develop sponsorship solicitation capacity:** Create processes, staff capacity, and clear policies to pursue sponsorships, partnerships, and grants. Standardize procedures for identifying opportunities, soliciting support, and recognizing sponsors, leveraging private and nonprofit resources to supplement public funding and enhance community programs.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- » **Develop a natural areas management plan to establish clear guidelines for the City's natural areas:** 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. The management plan will also help guide operations and maintenance decisions to enhance habitat connectivity, including both riparian and upland habitats, and preserve wildlife corridors and ecological functions.
- » **Remove invasive species and restore native vegetation:** Use the natural areas management plan to identify priority areas for invasive and non-native species management within parks, trails, and natural open spaces, with particular attention to riverfront parks where regulatory requirements may apply. Coordinate removal and restoration efforts with applicable agencies, use phased and site-appropriate management approaches, and pair removal with native revegetation, monitoring, and long-term maintenance to ensure ecological success.

- » **Collaborate with local fire agencies on wildfire management in parks and natural areas:** Actions may include vegetation management, defensible space design, controlled burns or fuel reduction, emergency access planning, and public education programs. Integrate these measures with habitat protection, trail safety, and recreational use to reduce wildfire risk while maintaining ecological and community benefits.
- » **Integrate drought-tolerant, low-maintenance landscapes:** Identify underutilized turf areas in parks and recreation facilities for conversion to native, climate-adapted, and pollinator friendly plantings. Prioritize projects that reduce irrigation demand, mitigate wildfire risk, and align with available maintenance resources. Use standardized plant palettes and design details to ensure long-term durability, ease of upkeep, and consistent performance across sites.
- » **Minimize habitat disruption from development and infrastructure:** Work closely with planning, engineering, and environmental review teams to reduce negative impacts of construction, road improvements, and utilities in and around parklands. Implement mitigation measures such as habitat restoration following disturbances. Use best practices to integrate wildlife corridors, buffer zones, and low-impact access designs.



Amon Creek Natural Preserve (Source: Tapteal Greenway)

- » **Implement a data-driven tree planting program:** Use the results of the City's tree canopy analysis to identify priority areas within parks and public spaces for tree planting. Focus efforts on locations with low canopy coverage, high heat exposure, and heavy public use to improve shade, reduce urban heat impacts, and enhance user comfort. Coordinate planting with long-term maintenance capacity, species selection, and irrigation planning to ensure tree health and program sustainability.
- » **Incorporate long-term cost considerations in natural open space planning:** When planning for land acquisition, trail connections, and new park developments, include full lifecycle cost analysis, including design, construction, maintenance, and potential restoration costs. Use tools such as cost-benefit analysis, scenario planning, and phased implementation to prioritize investments and ensure long-term sustainability of natural open spaces.

- » **Sustain and enhance the Park Ranger program:** Maintain and expand Park Ranger staffing for enforcement, safety monitoring, community outreach, and cleanup efforts. Explore practices such as community education programs, volunteer engagement, and partnership with law enforcement, to enhance safety while fostering positive community relationships. Ensure consistent funding and training to support evolving park needs.
- » **Expand maintenance and operations hubs strategically:** Explore opportunities to develop maintenance yards in the northern and southern regions of the city. This approach can reduce travel times, improve response for emergency maintenance, and allow more efficient management of park and trail assets. Include infrastructure for storage, equipment maintenance, and staff facilities to support long-term operational efficiency.
- » **Upgrade park and trail lighting for safety and efficiency:** Install energy-efficient LED lighting at trailheads, pathways, and parking areas. Ensure lighting design matches park type and intended use, provides adequate safety, and minimizes glare or light pollution. In natural areas, hillsides, and ridgelines, apply dark-sky-compliant lighting solutions that minimize impacts on nocturnal wildlife and maintain the natural character of the landscape.
- » **Modernize park facilities for efficiency and comfort:** Improve heating, cooling, and ventilation systems in park buildings, recreation centers, and museums to enhance energy efficiency and indoor comfort. Integrate sustainability measures, such as energy-efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing, and durable materials, into all renovations and new constructions.
- » **Implement a preventative maintenance program:** Develop and adopt a systematic preventative maintenance program for park infrastructure, equipment, and natural areas. Using the condition assessment tool, maintenance staff should conduct routine inspections and scheduled interventions to reduce unplanned repairs and extend asset life.
- » **Optimize staffing and team coordination:** Address gaps in seasonal, event, and specialized staffing by implementing structured scheduling, cross-training programs, and volunteer support systems. Incorporate staffing practices, such as job rotation, team-based workflows, and succession planning, to improve efficiency and resilience. Provide ongoing training for staff in turf management, natural area stewardship, arboriculture, carpentry, electrical systems, and specialized equipment operation.
- » **Ensure adequate administrative support for operations:** Provide sufficient administrative capacity to manage scheduling, procurement, budgeting, program coordination, reporting, and compliance. Rely on systems and tools that provide reliable data that can be used to streamline workflows, improve transparency, and support data-driven decision-making.



Field Lighting at Leslie Groves Park



Ridges, Rivers, to Neighborhoods highlights the importance of connecting natural areas, shorelines, parks, and trails into a cohesive system that links people to nature and to each other. This building block emphasizes strengthening access, preserving open space and ensuring these connections continue to support recreation, environmental stewardship, and community well-being.

TRAILS AND CONNECTIVITY

- » **Create a “green loop” connecting civic, recreational, educational, and natural destinations in Central Richland:** 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. The City should consider an improved connection that physically links the stage and John Dam Plaza with Howard Amon Park and park amenities including Fingernail Stage and the Riverfront Trail. Improvements could include a unique landscape and street tree species list, pedestrian-oriented streets and crossings, wayfinding signage and public art to create cues of a connected system.
- » **Pursue additional improvements along the Riverfront Trail to fill gaps and improve safety:** Identify street design safety improvements for cyclists and pedestrians along Harris Avenue where the Riverfront Trail ends at Ferry Road. Provide a continuous extension of the Riverfront Trail further north along the Columbia River within Horn Rapids. Create an improved trailhead at Columbia Point Parks for the Riverfront Trail and I-182 trail junction. Improvements should include better wayfinding and information signage, shade, public art, pedestrian-scale lighting, and seating.

- » **Formalize and enhance the Tapteal Trail corridor:** Secure and formalize Tapteal Trail easements, design and construct missing connections, and implement targeted improvements within Richland’s jurisdiction to enhance access, habitat quality, and user experience.
- » **Create strategic trail connections to enhance regional recreation and habitat linkages:** Identify alignments, secure necessary easements, and coordinate with regional partners to develop trail connections between Candy Mountain and Red Mountain and between the Badger Mountain Trail and the Tapteal Trail. Prioritize designs that balance recreational access with habitat protection and long-term maintenance feasibility.



Tapteal Trail (Source: Tapteal Greenway)

- » **Formalize a system of shared-use and single-use trails through designated routes, signage, and trail design:** Work with the organized off-road cycling community to continue adding a mix of multi-use and single-track trails to connect with the City’s trail system. Recognize W.E. Johnson Park as the city’s primary location for equestrian use and evaluate opportunities to formalize and maintain designated equestrian trails or shared-use routes within and beyond the park where appropriate.
- » **Enhance trail education, etiquette, and wayfinding:** Develop and implement a coordinated system of wayfinding, informational and regulatory signage, trail surface marking/stripping where applicable, and educational materials that promote safe trail use and shared-use etiquette. Focus on high-use corridors and conflict areas, and pair physical improvements with outreach efforts to support consistent understanding among all user groups.
- » **Construct small permanent shelters or kiosks at site entrances:** Provide structures with secure storage for tools, materials, and supplies to support volunteer-led trail maintenance, nature education, and habitat monitoring. Locate these where they can support stewardship activities, improve coordination, and serve as a visible hub for ongoing volunteer engagement and environmental care.



Chamna Natural Preserve Trail Signage (Source: Tapteal Greenway)



Kiosk at Badger Flats Trail

NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- » **Revisit City requirements for park and open space dedication:** Review and update development standards to ensure new projects provide adequate natural open space alongside developed park sites. Establish clear guidelines for location, size, and design, and prioritize connectivity with existing parks, trails, and natural areas to support long-term preservation and community access.
- » **Protect and restore shrub-steppe habitat as the city grows northward:** Identify priority shrub-steppe areas for acquisition or conservation easements as development advances northward. Incorporate habitat preservation and restoration requirements into planning and development processes, focusing on native revegetation, invasive species control, and long-term stewardship to maintain ecological function and connectivity.
- » **Expand natural open space along the SR 240 corridor:** As development continues along SR 240, identify opportunities for natural open space preservation, especially within remaining shrub-steppe areas between Twin Bridges and Snively Road.
- » **Develop and construct improvements at South Orchard Park:** Finalize design plans and implement planned park enhancements at South Orchard Park. Coordinate construction in phases to minimize disruption, ensure long-term maintenance feasibility, and incorporate sustainable, low-maintenance materials and landscaping.
- » **Add and maintain safety fencing around sensitive habitat areas:** Install and regularly maintain protective fencing around environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, and restored natural habitats. Fencing should be designed to minimize impacts on wildlife movement while guiding visitors safely along designated trails and recreation zones. Integrate interpretive signage to educate park users about the purpose of the fencing, promote stewardship, and reduce inadvertent disturbance to sensitive habitats.
- » **Remove hazardous trees along shelterbelt:** Identify and assess trees within the shelterbelt that pose safety risks due to disease, structural instability, or storm damage. Develop and implement a phased removal and replacement plan, ensuring that sufficient staff time and maintenance resources are allocated for safe execution. Regularly inspect remaining trees and integrate ongoing monitoring into the City's park maintenance program to prevent future hazards.



Badger Mountain

HIGH QUALITY REINVESTMENT



High Quality Reinvestment emphasizes maintaining and improving existing parks, facilities, and recreation assets so they remain durable, safe, and sustainable over time. This building block prioritizes thoughtful upgrades, regular maintenance, and long-term stewardship to ensure the system continues to serve the community reliably while protecting prior investments.

FIELDS AND COURTS

- » **Increase multi-use field capacity:** Respond to high demand for rectangular fields (soccer, lacrosse, football) by constructing multi-use fields at Hanford Legacy and West Village Community Parks. Upgrade underutilized fields in smaller parks for youth practice or casual recreation.
- » **Coordinate with private sports complex development to understand community and tournament opportunities:** Establish ongoing communication with the owners and operators of the upcoming private sports complex to stay informed about facility planning, programming, and operations. As development progresses, monitor how the facility may complement existing public sports offerings and identify potential opportunities for coordination or partnership where interests align. Maintain awareness of this private investment to support efficient city planning and avoid duplication of facilities, while respecting the independent goals and operations of the private complex.

- » **Support tennis and pickleball play:** Add new pickleball courts only at sites with appropriate separation from nearby residences to mitigate noise impacts. Engage professional organizations, such as USA Pickleball, for guidance on noise reduction, court orientation, and surfacing.
- » **Upgrade neighborhood and community ballfields for youth practice use:** Evaluate existing backstops and smaller diamond fields at neighborhood and community parks to identify opportunities for targeted upgrades. While these fields may not meet regulation size or amenity requirements for competitive baseball or softball, improvements such as surface enhancements, backstop repairs, lighting, and seating can allow them to function effectively as practice areas or sites for younger youth leagues. Prioritize cost-effective upgrades that expand access to youth sports while making efficient use of existing park infrastructure.



Pickleball at Claybell Park

- » **Replace fields at Badger Mountain Park with artificial turf:** Upgrade existing athletic fields by installing durable artificial turf to increase playability and extend seasonal use. Select appropriate turf materials and designs that meet durability and safety standards, then secure necessary funding and approvals. Prepare the site and complete installation, coordinating with user groups to manage scheduling and access during the transition. Establish a plan for ongoing maintenance and monitoring to ensure long-term performance and safety.
- » **Resurface basketball, tennis, and pickleball courts with durable, low-maintenance materials:** Upgrade existing courts using long-lasting surface materials that improve play quality, reduce maintenance costs, and extend facility lifespan. Incorporate surface coatings that enhance traction, minimize injury risk, and provide consistent performance for multiple sports. Where possible, select materials that are weather-resistant and environmentally sustainable. Coordinate resurfacing with other site improvements, such as court lighting, fencing, seating, shade, and accessibility upgrades, to maximize usability and safety. Consider scheduling resurfacing in phases to minimize disruption to park users and coordinate with community programs or leagues.



George Prout Memorial Pool

PLAY AND PROGRAMS

- » **Enhance aquatics facilities and programming at George Prout:** Continue reinvestment in the community pool, including modernization of the pool house, locker rooms, and storage, mechanical systems, and energy efficiency upgrades. Work to expand aquatics programs for all ages, emphasizing recreation, fitness, and water safety education. Given high community interest in aquatics, the City should continue to evaluate opportunities with private and public partners for a future indoor aquatics facility within Richland.
- » **Support adventure and challenge-based recreation:** Respond to community interest in adventure elements by adding or upgrading features such as climbing walls, mountain biking trails, and other challenge-based activities.
- » **Develop programs for youth, young adults, and adults:** Expand structured recreational programming for ages 11–18, young adults, and adult participants, including team sports, skill-building classes, and interest-based activities. Offer flexible scheduling, seasonal leagues, and drop-in options to meet varying needs and foster long-term participation.
- » **Expand aquatics programming and facilities:** Respond to community interest in the expansion of aquatics opportunities by developing additional facilities in the long term. Ensure programs offered at future facilities support recreation, fitness, therapeutic, and water safety education programs.

- » **Update and diversify play areas:** Building on the recommended play area replacement schedule provided in Chapter 6, replace aging neighborhood playgrounds with updated facilities that include universal play, nature-based elements, water play, and themed environments. Add shade structures over playgrounds to improve comfort and usability.
- » **Create inclusive play areas for children of all abilities:** Design playgrounds and park spaces that accommodate neurodivergent children and those with different physical, sensory, or cognitive abilities. Install fencing where appropriate to enhance safety and clearly define active play areas. Provide interactive signage, visual cues, and communication tools tailored to diverse learning and sensory needs. Incorporate features such as quiet zones, sensory-rich elements, and adaptable equipment to support engagement for all users. Explore opportunities for youth and community input in designing or maintaining these inclusive features to foster ownership, learning, and a welcoming environment for every child.

SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- » **Improve seating, shade, and safety amenities:** Expand and strategically place shaded areas and seating throughout parks, trails, and recreation sites to enhance comfort and usability for all ages and abilities. Incorporate durable, low-maintenance materials and designs that withstand weather and high use. Combine seating with activity nodes, viewpoints, or rest stops along trails to encourage longer visits and accessibility. Use trees, shade structures, and canopies to provide

natural cooling, support sustainability goals, and reduce urban heat impacts. Prioritize installations near playgrounds, picnic areas, and high-use gathering spaces, ensuring that improvements align with universal design principles for accessibility.

- » **Add and upgrade restroom facilities at parks:** Install new restrooms or modernize existing facilities across parks to improve accessibility, hygiene, and user experience. Incorporate low-flow fixtures and water-efficient plumbing to reduce water consumption, and use durable, vandal-resistant materials to extend lifespan and reduce maintenance costs. Ensure all restrooms meet ADA accessibility standards, with accessible stalls, pathways, and amenities. Where appropriate, include automatic locking or hands-free systems to improve safety, convenience, and sanitation. Strategically locate restrooms near playgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and high-traffic zones to maximize usability, while considering sightlines, lighting, and site security.
- » **Incorporate accessibility in all park improvements:** Ensure pathways, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and other amenities are fully accessible, applying universal design principles. Conduct long-term assessments of barriers at City parks and recreation facilities, updating the City's ADA Self-Evaluation Transition Plan to guide future improvements.



Uniquely Richland underscores the distinctive landscape, culture, and community identity that make Richland special. This building block emphasizes celebrating local character, fostering education, building community pride, and ensuring that residents and visitors alike understand and appreciate what sets Richland apart.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

- » **Strengthen cultural and arts programming:** Expand upon Richland’s successful cultural event schedule by adding additional programs, performances, and arts-based activities. Prioritize collaborations with local artists, cultural organizations, and community groups to offer diverse experiences that celebrate Richland’s heritage and identity. Include outdoor and park-based venues where possible to integrate arts and recreation and make programs widely accessible.
- » **Enhance public art and educational opportunities through partnerships:** Collaborate with the Richland Arts Commission and the REACH Museum to identify, plan, and implement new public art installations, interpretive features, and educational programs. Use existing City-owned parks, trails, and civic spaces to showcase art and provide interactive learning experiences, integrating these opportunities with recreation and natural resource areas wherever feasible.
- » **Expand outdoor education and nature-based programs:** Build on Richland’s extensive network of natural open spaces to create outdoor learning experiences focused on local ecosystems, conservation, and hands-on environmental education. Partner with schools, community groups, and environmental organizations to deliver programs that engage all ages, encourage stewardship, and utilize Richland’s unique habitats and landscapes as living classrooms.
- » **Create a self-guided or guided historical walking tour:** Develop a self-guided walking tour highlighting Richland’s mid-century modern “alphabet houses,” planned community design, and historic neighborhoods. Provide interpretive signage at key locations or develop a mobile app with multimedia content, maps, and audio commentary to accompany the tour. Include partnerships with local historians, architecture groups, and schools to ensure accuracy and engagement.

Richland’s Historic Alphabet Houses (Source: National Park Service)



- » **Develop adventure-based and skill-building recreation programs:** Respond to growing community interest in activities such as mountain biking, kayaking, and other outdoor skills by creating structured programs, workshops, and guided experiences. Incorporate safety training, skill progression, and access to appropriate facilities, ensuring programs are scalable, sustainable, and meet best practices for risk management.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

- » **Expand communication channels to reach the Richland community:** Develop a comprehensive, multi-channel approach to inform residents about parks, programs, events, and recreational opportunities. Use digital tools such as email newsletters, online catalogs, fact sheets, and press releases that are distributed and prominently displayed on the City website well in advance of program offerings.
- » **Leverage traditional and direct mail communications:** Distribute information through utility bill inserts, mailed flyers, and printed newsletters to reach households that may not access digital channels regularly. Ensure information is delivered well in advance of program offerings.
- » **Increase on-site visibility and signage:** Utilize City banners, posters, and flyers at key locations, including parks, recreation centers, and community hubs, to raise awareness of upcoming programs and events.
- » **Provide inclusive, multilingual communications:** Ensure materials are accessible to all members of the community by providing translations in relevant languages. Incorporate clear visuals and simple language to enhance comprehension and engagement.
- » **Integrate consistent messaging and feedback opportunities:** Coordinate communications across all channels to maintain consistent messaging and provide residents with opportunities to give feedback or ask questions. Track engagement metrics to evaluate effectiveness and adjust strategies to better meet community needs.
- » **Enhance community engagement and volunteerism:** Build and coordinate a robust volunteer program by connecting with partner organizations, schools, and nonprofits, providing training and recognition, and tracking participation to support parks, recreation, cultural programs, and special events, while fostering long-term community involvement.



Volunteer Trail Work (Source: Friends of Badger Mountain)

PARKS AND FACILITIES

- » **Expand Horn Rapids ORV Park through strategic partnerships:** Building on the success of the existing lease agreement with private user groups, explore opportunities to expand the Horn Rapids ORV Park onto adjacent lands owned by the City. Plan expansions in coordination with safety, environmental protection, and maintenance considerations, ensuring dedicated staff resources for oversight, trail management, and user coordination. Leverage this model to strengthen community partnerships while increasing recreation opportunities that are unique to Richland.
- » **Upgrade HAPO Community Stage at Howard Amon Park:** Improve accessibility, power connections, and backstage or storage facilities for the HAPO Community Stage. Address current limitations caused by space constraints and reliance on temporary storage (e.g., trucks). Where feasible, explore storage solutions within or adjacent to the Community Center, while maintaining community event efficiency and flexibility.
- » **Add a nature-themed playground near the Columbia River:** Develop a playground designed around the river ecosystem to provide hands-on learning while encouraging active play. Incorporate interpretive features such as habitat elements, sensory-based play structures, and signage explaining local flora, fauna, and river ecology. Ensure accessibility, shade, and safety standards are met, and integrate pathways connecting the playground to nearby trails and amenities.
- » **Create a water play area focused on river ecology:** Design a water play facility that combines recreation with environmental learning, demonstrating concepts such as river ecosystems, the water cycle, and historical irrigation methods. Include interpretive signage, interactive water features, and safe play elements suitable for a wide age range.
- » **Expand community garden opportunities:** Provide more community gardens and individual plots to support urban agriculture and healthy living. Ensure gardens are accessible and integrated with other park amenities where feasible.
- » **Incorporate challenge and adventure-based recreation:** Develop recreation opportunities that include challenge or adventure elements, such as climbing structures, mountain biking trails, obstacle courses, and aquatic adventure features. Prioritize safety, progressive skill development, and accessibility, and integrate these facilities with existing parks and trail networks to maximize participation and create unique, signature experiences for the community.



HAPO Community Stage

- » **Construct a mountain bike skill-building track:** Develop a dedicated mountain bike facility designed to teach and enhance biking skills for all ages and abilities. Include progressive skill features such as pump tracks, jumps, and technical obstacles, along with signage for safety and skill levels. Locate the track in a park that allows safe separation from pedestrians and integrate it with existing trails to foster a strong community identity around biking in Richland.
- » **Create interpretive “science gardens” around City facilities:** Develop gardens at public facilities (e.g., community center, municipal buildings) that teach about nuclear science, renewable energy, geology, agriculture, river ecology, or other local scientific themes. Incorporate plantings, plaques, and interactive learning stations to engage visitors of all ages. Partner with educational institutions and museums to ensure scientific accuracy and educational value.
- » **Develop a demonstration garden showcasing native Columbia Basin flora:** Establish a visible demonstration garden in a public park that highlights native plants, drought-tolerant species, and climate-adapted landscaping. Include interpretive signage describing plant characteristics, habitat benefits, and sustainable gardening practices. Coordinate with local horticultural experts, schools, and community groups to engage residents and encourage adoption of native plants in private landscapes.



WSU Demonstration Garden (Source: WSU Extension)



Mercer Island Bike Skills Course
(Source: Board and Vellum, American Ramp Company)

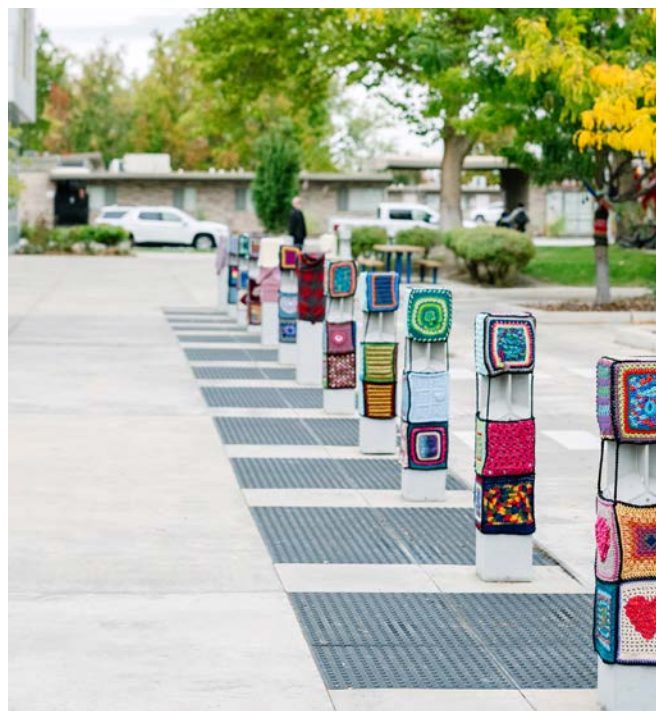
PUBLIC ART

- » **Develop an outdoor exhibit at the Community Center:** Create a flexible outdoor space that can host rotating public art, historical panels, and interactive science installations. Design the courtyard for accessibility, durability, and easy maintenance. Coordinate programming with local artists, schools, and museums to provide a dynamic, evolving space that encourages repeat visits and civic engagement.
- » **Install a “memory wall” celebrating Richland’s history:** Create a permanent or semi-permanent installation in a public space—such as a park, trail, or community center—that features photo panels, quotes, and oral history excerpts from longtime residents. Engage community members in collecting stories and images to convey civic pride and the city’s transformation. Include interpretive elements and durable materials suitable for long-term public display.
- » **Implement a city-wide mural or public art initiative:** Develop a coordinated program to install murals and other public art throughout parks, underpasses, and public buildings that celebrate Richland’s role in science, innovation, and energy. Provide guidance and selection criteria for artwork, and ensure integration with city identity, safety, and maintenance plans.

- » **Host youth and local artist competitions for public installations:** Create opportunities for youth and local artists to design and contribute artwork for parks, trails, and other public spaces. Projects can range in scale from small installations (e.g., painted benches or utility covers) to larger sculptures or murals. Establish clear guidelines, submission processes, and selection criteria to encourage broad participation while aligning projects with City goals and maintenance capacity.



Art in the Park Festival, Howard Amon Park



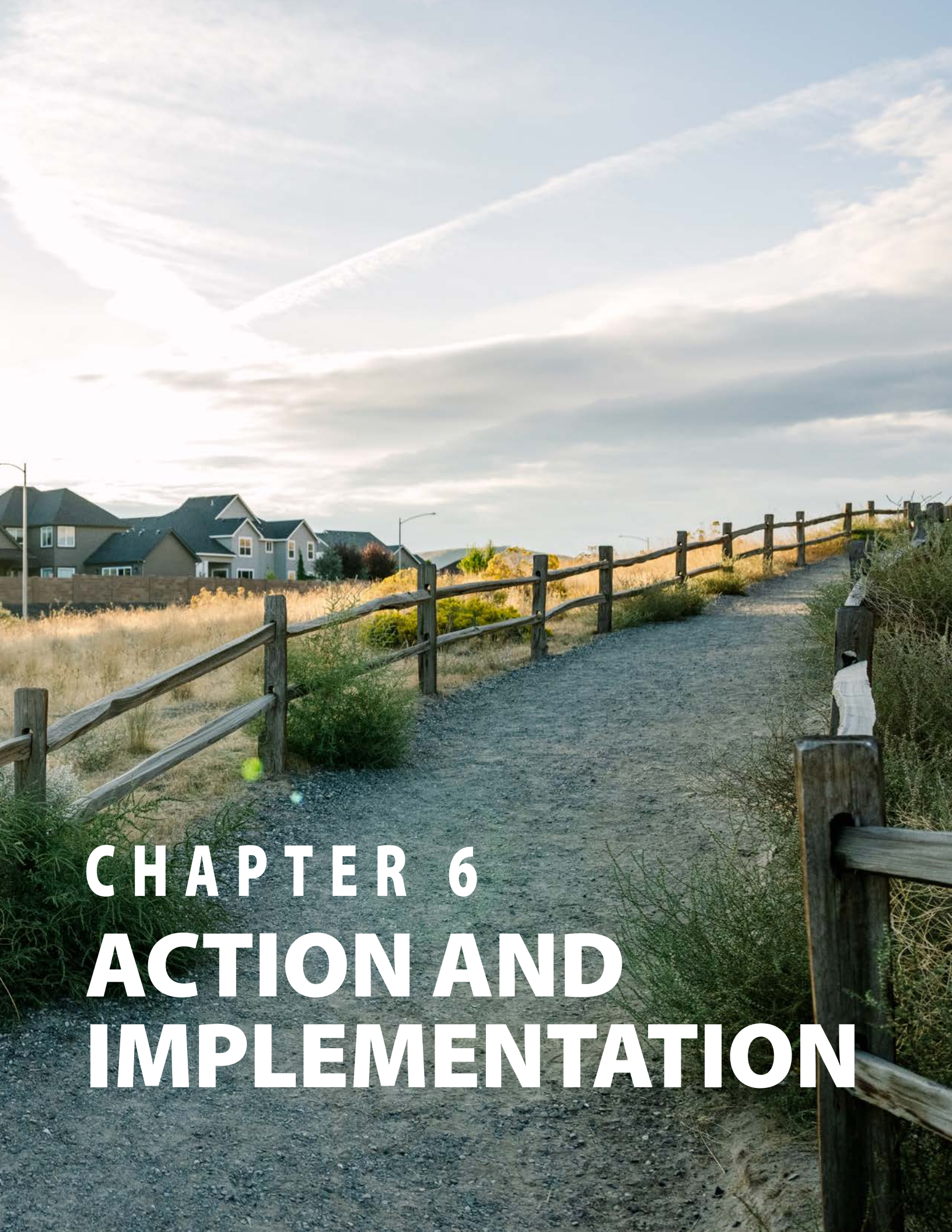
Crocheted Public Art



AMON PARK

Howard Amon Park





CHAPTER 6 ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter presents strategies for implementing the PROS Plan's recommendations, including a summary of capital and maintenance needs for new projects and the system as a whole, project prioritization criteria, and an action plan to achieve the community's vision for the future.

