

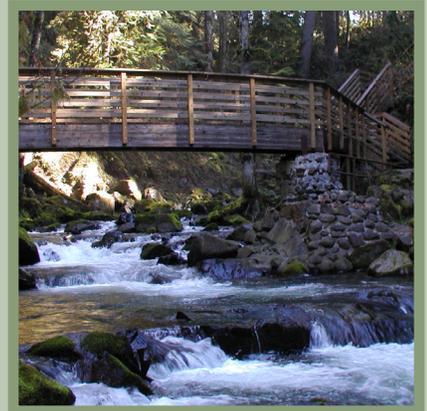
LINN COUNTY

park AND recreation

MASTER PLAN



JANUARY 2009



LINN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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December 2008

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1

INTRODUCTION 1

BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION . 9

PLANNING FRAMEWORK 11

RECOMMENDATIONS 13

IMPLEMENTATION 33

BIBLIOGRAPHY 47

APPENDIX A: PARK AND RECREATION
FACILITY INVENTORY

APPENDIX B: PARK SYSTEM MAPS

APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY NEEDS
ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX D: CAPITAL & NON-CAPITAL
PROJECTS

APPENDIX E: DESIGN GUIDELINES

APPENDIX F: LWCF GRANT PRIORITIES

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1: Historic and Projected Population, Linn County, 1980 –2020
- Figure 2: Percent Population by Age, Linn County, 1990 – 2000
- Figure 3: Population by Race or Ethnicity, Linn County, 1990
- Figure 4: Population by Race or Ethnicity, Linn County, 2000
- Figure 5: Employed Persons by Occupation, Linn County, 2000
- Figure 6: Planning Process
- Figure 7: Planning Framework
- Figure 8: Parks and Recreation Budget 1990-2005

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1: Employed Persons by Occupation, Linn County, 1990-2000
- Table 2: Revenues Other than General Fund
- Table 3: Camping Revenues 2006-2007
- Table 4: 6-Year Revenue and Expenditure History
- Table 5: Expenditure Breakdown
- Table 6: Priority I Capital Project Costs
- Table 7: New Park Land Planning Costs
- Table 8: Priority I Non-Capital Project Costs
- Table 9: Current and Proposed Annual Maintenance Costs
- Table 10: Proposed Annual Maintenance Costs
- Table A-1: Linn County Park & Recreation Facility Inventory
- Table A-2: Other Providers' Park & Recreation Facility Inventory
- Table C-1: Participation in Public Involvement
- Table C-2: Park and Recreation Priorities, Community Survey
- Table C-3: Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities, Community Survey
- Table C-4: Summary of Linn County Parkland by Classification
- Table C-5: Comparison of Park Acreage by County
- Table C-6: Average Nights Reserved, Linn County Campgrounds, June-August 2006
- Table D-1: Proposed Capital Projects
- Table D-2: Proposed Non-Capital Projects

LIST OF MAPS

- Map 1: Linn County Parks Department Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities, Northwestern Linn County, April 2007
- Map 2: Linn County Parks Department Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities, Southwestern Linn County, April 2007
- Map 3: Linn County Parks Department Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities, Northeastern Linn County, April 2007
- Map 4: Linn County Parks Department Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities, Southeastern Linn County, April 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Linn County Parks and Recreation Master Plan, initiated in the fall of 2006, establishes a road map for providing parks and recreation facilities throughout the County over the next 10 years. The Master Plan establishes a vision and goals for Linn County parks. Based on the vision and goals, the Plan identifies current and future park and recreation needs and identifies capital and non-capital projects that meet them. Lastly, the Master Plan presents strategies for implementing the projects that will benefit Linn County residents and visitors most. When implemented, the Plan will help the County protect natural resources, promote regional tourism, attract residents and visitors, and foster economic development by providing a broad range of recreation experiences.



THE BENEFITS OF RECREATION: ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITY

The parks and facilities proposed in the Plan will have multiple benefits, including protecting the natural environment, fostering youth development, promoting health and wellness, enhancing sense of community, and improving the property tax base by increasing the value of nearby properties (Crompton 2000). The Plan ensures that Linn County maximizes these benefits for all residents and visitors—regardless of age, ability, or cultural background - by promoting the development of parks, natural areas, and recreation facilities that are accessible. It also recommends the creation of a regional trail network that links community members to each other and to the vast natural and cultural resources that the County and its partners have to offer.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: THE CORNERSTONE OF THE PLAN

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was enriched by a wealth of information provided by the residents of Linn County. Over 800 community residents participated in public involvement activities over the course of the planning process, including a Community Survey, Community Questionnaire, Advisory Committee meetings, and focus groups. Activities were designed to obtain input from a broad cross-section of the community.

Throughout the public involvement process, Linn County residents clearly expressed the importance of parks, recreation, and open space

to the community's quality of life. Residents recognized the benefits of parks and recreation in strengthening families and communities, providing access to nature, and providing opportunities for youth. Participants also reported high levels of park use.

However, Linn County residents also stressed several key needs with respect to parks and recreation in their community. Among these, residents emphasized the need to maintain existing parks and recreation facilities and protect natural areas. Residents stressed the need to develop additional facilities, including campsites, trails, an OHV facility, and boating facilities. Community members also recognized the importance of improved coordination and partnerships to improve park and recreation services in the region.

OUR VISION AND GOALS: OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

Parks, recreation, and the natural environment are vital to residents and visitors of Linn County. The County's outdoor recreation opportunities help create a healthier community, a higher quality of life, and a sense of place.