The PROS Plan process revealed that Richland residents want an interconnected, well-maintained, and sustainable park and recreation system that highlights the City's unique history and culture, supports a healthy natural environment, and responds to a diverse range of community needs.

The City currently maintains and operates an expansive park and recreation system that residents are proud of, although continued investment is needed to maintain what already exists and to create new opportunities that meet evolving needs and priorities. This chapter provides a collection of useful tools to facilitate implementation of the community's vision for Richland's park and recreation system over the next six years and beyond, setting up the envisioned park system into the long-term future.

Howard Amon Park



CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Capital improvement projects are major park and facility improvement projects and maintenance responsibilities that implement the community’s vision for the future of Richland’s park and recreation system. These projects are a direct result of the community input, local priorities, and technical analysis heard and conducted during the PROS Plan’s planning process. This approach represents a shift from traditional parks and recreation planning approaches that rely heavily on prescriptive level-of-service standards, such as a specific number of acres or facilities per 1,000 residents. The City has placed a greater emphasis on measures such as equitable access to parks and facilities, connectivity, quality of amenities, and the community’s

desired recreation experiences rather than solely on numerical service standards. This approach allows the City to respond more effectively to local needs while providing a flexible framework for future investments.

Map 6-1 illustrates Richland’s future park system, identifying the location of recommended capital projects across the city. Appendix D provides planning level costs and average annual maintenance costs at each site.

The City has an ongoing list of minor or routine park and facility improvement needs not included in the capital project recommendations. These costs are budgeted on an ongoing and annual basis and should be considered when budgeting for major capital projects identified in this Plan.

FIGURE 6-1: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN SNAPSHOT



OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS

In addition to major capital projects, all sites will continue to require routine and preventative maintenance to care for City assets. Based on historic budgets, maintenance practices, and proposed improvements, the City should plan on budgeting an average of \$8.8 million per year to maintain the envisioned park and recreation system. Tables D-3 and D-4 in Appendix D summarize recommended operations and maintenance needs.

As shown in Appendix D, Richland's varied park types each require different levels of maintenance. Parks with higher levels of use, such as the City's riverfront regional parks and those with specialized facilities and/or programming, will require a greater level of maintenance. Alternatively, sites with a significant amount of natural open space require less intensive, but more specialized maintenance and natural resource stewardship in addition to the maintenance needed for more developed areas.

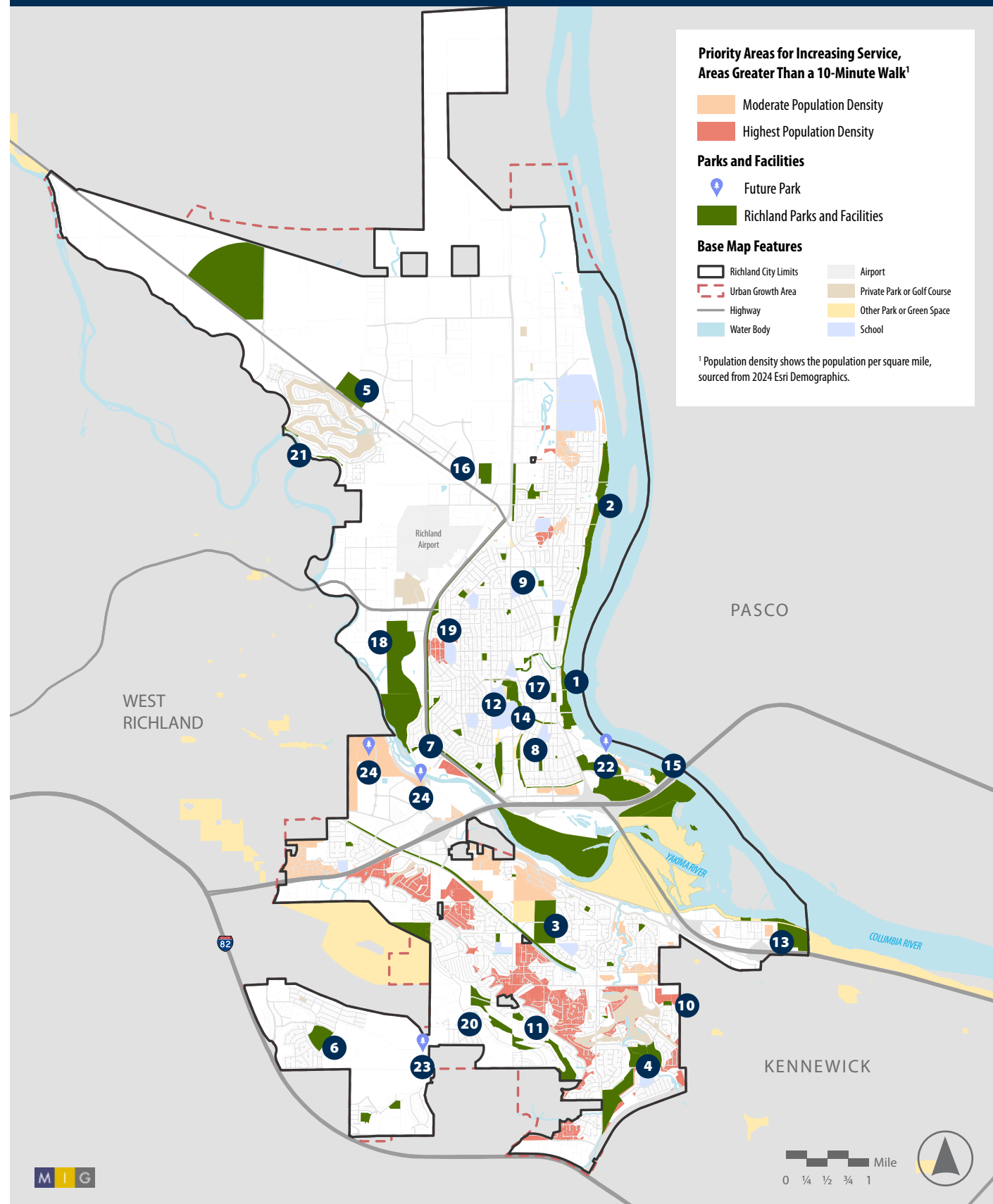
HOW ARE COSTS IDENTIFIED?

The planning level costs in Appendix D include capital costs and annual maintenance costs by site.

Capital Costs represent one-time costs to acquire, develop, build, replace, or renovate park infrastructure and features. Capital cost assumptions are based on general order-of-magnitude planning-level expenses. Costs are typically assigned per facility or by unit (e.g., per acre of park or per mile of trail) to account for differences in site size. These estimates reflect planning level construction cost assumptions in 2026 dollars and do not account for future inflation. Design details and construction realities such as site conditions, supply chain issues, material and labor shortages, and similar factors may affect actual costs. Actual costs should be determined through site master planning and design at the time of development. The costs do not include environmental compliance documentation, community engagement, design, permitting, installation, or staff hours to manage site planning, design, construction, and implementation. Those elements could escalate park development costs by approximately 20-25 percent.

Maintenance Costs represent annual recurring costs for routine and preventative maintenance, irrigation, and services such as the inspection and stewardship of facilities, amenities, natural resources, and landscaped areas. Maintenance cost assumptions are based on the City's 2020-2024 average annual maintenance expenditures and are provided at three tiers: standard park maintenance, enhanced park maintenance (125% of standard park maintenance costs), and natural open space maintenance (50% of standard park maintenance costs). Each tier is intended to address a standard level of routine and preventative maintenance, operations, maintenance staffing, materials/equipment, and services. Actual maintenance costs per site may vary.

MAP 6-1: FUTURE PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM



CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 1 Howard Amon Park Improvements*
- 2 Leslie Groves Park Restroom
- 3 Badger Mountain Park Baseball Field
- 4 Claybell Community Park Playground
- 5 Hanford Legacy Park Master Plan
- 6 West Village Community Park Development
- 7 Drollinger Park Playground
- 8 Goethals Park Playground & Parking*
- 9 McMurray Park Playground
- 10 Meadows East Park Playground
- 11 Crested Hills Park Improvements
- 12 George Prout Memorial Pool Upgrades
- 13 Columbia Park West Restroom & Planning
- 14 Columbia Playfield Playground & Restrooms*
- 15 Columbia Point Marina Park Improvements*
- 16 Horn Rapids Athletics Complex Renovations
- 17 John Dam Plaza Facility Upgrades
- 18 W.E. Johnson Park Improvements*
- 19 By-Pass Shelterbelts Hazard Tree Removal
- 20 Little Badger Mountain Improvements*
- 21 Tapteal Trail Master Plan
- 22 Bradley Landing Linear Park Development*
- 23 Badger Mountain South Neighborhood Park Master Plan
- 24 City View Park Development
- 25 DNR Park Master Plan

*There are multiple capital projects associated with this site. Refer to Appendix D for the complete list of recommended capital projects.

SYSTEM-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS

- » Trail & Asphalt Condition Assessment
- » Dock & Boat Launch Renovation/Replacement
- » System-Wide Park Signage
- » Riverfront Trail Shoreline Stabilization

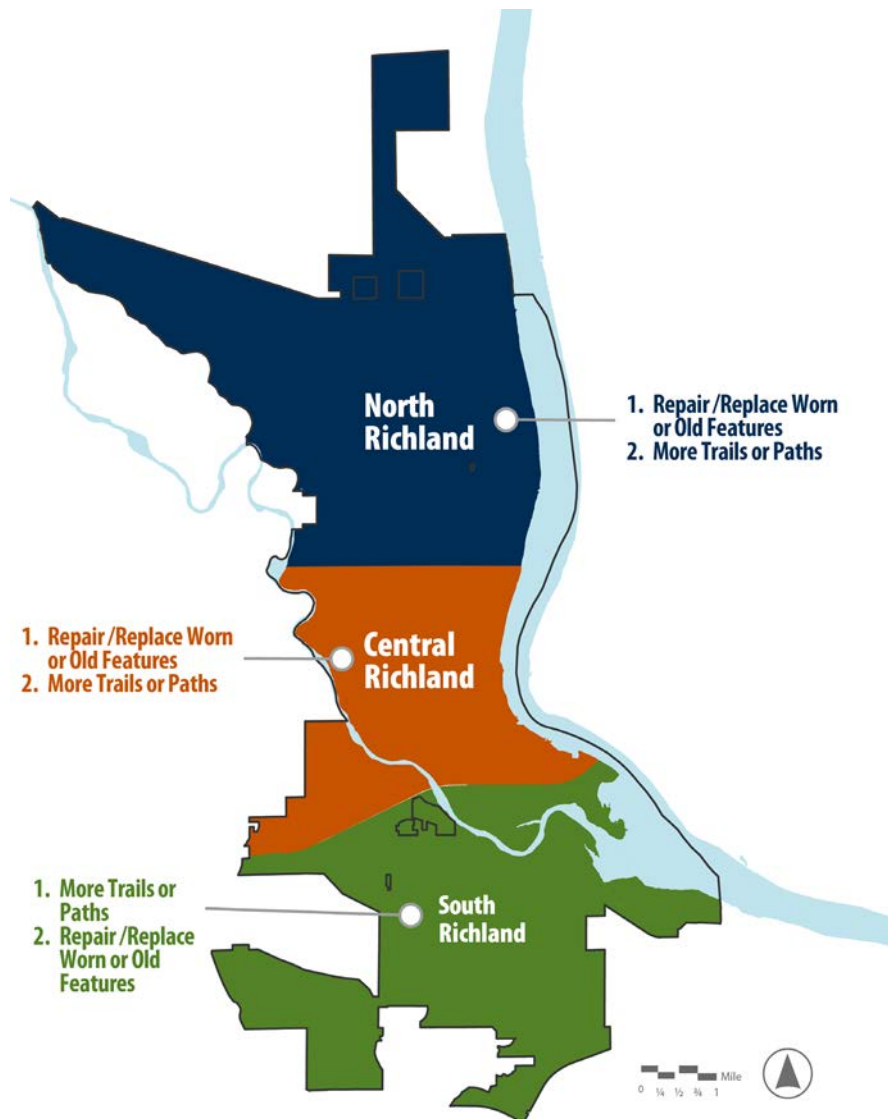
SHORT-TERM PRIORITY PROJECTS

Not all projects will be completed over the six-year implementation period, given the funding available or reasonably projected during this period. Recommended projects must be prioritized to ensure implementation of the PROS Plan is phased realistically over time. As part of the planning process, the City conducted a second online community survey to help prioritize capital project recommendations

for park and recreation services. The survey asked participants to prioritize project types by area of the city. Figure 6-2 summarizes key findings from the survey.

Prioritization survey outcomes along with information from the park condition assessment, park access analysis, discussions with the Park and Recreation Commission, and City staff feedback informed how the PROS Plan's capital projects were prioritized for implementation over time. Table 6-1 summarizes major capital projects recommended over the next two years.

FIGURE 6-2: ONLINE COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION SURVEY TOP TWO PRIORITIES BY AREA OF THE CITY



PRIORITY PROJECTS CAPITAL COSTS

Approximately \$7.2 million is needed to implement the priority projects anticipated over the next two years (Table 6-1). The priority projects emphasize reinvestment in Richland’s existing parks and recreation system through targeted facility renovations, trail and marina improvements, playground replacements, master planning efforts, and enhanced recreational amenities. This reinvestment focus on existing parks and facilities mirrors many of the ideas, opportunities, and needs expressed during the community engagement process.

TABLE 6-1: PRIORITY CAPITAL PROJECT SUMMARY

SITE	PROJECT
System-wide Improvements	Trail & Asphalt Condition Assessment Riverfront Trail Shoreline Stabilization
Howard Amon Park	Renovate Fingernail Stage
Leslie Groves Park	Snyder Street Restroom Renovation
Meadows East Park	Renovate Playground
Columbia Park West	Update Park Master Plan
Columbia Playfield	Renovate Existing Playground as Destination Playground Renovate Restroom
Columbia Point Marina Park	Renovate Playground Dredge Marina
W.E. Johnson Park	Archery Range Improvements
Little Badger Mountain Park	Parking Lot and Trailhead Development
Horn Rapids Natural Space	Tapteal Trail Master Plan

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

To assist the City in focusing on future projects, partnership opportunities, or community requests, the PROS Plan presents an evaluation process for prioritizing capital projects. Since the PROS Plan cannot anticipate all future projects as community needs and system realities evolve over the next six years and beyond, this evaluation framework will help prioritize new projects as they arise. This framework provides staff with a helpful tool to work collaboratively with elected and appointed officials and the Richland community to prioritize and complete park improvement projects as available funding and resources allow. These criteria should also be used to help evaluate applications to the City's Park Partnership Program.

HEALTH, SAFETY, CONDITION, AND USE

- » The project alleviates a health or safety concern.
- » The project restores use to a nonfunctional facility or a currently unused facility/space.
- » The project replaces a facility at, or near, the end of its lifecycle.
- » The project mitigates pollution or environmental hazards.
- » The project supports increased capacity, improved maintenance or operations, or recreational use at a highly used site or facility.

ENHANCED ACCESS

- » The project is within, or directly serves, an area with identifiable high population density per data sources.
- » The project improves connectivity or access to an existing site.
- » The project includes universal design or accessibility components that provides recreation opportunities for people regardless of age, ability, or other characteristics by applying principles that go beyond basic accessibility standards.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY / ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- » The project aligns with regional and state climate guidance (e.g., Tri-Cities Regional Climate Element or the Washington Climate Commitment Act).
- » The project addresses climate resiliency by mitigating or adapting to climate impacts. Specific examples include green infrastructure (e.g., bioswales, rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, etc.), urban cooling (e.g., shade trees, green corridors, etc.), planting restoration, wildfire risk reduction, or shoreline stabilization.
- » The project protects or enhances a natural resource.



Chamna Natural Preserve (Source: Washington Trails Association)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- » The project supports another city project or initiative.
- » The project has stated neighborhood, stakeholder, and/or business interest and support.
- » The project is popular/has substantial citywide interest.

RECREATION AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- » The project offers a new recreation, cultural or educational opportunity that is not currently offered by the city.
- » The project offers an expanded recreation, cultural, or educational opportunity that is currently insufficient for the community.
- » The project serves a variety of user ages, cultures, and abilities.
- » The project protects or enhances an identified cultural or historic landmark.

URGENCY AND EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION

- » The project acquires land while the opportunity exists to do so.
- » The project can be done quickly and efficiently. It is “shovel ready” (i.e., advanced planning, feasibility studies and permitting have been completed).
- » The project uses existing resources (e.g., acquired land, facilities, equipment).

CAPITAL, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATIONS COST OFFSETS

- » The project is partially funded through outside (non-city) funding, such as grants, donations, partnerships, other agency funds, etc.
- » The project will generate revenue to offset operation costs.
- » There is outside funding available to cover ongoing maintenance costs.
- » The project involves repair or rehabilitation that decreases long-term costs or increases maintenance and operational efficiencies.
- » The project delivers high value for the cost of resources needed, relative to other projects.
- » The project uses or leverages existing resources (e.g., staffing, funding), and/or unlocks other capital.

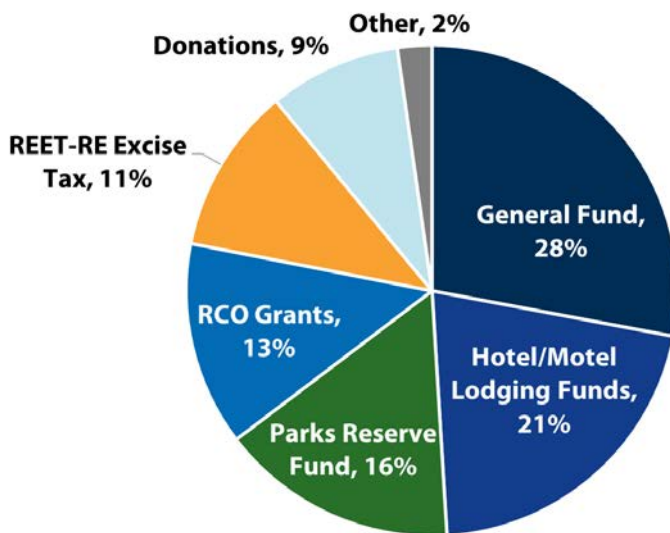
Claybell Park



CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING

The City of Richland has historically relied on four primary regular funding sources to fund parks capital projects: the General Fund, Lodging Funds, the Parks Reserve Fund, and Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET). In addition to these sources, the City also has successfully received grant funding and donations which vary from year to year. Sustainable capital funding that relies on existing funding sources (at typical funding levels) may be available to fund a majority of the capital projects.

FIGURE 6-3: PARKS CAPITAL FUNDING SOURCES, CITY OF RICHLAND (2020-2025)



Source: City of Richland

POTENTIAL CAPITAL FUNDING

Additional funding, and a greater variety of funding sources, will be necessary to fund the capital costs of priority projects, and any additional projects that arise over the next six years. Of the \$7.2 million needed for priority projects, approximately \$1.2 million are capacity enhancing or impact fee eligible and many of the park renovation projects will likely also be eligible for impact fee funding depending on the extent of improvements. Richland should consider the additional potential funding sources, which may include but are not limited to the following funding sources.

INCREASED IMPACT FEES

The City of Richland must update its impact fee rates to comply with Washington State Law in coordination with updates to the Comprehensive Plan. With this update, the City has the opportunity to update their rate study and adopt increased impact fee rates based on the current parks system, population growth rates, and needs to serve growth. RCW 82.02.050 (5)(a) requires that impact fees be used for public facilities included in their capital facilities plan. Including the range of projects that are eligible for impact fees provides the City with flexibility to use any collected increased impact fees on projects that serve the needs of growth. The City may also adopt an annual inflation adjustment to ensure that park impact fees keep pace with inflation.

GRANTS

State and federal government grant funding is another resource that the City of Richland may leverage to support capital costs for parks. Grants are a limited resource due to typical requirements for matching funds, application requirements that use limited staff resources, and are restricted in use to the project for which an application was submitted. However, grant funding can be a suitable resource for selected projects. Grant funds are opportunity-based, meaning past successes in obtaining grants are not necessarily the best measure for the amounts or types of funding that may be received in the future.

Potential grant opportunities to pursue include the Washington Local Community Projects Program, Federal Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town grant program. Additional opportunities may include foundation and corporate grant programs, such as the Walmart Spark Good Local Grants Program, the T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program, AARP Community Challenge grants, and other philanthropic funding sources that support community facilities, placemaking, recreation, and public space improvements.

PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Richland has successfully leveraged partnerships to fund a variety of projects in the past. These types of opportunities may be leveraged to fund more projects than existing funding resources allow. The City will continue to collaborate with local partners and businesses – typically to move forward with smaller projects or portions of larger projects.

BONDS

Unlimited tax general obligation bonds are an important resource to support capital improvements. These funding measures require 60% voter approval. Bonds are designed to generate property taxes sufficient to repay the amount of debt required for the specific capital purpose for which they were passed. The City of Richland may consider a bond to fund a specific package of projects. Further public polling may be needed to evaluate public support for a bond measure, including potential taxing rates and the mix of projects.

SIX-YEAR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING

Between 2023 and 2025, Richland's General Fund budget for park operations and maintenance (Parks & Facilities) have averaged approximately \$7.9 million annually. Based on recommended park improvements and future park and recreation facilities, the City may need as much as \$8.8 million annually for park maintenance and facility operations. General fund revenues are the largest source of funding used to support parks operations and maintenance costs. The City's general fund is primarily supported by property and sales taxes and allow the City to use these funds for a wide range of priority expenditures. Additional funding sources through private sponsorships, concession fees, and donations should also continue to be leveraged to help fund the deficit between operations and maintenance revenues for parks and recreation.

MOVING FORWARD: A CALL TO ACTION

The people of Richland have reaffirmed the desired future vision for a healthy, fun, and connected park and recreation system. The City is also committed to continuing its legacy of providing high quality parks and recreation services. City leaders, staff, partners, and the larger community will be critical to carry out the envisioned future of Richland's parks and recreation system. As next steps to support implementation, the City should:

- » Publicize the results of the PROS Plan to convey how community input shaped the Plan and its outcomes, and to collaborate with partners and leverage donations. Community commitment will be key to moving the vision forward. Examples such as the "52 in 25" outreach program are excellent ways to showcase the park and recreation system, while building awareness and ongoing stewardship of these important resources. Partnerships and agreements between the City and other local serving agencies and private and institutional organizations increase the City's capacity to implement this Plan.
- » Use the PROS Plan and park condition assessment data to guide ongoing phasing of needed improvements to aging recreation facilities and park amenities. The six-year project list identifies top priority renovations, but the City should continue reinvestment in existing parks to improve or replace park assets using prioritization criteria as a guide to evaluate future projects. With high maintenance expectations and a extensive inventory of park assets, the City should continue to monitor staffing needs to meet the demands of a high quality and growing park and recreation system.
- » With the PROS Plan as a foundation, the City should continue to support programs and events with sufficient staffing and infrastructure to sustain year-round activities. The range and quality of opportunities provided by the City and its partners is essential to the community, while also generating tourism and national attention from large events such as IRONMAN. The City should promote and market this system as essential to community public health, a clean environment, and a strong local economy.
- » Continue to evaluate opportunities for transformational recreation investments that address long-term community needs and enhance Richland's regional destination appeal such as development of a new aquatics facility, major renovation of George Prout Memorial Pool, or creation of a sports tourism complex. While funding has not yet been identified for these projects, the City should pursue feasibility studies, partnerships, grant opportunities, and other funding strategies to better understand their potential benefits, costs, and implementation pathways.
- » The PROS Plan is intended to be updated periodically to allow for flexibility and to respond as community needs, funding opportunities, and City priorities evolve. The City should continue to listen to the community and validate or adjust the Plan, focusing on progress towards identified gaps in the system. Following the adoption of this Plan, the City should develop a work plan to coincide with the annual City budget process to reevaluate progress, to reassess priorities, and to adjust for new opportunities.



Badger Mountain Park



APPENDIX A
PARKS & FACILITY
INVENTORY



APPENDIX B
PARK NEEDS
& CONDITION
ASSESSMENT



PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

APPENDIX B: PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This appendix summarizes the high-level park condition assessment conducted to support ongoing planning, maintenance prioritization, and systemwide investment decisions for Richland's parks. The assessment provides a snapshot of existing conditions across selected park assets, with emphasis on functionality, user comfort, amenity quality, and visible maintenance needs. These observations are intended to inform future capital improvement discussions, operational planning, and long-term stewardship strategies rather than serve as detailed engineering or safety inspections.

METHODOLOGY

City staff conducted high-level observations of select parks to better understand overall conditions, amenities, and user comfort across Richland's park system. To ensure consistency across sites, assets were evaluated using a standardized rating scale described below. The ratings reflect general physical condition, functionality, and anticipated maintenance or replacement needs based on observable factors at the time of review. The qualitative condition ratings were converted to numerical scores ranging from 0 to 4 in the accompanying spreadsheet.

- **Excellent (4):** Asset is currently fully functional and in excellent working condition. It likely is a newer asset that will not require repair in the near future.
- **Good (3):** Asset is currently fully functional and in good working condition. Minor cosmetic defects may exist, but the asset is not in need of repair at the moment. As long as the asset receives routine maintenance, replacement should not be needed until the end of the asset's anticipated lifecycle.
- **Fair (2):** Asset is currently functional but is old, worn, or in need of repairs or renovation in the short term. Surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features are operational and allow play, although moderate damage is evident. The asset should be considered for future repair and/or replacement.
- **Poor (1):** Asset has significant damage or has parts that are unusable. Significant repairs or short-term replacement are needed to continue to be functional and/or safe.
- **Non-Functional (0):** The entire asset is unusable. Immediate repair or replacement is necessary.

The resulting ratings provide a comparative overview of asset conditions across the system and

highlight areas where reinvestment, preventative maintenance, or upgrades may be warranted. While not exhaustive, this assessment offers a practical baseline for prioritization and helps identify trends that can guide future park planning and resource allocation.

Appendix B: Park Condition Assessment Summary

Park Name	Park Type	Notes	Asset Condition (1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Excellent)											Average	
			Graffiti	Shade Availability	Access Issue	BBQ Grills	Benches	Bike Racks	Pet Waste Station	Picnic Tables	Trash or Recycling Receptacles	Drinking Fountains	Off-Street Parking		
FRANKFORT PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Could use fixed 55 gal drums for garbage, only 1 picnic table could use another one. Turf in good condition	1	2	3		3			2	2	3	3	3	2.5
GILLESPIE PARKWAY	LINEAR	This is more of a walking path than a park, no dog bag station	1	3	1	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	2.5
MC MURRAY PARK		No fixed garbage cans. 2 101 cans, no dog bag station. Damage to plastic cover at playground	1	3	1		2			3	2	3	3	3	2.4
GALA PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	No dog bag station. Only 2 101 cans. Playground material ripping up. Could use drinking fountain in future.	1	3	1		3			3	2	3	3	2	2.4
GOETHALS PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	No fixed garbage cans could use some by rope swing, 3 101 in south parking lot. Could use another picnic table on south side of park. Could also use bark by rope swing fabric is showing.	1	1	3	3	2	3	1	2	3	3	3	2	2.3
MEADOWS EAST PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Only 1 101 garbage can. Turf in good condition leaves need cleaned up	1	1	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2.3
STEVENS PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Broken swing bench at playground, no dog bag station. Only 101 garbage can no fixed garbage cans. Turf in good condition. Restroom in very good condition.	1	2	1		3			3	3	3	3	1	2.3
WESTWOOD PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	1 101 garbage can could use fixed garbage. No dog bag station. Turf in good condition.	1	2	1		3			3	2	3		3	2.3
PAUL LIDDELL PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Could use fixed 55 gal drums for garbage, asphalt path needs patched in some areas.	1	2	3		1			1	3	3	3		2.2
JEANNETTE TALOR PARK	SPECIAL USE	2 benches are missing that use to be here. Damage to pipe chase door, gets constant graffiti but gets painted over very fast. No dog bag station.	2	3	1		3			3	3	3	1	1	2.2
HILLS WEST PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Only 1 101 garbage can no fixed garbage. No dog bag station. Turf in good condition.	1	2	3					3	1	3			2.2
DESERT RIM PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Only 1 101 can, maybe could use one by playground, turf in good condition not much flat area for any activities. Bench by swings could be replaced coating falling off.	1	3	1		3			1	2	2	3		2.1
DROLLINGER PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Could use fixed garbage cans. Could use broadleaf control on turf	1	1	1		3			1	2	3	3	2	2.0
CRESTED HILLS PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Only 2 101 garbage cans could use something by playground. Turf in great condition. Gazebo needs major repairs soon, huge crack in metal picture attached.	1	3	1		1	3	1	1	1	3	3		2.0
CRAIGHILL PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	No dog waste station, no fixed garbage cans only 101 cans. Basketball court could use pressure washing	1	3	1		1			3	3	3	1	2	2.0
JEFFERSON PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Turf in very good condition, could use 55 gal cans by playground and gazebo. Baseball fields in good condition as well.	1	1	1	3	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2.0
JAMES J. LAWLESS PARK	LINEAR	Only 1 101 garbage can. Not much use at this park compared to others.	1	2	1					3		2		3	2.0
CHAPARRAL PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Only 1 101 garbage can. Turf in good condition. Would be nice to have drinking fountain in park.	1	2	1					1	1	3	3	3	2.0
LYNNWOOD LOOP PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Only 1 101 garbage can could use something by playground area. A lot of open turf in middle of park. Turf in great condition.	1	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	1.9
ROD BLOCK PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Only 1 101 garbage can no fixed 55 gal drums for garbage. Could use new bench by basketball court. Turf in good condition.	1	2	1		3			1	2	3	1	2	1.8
TRAILHEAD PARK	COMMUNITY	Plenty of 101 cans no fixed garbage cans. Turf in very good condition.	1	2	3		1			1	3	2	2	1	1.8

BEVERLY HEIGHTS PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	No fixed garbage cans only 101, needs new picnic bench the one here is bent. Turf in good condition.	1	2	1	2	1	3	3	1	1.8			
CLAYBELL PARK	COMMUNITY	Padding at playground needs some patch work. Only 101 cans could use some fixed 55s around playgrounds, pickleball court gets ton of use during summer.	1	2	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1.8
COLUMBIA PARK WEST	SPECIAL USE	No dog waste station. Restroom could use renovation. Only 3 101 cans could use fixed garbage cans.	1	3	1	2	1	3	2	2	1	1.7		
W.E. JOHNSON PARK	SPECIAL USE	3 101 cans by archery range, road coming in is in rough shape. Not a lot of use here.	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	1.7				
WYE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	No fixed benches in park. Only 3 101 cans could use some by playground. Bathroom needs renovation	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	2	1.7	
OAK PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	No fixed garbage cans. Could use a picnic bench. Turf is in good condition.	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1.7			
WEST VILLAGE	NEIGHBORHOOD	Still in development, park will have way more amenities in the future	1	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1.6	
BARTH PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	No fixed garbage cans. Everything in good condition	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1.6				
OVERLOOK PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Very small park. 1 101 can is probably enough. Turf in good condition	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1.6			
KEENE RD TRAIL	LINEAR	Keene trail has garbage cans throughout the trail, could use some more benches along path.	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	1.6				
BROOKSTONE PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Open turf next to playground but not very level. Only 1 101 can needs more garbage cans.	1	2	1	1	3	1.6						
ABBOT SHELTERBELT	LINEAR	No trash cans throughout belt. Graffiti on sign next to Abbot Street pull in.	2	1	1	1	3	1.6						
HAINS LEVEE TRAIL	LINEAR	Few 55 gal paths along path newer asphalt path in very good condition.	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	1.6				
JASON LEE PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	No fixed garbage cans, only 1 101 can along street, turf in good condition.	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	1.6			
JOHN DAM PLAZA	SPECIAL USE	Plenty of 101 trash cans. Park used a lot during summer for live at 5 and see3slam. Huge light show during Christmas time.	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1.5		
BY-PASS SHELTERBELT - CENTRAL NO LINEAR		A few spots with raised asphalt from tree roots that need cut out and repaired. A few 55 gal cans along walk path.	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1.4			
HORN RAPIDS ATHLETIC COMPLEX	SPECIAL USE	55 gal trash cans at every dugout. Bleachers are old but think they are going to be replaced next year. Hole in concrete next to building, could lead to foundation failure? Fields in great condition. Restroom could use renovation.	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1.4		
BRADLEY BLVD PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	Not much area here for any activity's, garbage cans along path and 3 101s in parking lot.	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1.4				
BADGER MOUNTAIN PARK	COMMUNITY	One of the best maintained parks in the south area. Gets the most use during summer for sports / splash pad and playground activities. Could maybe use some fixed garbage cans at gazebos on east end of park. Turf in good condition	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1.4	
COLUMBIA POINT MARINA	SPECIAL USE	Plenty of 55 gal cans at all 4 gazebos. Sand next to beach always gets on turf from wind needs broomed off once a month or so. Turf in good condition.	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1.4
HOWARD AMON PARK	REGIONAL	Plenty of 55 gal garbage cans and 101s throughout the whole park. Always a team down here keeping it clean. Fingernail paint is in rough conditions in some spots. The new playground and fitness court are in excellent condition. Most used park.	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1.4
HUNT POINT CIRCLE	BEAUTIFICATION	Not much of a park, more of a street scape in neighborhood	1	2	1	1.3								
CHAMNA NATURAL PRESERVE	OPEN SPACE	Natural preserve, path is maintained by tapteal greenway. Not much work we do here. 2 101 cans in parking lot.	1	2	1	1	1	2	1.3					

LESLIE GROVES PARK - OPEN SPACE	OPEN SPACE	This is area by Haines levee bathroom. Not much room along walking path for anything. Turf and comfort station in good condition.	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1.3	
LESLIE GROVES PARK	REGIONAL	Plenty of 55 gal and 101 garbage cans. Parking lot is always packed on south end of park in summer time. Parks gets a ton of activity during summer and walking paths are used year round.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1.3
COLUMBIA PLAYFIELD	SPECIAL USE	Plenty of Garabage cans 55 gal cans at every dugout. Fields and turf in very good condition. Complex gets tons of use and spring summer and fall. Playground is fenced off, needs work done.	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1.3
BY-PASS SHELTERBELT - SOUTH	LINEAR	Path is on rough shape due to tree roots. 55 gal garbage cans along path.	1	1	1	2	1	1				1.2
BY-PASS SHELTERBELT - CENTRAL SOI	LINEAR	Shelterbelt walking path a few 55 gal cans and dog bag station.	1	1	1		1	1				1.0

Note the following sites did not have assessment data and were therefore not included in the above list: Amon Creek Natural Preserve, Badger Mountain Natural Preserve, Bateman Island, By-Pass Shelterbelt (North), Carol Woodruff Park, Columbia Point Golf Course, Hanford Legacy Park, Heritage Hills Park, Horn Rapids ORV Park, Little Badger Park, Marjorie Sutch Park, Trailhead Park, Yakima River Delta Management



APPENDIX C ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



APPENDIX C: ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This appendix provides a consolidated summary of community and stakeholder engagement conducted throughout the planning process. Engagement activities were designed to gather diverse perspectives, understand community priorities, identify needs and opportunities, and help guide recommendations for parks, recreation facilities, programs, and natural open spaces. The materials included here reflect input collected through interviews, surveys, and outreach efforts conducted at multiple stages of the process.

CONTENTS

To preserve the original context of feedback, the following summaries, descriptions, and materials are included as they were originally published. Together, they document the breadth of outreach undertaken and provide important supporting context for the plan's findings, priorities, and recommendations.

- **Community interview summaries and notes from those meetings.** To help assess needs and opportunities, the Project Team conducted video conference interviews with a variety of groups, organizations, and individuals who represent specific community interests and perspectives. The Project Team held a total of five meetings with groups organized by interest and perspective, including accessibility, trails and conservation, large events, youth sports, and City partners. Each meeting 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. The Project Team also developed an Ambassador Toolkit that was distributed to over 52 community partners and organizations to gather additional ideas, questions, and priorities, as well as providing a link to the online community survey.
- **Online community wide survey (community survey #1) results.** The City launched an open access 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. 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 City shared information to complete the survey 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.

- **Online Community prioritization activity (community survey #2) results.** In the final stages of the planning process, the City launched a second online community survey to help prioritize potential park, facility, and natural open space projects for implementation over the next six years and beyond. The survey was available online from December 16, 2025, through January 11, 2026, and received a total of 1,208 responses.

These materials collectively illustrate how community input informed the planning process and provide a record of the engagement foundation supporting this plan.

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

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 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 business 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 kinds 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=uMzy8o53hzBja3kI5LHRhuRzbEwBm4.1>

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,

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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!



www.ci.richland.wa.us/PROSplan

R
Richland

FUTURE IN FOCUS
CITY OF RICHLAND
PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

WHAT WILL RICHLAND'S PARKS LOOK LIKE IN **10** YEARS?

SCAN ME!

SHARE YOUR IDEAS!
TAKE THE PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN SURVEY
bit.ly/RichlandPROSCommunitySurvey

The flyer features a background image of a park with people near a lake. It includes the City of Richland logo, the survey title, a QR code, and a call to action to share ideas.



www.ci.richland.wa.us/PROSplan

R
Richland

FUTURE IN FOCUS
CITY OF RICHLAND
PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

¿CÓMO SE VERÁN LOS PARQUES DE RICHLAND DENTRO DE **10** AÑOS?

ESCANEE

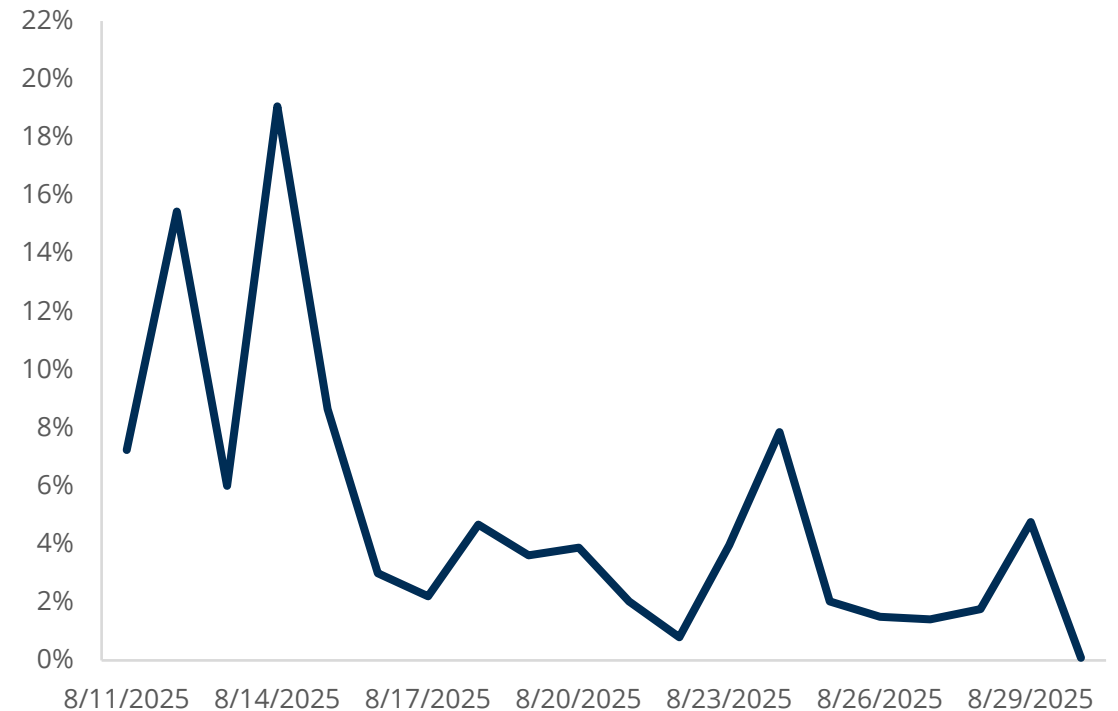
¡COMPARTA SUS IDEAS!
RESPONDA LA ENCUESTA SOBRE PARQUES Y RECREACIÓN
bit.ly/RichlandPROSEncuestaComunidad

The flyer features a background image of a park with people near a lake. It includes the City of Richland logo, the survey title, a QR code, and a call to action to share ideas.

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%).

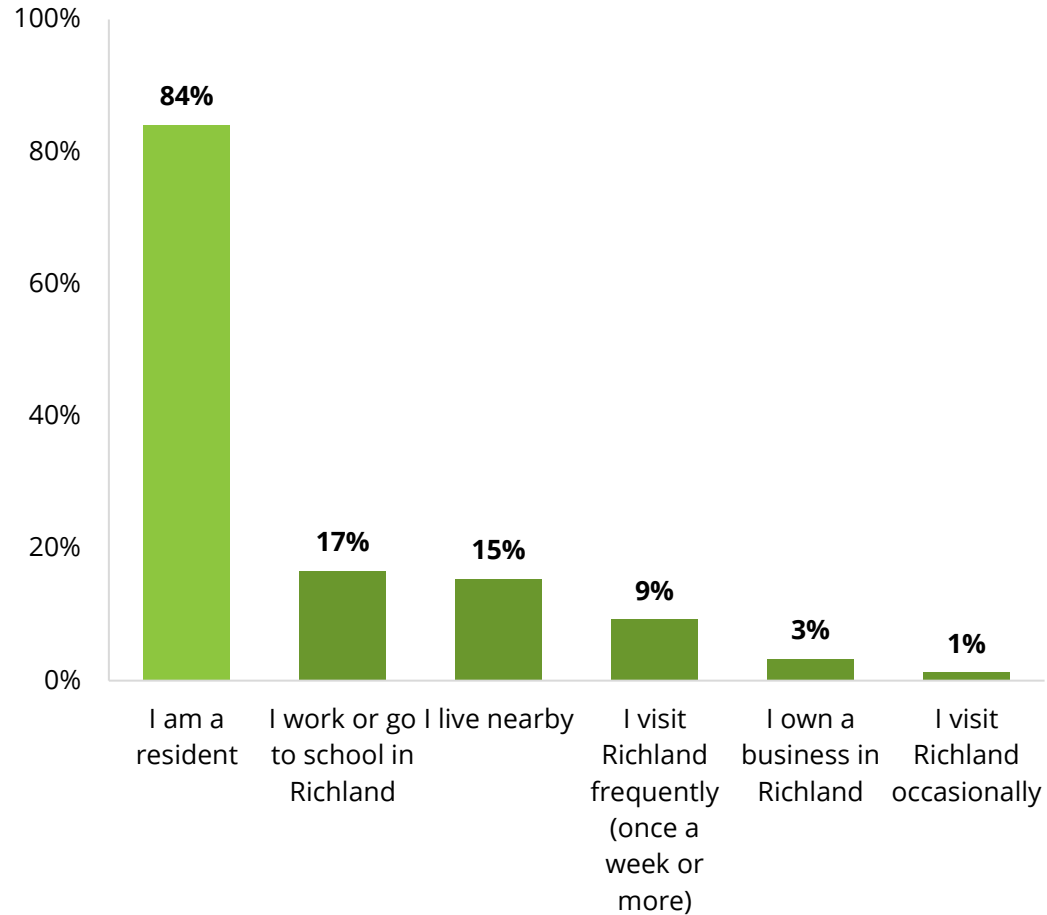
Evenly Split Households

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



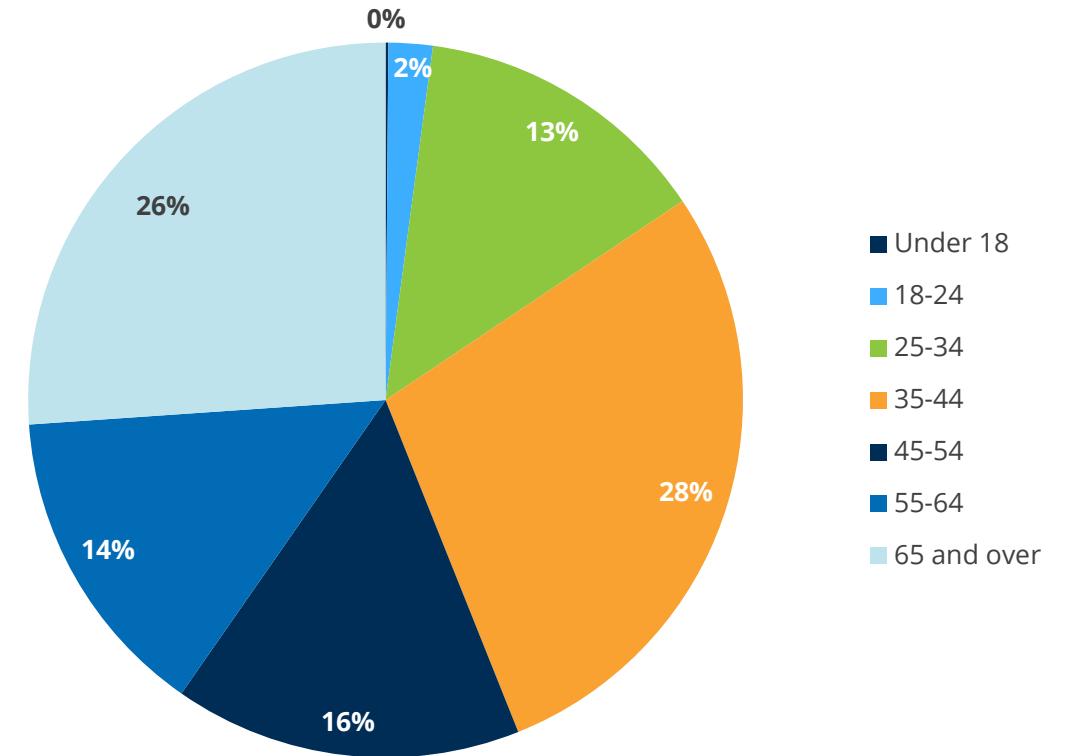
1,159 Total Respondents in
~3 weeks

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



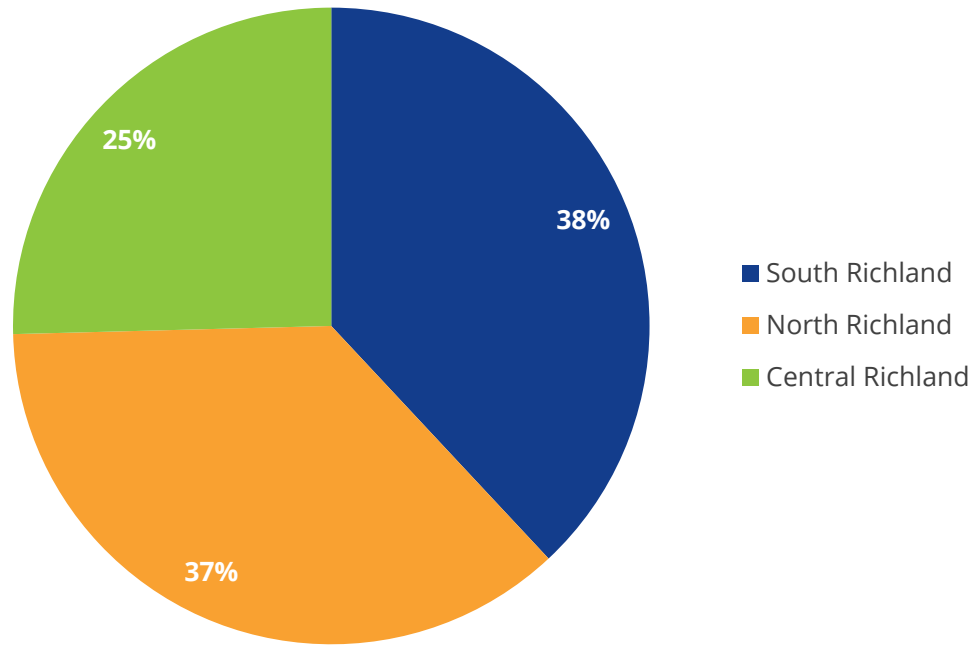
Respondents to this question; n = 812

What is your age?



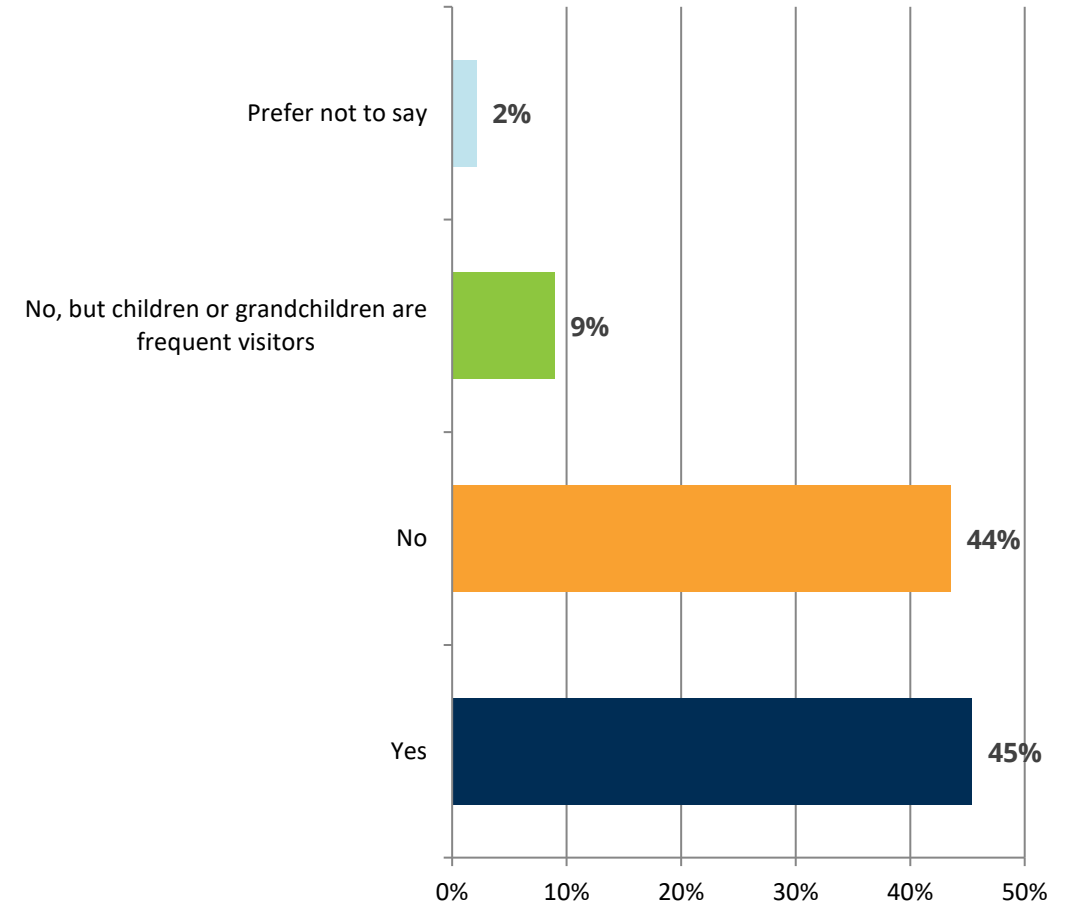
Respondents to this question; n = 801

What part of Richland do you live in?



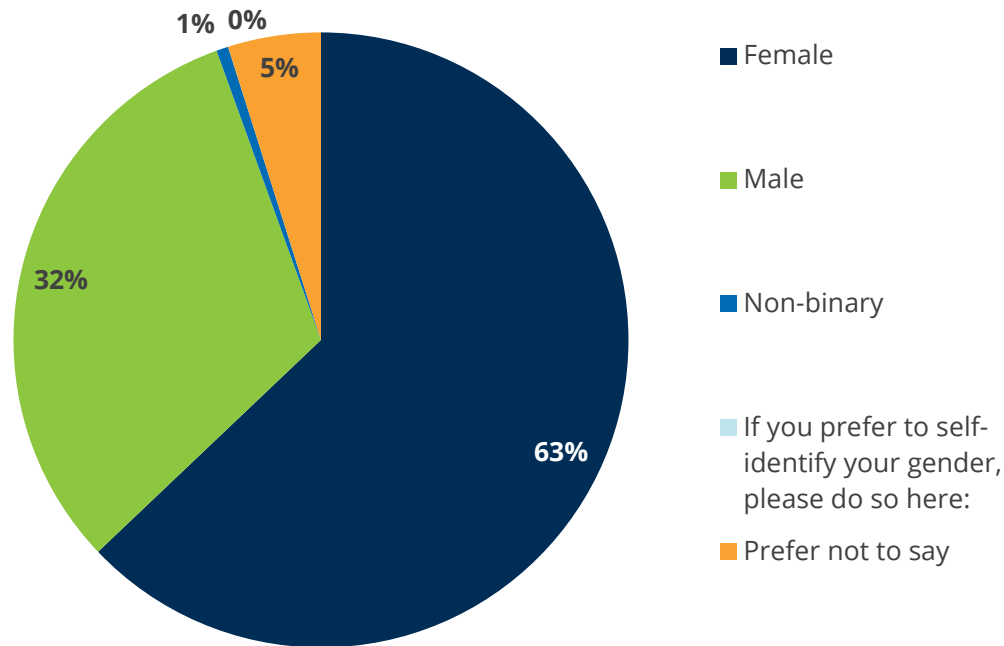
Respondents to this question; n = 673

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



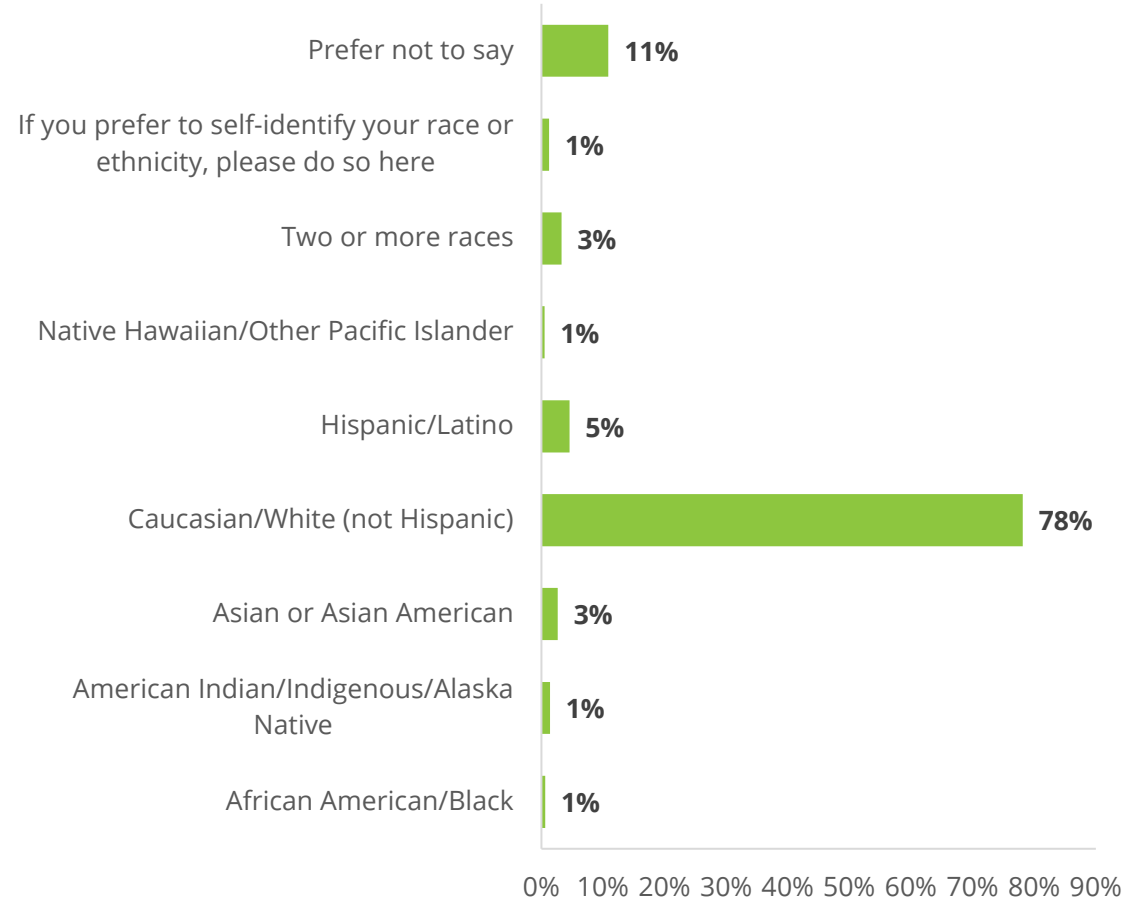
Respondents to this question; n = 806

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

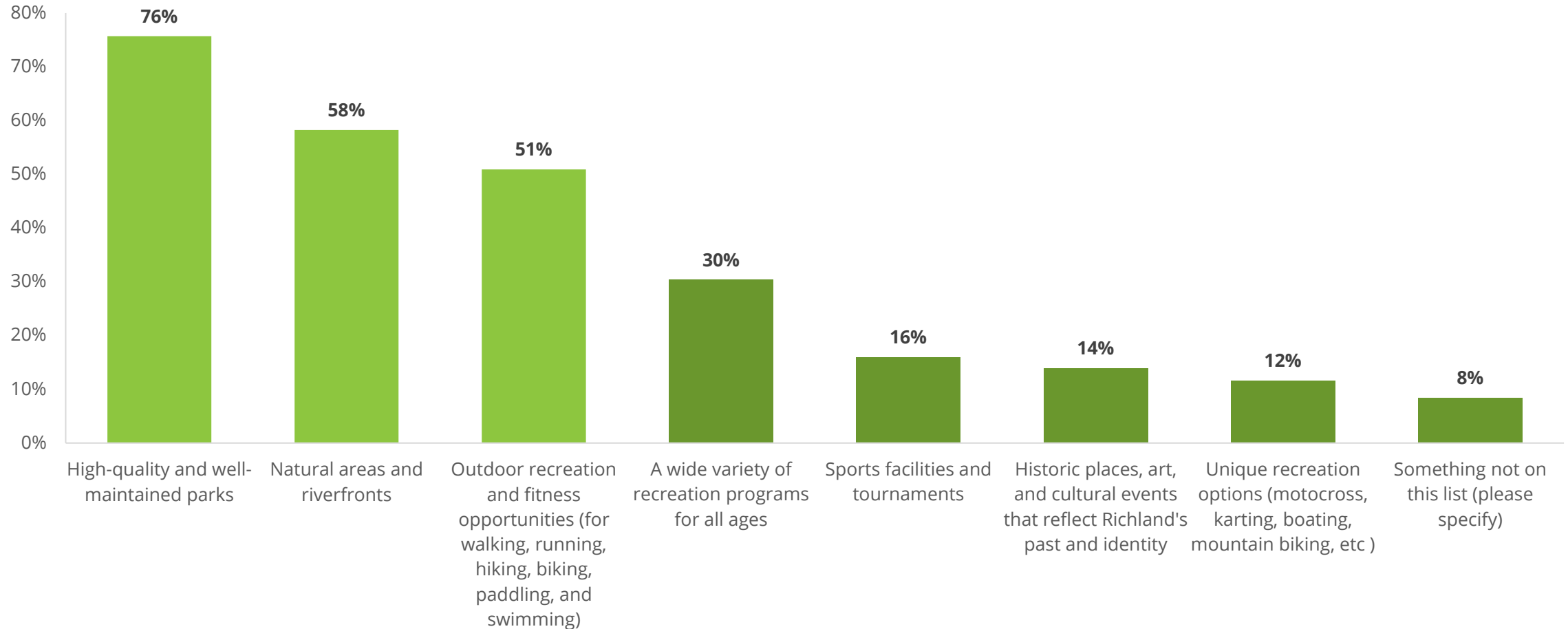
When asked what their top reason for visiting a park was 57% of respondents said being surrounded by trees, plants, and wildlife