The Parks and Recreation Department vision is to *provide a diversity of parks and recreation opportunities that support a healthy community, protect the natural environment, and enhance quality of life for all residents.*

The County will achieve this vision by reaching its goals, the desired outcomes of the Master Plan. These include:

- Promote health and wellness.
- Provide diverse opportunities.
- Protect natural and historical resources.
- Reinvest in existing parks and recreation facilities.
- Achieve financing stability.
- Develop community partnerships.





OUR ACTIONS: IMPROVING OUR SERVICES

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes a number of recommendations that will enhance the parks and recreation facilities offered by Linn County. These recommendations are based on findings from both extensive community involvement and technical analysis.

Recommendations include the following:

- *Park and Facility Improvements:* Linn County residents believe in protecting the County's existing investments. In keeping with this value, this Plan recommends improvements to most of the County's existing park sites. These improvements are designed to extend the life of existing investments, enhance recreation opportunities, and improve access for residents of all abilities.
- *New Parks:* This Plan also recommends the acquisition and development of 800 acres of new parkland. These acquisitions will help the County protect significant natural areas and historic sites, obtain public access to valuable water frontage, and provide close-to-home recreation opportunities for residents County-wide.
- *New Facilities:* Linn County is an active community and one that values a wide variety of recreation opportunities. This Plan recommends the development of recreation facilities that support the County's most popular activities – walking, picnicking, fishing, camping, and swimming. These facilities will make Linn County parks a better place not only for the residents that live near them, but for visitors as well.
- *Revenue Generating Facilities:* The Plan recommends that the County continue to develop recreation facilities that meet needs and generate revenues to reduce reliance on general funds. These include an OHV site, diverse camping opportunities, group picnic and camping facilities, and special events site.
- *Additional Recommendations:* In addition to physical improvements, this Plan suggests that the County improve its services through the development of plans, programs, and partnerships. These efforts, including a regional trails plan, and a master plan for the Quartzville Corridor, will not only improve the recreation opportunities available to Linn County residents and visitors, they will strengthen the valuable collaborations between local, state, and federal agencies in Linn County.

THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN: HOW WE WILL IMPROVE OUR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Like other Oregon Counties, Linn County underwent major reductions in general fund revenues in the 1990s due largely to the reduction of timber harvesting on public lands. Since federal subsidies are expected to continue to decrease, the County general fund budget may continue to decrease as well.

Early on, Linn County recognized this impending financial crunch and has been adapting its funding approach for parks and recreation services. The Parks and Recreation Department has decreased its dependence on County general funds from about 75% of revenues in 1990 to approximately 30% of revenues in 2005. To fill this gap, the Parks and Recreation Department began to pursue other sources of funding, including user fees and grants, and has been extremely successful in this effort.

The Master Plan recommends a number of capital and non-capital projects. Because the anticipated costs for implementing all improvements exceed the County's available funds in the short term, projects were prioritized. The total cost for both capital and non-capital improvements will exceed \$10 million over the life of this Plan. The County intends to fund these projects using a conservative "pay as you go" method. Key sources of funding include:

- Pursuing additional grant opportunities;
- Developing partnerships with other agencies to fund key projects;
- Building additional revenue generating facilities, such as RV parks;
- Expanding user fees;
- Increasing donations, including developing a park and recreation foundation; and
- Enhancing volunteerism in parks and recreation.

In addition, the County may consider asking voters to support an operating levy to fund resident's highest priority - maintaining and enhancing existing park resources, especially if the County budget continues to decrease in the future.

As a result of these new and enhanced funding mechanisms, Linn County residents will enjoy improved facilities and amenities at existing parks as well as preserve additional park land for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Some of these projects include:

- Renovations to existing parks;
- Improved maintenance;
- The completion of River Bend Park;
- New and renovated boating facilities;
- New trails;
- Additional parks; and
- Expanded camping opportunities.



NEXT STEPS:

THE FUTURE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Over the next few years, Linn County will continue to cultivate strong, positive relationships with park users and public and private organizations in order to unite efforts to acquire, develop, and maintain parks, recreation facilities, and programs.

This plan is not a static document. It is a dynamic tool that can be adapted to respond to changing recreation trends and needs. Linn County will continue to seek advice of residents and visitors as we move forward in implementing this Master Plan, so that we can provide an exceptional system of parks and recreation facilities for all. We will need volunteers and partners to make the vision a reality. Please join us.

INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

Linn County is one of the larger counties in western Oregon. The County is bordered by the Willamette River and Benton County on the west, the North Santiam River and Marion County on the north, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties on the east, and Lane County on the south. In total, the County consists of 2,308 square miles.



In its western portion, Linn County is characterized by the flat, agricultural land that comprises much of the Willamette Valley. The soil conditions allow for a wide variety of specialty crops, including ryegrass, for which Linn County is the nation’s top producer. To the east, the land is dominated by the Cascade Mountains. Three of the highest peaks in Oregon’s Cascade range, Three-Fingered Jack, Mt. Jefferson, and Mt. Washington, all lie in Linn County.

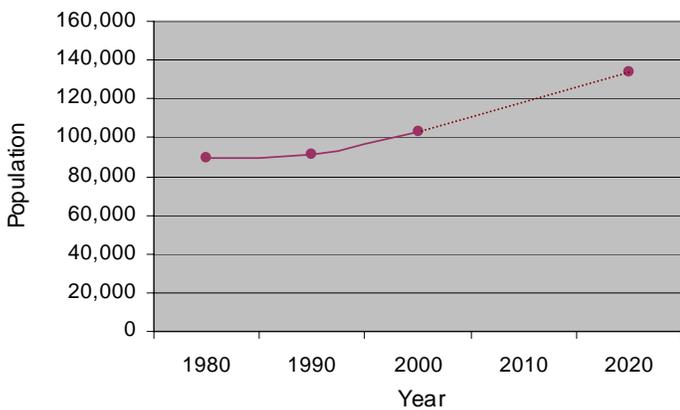
COMMUNITY PROFILE

POPULATION

In 2000, the total population of Linn County was 103,069. This represents a 13% increase from ten years prior, when the population of the County numbered 91,227. Historically, a large percentage of the County’s residents live in three primary areas: the cities of Albany, Lebanon, and Sweet Home. A significant number also live in the unincorporated areas of the County. In fact, as recently as the late

90s, residents of the unincorporated area outnumbered the population of any of the County’s individual cities.

FIGURE 1: HISTORIC AND PROJECTED POPULATION LINN COUNTY, 1980-2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Linn County

Population projections (Figure 1) for the next 15 years show an increase in growth rate. According to estimates prepared for the County’s comprehensive plan, Linn County is expected to grow by 29.5% to 133,508 by 2020. Current trends indicate that a large portion of the County’s newcomers will likely be retirees, many of whom are attracted to the area by its access to the outdoors. The fastest growth rates are projected for the small towns of Harrisburg, Millersburg, and Tangent.

However, many of the newcomers will continue to live in the County’s unincorporated areas, rather than in its cities. Thus, while the largest portion of the projected population is expected to live in Albany in 2020 (35.2%), an additional 32.9% will reside in the County’s unincorporated areas.

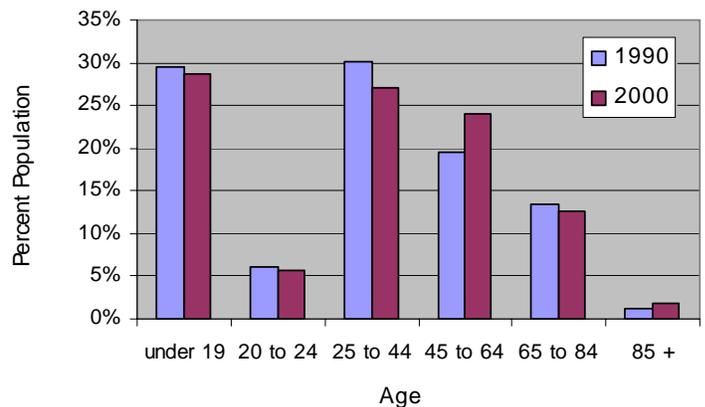
These projections have several implications for the future of parks and recreation in the planning area. First, as the population increases, there will be continued demand for park and recreation services provided by the County, especially in its unincorporated areas. There will also be increased pressure to provide recreation services in the County’s fast-growing smaller towns. This may create opportunities for County-town partnerships. It can also be assumed that the competition for land around valuable recreation resources, such as the Santiam River and the Foster Reservoir, will likely increase over the course of the planning horizon. The County will need to proactively plan for and creatively respond to all of these changes.

AGE

In 2000, more than ¼ of Linn County residents (27%) were between the ages of 25 and 44 (Figure 2). An additional 28.7% were under the age of 19, reflecting the predominance of young families and children within the County. However, age trends show that, since 1990, the 45 to 64 age group is growing fastest relative to other age groups in the County, while the under 44 populations have actually lost relative size.

With a relatively large percentage of young families in the planning area, participation in family-oriented parks and recreation activities should remain high over the course of the planning horizon. However, the large and increasing proportion of older adults in Linn County will also create a need for facilities and programs directed at aging residents. Linn County is well-positioned to capitalize on the growing trend toward active recreation in older adults, especially with its camping and water-oriented facilities.

FIGURE 2: PERCENT POPULATION BY AGE
LINN COUNTY, 1990 - 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

ETHNICITY & LANGUAGE

In 2000, 93.1% of Linn County’s population was white (Figure 4). An additional 4.4% were Hispanic, with the remainder a combination of American Indian, African American, and Asian residents. Both the Hispanic and African American populations in Linn County have grown substantially since 1990 (Figure 3). During the 90s, the County’s African American population grew by almost 80%, or 150 people, and the Hispanic population more than doubled, growing by 2,400 people. Even with these significant increases in size, both populations still comprise the minority in Linn County.

In 2000, 3.5% of the County’s population had been born in a country outside the U.S. The majority of these were from Europe and Latin America. 5.9% of the population spoke a language other than English in the home, predominantly Spanish and other European languages.

These shifts have several implications in terms of parks and recreation. First, as the County diversifies, parks and recreation also needs to diversify in order to meet the demand of a broad range of County residents. This diversification could mean new facilities and amenities. Second, the County will also need to consider the demand for multilingual materials and advertising, especially as its facilities gain popularity with the region’s growing immigrant populations.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

In 2000, 71% of Linn County households could be described as family households. 45% of these included children under 18, and 14% were headed by single parents. 23% of households in 2000 contained residents living alone. Over half of these were 65 years and older. Household trends in Linn County have generally been consistent over time, with a