Exercise and Activity

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

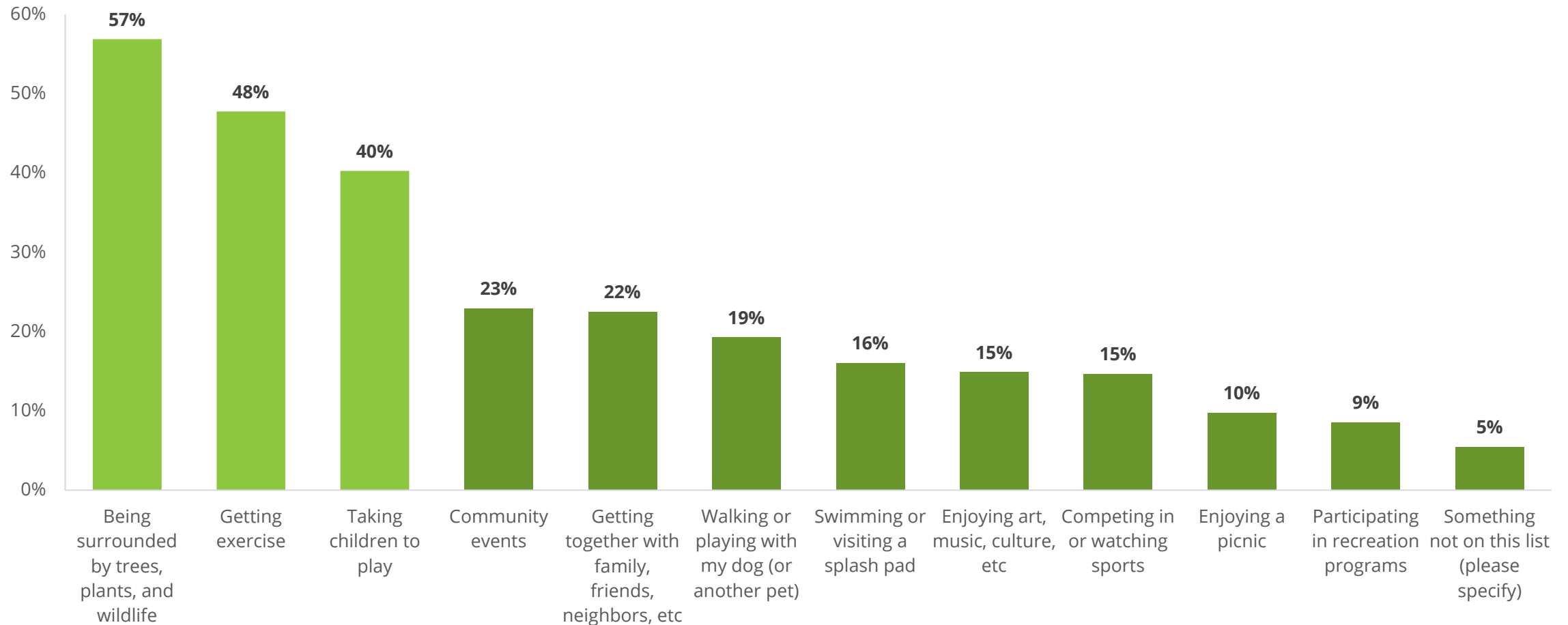


What do you think Richland should be known for when it comes to parks, recreation, and open spaces? *(Choose up to three)*



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)*



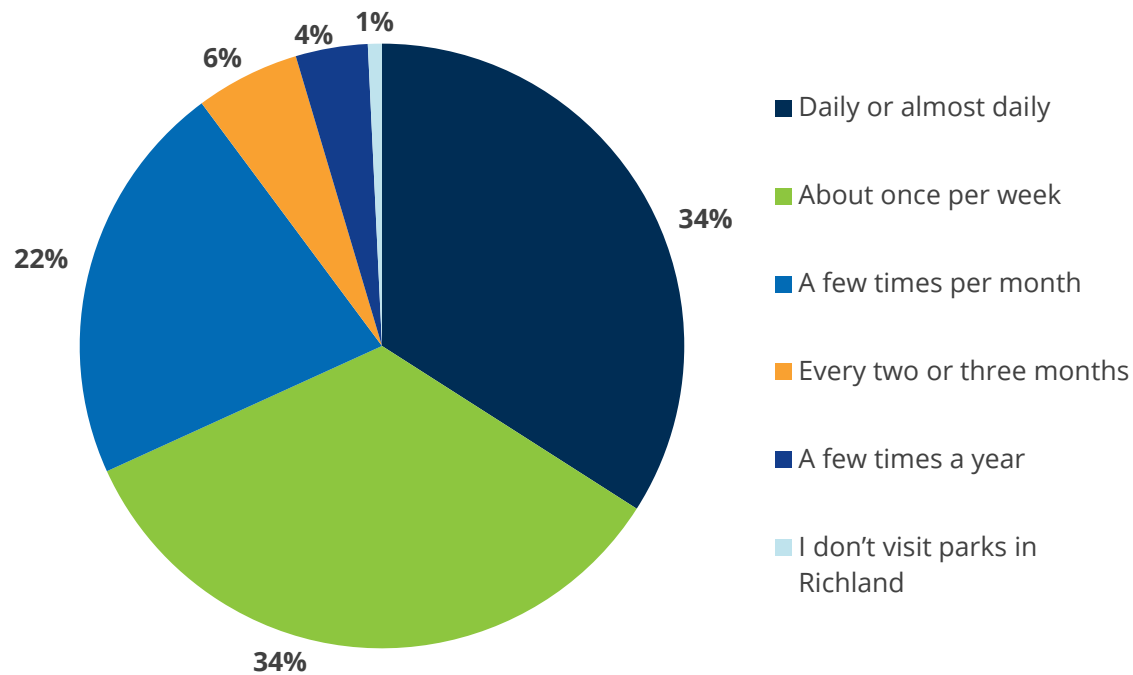
Respondents to this question; n = 934

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)*

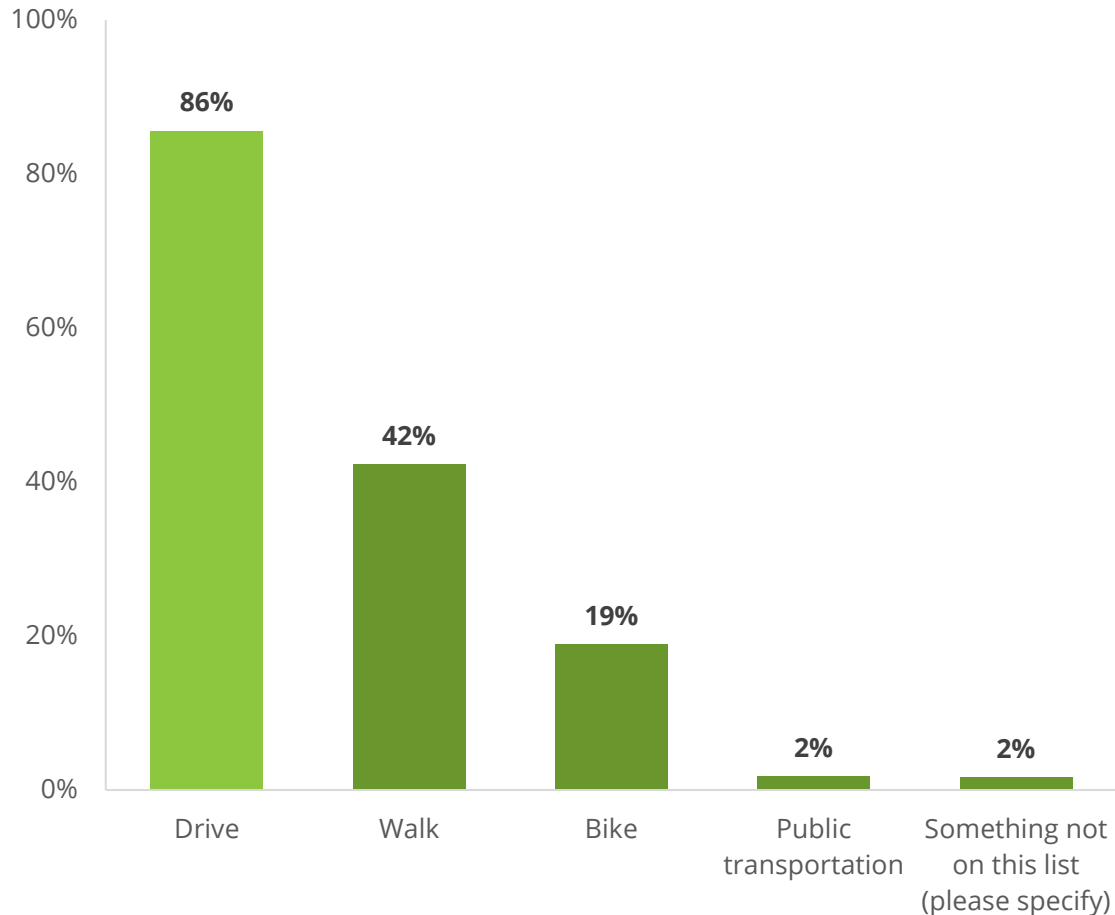


Respondents to this question; n = 934

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)*

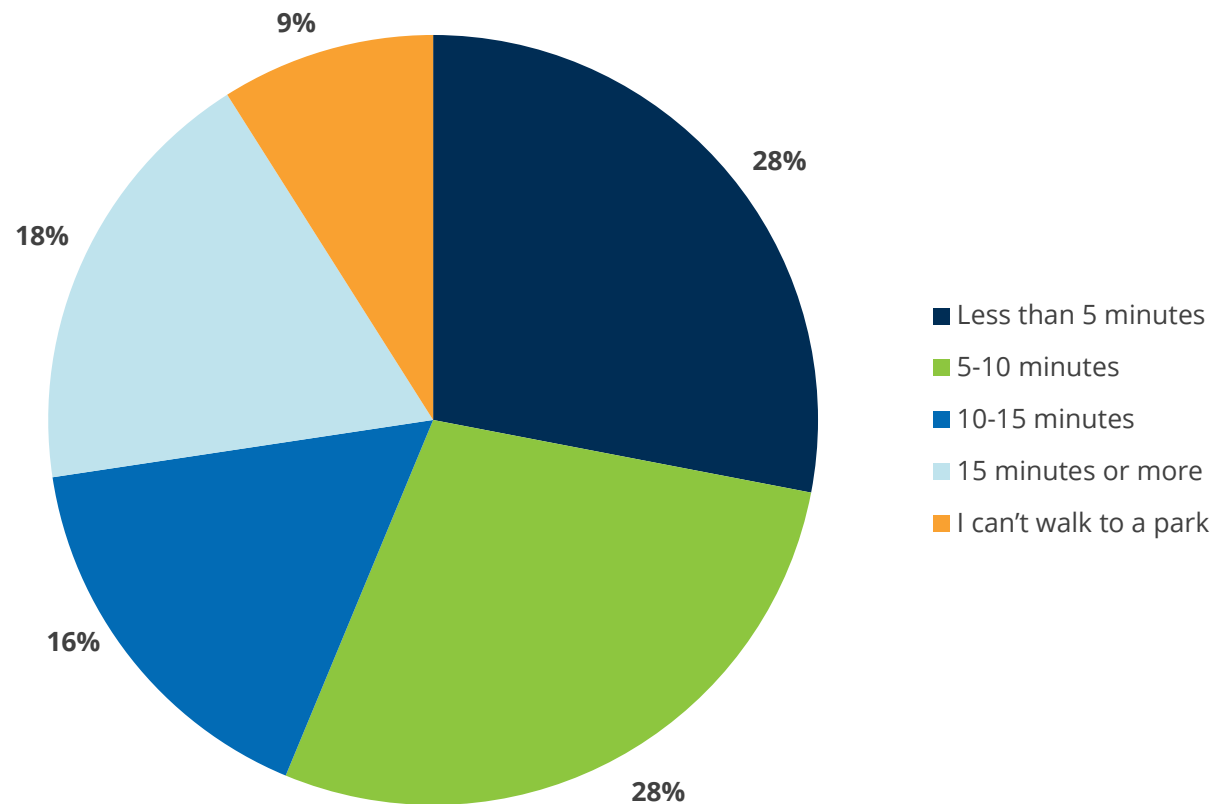


Respondents to this question; n = 933

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?

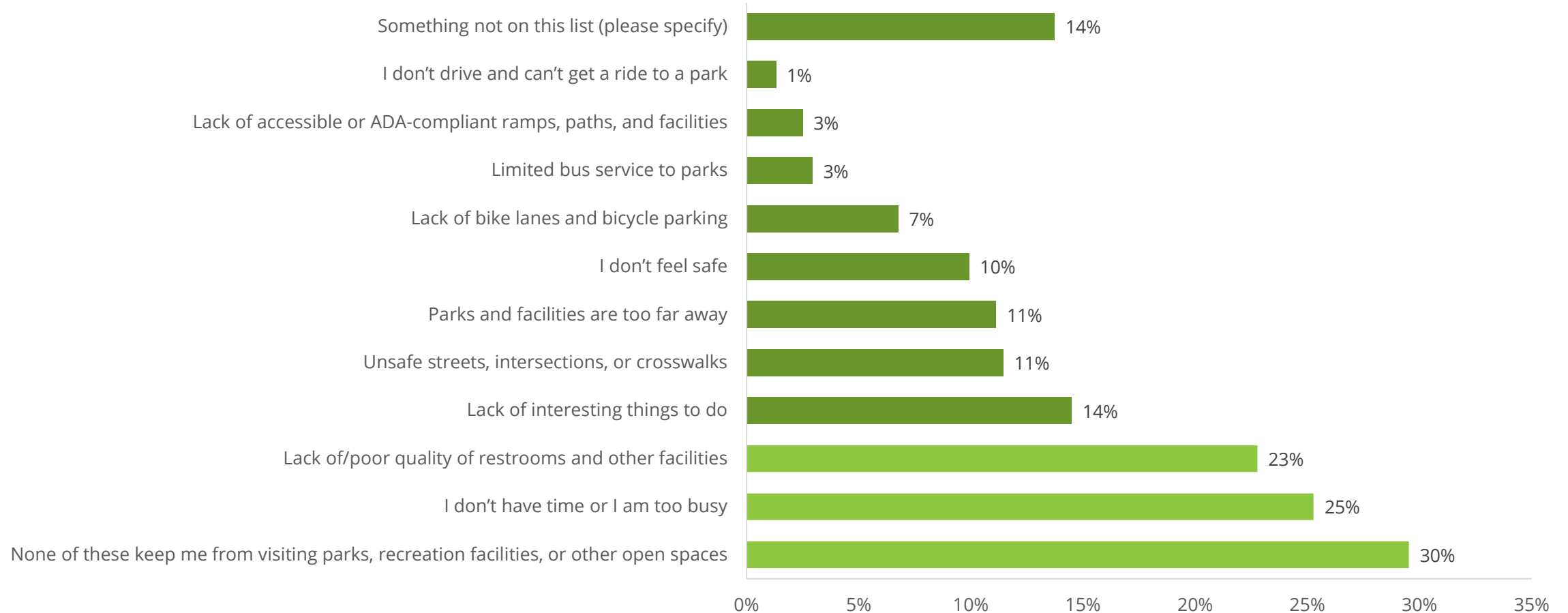


Respondents to this question; n = 935

Do Responses Differ Based On Where People Live?

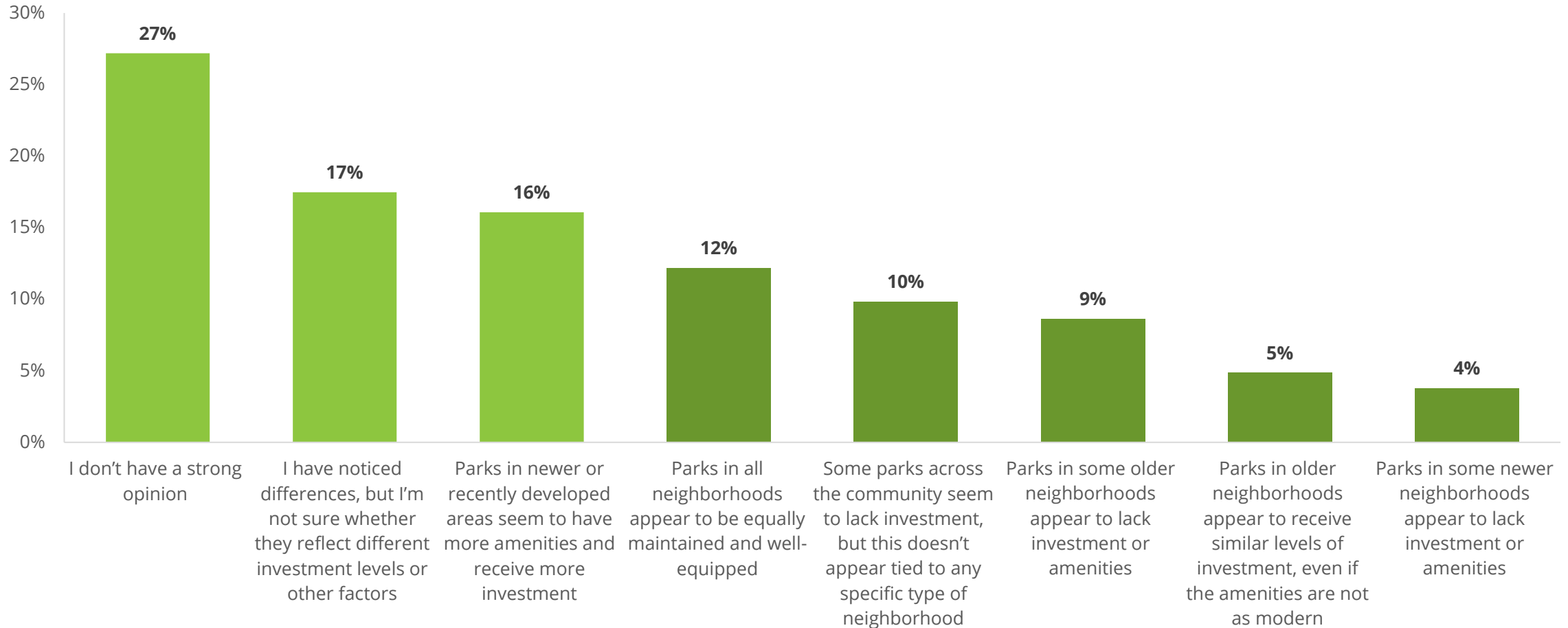
- **Less than 5 Minutes:** Of respondents who said they lived in South Richland 25% said they could walk to a park in less than 5 minutes compared to 32% in North Richland and 40% in Central Richland
- **15 Minutes or More:** Of respondents who said they lived in South Richland, 20% said they could walk 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

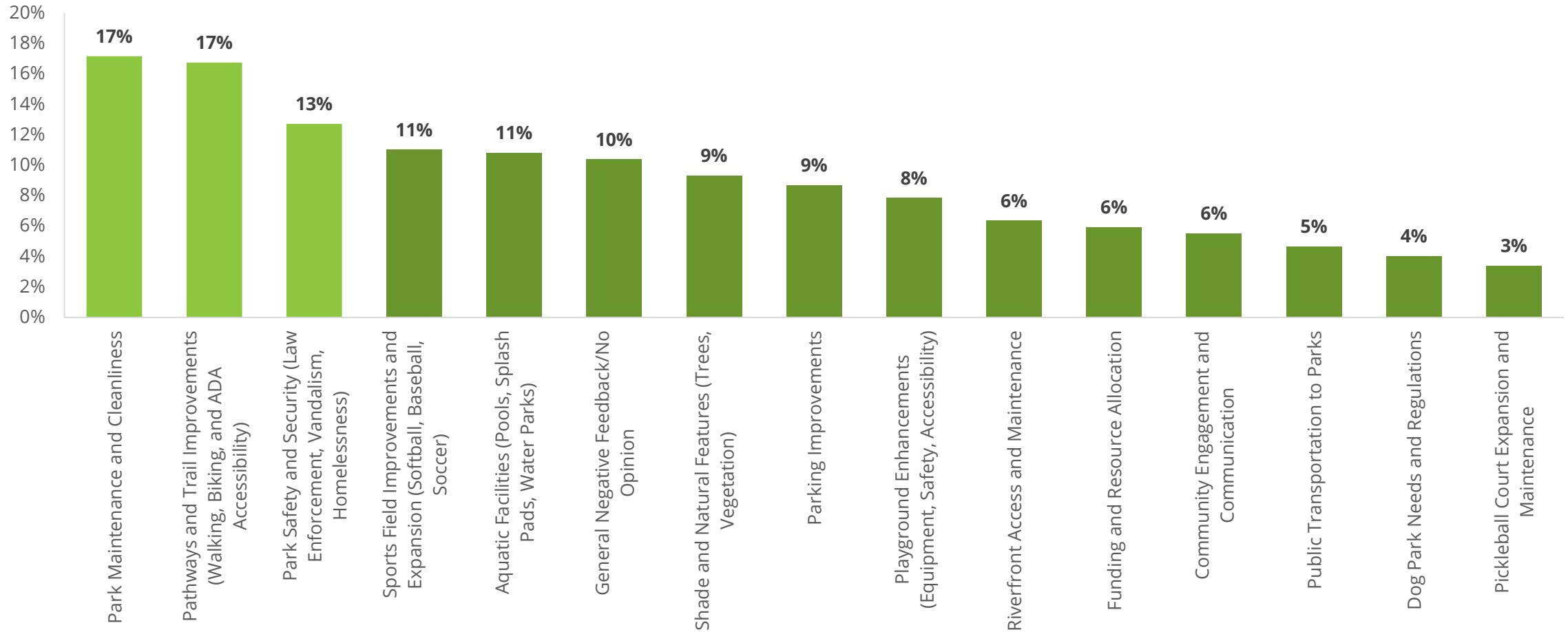
How would you describe the distribution of amenities and investments in parks across different neighborhoods? *(Select the option that best reflects your perception)*



Respondents to this question; n = 927

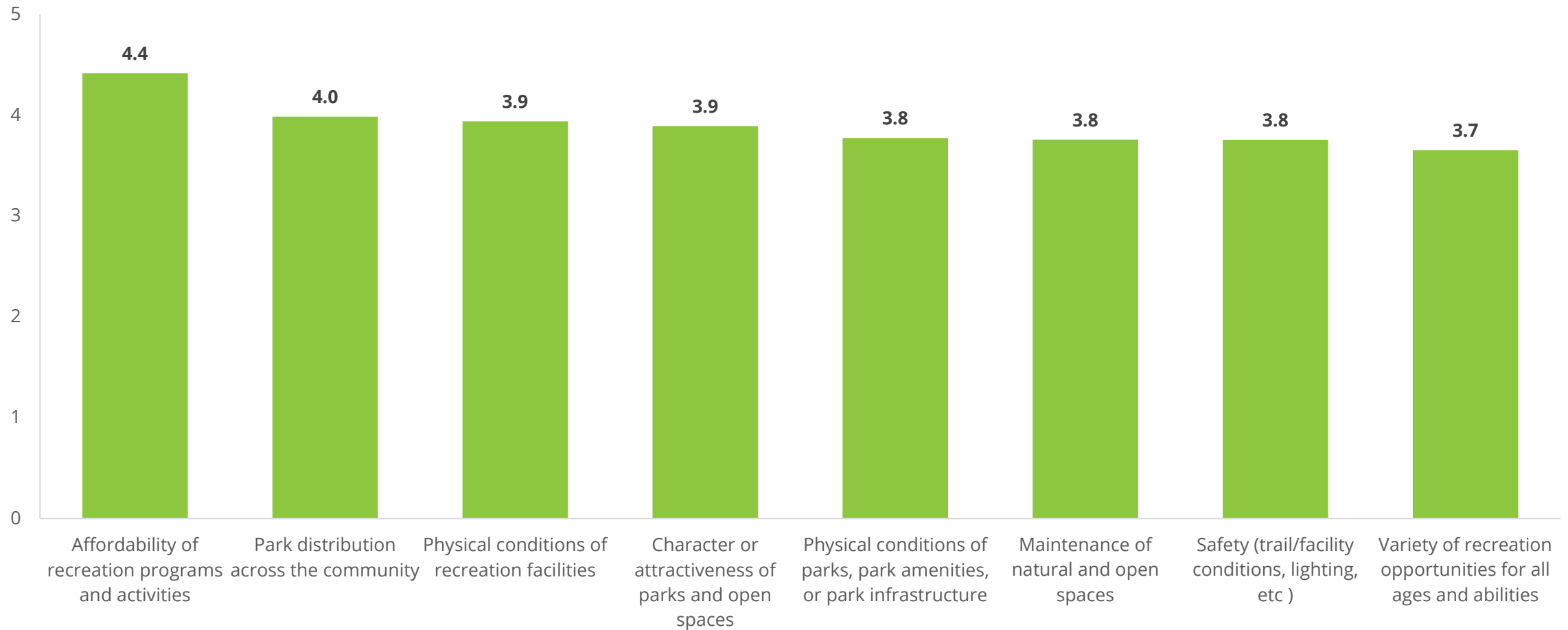
Do you have any ideas or thoughts on how the City can better support access to parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces?

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



Average rating of parks and recreation amenities in Richland

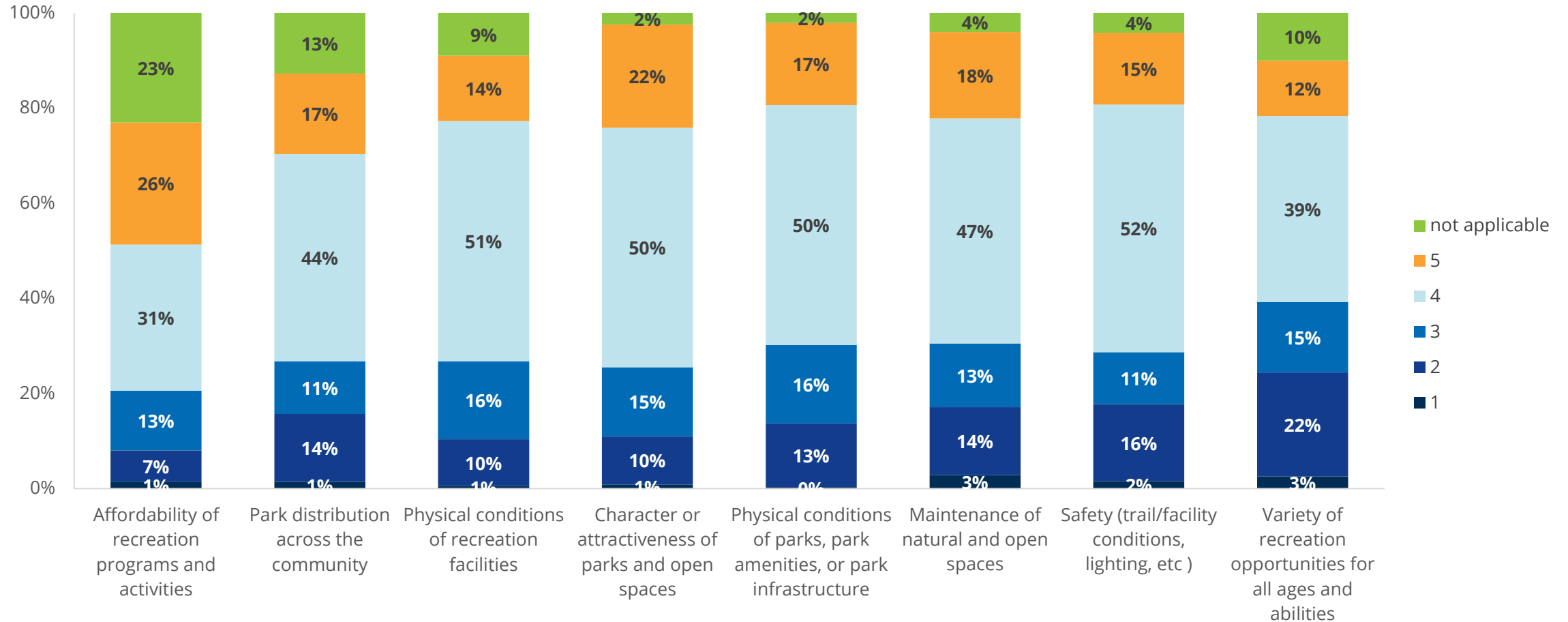
(respondents rated each aspect on a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good))



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

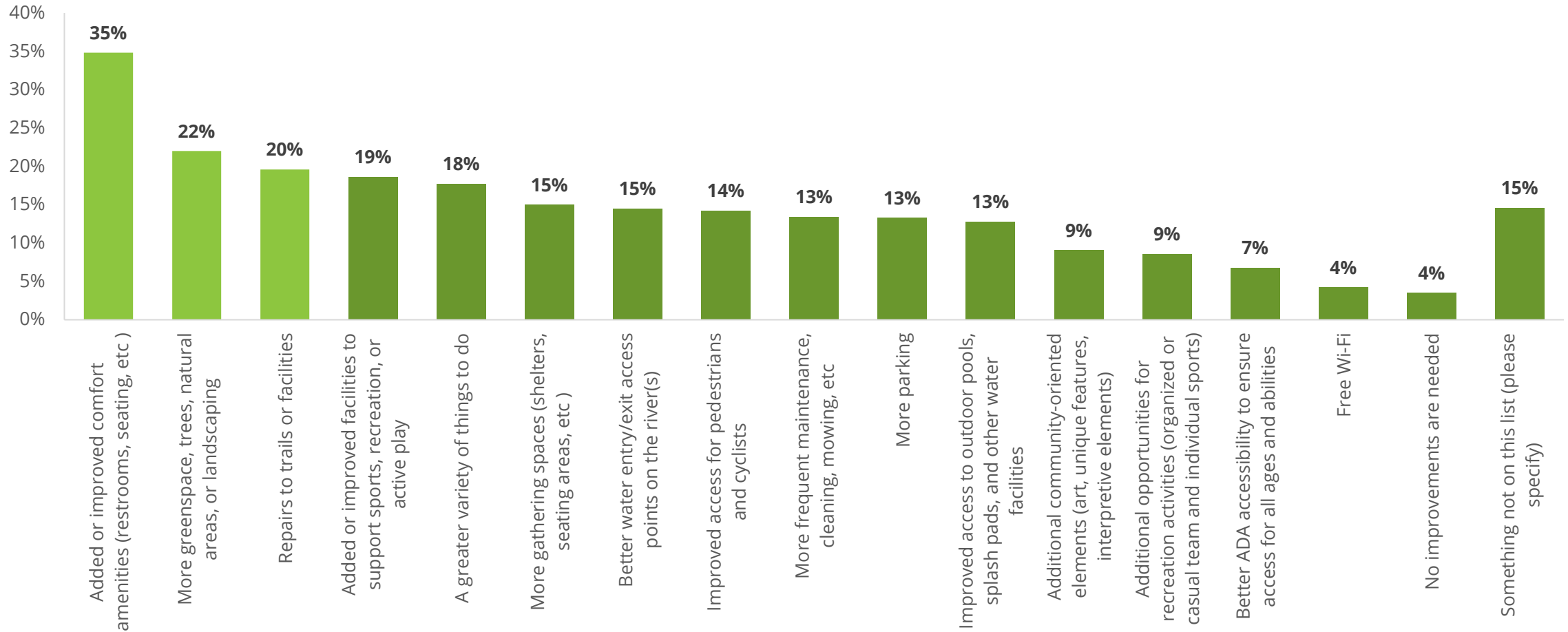
Individual rating of parks and recreation amenities in Richland

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



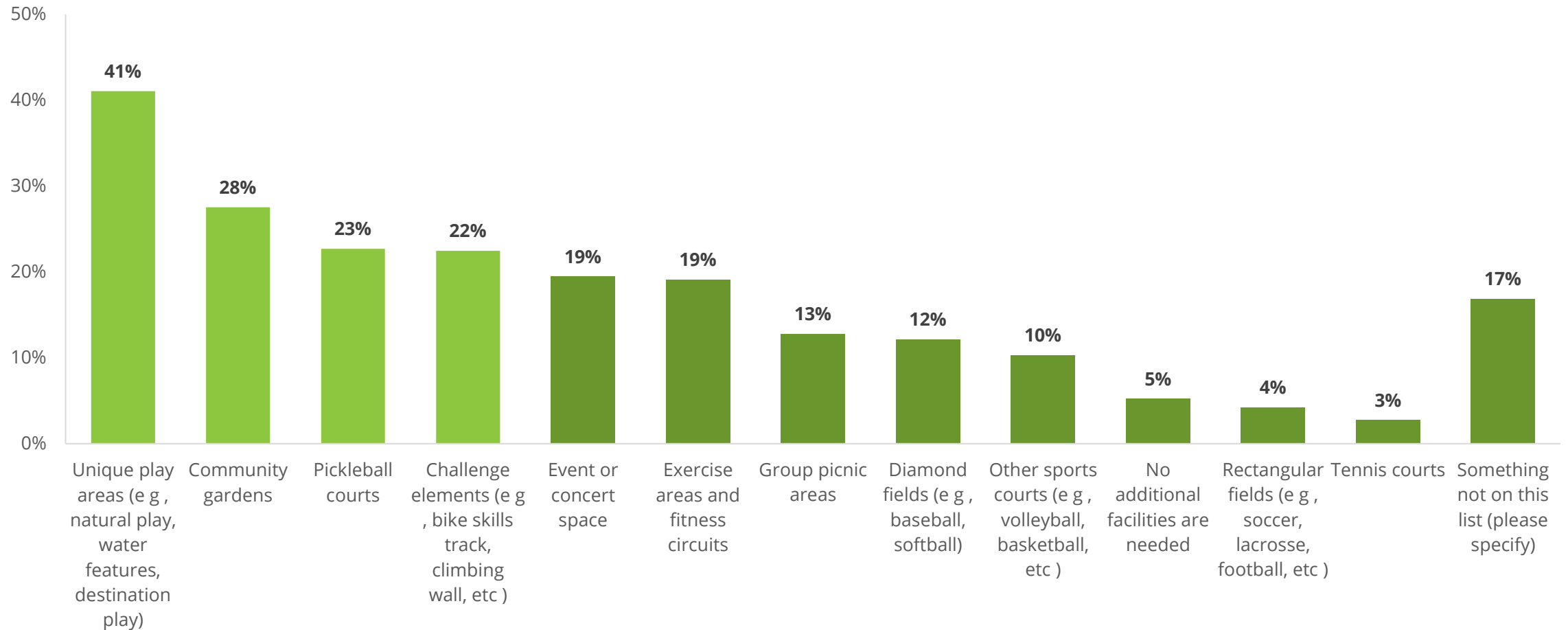
Respondents to this question; n = from 568 to 648 as not all respondents rated every single aspect

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

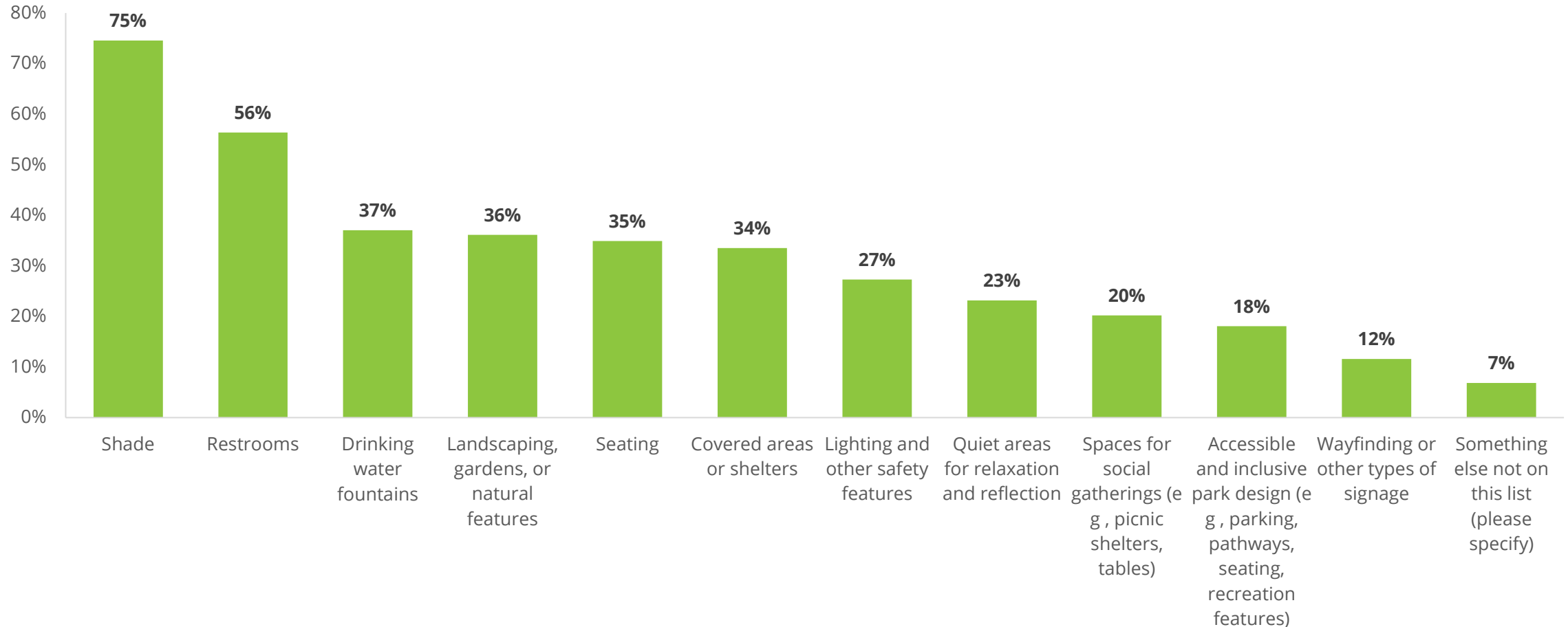
What types of facilities would you like to see more of in Richland parks? *(Choose up to three)*



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)



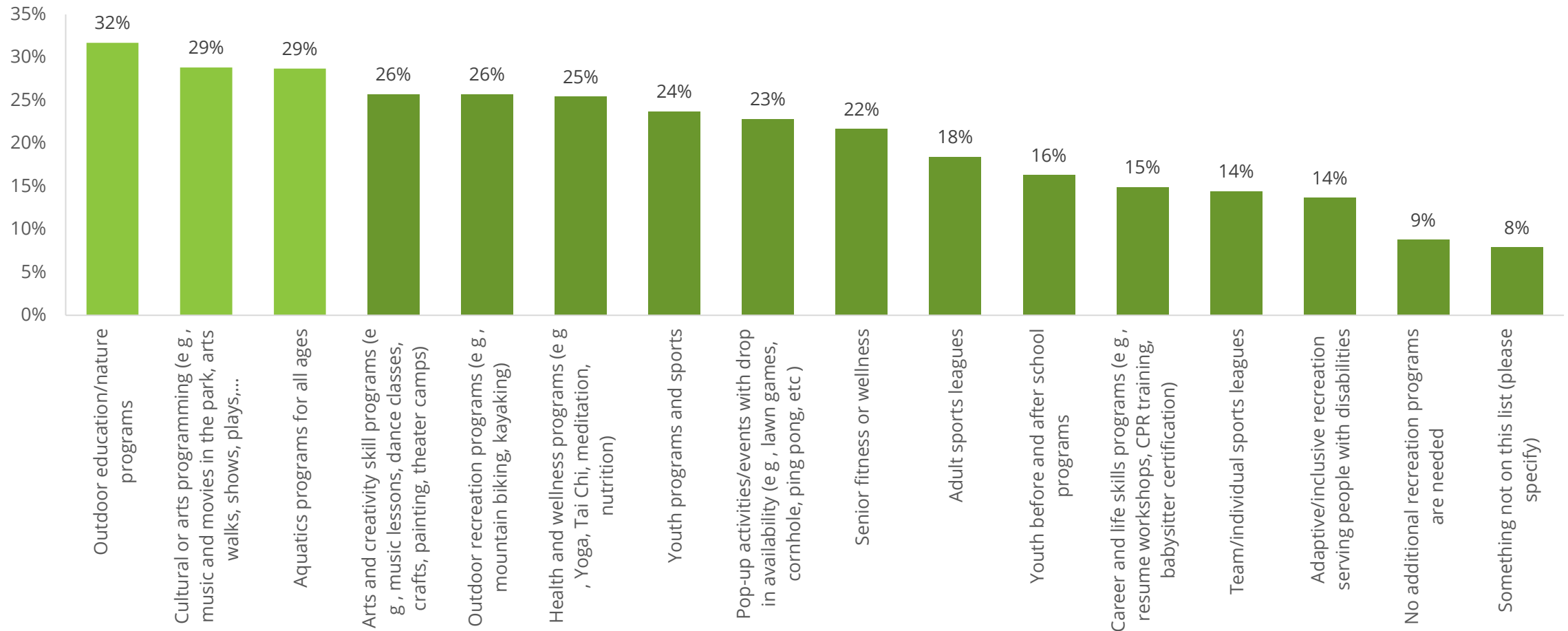
Respondents to this question; n = 802

Differences in Desired Improvements

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

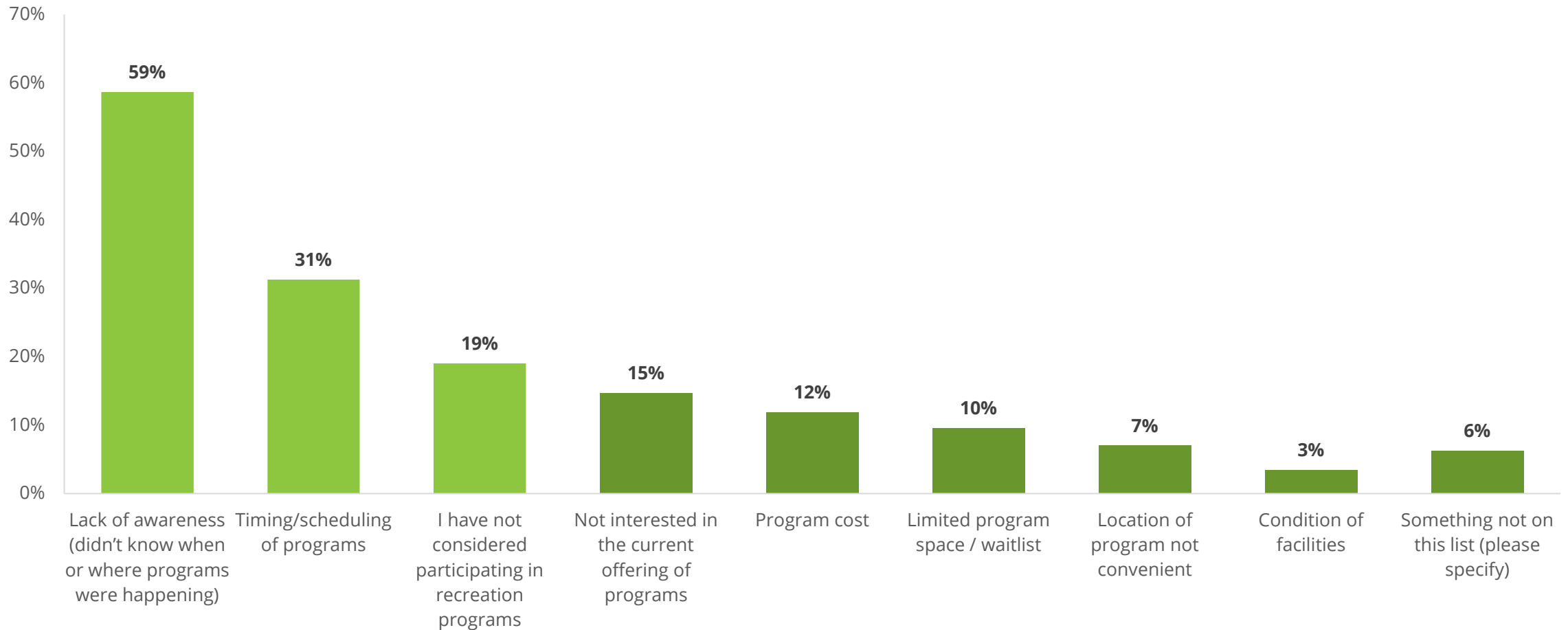
- **Top Improvements:** Respondents who wanted added or improved comfort amenities like restrooms and seating, added or improved facilities for sports, recreation or active play, and improved access to outdoor pools, splashpads, and water facilities were more likely to have children living with them 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)*



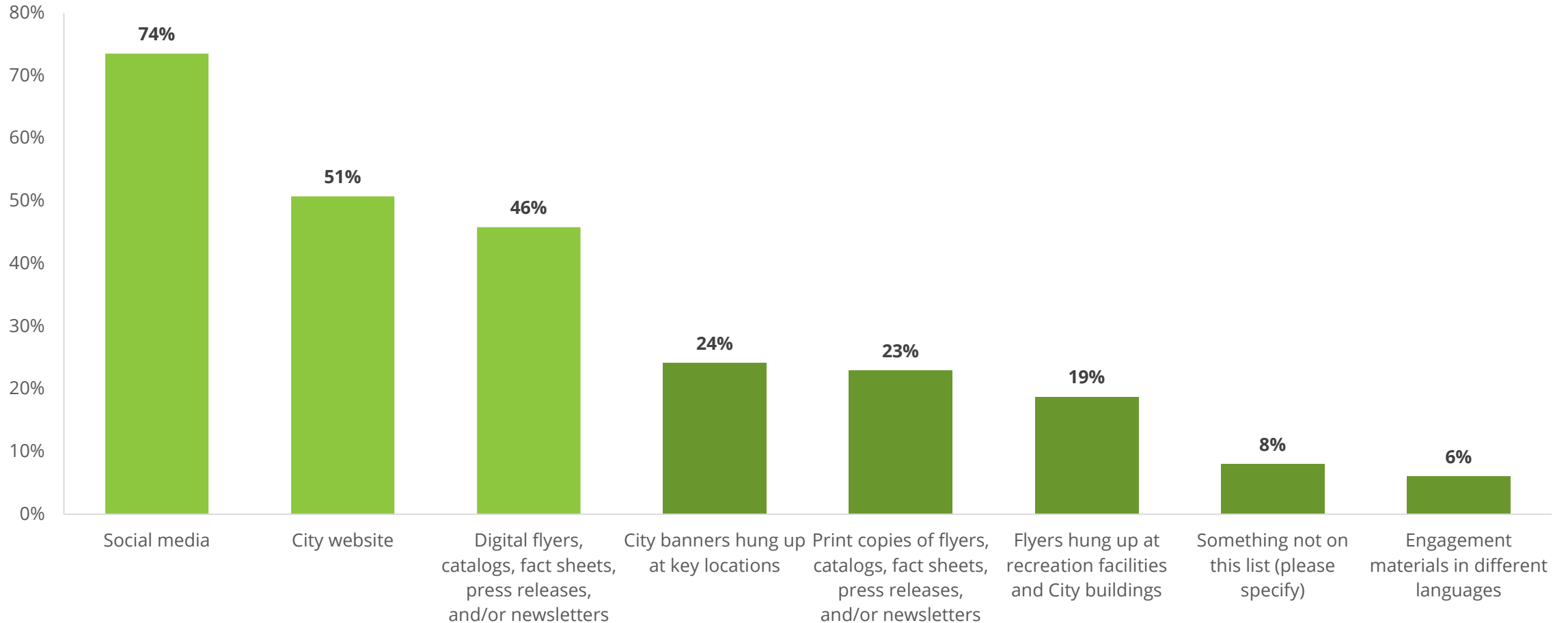
Respondents to this question; n = 798

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

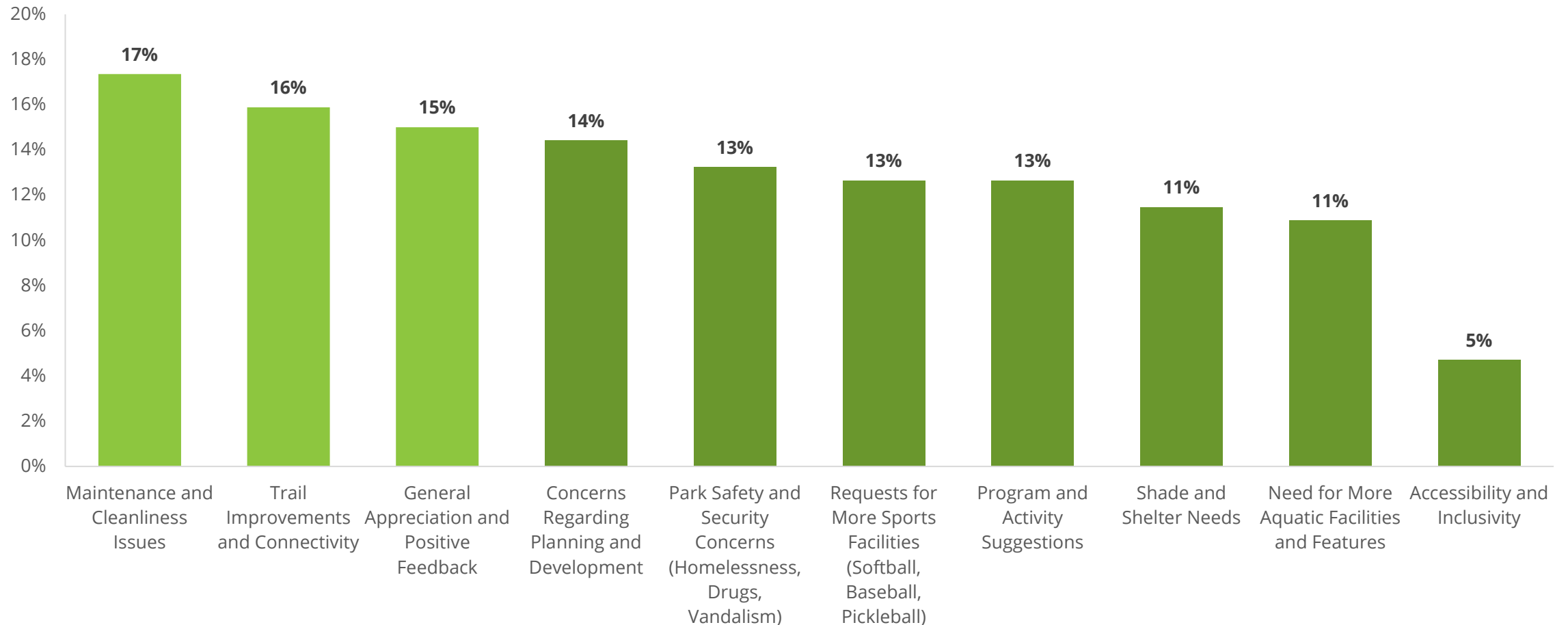
How can the City best communicate with you about recreation programming and City events? *(Choose all that apply)*



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



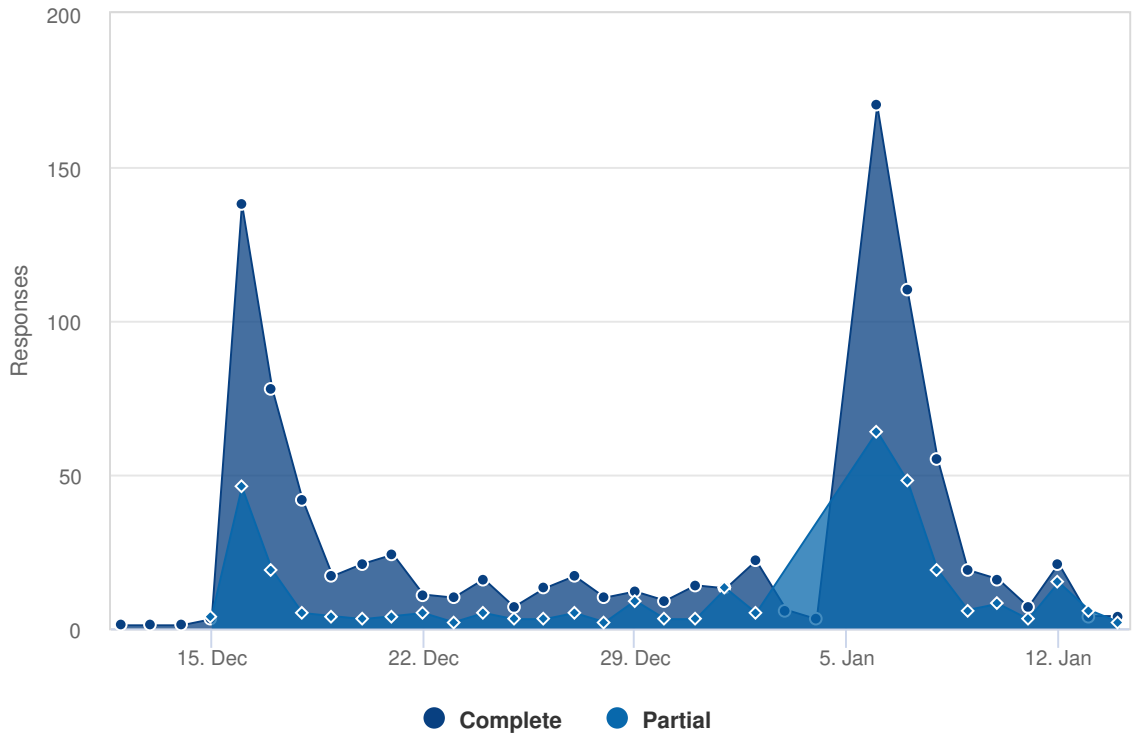
Report for City of Richland Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan **Prioritization Activity (Community Survey #2**