FIGURE 3: POPULATION BY RACE OR ETHNICITY
LINN COUNTY, 1990

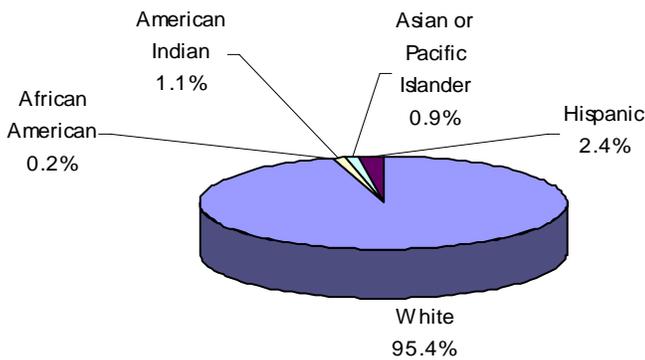
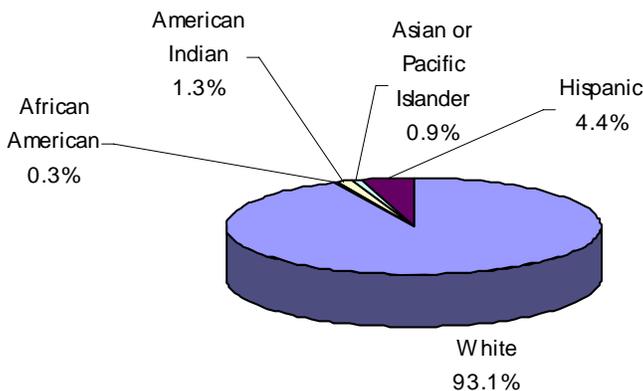


FIGURE 4: POPULATION BY RACE OR ETHNICITY
LINN COUNTY, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

slight increase in non-family households over the past decade. The predominance of family household types suggests that interest in parks and recreation should remain strong in Linn County over the next several decades. In addition, there may be opportunities to target services towards the significant population of residents living alone.

TABLE 1: EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION, LINN COUNTY, 1990-2000

Occupation	1990	2000	Change
Management, professional, and related	18.0%	25.1%	+7.1%
Service	13.3%	15.9%	+2.6%
Sales and office	25.3%	23.7%	-1.6%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	6.6%	2.3%	-4.3%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	13.7%	11.0%	-2.7%
Production, transportation, and material moving	23.2%	21.9%	-1.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

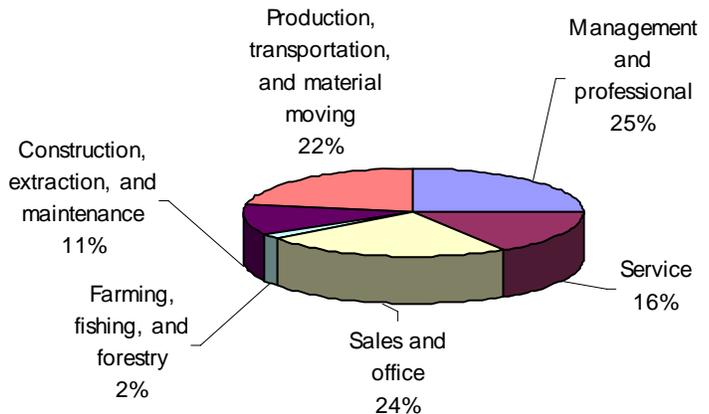
EMPLOYMENT

Linn County is home to major producers of rare and primary metals, processed food, manufactured and motor homes, as well as traditional logging and wood products industries. Thus, in 2000, a significant percentage of Linn County residents worked in production, transportation, and material moving occupations (21.9%). Large portions of Linn County residents also worked in management and professional (25.1%) and sales and office occupations (23.7%).

Table 1 shows the change in employed persons by occupation in Linn County from 1990-2000.

In 2000, more Linn County residents worked in the manufacturing (21.6%) than any other industry, with educational, health, and social services not far behind (19%). Figure 5 shows employed persons by occupation in Linn County as of 2000. As with national trends, job growth appears to be concentrated in the professional and service occupations. Over the course of

FIGURE 5: EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION LINN COUNTY, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

the 90s, employment in the construction industry, transportation industry, and education, health, and social services grew significantly in Linn County.

The mean travel time to work for Linn County workers in 2000 was 22 minutes, which represents a significant change since 1990, when the majority of residents were traveling between five and 15 minutes to reach work. This shift is indicative of a larger movement in Linn County towards bedroom community status. Residents increasingly travel to Lane, Marion, and Benton Counties for work.

The manufacturing industry represents a potential partner for the County, not only in terms of land ownership but in terms of marketing. The County has historically worked with the local logging and material extraction industries on land swaps and acquisitions. With the advent of RV manufacturers and major retail distributors in the area, there may be increased marketing opportunities as well. Likewise, commuters may represent a market segment that could be reached by the parks and recreation department.

INCOME

The 2000 median household income in Linn County was \$37,518. This income was low compared to the state median, \$40,916. In 2000, 11.4% of County residents and 32.1% of single parent families lived below the poverty level.

With significant lower income populations in the County, it is critical that parks and recreation consider systems for providing services to residents who may not be able to afford camping, boating, or rental fees. Often, communities will offer discounts through local non-profits, for certain user groups, or at certain off-peak times to reduce user fees for these groups.

PARK SYSTEM SUMMARY

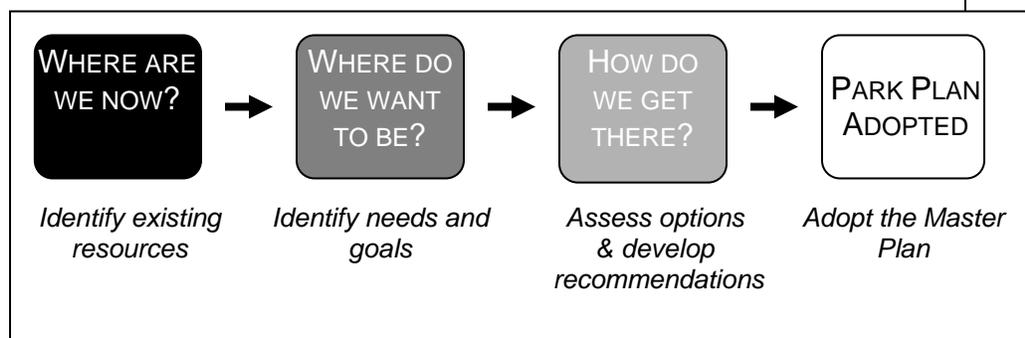
Linn County currently provides its residents with 24 developed parks. In addition to this land, the County owns six undeveloped park sites and two forest lands. Altogether, these properties total 1,359.74 acres. A detailed parkland inventory is found in Appendix A, and Maps 1 through 4 in Appendix B shows existing park locations.