Response Counts



Totals: 1,209

Timeline



1. Moderate Cost Needs Choose up to four priorities in this category.

Value	Percent	Responses
More funding and staff for year-round community events and programs in parks, especially in underserved parts of Richland and in larger community parks	38.8% 	358
More funding for youth and teen programming	35.2% 	325
More funding for adult sport programs and leagues	18.9% 	174
Amenities such as seating, picnic tables, and drinking fountains at neighborhood parks	45.2% 	417
Public art and educational or informational displays that highlight Richland's unique culture and history	17.4% 	161
Shade or shade structures over playgrounds, exercise equipment, and seating areas	55.9% 	516
Lighting for safety and year-round activity in parks and along trails	56.1% 	518
More trees, pollinator gardens, native plants, and drought-tolerant landscaping	52.5% 	485
Resurface basketball, tennis, and pickleball courts	22.8% 	210

Statistics

Total Responses

923

2. High Cost Needs Choose up to two priorities in this category.

Value	Percent	Responses
New or renovated restrooms at more parks	26.0%	243
City-wide park and trail signage and wayfinding that is welcoming, accessible, and multilingual	5.3%	49
Renovation of aging facilities including playgrounds and shelters	21.1%	197
Natural area and shoreline restoration and vegetation management	24.0%	224
New challenge-based facility like a bike skills course or pump track	6.1%	57
Nature play areas at more parks	12.2%	114
Improvements that make all parks easier for everyone to use, including accessible paths and trails, seating, play elements, etc.	14.4%	134
Riverfront Trail widening and lighting in high-traffic areas	18.8%	175
New facilities for increasingly popular sports like pickleball, disc golf, and sand volleyball	15.5%	145
New river access points, non-motorized boat launches, and dock maintenance	17.1%	160
Demonstration and interpretive science garden	5.6%	52
Expansion of the Badger Mountain trail system	16.3%	152
Improved or expanded parking areas	3.5%	33
New or improved dog park	7.4%	69

Statistics

Total Responses

933

3. Highest Cost Needs Choose one priority in this category.

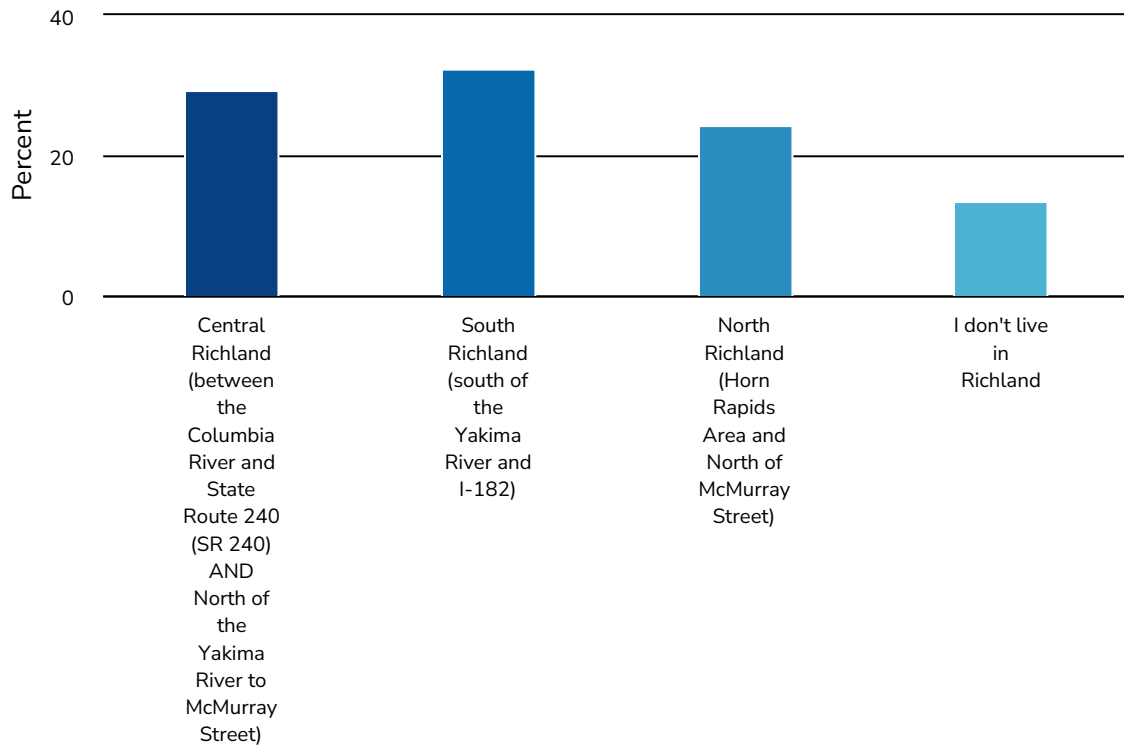
Value	Percent	Responses
Develop additional Columbia riverfront park and trail segments	23.4%	214
Complete gaps along ridgetop trail	5.8%	53
Tapteal Trail system expansion and trailhead development	10.3%	94
New inclusive, destination playground with thematic elements that serves the entire community	6.3%	58
New nature-themed splash park and playground	13.6%	124
Full renovation of an existing neighborhood park	4.6%	42
New community park to serve multiple neighborhoods	5.7%	52
New multi-use, artificial turf sport fields with lighting	6.3%	58
Additional renovations to the City pool	7.8%	71
New indoor recreation/community center facilities in another area of the City	16.3%	149

Statistics

Total Responses

915

4. What part of Richland do you live in?



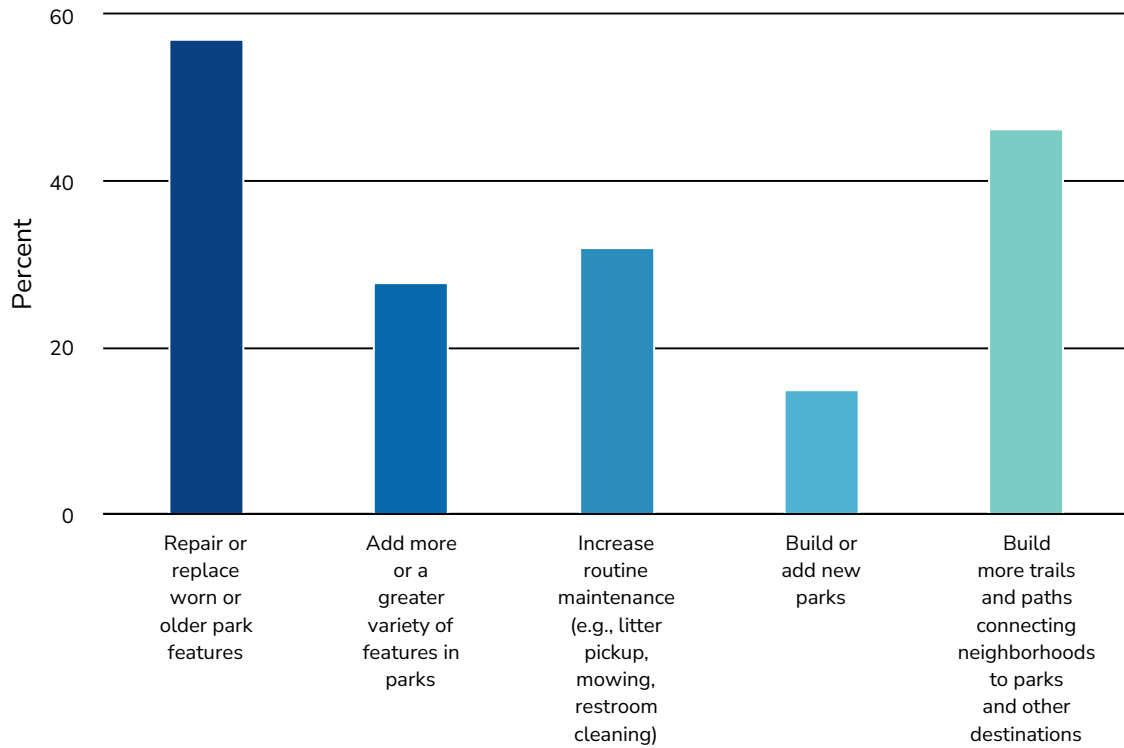
Value	Percent	Responses
Central Richland (between the Columbia River and State Route 240 (SR 240) AND North of the Yakima River to McMurray Street)	29.4%	265
South Richland (south of the Yakima River and I-182)	32.5%	293
North Richland (Horn Rapids Area and North of McMurray Street)	24.4%	220
I don't live in Richland	13.7%	124

Statistics

Total Responses

902

5. In Central Richland, what two project types are the highest priority?
(Choose your top two)



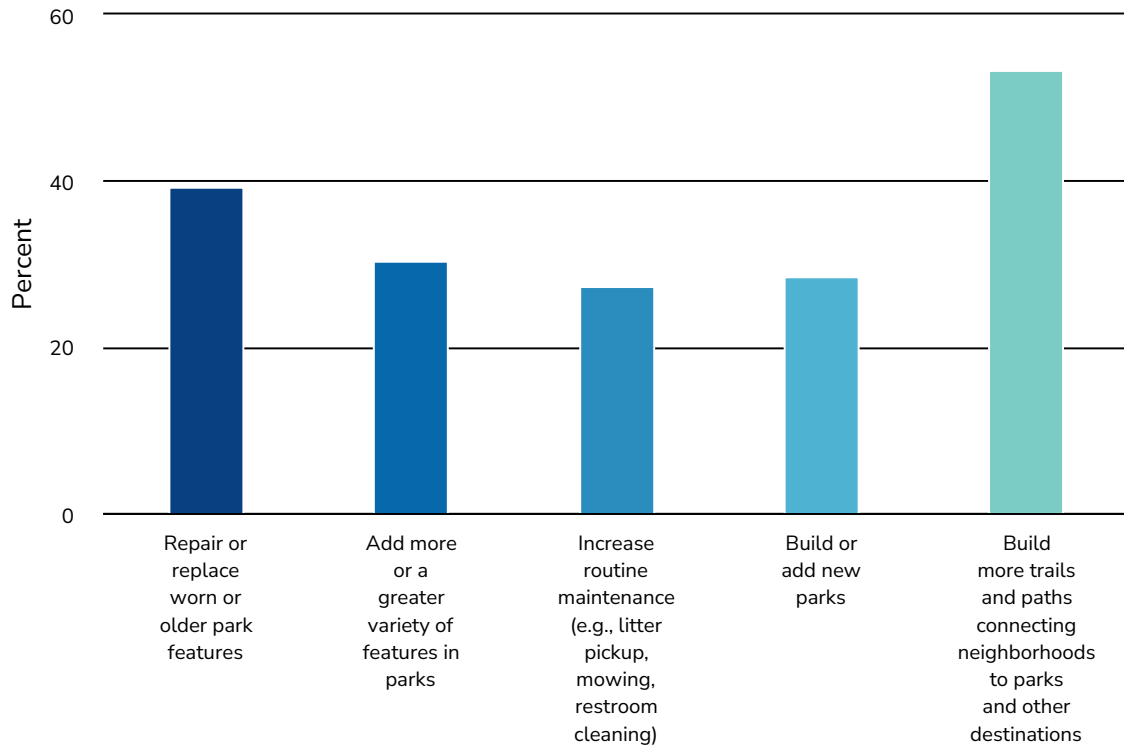
Value	Percent	Responses
Repair or replace worn or older park features	57.3%	488
Add more or a greater variety of features in parks	28.0%	238
Increase routine maintenance (e.g., litter pickup, mowing, restroom cleaning)	32.2%	274
Build or add new parks	15.0%	128
Build more trails and paths connecting neighborhoods to parks and other destinations	46.5%	396

Statistics

Total Responses

851

6. In South Richland, what two project types are the highest priority?
(Choose your top two)



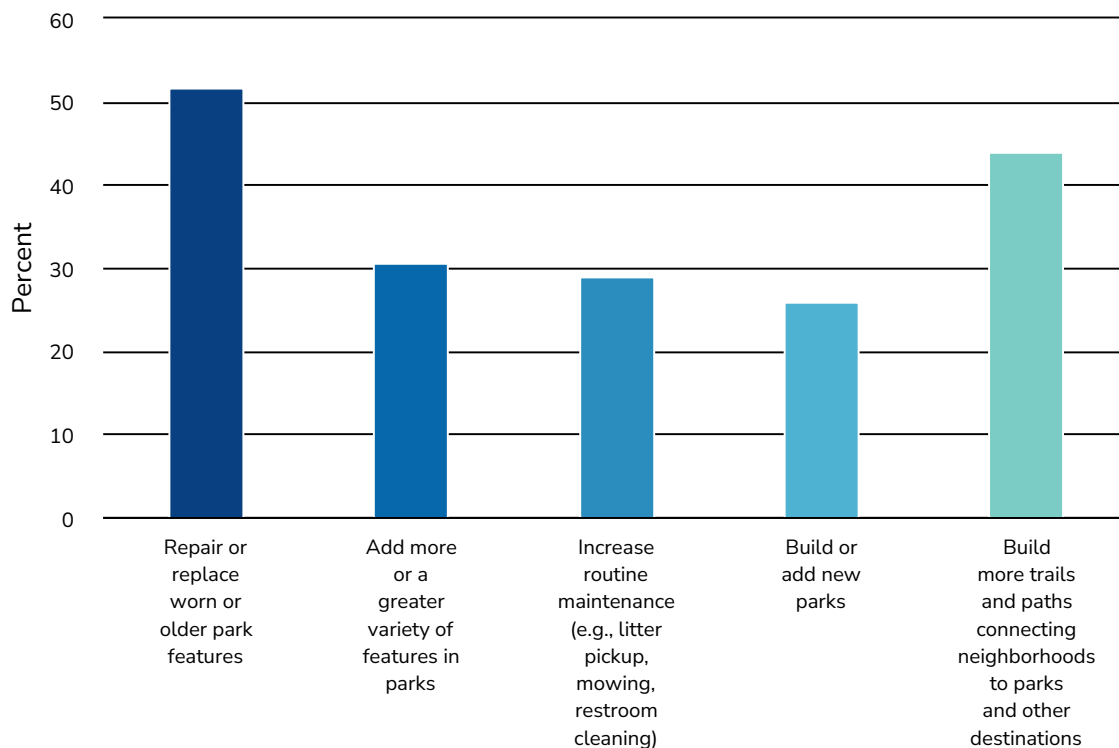
Value	Percent	Responses
Repair or replace worn or older park features	39.4%	322
Add more or a greater variety of features in parks	30.4%	249
Increase routine maintenance (e.g., litter pickup, mowing, restroom cleaning)	27.5%	225
Build or add new parks	28.7%	235
Build more trails and paths connecting neighborhoods to parks and other destinations	53.5%	438

Statistics

Total Responses

818

7. In North Richland, what two project types are the highest priority? (Choose your top two)



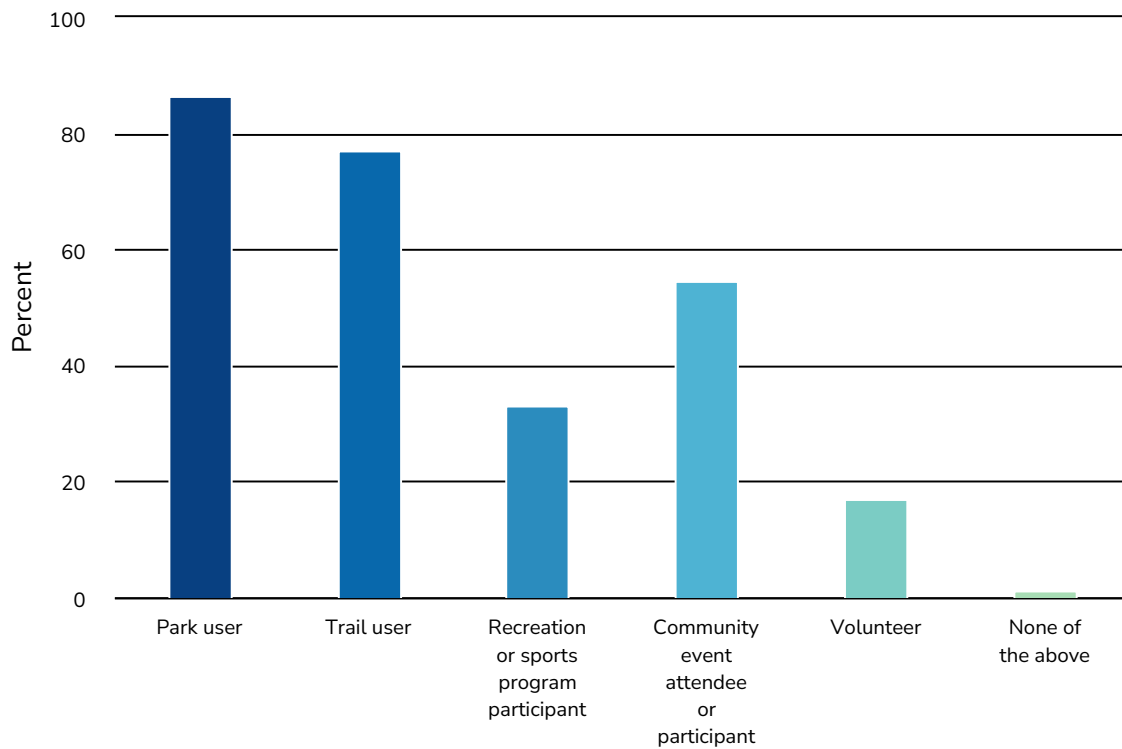
Value	Percent	Responses
Repair or replace worn or older park features	51.8%	428
Add more or a greater variety of features in parks	30.8%	254
Increase routine maintenance (e.g., litter pickup, mowing, restroom cleaning)	29.1%	240
Build or add new parks	26.0%	215
Build more trails and paths connecting neighborhoods to parks and other destinations	44.1%	364

Statistics

Total Responses

826

8. I consider myself to be a... (Choose all that apply)



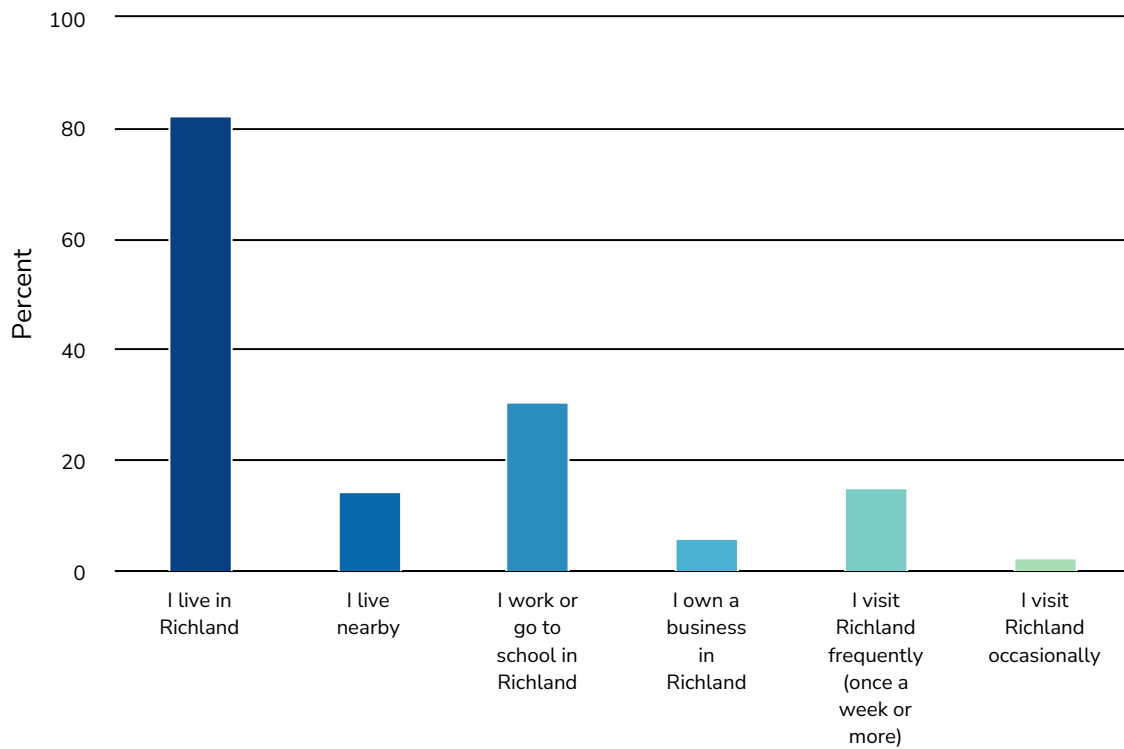
Value	Percent	Responses
Park user	86.7%	769
Trail user	77.3%	686
Recreation or sports program participant	33.3%	295
Community event attendee or participant	54.6%	484
Volunteer	17.2%	153
None of the above	1.4%	12

Statistics

Total Responses

887

9. How are you connected to Richland? (Choose all that apply)



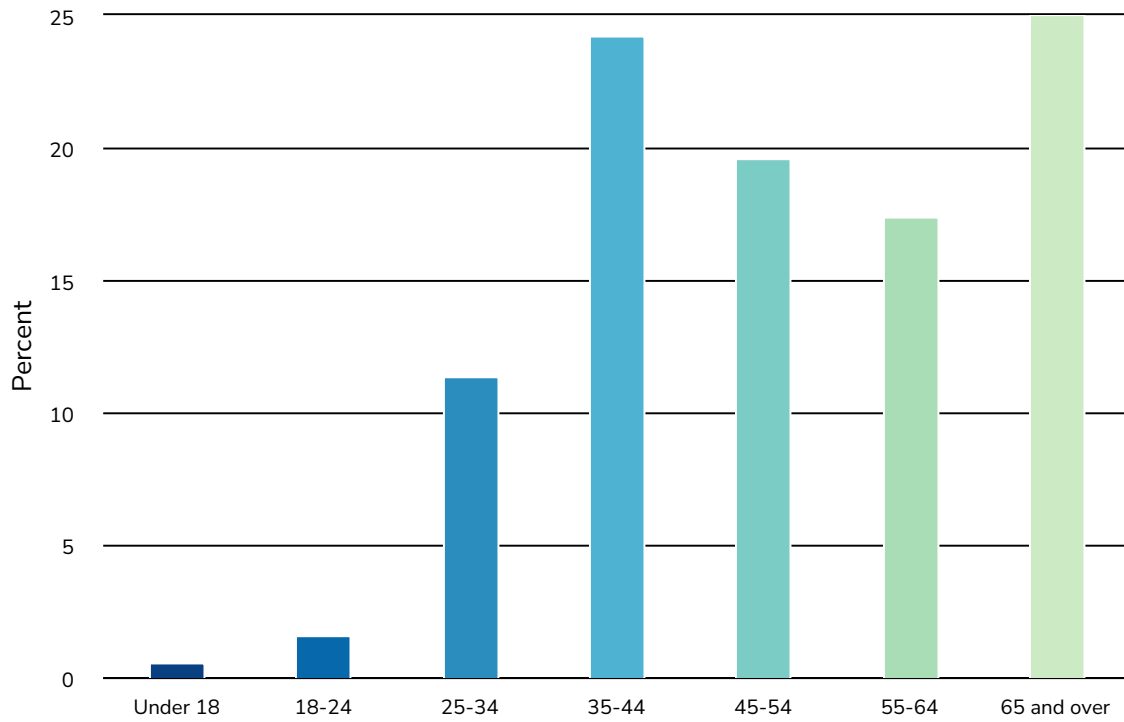
Value	Percent	Responses
I live in Richland	82.3%	731
I live nearby	14.5%	129
I work or go to school in Richland	30.5%	271
I own a business in Richland	6.0%	53
I visit Richland frequently (once a week or more)	15.0%	133
I visit Richland occasionally	2.3%	20

Statistics

Total Responses

888

10. What is your age?



Value	Percent	Responses
Under 18	0.6%	5
18-24	1.6%	14
25-34	11.4%	101
35-44	24.3%	215
45-54	19.6%	173
55-64	17.4%	154
65 and over	25.0%	221

Statistics

Total Responses

883

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

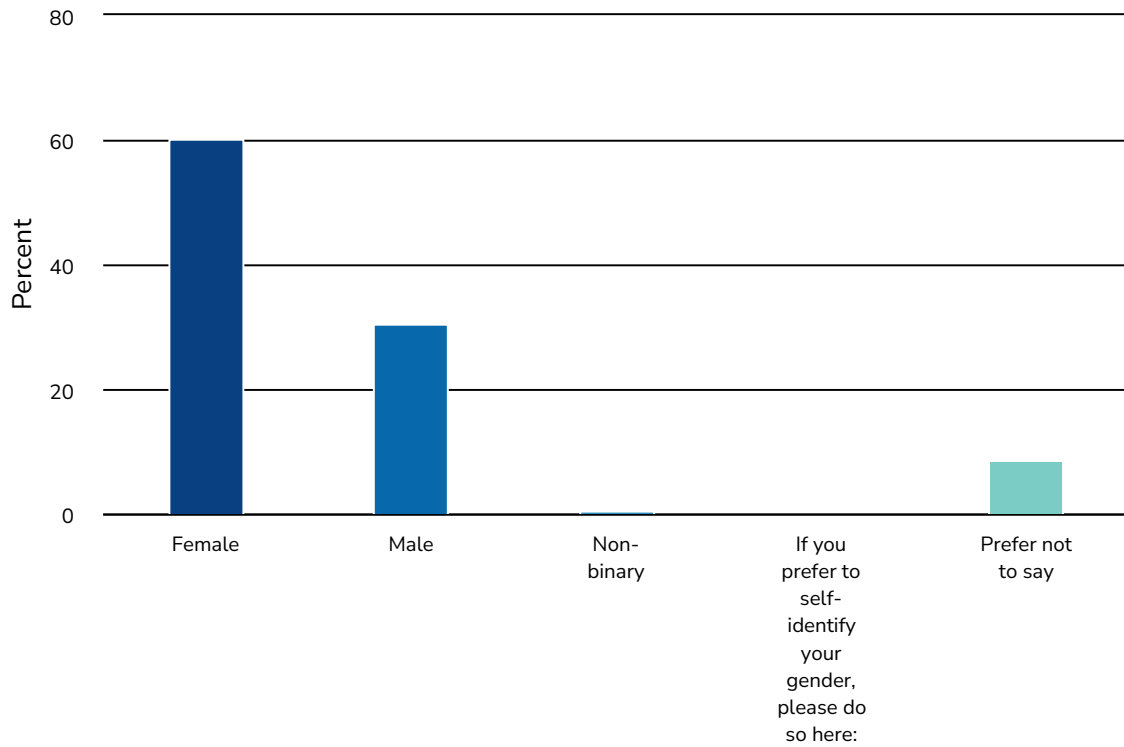
Value	Percent	Responses
African American/Black	0.6%	5
American Indian/Indigenous/Alaska Native	1.4%	12
Asian or Asian American	3.1%	27
Caucasian/White (not Hispanic)	75.2%	650
Hispanic/Latino	3.5%	30
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.3%	3
Two or more races	3.8%	33
If you prefer to self-identify your race or ethnicity, please do so here:	1.0%	9
Prefer not to say	14.5%	125