In addition to these parks, the Linn County Parks and Recreation Department provides a variety of recreation facilities for use by area residents. These include boating facilities, camping facilities, picnic areas, swimming areas, trails, dog parks, fishing areas, and playgrounds.

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was designed to take into account the unique historical, demographic, and physical characteristics of Linn County, along with the recreation needs of the residents who live there. The planning process included four phases (Figure 6):

FIGURE 6: PLANNING PROCESS



PHASE I: RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Phase I included an inventory and evaluation of Linn County’s existing parks and recreation facilities. This phase also included the mapping of resources and introductory workshops with staff and the Master Plan Advisory Committee to identify key planning issues. Phase I culminated in the Existing Conditions Summary Report. The existing parks and facility inventory can be found in Appendix A. Appendix B includes maps of Linn County’s existing system.

PHASE II: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Phase II involved significant outreach to the community through a series of public involvement efforts, including a survey, questionnaire, and focus groups. Through these forums, residents and visitors identified major park and recreation needs and priorities. Key public involvement findings, along with an analysis of parks and recreation facilities, were incorporated into the Community Needs

Assessment report. The Community Needs Assessment can be found in Appendix C.

PHASE III: RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the Community Needs Assessment, a set of recommendations were developed to help Linn County realize its vision for parks and recreation. These actions were accompanied by capital improvement and financing plans, which identified costs and funding sources for proposed park and recreation projects.

PHASE IV: PLAN ADOPTION

In Phase IV, all products from the plan development activities were compiled into the Linn County Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which was presented to and reviewed by County staff and the Master Plan Advisory Committee. When adopted, the final document will guide parks and recreation service delivery in the planning area for the next 10 years.

REPORT ORGANIZATION

This report is organized into five chapters and six appendices:

- *Chapter One: Introduction* provides a description of the planning area, details the planning process, and outlines the organization of this report.
- *Chapter Two: Benefits of Parks and Recreation* describes the many ways that parks and recreation enhance community health and wellness, economic development, and the natural environment.
- *Chapter Three: Planning Framework* introduces the vision and goals of the Linn County Parks and Recreation Department.
- *Chapter Four: Recommendations* presents capital and non-capital projects that will be initiated to help the Department achieve its vision.
- *Chapter Five: Implementation* describes high-priority capital and non-capital project costs, projected maintenance and operations expenditures, and potential funding options associated with Plan implementation.

Appendices include:

- *Appendix A: Park and Recreation Facility Inventories* contains inventories of parks, open space, and recreation facilities in the Linn County planning area.
- *Appendix B: Park System Maps* shows Linn County parks and facilities.
- *Appendix C: Community Needs Assessment* includes the assessment of park and facility needs in Linn County that forms the basis for this plan.
- *Appendix D: Capital and Non-Capital Projects* presents complete lists of capital and non-capital projects to be completed as a product of this plan, along with their priorities.
- *Appendix E: Design Guidelines* provides a set of design guidelines for each park type in the Department's inventory.
- *Appendix F: LWCF Grant Priorities* includes the current priorities of this grant program which is administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION



BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Most Linn County residents feel that parks and recreation opportunities are very or somewhat important to the County's quality of life. Community Survey respondents most often recognized the importance of parks and recreation in strengthening families and communities, providing opportunities for youth, and providing access to nature. Parks and recreation also promotes health and well being and serves as a critical component of the local economy.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

By providing opportunities for people to gather, parks and recreation programs strengthen both families and the communities that surround them. Activities such as camping, picnicking, swimming, boating, and fishing allow families to socialize away from the stress of daily schedules and strengthen family relationships, which are important to Linn County residents and visitors. Similarly, parks and programs, such as music festivals, historical celebrations and other special events, can serve to gather neighbors and enhance Linn County's valuable sense of community.

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Nationwide, there is a growing concern about the amount of time that youth engage in "screen-related" activities, such as computers and television, as well as the lack of time spent in the outdoors. By providing close-to-home recreational opportunities, Linn County can combat this growing trend. Outdoor activities and recreation programs can foster physical, social, and cognitive development in youth. Parks and programs can provide opportunities for youth to engage in positive social experiences, exercise, and potentially reduce crime. These opportunities will connect youth with nature.

PROVIDING ACCESS TO NATURE

By providing parks and protecting significant natural areas such as rivers, waterways, uplands, and native habitat, Linn County gives its residents many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Recreation activities such as hiking, biking, boating, and wildlife viewing, foster a deep connection to nature. By providing opportunities to engage in these activities close-to-home, Linn County makes nature accessible to

residents of all ages, abilities, and incomes, as well as those from diverse cultures. This exposure to nature is like an insurance policy for Linn County, since people who recognize local plants, animals, and natural features are more committed to protecting them for future generations.

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Oregon and Linn County are part of the national obesity crisis. Linn County is combating this crisis by providing opportunities for outdoor activity across the County. Research shows that as little as ½ hour of walking or similar activity per day can make a substantial difference in fitness and overall health. This can not only reduce health care costs, but promote lifelong independence as well.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Parks and recreation make a substantial contribution to the local economy. Outdoor recreation activities, including camping, fishing, boating, bicycling, tourism, and special events are a major economic generator for the County. The presence of outdoor recreation opportunities attracts businesses to Linn County communities, including businesses that provide outdoor-related products and services. In addition, the creative class, a knowledge-based work force that can locate anywhere supported by technology, may choose to locate in Linn County based on its outdoor recreation activities. Retirees also are attracted by the high quality of life that outdoor recreation opportunities afford.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Parks and recreation, in their most basic function, serve to protect the natural environment. In Linn County, this means not only streams, rivers, lakes, forests, mountains, and valleys, but also the wide range of plants and animals that call them home. Linn County is helping to protect the natural environment by acquiring and preserving parkland for future generations.

PLANNING FRAMEWORK



PLANNING FRAMEWORK

County residents' values and goals are the guiding forces for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Through a series of meetings with the Master Plan Advisory Committee and County staff, these values and goals were developed and formed the basis of the Master Plan. These framework elements are described below and illustrated in Figure 7.



VISION

Through the plan's public involvement component, the following vision for parks and recreation in Linn County emerged:

The Linn County Parks and Recreation Department will provide a diversity of parks and recreation opportunities that support a healthy community, protect the natural environment, and enhance quality of life for all residents.

GOALS

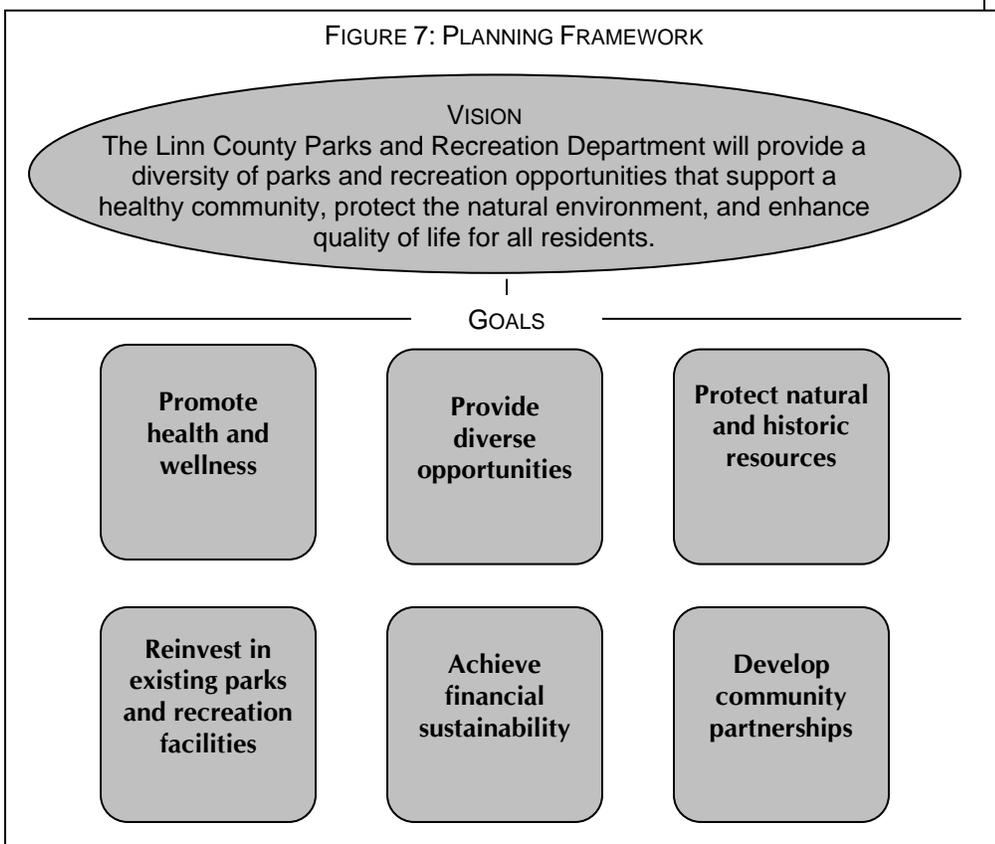
Goals are the desired outcomes of the Master Plan. Six goals were developed through the planning process, which reflect the Department's vision:

- *Promote health and wellness.* A livable community provides diverse opportunities for improving health and wellness through physical activity, mental challenges, and social engagement. The Department will offer these opportunities by supporting active lifestyles in its parks, facilities, and programs.
- *Provide diverse opportunities.* The Department will provide a variety of parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces that engage a broad cross-section of the community, including residents of all ages, abilities, and economic and cultural backgrounds. The Department will strive to make all parks, facilities, and open spaces geographically, physically, socially, and economically accessible to residents and visitors.
- *Protect natural and historical resources.* The Department will promote an ethic of sustainability, conservation, and preservation through outdoor recreation opportunities, education, planning, design, and maintenance. The County will serve as a leader in the

management of natural and historical resources in the County, and, when appropriate, in their protection.

- *Reinvest in existing parks and recreation facilities.* The Parks and Recreation Department will maintain and revitalize parks and facilities to support recreation activities, protect existing investments, maximize maintenance efficiencies, and improve user safety and ADA accessibility.
- *Achieve financial sustainability.* The Department will use a variety of long- and short-term funding strategies to provide dependable funding for parks, facilities, and open space acquisition, development, and maintenance. In addition, the Department will continue to expand its revenue generating capacity by enhancing existing mechanisms and exploring entrepreneurial projects, sponsorships, and joint ventures.
- *Develop community partnerships.* The Department will continue to cultivate strong, positive partnerships with federal, state, and local organizations in order to enhance efficiency and unite community efforts to acquire, develop, and maintain parks and recreation facilities.