Statistics

Total Responses

864

12. How do you identify your gender? (Choose one)



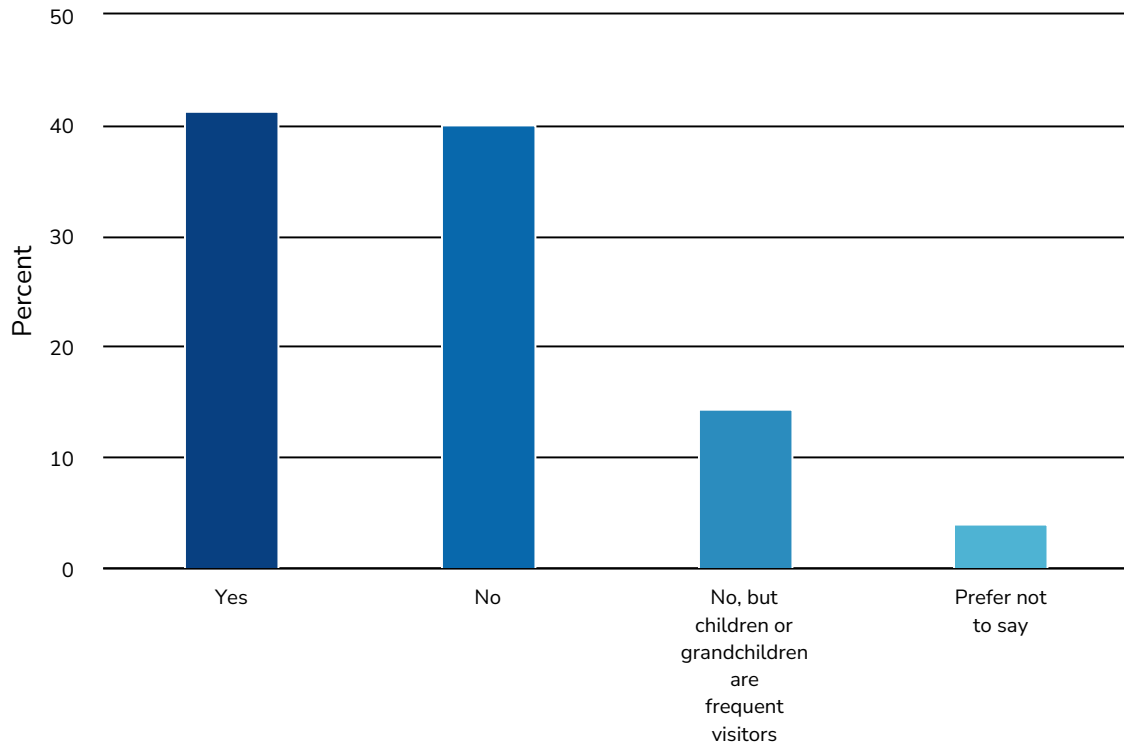
Value	Percent	Responses
Female	60.4%	527
Male	30.5%	266
Non-binary	0.5%	4
If you prefer to self-identify your gender, please do so here:	0.1%	1
Prefer not to say	8.6%	75

Statistics

Total Responses

873

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



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	41.4%	365
No	40.1%	354
No, but children or grandchildren are frequent visitors	14.4%	127
Prefer not to say	4.1%	36

Statistics

Total Responses

882



APPENDIX D

**CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT
PLAN**

Table D-1: Capital Improvement Plan Planning-Level Capital Cost Estimates

Revised 06/11/2026

Capital Project	Project Type			Phasing		Total Units (Total Facilities, Trail Miles, or Acres)	Capital Cost Assumption Source <small>(Internal Reference Only)</small>	Cost Estimates ¹			Funding Source	Notes
	Development	Renovation	Restoration	0-2 Years	3-6+ Years			Planning Level Cost (from capital cost assumptions)	Write-In Cost (from Other Sources)	Total Capital Cost		
SYSTEM-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS												
Trail & Asphalt Condition Assessment			X	X		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		No associated costs at this time due to undetermined project scope. Costs to be determined through additional analysis and identification of the facilities to be evaluated.
Dock and boat launch renovation/replacement		X			X	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	State Grant	No associated costs at this time due to the complexity of permitting and site conditions. Costs to be determined through further analysis.
System-wide park signage	X				X	n/a	Write-in, MIG provided		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000		
Riverfront Trail shoreline stabilization			X	X		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		No associated costs at this time due to the complexity of permitting and site conditions. Costs to be determined through further analysis.
System-wide Improvements subtotal								\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000		
REGIONAL PARKS												
Howard Amon Park												
Renovate Fingernail Stage		X		X		I	MIG: Renovate, Amphitheater (reduced by 50%)	\$ 562,500		\$ 562,500	Lodging Tax	Costs reflect moderate infrastructure upgrades to the Fingernail Stage including lighting, shade, and storage, assuming 50% of the Amphitheater/Stage renovate/replace cost assumption provided in Table D-2.
Renovate wading pool with splashpad		X			X	I	MIG: Enhance, Splashpad	\$ 1,875,000		\$ 1,875,000		Costs reflect replacement of the existing wading pool that is currently closed.
Howard Amon Park subtotal								\$ 2,437,500	\$ -	\$ 2,437,500		
Leslie Groves Park												
Snyder Street restroom renovation		X		X		I	MIG: Renovate, Restroom (Large, Permanent)	\$ 1,125,000		\$ 1,125,000		
Leslie Groves Park subtotal								\$ 1,125,000	\$ -	\$ 1,125,000		
REGIONAL PARKS TOTAL								\$ 3,562,500	\$ -	\$ 3,562,500		
COMMUNITY PARKS												
Badger Mountain Park												
New Baseball Field	X				X	I	MIG: New, Baseball/Softball Field	\$ 2,625,000		\$ 2,625,000	Donation	
Badger Mountain Park subtotal								\$ 2,625,000	\$ -	\$ 2,625,000		
Claybell Community Park (developed portion)												
Renovate playground. Add a fence around the play area.		X			X	I	MIG: Renovate, Playground	\$ 375,000		\$ 375,000		
Claybell Community Park subtotal								\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ 375,000		
Hanford Legacy Park												
Update park master plan	X				X	I	MIG: Park Master Plan	\$ 125,000		\$ 125,000		
Hanford Legacy Park subtotal								\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ 125,000		
West Village Community Park												
Develop Phase 3 (baseball fields (assumes 2) soccer fields (assumes 2), parking (assumes 50 spaces), splashpad, and pickleball courts (assumes 8 courts))	X				X	n/a	MIG: New, Baseball/Softball Field, Soccer Field, Pickleball Courts, Parking	\$ 12,000,000		\$ 12,000,000		
West Village Community Park subtotal								\$ 12,000,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000,000		
COMMUNITY PARKS TOTAL								\$ 15,125,000	\$ -	\$ 15,125,000		
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS												
Drollinger Park												
New playground with equipment for ages 5-12	X				X	I	MIG: New, Playground	\$ 500,000		\$ 500,000		
Drollinger Park subtotal								\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000		

Goethals Park											
Renovate playground		X			X	I	MIG: Renovate, Playground	\$ 375,000		\$ 375,000	
Improve on-street parking along park edge		X			X	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	No associated costs at this time as this project will be completed in partnership with the Richland Public Works Department.
Goethals Park subtotal								\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ 375,000	
McMurray Park											
Renovate playground		X			X	I	MIG: Renovate, Playground	\$ 375,000		\$ 375,000	
McMurray Park subtotal								\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ 375,000	
Meadows East Park											
Renovate playground		X		X		I	MIG: Renovate, Playground	\$ 375,000		\$ 375,000	
Meadows East Park subtotal								\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ 375,000	
Crested Hills Park											
Minor park renovations and picnic shelter renovation		X			X	I	MIG: New, Comfort Amenities and Renovate, Picnic Shelter (Medium)	\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000	
Crested Hills Park Improv subtotal								\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS TOTAL								\$ 1,925,000	\$ -	\$ 1,925,000	
SPECIAL USE AREAS											
George Prout Memorial Pool											
Upgrade facilities (bathhouse, restrooms, and concessions area, including ADA improvements)		X			X	I	MIG: Enhance, Restroom and Concessions	\$ 4,375,000		\$ 4,375,000	Cost reflects major renovation to enhance existing infrastructure and accessibility of the George Prout Pool's bath house, restrooms, and concessions.
George Prout Memorial Pool subtotal								\$ 4,375,000	\$ -	\$ 4,375,000	
Columbia Park West											
Renovate restroom		X			X	I	MIG: Renovate, Restroom (Large)	\$ 1,125,000		\$ 1,125,000	
Update park master plan	X				X	I	MIG: Park Master Plan	\$ 125,000		\$ 125,000	
Columbia Park West subtotal								\$ 1,250,000	\$ -	\$ 1,250,000	
Columbia Playfield											
Renovate existing playground as a destination playground		X			X	I	MIG: Renovate, Destination Playground	\$ 1,500,000		\$ 1,500,000	
Renovate restrooms		X			X	I	MIG: Enhance, Restroom (Large)	\$ 1,875,000		\$ 1,875,000	Lodging Tax
Columbia Playfield subtotal								\$ 3,375,000	\$ -	\$ 3,375,000	
Columbia Point Marina Park											
Renovate playground		X			X	I	MIG: Renovate, Playground	\$ 375,000		\$ 375,000	Lodging Tax
Dredging of marina			X	X		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	No associated costs at this time due to the complexity of permitting and site conditions. Costs to be determined through further analysis.
Columbia Point Marina Park subtotal								\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ 375,000	
Horn Rapids Athletics Complex											
Renovate sports fields and support amenities		X			X	4	Write-in, City Provided		\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000	State Grant
Horn Rapids Athletics Complex subtotal								\$ -	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000	
John Dam Plaza											
Facility enhancements (fencing and backstage, ADA ramp, power upgrades)		X			X	I	MIG: Renovate, Amphitheater/Stage	\$ 1,125,000		\$ 1,125,000	
John Dam Plaza subtotal								\$ 1,125,000	\$ -	\$ 1,125,000	
W.E. Johnson Park											
Archery range improvements		X			X	I	Write-in, City Provided		\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	State Grant
Improve on-street parking along park edge		X			X	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	No associated costs at this time as this project will be completed in partnership with the Richland Public Works Department.
W.E. Johnson Park subtotal								\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	
SPECIAL USE AREAS TOTAL								\$ 10,500,000	\$ 2,625,000	\$ 13,125,000	
LINEAR PARKS											
By-Pass Shelterbelts											
Hazard tree removal and replacement			X		X	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	State Grant
Bypass Shelterbelts subtotal								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
LINEAR PARKS TOTAL								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
NATURAL OPEN SPACE											
Little Badger Mountain Park											
Parking Lot and Trailhead	X				X	I	MIG: New, Trailhead	\$ 980,000		\$ 980,000	State Grant

Trail Segment Construction	X				X	n/a	n/a			n/a	n/a		No associated costs at this time due to the complexity of ongoing trail construction and partnership coordination. Costs to be determined through further analysis. Prioritized for short-term implementation.	
Little Badger Mountain Park subtotal								\$	980,000	\$	-	\$	980,000	
Horn Rapids Natural Space														
Tapteal Trail Master Plan	X				X	I	MIG: Park Master Plan		\$	125,000		\$	125,000	
Horn Rapids Natural Space subtotal								\$	125,000	\$	-	\$	125,000	
NATURAL OPEN SPACE TOTAL								\$	1,105,000	\$	-	\$	1,105,000	
EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES TOTAL									\$	32,217,500	\$	3,125,000	\$	35,342,500
PROPOSED PARKS AND FACILITIES														
Bradley Landing Linear Park														
Development of Bradley Landing Dock	X				X	n/a	n/a				n/a	n/a	No associated costs at this time due to the complexity of permitting and site conditions. Costs to be determined through further analysis.	
Bradley Landing Linear Park Master Plan	X				X	I	MIG: Park Master Plan							
Linear Park Development	X				X	I	MIG: Linear Park Development	\$	430,000			\$	430,000	
Bradley Landing Linear Park Subtotal								\$	430,000	\$	-	\$	430,000	
Badger Mountain South Neighborhood Park														
Develop a new Park Master Plan	X				X	I	MIG: Park Master Plan	\$	125,000			\$	125,000	
Badger Mountain South Neighborhood Park subtotal								\$	125,000	\$	-	\$	125,000	
City View Park														
Linear Park Development	X				X	I	MIG: Linear Park Development	\$	430,000			\$	430,000	
City View Park subtotal								\$	430,000	\$	-	\$	430,000	
DNR Park														
Develop a new Park Master Plan	X				X	I	MIG: Park Master Plan	\$	125,000			\$	125,000	
DNR Park subtotal								\$	125,000	\$	-	\$	125,000	
PROPOSED PARKS AND FACILITIES TOTAL									\$	1,110,000	\$	-	\$	1,110,000
EXISTING AND PROPOSED TOTAL									\$	33,327,500	\$	3,125,000	\$	36,452,500

¹These estimates reflect planning-level construction cost assumptions in 2026 dollars not accounting for inflation. Cost ranges are intended for planning purposes only. Support and access amenities (if included) are noted. Actual costs will vary depending on site realities, the scale and quality of facilities, and changing market prices for materials and labor. Actual cost estimates should be determined through site master planning and design at the time of development. The costs do not include environmental compliance documentation, community engagement, design, permitting, installation, or staff hours to manage site planning, design, construction, and implementation. Those elements could escalate park development costs by 20-25 percent.

Table D-2: Planning-Level Capital Cost Assumptions

Revised 06/11/2026

Planning Level Cost ¹					
Feature	Unit	New ²	Replace, 75% ³	Improve or Expand, 125% ⁴	Cost Assumptions
BUILD					
Neighborhood Park Development	Acre	\$ 750,000			Costs reflect moderate site development to support close-to-home recreation opportunities to residents, including site grading, circulation, utilities, outdoor facilities, amenities, and landscaping. Cost does not include the development of major facilities such as community centers and pools. Costs factor in general assumptions about the amount of park acreage developed vs. left in a more natural state. Sites with extensive natural areas may have lower costs. Smaller neighborhood parks may have higher costs than shown to provide a higher level of development in a more consolidated space.
Community Park Development	Acre	\$ 375,000	-	-	Costs reflect site development to support large group use and programming, including site grading, circulation, utilities, outdoor facilities, amenities, and landscaping. Cost does not include the development of major facilities such as community centers and pools. Costs factor in general assumptions about the amount of park acreage developed vs. left in a more natural state. Sites with extensive natural areas may have lower costs. Smaller community parks may have higher costs than shown to provide a higher level of development in a more consolidated space.
Linear Park Development	Acre	\$ 430,000	-	-	Costs reflect development of multi-use, hard-surfaced trail and associated amenities, such as signage, pavement markings, bollards, benches, trash receptacles. Includes corridor grading, limited outdoor amenities, and landscaping. Cost does not include the development of trailheads or recreation facilities along trails.
Park Master Plan	Each	\$ 125,000	-	-	Costs reflect one site master plan or facility financial feasibility study. Cost will vary depending on the size of the site. This does not include construction documents.
ATHLETICS / SPORTS					
Soccer Field (Rectangular) - Artificial Turf	Each	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 1,875,000	Costs reflect a field with artificial turf and lights.
Baseball/Softball Field (Diamond) - Artificial Turf	Each	\$ 2,625,000	\$ 1,968,750	\$ 3,281,250	Costs reflect a regulation-size field with artificial turf, outfield fencing, backstop and foul-line fencing.

Planning Level Cost ¹					
Feature	Unit	New ²	Replace, 75% ³	Improve or Expand, 125% ⁴	Cost Assumptions
Pickleball Court (4)	Each	\$ 375,000	\$ 281,250	\$ 468,750	Costs reflect four (4) pickleball courts with surfacing, striping, netting, and fencing.
PLAY AREAS					
Playground - Equipment and Furnishings (Manufactured)	Each	\$ 500,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 625,000	Costs reflect one approximately 5,000 - 10,000 s.f. manufactured play area for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with accessible safety surfacing. May include main play equipment and separate play pieces. Actual cost will depend on type and size.
Playground - Destination	Each	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,500,000	Costs reflect one approximately 25,000 - 40,000 s.f. play area with universal/inclusive and thematic elements intended to attract people from throughout the region.
Splashpad / Water Play	Each	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 1,875,000	Costs reflect a splashpad with mechanical building/apparatus and recirculating water.
OUTDOOR RECREATION					
Picnic Shelter (medium)	Each	\$ 300,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 375,000	Costs reflect one medium-sized picnic shelter (20-24 people; 5-6 tables) with motion sensor lighting, barbecues, trash receptacles, serving table or prep counter.
Picnic Shelter (Small)	Each	\$ 200,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 250,000	Costs reflect one small group picnic shelter (8-12 people; 2-3 tables) with barbecue and trash receptacle. No electrical outlet or lighting provided.
Trailhead	Each	\$ 980,000	\$ 735,000	\$ 1,225,000	Costs reflect two-stall restroom, drinking fountain, bench, bike rack, trail identification and regulatory signage, 4 regular and 1 accessible off-street parking.
Hard-Surfaced Trail	Mile	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 1,875,000	Costs assume an 8 to 10 ft-wide asphalt paved trail with gravel shoulders, minor grading, mile markers and continuous buffer vegetation.
Soft-Surfaced Trail	Mile	\$ 300,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 375,000	Costs assume a 3ft-wide stabilized decomposed granite surfaced trail and mile markers.
AMENITIES					
Parking Lot (Off-Street)	Per Site	\$ 300,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 375,000	Costs reflect 8 to 10 paved spaces total including 2 accessible spaces, curbing, ramps, pavement markings.
Concession and Restroom Building	Each	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 2,625,000	\$ 4,375,000	Costs reflect allowance for large 6 to 10-unit restroom, concessions window, counter, storage, utilities and plumbing
Restroom (Small, Permanent)	Each	\$ 600,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 750,000	Costs reflect two single-occupancy units.

Planning Level Cost ¹					
Feature	Unit	New ²	Replace, 75% ³	Improve or Expand, 125% ⁴	Cost Assumptions
Restroom (Large, Permanent)	Each	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 1,875,000	Costs reflect six single-occupancy units.
Amphitheater/Stage	Each	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 1,875,000	Costs reflect one outdoor amphitheater/stage with covering, lawn seating, utilities, lighting, and stage. Additional infrastructure with permanent seating, storage, changing and restrooms would be an additional cost.
Shade Sail or Canopy	Each	\$ 50,000	\$ 37,500	\$ 62,500	Costs reflect fabric-roofed elements that shade play areas/seating areas/splash pad/etc..
Comfort Amenities	Each	\$ 75,000	\$ 56,250	\$ 93,750	Costs reflect new or improved elements such as: seating, picnic tables, bottle-filler stations/dog drinking dishes, trash/recycling receptacles, bike racks, docking stations, art (playable, integrated, stand-alone, and/or temporary displays), information kiosks, signage, and shade trees.

¹These estimates reflect planning-level construction cost assumptions in 2026 dollars not accounting for inflation. Cost ranges are intended for planning purposes only. Support and access amenities (if included) are noted. Actual costs will vary depending on site realities, the scale and quality of facilities, and changing market prices for materials and labor. Actual cost estimates should be determined through site master planning and design at the time of development. The costs do not include environmental compliance documentation, community engagement, design, permitting, installation, or staff hours to manage site planning, design, construction, and implementation. Those elements could escalate park development costs by 20-25 percent.

² Cost assumptions for new build projects reflect planning level construction cost assumptions sourced from MIG.

³ Cost assumptions for Replace projects reflect 75% of new build costs. These projects remove an entire facility (often at the end of its lifecycle) and install a similar facility in the same space. Assumes updates to all items in this footprint, but does not require site grading, drainage, utilities, or similar work involved in new construction.

⁴ Cost assumptions for Improve or Expand projects reflect 125% of new build costs. These projects include enhancing a facility in size, scale, modernization, or interest when replacing it. Additional budget allows for features beyond what is noted in the build new cost or upgrades to supporting features that may be required.

Table D-3: Annual Maintenance Cost Estimates

Revised 06/03/2026

Park Name	Owned By	Maintained By	Long Term Lease	Acreage			Maintenance Cost Breakdown			Annual Estimated Site Maintenance Cost
				Total Developed Acres ¹	Total Natural/Open Spaces Acres	Total Undeveloped Acres	Standard Maintenance	Enhanced Maintenance	Undeveloped/Natural Open Space Maintenance	
REGIONAL PARKS										
Howard Amon Park	COR/USACE	COR	Y	38.9				\$ 194,500		\$ 194,500
Leslie Groves Park	COR/USACE	COR	Y	38.5	57.0			\$ 192,300	\$ 114,000	\$ 306,300
Regional Parks subtotal				77.4	57.0	0.0	\$ -	\$ 386,800	\$ 114,000	\$ 500,800
COMMUNITY PARKS										
Badger Mountain Park	COR	COR		38.8	42.1		\$ 155,080		\$ 84,200	\$ 239,280
Claybell Park Community Park (developed portion)	COR	COR		20.0			\$ 79,920			\$ 79,920
Hanford Legacy Park	COR	Babe Ruth Little League		21.0		43.3	\$ 84,000		\$ 86,600	N/A
Trailhead Park	COR	COR		2.7	36.8		\$ 10,880		\$ 73,600	\$ 84,480
West Village Community Park	COR	COR		18.0		15.8	\$ 72,000		\$ 31,600	\$ 103,600
Community Parks subtotal				100.5	78.9	59.1	\$ 401,880	\$ -	\$ 276,000	\$ 677,880
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS										
Barth Park	COR	COR		0.4			\$ 1,400			\$ 1,400
Beverly Heights Park	COR	COR		2.7			\$ 10,880			\$ 10,880
Brookstone Park	COR	COR		2.4			\$ 9,680			\$ 9,680
Chaparral Park	COR	COR		2.3			\$ 9,160			\$ 9,160
Craighill Park	COR	COR		3.4			\$ 13,640			\$ 13,640
Crested Hills Park	COR	COR		5.8			\$ 23,200			\$ 23,200
Desert Rim Park	COR	COR		2.8			\$ 11,360			\$ 11,360
Drollinger Park	COR	COR		1.6			\$ 6,400			\$ 6,400
Frankfort Park	COR	COR		3.5			\$ 13,880			\$ 13,880
Gala Park	COR	COR		3.0			\$ 12,080			\$ 12,080
Goethals Park	COR	COR		4.1	6.6		\$ 16,480		\$ 13,200	\$ 29,680
Heritage Hills Park	COR	COR		0.9			\$ 3,520			\$ 3,520
Hills West Park	COR	COR		2.1			\$ 8,360			\$ 8,360
Jason Lee Park	COR	COR		4.1			\$ 16,320			\$ 16,320
Jefferson Park	COR	COR		9.1			\$ 36,280			\$ 36,280
Lynnwood Loop Park	COR	COR		10.8			\$ 43,200			\$ 43,200
McMurray Park	COR	COR		2.9			\$ 11,760			\$ 11,760
Meadows East Park	COR	COR		3.0			\$ 12,160			\$ 12,160
Oak Park	COR	COR		2.7			\$ 10,880			\$ 10,880
Overlook Park	COR	COR		0.9			\$ 3,600			\$ 3,600
Paul Liddell Park	COR	COR		3.3			\$ 13,360			\$ 13,360
Rodney Block Park	COR	COR		3.1			\$ 12,400			\$ 12,400
Stevens Park	COR	COR		1.4			\$ 5,680			\$ 5,680
The Greater Years Park	BLM	COR		2.0			\$ 7,960			\$ 7,960
Westwood Park	COR	COR		1.0			\$ 3,800			\$ 3,800
Wye Neighborhood Park (developed portion)	COR	COR		3.1			\$ 12,360			\$ 12,360
Neighborhood Parks subtotal				82.5	6.6	0.0	\$ 329,800	\$ -	\$ 13,200	\$ 343,000
SPECIAL USE AREAS										
Bradley Boulevard Park	COR	COR		1.0				\$ 5,100		\$ 5,100
Carol Woodruff Plaza	COR	COR		0.1				\$ 500		\$ 500
Columbia Park West	COR	COR		59.4				\$ 297,050		\$ 297,050
Columbia Playfield	COR	COR		19.2				\$ 95,850		\$ 95,850
Columbia Point Golf Course	COR	CourseCO	Y?	133.2				\$ 665,950		N/A
Columbia Point Marina Park	COR	COR/Yacht Club Lease	Y?	13.0				\$ 65,200		N/A
Horn Rapids Athletic Complex	COR	COR/BMX	Y?	23.2				\$ 115,800		N/A
Jeannette Taylor Park	COR	COR		2.0				\$ 10,100		\$ 10,100
John Dam Plaza	COR	COR		3.9				\$ 19,550		\$ 19,550
ORV Park	COR	HRMC & Sublets	Y	364.2				\$ 1,821,000		N/A
W.E. Johnson Park	BLM/USACE	COR		152.0	116.2			\$ 760,000	\$ 232,400	\$ 992,400
Special Use Areas subtotal				771.2	116.2	0.0	\$ -	\$ 3,856,100	\$ 232,400	\$ 4,088,500
LINEAR PARKS										
Abbott Shelterbelt	COR			2.4			\$ 9,400			\$ 9,400
By-Pass Shelterbelt	COR			26.5			\$ 105,960			\$ 105,960
Gillespie Parkway	COR			3.0			\$ 11,840			\$ 11,840
Hains Levee Trail	USACE			13.3			\$ 53,200			\$ 53,200
James L. Lawless Park	COR			21.2			\$ 84,960			\$ 84,960
Keene Road Trail Corridor	COR			49.4			\$ 197,760			\$ 197,760

Park Name	Owned By	Maintained By	Long Term Lease	Acreage			Maintenance Cost Breakdown			Annual Estimated Site Maintenance Cost
				Total Developed Acres ¹	Total Natural Open Spaces Acres	Total Undeveloped Acres	Standard Maintenance	Enhanced Maintenance	Undeveloped/Natural Open Space Maintenance	
Marjorie Sutch Greenway	COR			7.2			\$ 28,920			\$ 28,920
Stevens Drive Buffer Strip	COR			12.4			\$ 49,400			\$ 49,400
Linear Parks subtotal				135.4	0.0	0.0	\$ 541,440	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 541,440
NATURAL OPEN SPACE										
Amon Creek Natural Preserve	COR					84.3			\$ 168,520	\$ 168,520
Chamna Natural Preserve	USACE					291.5			\$ 583,080	\$ 583,080
Claybell Park (NOS portion)	COR					22.7			\$ 45,360	\$ 45,360
Columbia Point South	COR/USACE	COR				265.0			\$ 530,000	\$ 530,000
Horn Rapids Natural Space	COR					4.9			\$ 9,780	\$ 9,780
Little Badger Mountain Park	COR					79.7			\$ 159,320	\$ 159,320
Wye Levee Natural Space	COR	COR				22.7			\$ 45,440	\$ 45,440
Yakima River Delta	USACE					551.9			\$ 1,103,700	\$ 1,103,700
Natural Open Space subtotal				0.0	0.0	1322.6	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,645,200	\$ 2,645,200
UNDEVELOPED PARK SITES										
East Vineyard Park	BC LLC					7.8			\$ 15,600	\$ 15,600
Hunt Point Circle	COR	COR				0.3			\$ 600	\$ 600
McPherson Circle	BLM					1.2			\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400
South Orchard Park	COR	COR				6.6			\$ 13,200	\$ 13,200
Undeveloped Park Sites subtotal				0.0	0.0	15.9	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,800	\$ 31,800
EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES TOTAL							\$ 1,273,120	\$ 4,242,900	\$ 3,312,600	\$ 8,828,620
PROPOSED PARKS AND FACILITIES										
Bradley Landing Linear Park	COR	COR		2.0			\$ 8,000			\$ 8,000
PROPOSED PARKS AND FACILITIES TOTAL							\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000
EXISTING AND PROPOSED TOTAL							\$ 1,281,120	\$ 4,242,900	\$ 3,312,600	\$ 8,836,620

¹ Developed acres reflects the proposed developed acreage per the capital projects recommended in Table D-1. For example, an additional 12 acres are proposed to be developed during Phase 2 development of West Village Community Park, resulting in 18 total developed acres at the site following Phase 2 development.

Table D-4: Annual Maintenance Cost Assumptions

Revised 06/03/2026

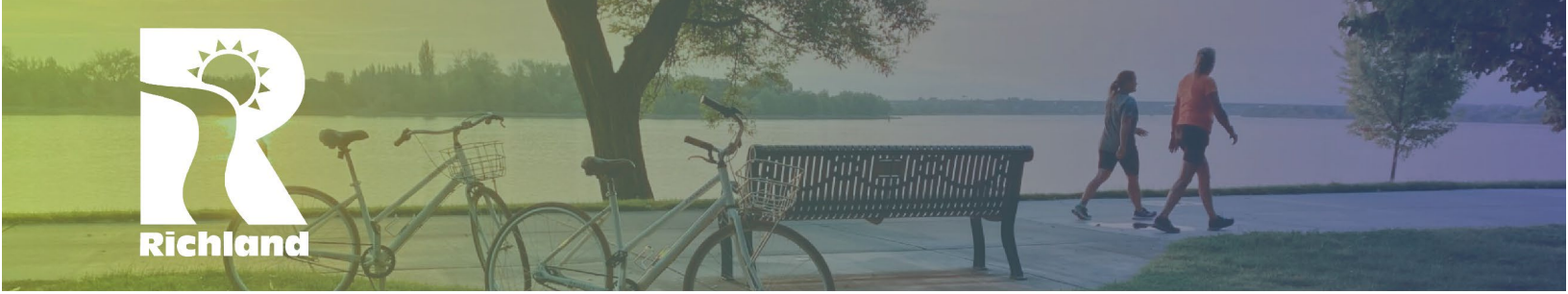
Source	Unit	Planning-Level Cost ¹	Notes
Standard Developed Park Maintenance	per developed acre	\$ 4,000	Standard developed park maintenance costs are estimated based on average park maintenance expenditures from 2020-2024 (\$1,756,709 annual average) including 448 acres of developed parkland, excluding sites maintained by other user groups, natural open space, and undeveloped sites. This cost represents 100% of current gross expenditures/acre.
Enhanced Developed Park Maintenance	per developed acre	\$ 5,000	Enhanced developed park maintenance costs recognize more intensive features and uses at major facilities, Regional Parks, and Special Use Areas. This cost represents 125% of standard park maintenance costs.
Undeveloped/Natural Open Space Maintenance	per undeveloped acre	\$ 2,000	Undeveloped/natural open space maintenance costs recognize maintenance for natural open space areas and undeveloped portions of developed parks. This cost represents 50% of standard park maintenance costs.

¹These estimates reflect planning level construction cost assumptions for general budgeting only.



APPENDIX E

NEEDS ANALYSIS



PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

APPENDIX E: NEEDS ANALYSIS

Finalized in 2025, the Needs Analysis provides a point-in-time analysis of Richland’s parks, recreation facilities, trails, programming, and maintenance. Some targeted adjustments have since been made to population projections and park counts. As a point-in-time analysis, this appendix may include different data counts or other information in comparison to the final PROS Plan document. The data included in the body of the PROS Plan represents the most current data and information.

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

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. The Project Team then evaluated park and facility level of service (LOS) using standards identified in the 2019 PROS Plan that will be further refined using a more holistic approach in the next phase of the project. 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 Appendix C 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.

The flyer features the Richland Parks and Recreation logo at the top left. The background is a photograph of a park with a lake and people. The text is arranged in a grid-like fashion. The top right section says 'RICHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION'. The middle section asks 'WHAT WILL RICHLAND'S PARKS LOOK LIKE IN 10 YEARS?'. The bottom left has a QR code with the text 'SCAN ME!'. The bottom right has the text 'SHARE YOUR IDEAS! TAKE THE PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY' and the URL 'bit.ly/RichlandPROSCommunitySurvey'.

The flyer features the Richland Parques y Recreación logo at the top left. The background is a photograph of a park with a lake and people. The text is arranged in a grid-like fashion. The top right section says 'RICHLAND PARQUES Y RECREACIÓN'. The middle section asks '¿CÓMO SE VERÁN LOS PARQUES DE RICHLAND DENTRO DE 10 AÑOS?'. The bottom left has a QR code with the text 'ESCANEE!'. The bottom right has the text '¡COMPARTA SUS IDEAS! RESPONDA LA ENCUESTA SOBRE PARQUES Y RECREACIÓN' and the URL 'bit.ly/RichlandPROEncuestaComunidad'.

Key Engagement Themes

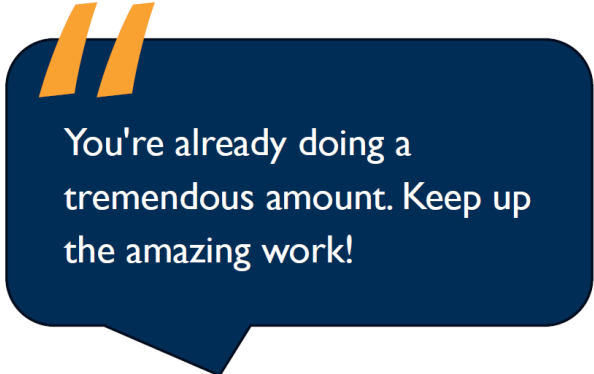
The following key themes emerged from the PROS Plan’s initial engagement efforts. These themes represent a collective snapshot of the opportunities, aspirations, and needs that were consistently highlighted across the engagement efforts.

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.

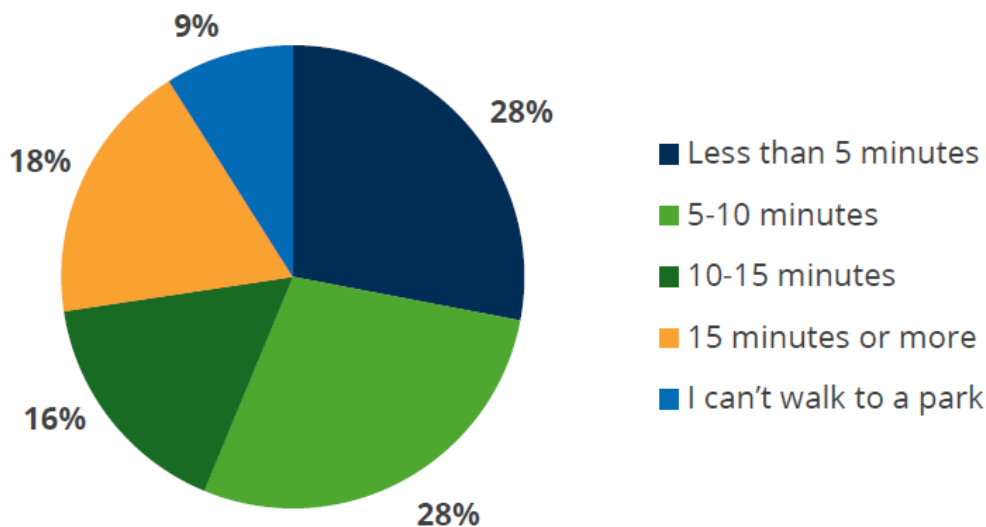
Theme #2

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.

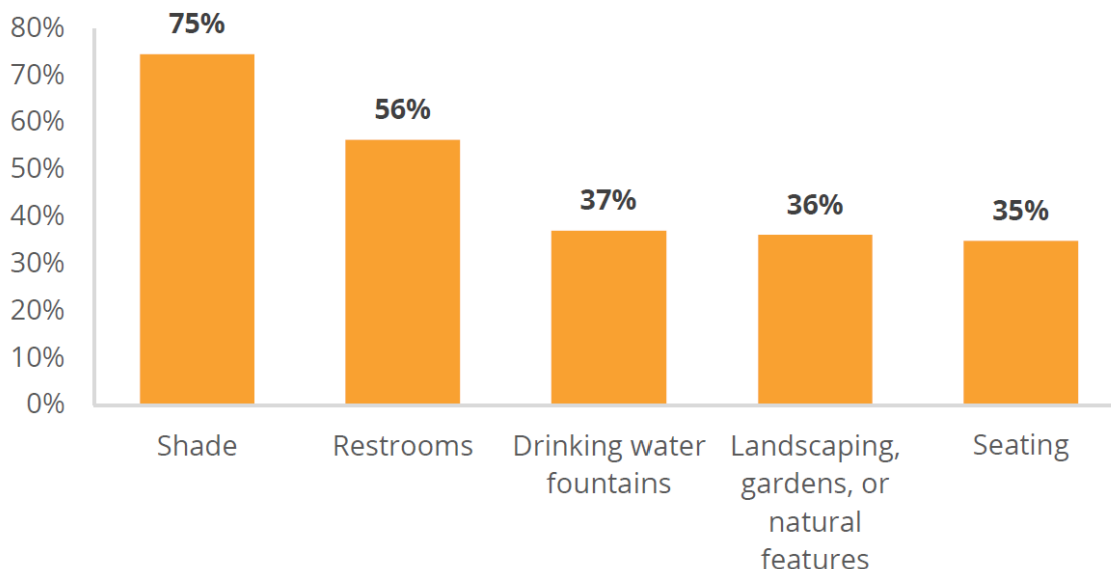
Theme #4

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, guided or self-guided arts walks, shows, plays, performances, etc.), and outdoor education or nature programs.

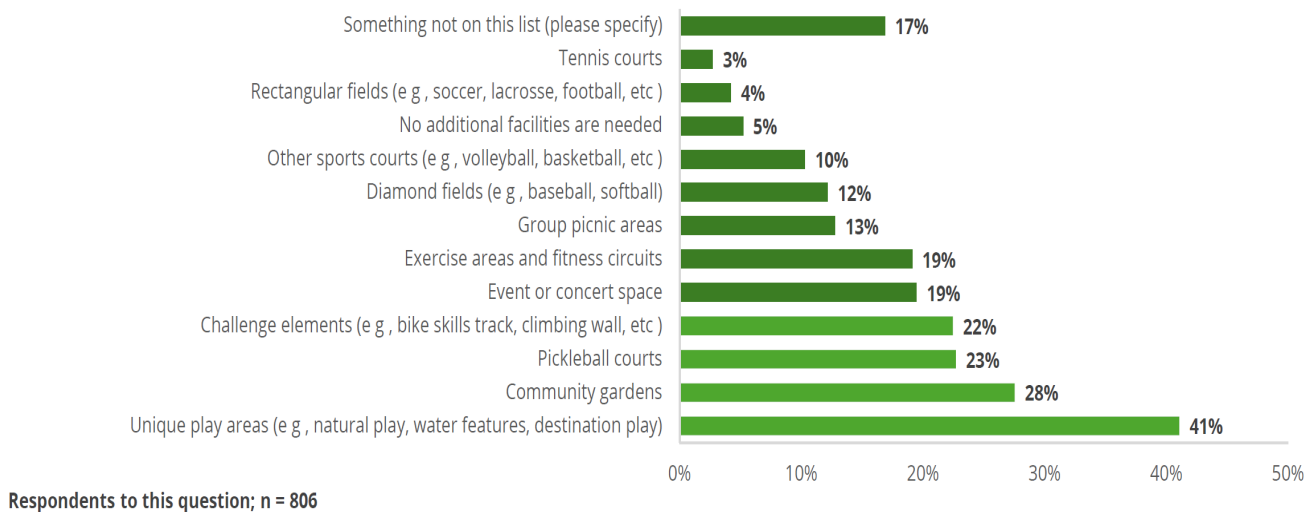
Theme #7

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.

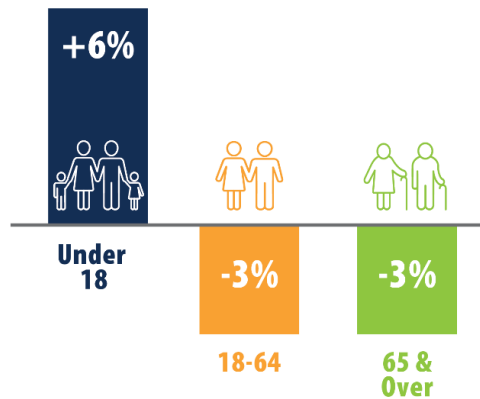
Anticipated Population Growth

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 2046, Richland is projected to have a population of 91,890 people.¹ This represents a projected 43 percent population increase between 2025 and 2046. 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

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.

² 2023 Washington SCORP.

³ 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

⁴ 2023 Washington SCORP.

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 Park. 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

The distance between parks and where people live, work, or go to school makes a big difference to how parks are used. In turn, so does the ability to benefit from the economic, social, and health benefits that parks provide. As a rapidly growing city, Richland must take proactive steps to ensure both existing and future residents have equitable access to parks and recreation opportunities.

Park access can be evaluated in a variety of ways. Two important measurements are the quantity of total parkland acreage and parkland distribution throughout the city. Taking a deeper look at parkland distribution allows a more complete picture of who is served and unserved by the City’s existing parks.

Two of the nation’s leading resources on parks and recreation—the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) —suggest the need for 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 City of Richland parks are well-distributed across the city, there are still residential areas that are further than a 10-minute walk from a City 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 as of 2025. These areas are considered “underserved” and should be a focus of City investment when planning for new parks or facilities.

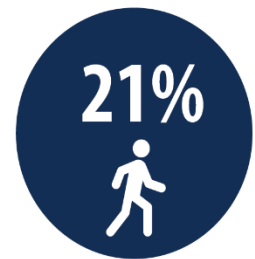
To further evaluate park access, the Project Team used a digital mapping program (ArcGIS Network Analyst™) to identify areas served and underserved by existing developed City parks. The Park Access Map (Map 3-1) highlights areas in the community where residents are more than a 10-minute walk away from a City park, showing noticeable gaps in access. While some residents in these areas may have access to other forms of greenspace and recreation opportunities, such as school grounds, private parks and facilities, or parks managed by other agencies, those resources are not included in the access analysis although the location of these resources are shown on the map.

The analysis is based on the way a person walks or rolls to a park; therefore, factors such as the safe street crossings and limited or no park access points all influence the extent of the 10-minute walk service areas. The map identifies locations where City provided park resources are less accessible, which may limit residents' ability to easily engage in outdoor recreation and benefit from local park spaces. The map also highlights higher density residential areas⁷ (gap areas) that are outside of a 10-minute walk to City parks and facilities, helping identify locations where future investments in park access may be needed.

FIGURE 8: POPULATION WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF A PARK



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

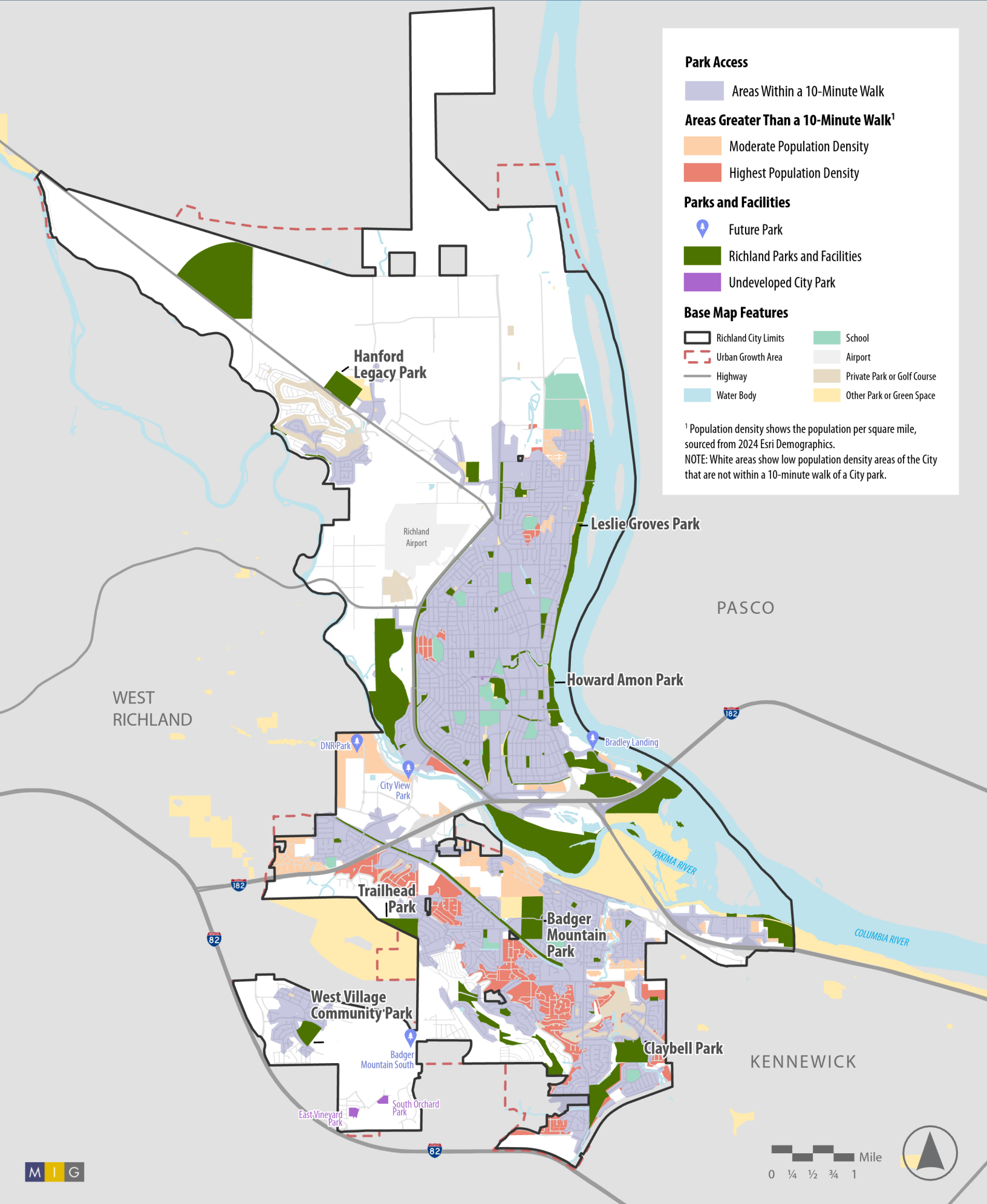


Percentage of the population living more than a 10-minute walk from a park

⁷ Population densities are based on population per square mile sourced from 2024 Esri Demographics data. A “moderate” population density score is 1,428-2,061 people per square mile while a “high” score is 2,455-9,820 people per square mile.

Map 3-1 shows that there are gap areas to City-provided parks 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 although some of these areas will be served by the acquisition and development of planned future parks (e.g., City View Park, DNR Park, and Bradley Landing Park in Central Richland and Badger Mountain South in South Richland) as well as existing undeveloped parks in South Richland (e.g., East Vineyard Park and South Orchard Park). Nearly all of Richland's Columbia River frontage has a continuous trail connection, but some areas of the city have steep topography or busy streets such as George Washington Way that serve as a barrier to connecting to other neighborhoods. There is also potential for a consistent signage and wayfinding system to help people safely find and access parks.

City Park Access Map (10-minute walk)



Park Access

Areas Within a 10-Minute Walk

Areas Greater Than a 10-Minute Walk¹

Moderate Population Density

Highest Population Density

Parks and Facilities

Future Park

Richland Parks and Facilities

Undeveloped City Park

Base Map Features

Richland City Limits

Urban Growth Area

Highway

Water Body

School

Airport

Private Park or Golf Course

Other Park or Green Space

¹ Population density shows the population per square mile, sourced from 2024 Esri Demographics.

NOTE: White areas show low population density areas of the City that are not within a 10-minute walk of a City park.



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 in 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 Community Park, Goethals Park, McMurray Park, and Columbia Point Marina Park. Parks that provide exercise, sports, and trail opportunities are the most prevalent (50 sites) and parks that provide opportunities to experience nature are the least prevalent (23 sites). The Access to Essential Service Maps (Figure 3-2 in the PROS Plan) show areas of Richland that have a 10-minute walk to parks and facilities that provide one of the three essential services. Key observations show that:

- 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; and
- 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.

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

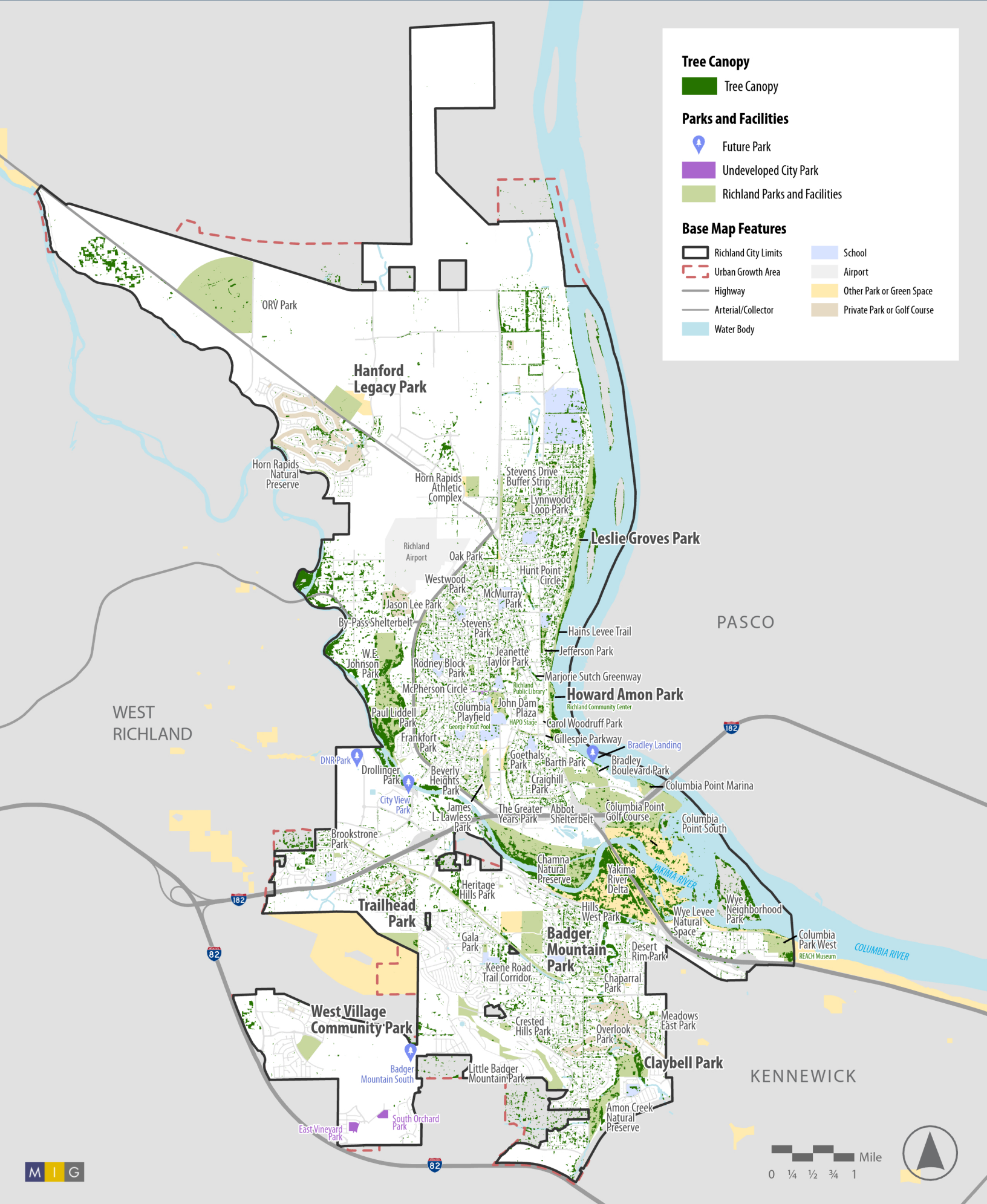
As part of the City of Richland's parks and recreation planning process, the Project Team conducted a detailed tree canopy analysis using current and historical aerial imagery. This analysis mapped the extent of the city's tree canopy, identified recent gains and losses, and assessed trends over time. 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



Tree Canopy

Tree Canopy

Parks and Facilities

Future Park

Undeveloped City Park

Richland Parks and Facilities

Base Map Features

Richland City Limits

Urban Growth Area

Highway

Arterial/Collector

Water Body

School

Airport

Other Park or Green Space

Private Park or Golf Course



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 summarizes relevant benchmarks for Richland’s park and recreation system and provides a reference point for understanding current conditions in relation to the City’s adopted Level of Service (LOS) standards. While these LOS metrics remain useful for illustrating where the system stands today, future recommendations will take a more holistic approach that reflects evolving community needs, shifting recreation trends, and best practices that move away from strictly numeric standards.

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. The 2019 PROS Plan provides LOS standards for most park types, as well as for recreation facilities. At that time, the City conducted a detailed evaluation of its system—including community input, benchmarking, and analysis of national and regional trends—to establish quantitative targets for acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and desired service levels for different park types.

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 these metrics offer a point of comparison for evaluating whether the existing amount of parkland aligns with previously established goals, acreage alone does not fully reflect community experience. Factors such as the physical distribution, type and quality of parkland should also be considered, as addressed in the Park and Facility Access section.

As of 2025, Richland provides 64 parks spanning approximately 2,823 acres. With Richland’s population of 64,190 (2025), this overall park acreage yields a LOS of 44 acres per 1,000 residents. When excluding natural open space, the overall park acreage yields a LOS of 23.4 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/or future deficit for regional, community, and neighborhood parks based on the City’s adopted LOS standards. These standards are included here for reference, recognizing that future

planning will consider LOS in a broader context that better reflects how residents use and experience the park system.

TABLE 2: PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE (2025 AND 2046)

PARK TYPE	TOTAL ACRES	EXISTING LOS (2025)			FUTURE LOS (2046)	
		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	134.4	2.1	5	(186.6)	1.5	(227.1)
Community Parks	238.5	3.7	3.5	13.8	2.6	(83.1)
Neighborhood Parks	89.1	1.4	1.5	(7.2)	1.0	(48.7)
Special Use Areas	887.4	13.8	No LOS adopted	--	9.7	--
Linear Parks	135.4	2.1	No LOS adopted	--	1.5	--
Natural Open Space	1322.7	20.6	5 acres	1,001.8	14.4	863.3
Undeveloped Parks	15.9	0.25	N/A	--	0.2	--
Total All Parks	2823.4	44.0	--	--	30.7	--

Existing population is 64,190 (2024, Washington State Office of Financial Management); Future population is 91,890 (2046, 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, BMX tracks, skateparks, outdoor swimming pools, indoor swimming pools, or community centers. Using the same LOS Standards, Richland will also be deficient in golf courses (minimally), basketball courts, playgrounds, and amphitheatres/stages by 2046.

TABLE 3: RECREATION FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE (2025 AND 2046)

FACILITY TYPE	TOTAL EXISTING FACILITIES	EXISTING RATIO (FACILITY / TOTAL 2025 POPULATION)	CITY OF RICHLAND STANDARD*	DIFFERENCE IN TOTAL FACILITIES	
				2025	2046
Baseball Field	30	1 Field / 2,140 Pop.	1 Field / 10,000 Pop.	23.6	20.8
Soccer/Football/Lacrosse Field	26	1 Field / 2,469 Pop.	1 Field / 6,500 Pop.	16.1	11.9
Disc Golf Course	1	1 Field / 32,095 Pop.	1 Field / 50,000 Pop.	0.7	0.2
Golf Course	1	1 Course / 64,190 Pop.	1 Course / 80,000 Pop.	0.2	(0.1)
Basketball Court	18	1 Court / 3,566 Pop.	1 Court / 3,750 Pop.	0.9	(6.5)
Sand Volleyball Court	3	1 Court / 21,397 Pop.	1 Court / 13,000 Pop.	(1.9)	(4.1)
Tennis Court	10	1 Court / 6,419 Pop.	1 Court / 5,000 Pop.	(2.8)	(8.4)
Pickleball Court	6	1 Court / 0,698 Pop.	1 Court / 18,000 Pop.	2.4	0.9
Dog Park	1	1 Park / 2,095 Pop.	1 Park / 50,000 Pop.	0.7	0.2
Community Garden	4	1 / 16,048 Pop.	1 Garden / 25,000 Pop.	1.4	0.3
Playground	33	1 / 1,945 Pop.	1 Playground / 2,500 Pop.	7.3	(3.8)
BMX Track	1	1 Court / 64,190 Pop.	1 Track / 50,000 Pop.	(0.3)	(0.8)
Skatepark	1	1 Court / 64,190 Pop.	1 Skatepark / 35,000 Pop.	(0.8)	(1.6)
Amphitheater / Stage	2	1 Park / 32,095 Pop.	1 Stage / 35,000 Pop.	0.2	(0.6)
Outdoor Swimming Pool	1	1 Court / 64,190 Pop.	1 pool / 35,000 Pop.	(0.8)	(1.6)
Indoor Swimming Pool	0	0 / 64,190 Pop.	1 pool / 70,000 Pop.	(0.9)	(1.3)
Community Center	1	1 Court / 64,190 Pop.	1 Community Center / 35,000 Pop.	(0.8)	(1.6)

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.