FIGURE 7: PLANNING FRAMEWORK



RECOMMENDATIONS



RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter of the Master Plan outlines a series of recommendations for parks and recreation in Linn County. These recommendations are based on the findings of the Community Needs Assessment, and include new parks and facilities, improvements to existing parks and facilities, and system-wide improvements. All of the recommendations are designed to help the Department achieve its goals and reach its vision:



The Linn County Parks and Recreation Department will provide a diversity of parks and recreation opportunities that support a healthy community, protect the natural environment, and enhance quality of life for all residents.

The recommendations include a number of improvements to existing park sites and recreation facilities. These improvements are meant to protect existing investments, enhance recreation opportunities, and improve access for users of all abilities. Master planning efforts are suggested for several of the County's regional parks and waysides. These studies will help the County re-conceptualize and modernize some of its greatest park assets. Major park renovations are also proposed - at Sunnyside and Waterloo regional parks - which will broaden their appeal as day use and camping sites. Improvements to existing facilities, including boat ramps, play areas, picnic areas, and camping areas, will greatly enhance user experiences in Linn County parks.

Simultaneously, this Plan suggests developing new parks and recreation facilities that will bring the most benefit to Linn County residents and visitors. These include 800 acres of new parkland that will help the County preserve significant natural areas, obtain public access to valuable water frontage, and provide close-to-home recreation opportunities for residents of Linn County's smaller towns and rural areas. In terms of recreation facilities, this Plan recommends the development of new motorized and non-motorized boat ramps to improve access to the County's scenic waterways and reservoirs. This Plan recommends expanding formal camping, picnic, fishing, and swimming capacity, and developing major facilities that serve the entire region - trails, play areas, and an off-highway vehicle site among them.

In addition to these physical improvements, this Plan suggests programmatic improvements that will enhance the County's service

delivery. The most significant of these are a series of collaborative planning efforts: a regional trails plan to enhance connectivity between the County's populated areas, a master plan for the Quartzville Corridor, and a master plan for Bowers Rocks State Park. These plans will not only improve the recreation opportunities available to Linn County residents, they will strengthen the valuable partnerships between local, state, and federal agencies in Linn County. In addition to these planning projects, this Plan suggests various financing systems, marketing efforts, and programs that will improve the way in which the County delivers its parks and recreation services.

EXISTING PARKS

The Plan suggests a series of improvements to existing parks in the Linn County system.

REGIONAL PARKS

CLEAR LAKE RESORT

Clear Lake Resort is located at the headwaters of the McKenzie River and is accessible from the West Cascade National Scenic Byway on Highway 126, near the junction of Highway 20. The 8-acre resort has 14 reservable cabins and offers fishing, boating, and picnicking opportunities, as well as a playground. Because this property was recently acquired by the County, it will require a condition assessment to identify needed upgrades.

JOHN NEAL

John Neal Park is located on the North Santiam River in the town of Lyons. The park spans 27.6 acres and offers fishing, boating, picnicking, and camping opportunities. The campground is open mid-April thru mid-October and has 36 individual campsites and a designated group camping area. A reservable group picnic area is located in the center of the site. The park also hosts a system of trails that weave through wetlands and beaver ponds.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Develop a new site master plan.
- Consider acquiring property to expand the site.
- Develop interpretive elements, including signage associated with beavers and habitat.
- Install new monument entrance sign.
- Improve signage from Highway 226.

- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site, including trails; and
 - Campsites.
- Improve trail system by:
 - Providing connections to camping amenities, Lyons town parks, and adjacent residents; and
 - Developing a riverfront trail.
- Replace vault toilets.
- Expand park and redesign camping areas to move them away from the river and develop a better group camping configuration.
 - Develop electric hookups for RV campsites.
 - Develop a natural resources management plan.



LEWIS CREEK

Lewis Creek Park is located on the popular Foster Reservoir and features water-oriented recreation activities. The 40-acre park includes boarding floats, moorage, family picnic areas, group picnic areas, and a beach. The park is highly used by boaters and swimmers. Although well-cared for, the park is showing its age and renovation should be considered to provide a cohesive master plan for this popular site. Lewis Creek is open from mid-May through September. A parking fee is charged from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Consider a new site master plan.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Develop interpretive elements.
- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site, including across the bridge;
 - Replace restrooms with ADA accessible restrooms;
 - Beach access;
 - Picnic tables; and
 - Fishing/boating area.
- Provide group picnic shelters.
- Replace the boat moorage in the southeast picnic area, transient floats, and add pilings.

- Provide recreation amenities for day use, including a regional play area with water play elements.
- Consider a stage area or amphitheater for special events.
- Develop a natural resources management plan.

RIVER BEND

River Bend, officially opened in May 2006, is the County's newest park. The park is located east of Sweet Home in a bend of the upper South Santiam River. The river surrounds the park on three sides. The 70-acre site offers opportunities for hiking, river access, picnicking, and camping. The campground currently has 35 campsites with water and electrical hookups and 10 campsites without hookups.



Suggestions for improvements include:

- Develop interpretive elements.
- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site, including trails;
 - Campsites; and
 - Picnic tables and benches.
- Provide a large play area near the group picnic area.
- Provide smaller play areas in each camping circle.
- Provide additional recreation amenities for campers.
- Develop picnic area.
- Consider developing additional types of camping opportunities, such as cabins or yurts.
- Develop a natural resources management plan.
- Implement Phase II park expansion.

ROARING RIVER

Roaring River Park is one of the County's smaller regional parks at 27.94 acres. About 70% of the site is maintained as an open grass field. The remainder is forested. The park offers three large group picnic shelters, which can be reserved, hiking trails and a fishing pond. No camping is provided.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Develop a new site master plan.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Develop interpretive elements.



- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site, including trails; and
 - Picnic tables and benches.
- Expand parking.
- Renovate group picnic area #1.
- Develop new restrooms between group picnic area #1 and #2.
- Improve picnic area #2 and market it as a wedding/reunion site.

- Consider redeveloping group picnic area #3 as individual picnic sites.
- Develop a play area.
- Expand recreation amenities for day use areas, such as:
 - Informal sports fields;
 - Volleyball courts;
 - Basketball courts;
 - Disc golf; and
 - Informal multi-use field.
- Resolve drainage issues.
- Improve the fishing pond by dredging, creating an ADA accessible path, and providing benches and interpretation.
- Improve landscaping.
- Improve access to the river.
- Consider the cost/benefits of adding a limited number of campsites.
- Develop a natural resources management plan.

SEVEN MILE LANE PARK

Seven Mile Lane Park is a recently acquired 172-acre property that lies at the southeast corner of the intersection of I-5 and Route 34 . There is currently a feasibility study in progress to determine future uses. Pending the results of this study, suggestions for improvements include:

- As directed by the feasibility study, develop a site master plan.
- Develop the property.

SUNNYSIDE

The 100-acre Sunnyside Park is located at the northern end of the Foster Reservoir. This highly popular site features boat access, family and group picnic areas, fishing access, and camping. The campground offers 133 campsites with electrical and water hookups as well as 32 sites without hookups. Showers, picnic shelters, and a dump station are also available. The campground opens the first weekend in April and closes in early November. Day use facilities are open year around and include a playground, volleyball court, boat ramp, and moorage. Recent improvements include the addition of a dog park.



Suggestions for improvements include:

- Develop interpretive elements.
- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site, including trails;
 - Provide accessible path of travel and accessible surfacing in play area;
 - Picnic tables and benches; and
 - Camp sites.
- Expand recreation amenities for day use areas, such as:
 - Play areas;
 - Informal sports fields;
 - Volleyball courts;
 - Basketball courts;
 - Disc golf; and
 - Informal multi-use field.
- Bring day use parking up to standard.
- Consider additional group picnic areas.
- Complete improvements at the fishing pond, including fishing docks and group picnic area.
- Develop an amphitheater.
- Renovate boat ramp and boat moorage (i.e., replace concrete ramp, boarding floats, transient floats, and gangway).
- Renovate group campground.
- Improve Foster Lake Trail.
- Formalize the traditional swimming area.

- Address erosion issues, i.e., at traditional swimming area.
- Add staff housing near maintenance yard.
- Screen maintenance yard.
- Develop a natural resources management plan.



WATERLOO

Waterloo, one of the County's larger regional parks at 128.5 acres, is located in the town of Waterloo on the banks of the South Santiam River. The day use area functions as a community park for the City of Waterloo as well as for regional users. Waterloo offers fishing, hiking, boating and swimming opportunities, as well as 122 campsites. The campground is open year round and offers electrical/water hookups, a dump station, shower facilities and a picnic shelter. The park has four picnic shelters, four reservable group picnic areas, and several playing fields. There are also two boat ramps and a swimming area.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Consider expanding the park by purchasing adjacent property and developing a master plan for the expanded site.
- Develop interpretive elements, including historical interpretation.
- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site, including trails;
 - Provide accessible path of travel and accessible safety surfacing in play areas;
 - Picnic tables and benches;
 - Camp sites;
 - Fishing and/or boating; and
 - Dog park area, including path of travel, parking, and picnic area.
- Add paved parking.
- Improve the Santiam River Trail, including passage over the Lebanon Dam for non-motorized boats.
- Improve the dike trail, including a bridge.
- Develop a group picnic area/wedding site near the Waterloo Day Use Area.
- Develop group camping area.
- Expand recreation amenities for day use areas, such as:

- Volleyball courts;
- Basketball courts; and
- BMX course.
- Continue development of disc golf course.
- Manage hazard trees.
- Address bank erosion.
- Develop a natural resources management plan.

WHITCOMB CREEK

Whitcomb Creek Park sits on the steep banks of the Green Peter Reservoir. At 328 acres, it is the County's largest park. The site features 39 campsites and a reservable group camping area which are open from mid-April through mid-October. This park is a critical facility within the Linn County Park system. Its rustic camping area is beautiful, but not as well used as other County camping areas. There are no day use opportunities. The former day use area is in poor condition, and is currently used as a group camping area. The trail along the reservoir needs improvement. In the swimming/boating area, the swimming area is now overgrown. The adjustable board ramp needs replacement.



Suggestions for improvements include developing a new site master plan that:

- Improves wayfinding;
- Installs monument entrance sign;
- Emphasizes a variety of camping opportunities, such as accessible, boat-in, yurts;
- Provides group camping;
- Considers providing an alternative energy source for camping;
- Provides a group picnic area;
- Provides day use recreation opportunities, including a play area;
- Considers a variety of trail opportunities (e.g., hiking, ADA accessible, mountain bike);
- Replaces the boat ramp and addresses parking needs for larger boats ;
- Considers an equestrian staging area;
- Adds a compost restroom;
- Improve the entrance road;
- Provides ADA accessibility;

- Manages hazard trees; and
- Includes a management plan for natural resources.

NATURAL AREAS

MCDOWELL CREEK FALLS

McDowell Creek Falls is the County's only natural area, and features 102.6 acres of densely forested terrain. The site hosts a series of hiking trails that weave between three water falls. There are some fishing and wading spots in the pools below the falls. The site also houses several picnic areas.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Develop a natural resource management plan.
- Improve wayfinding.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Develop interpretive signage.
- Improve ADA accessibility at entrance, parking, picnic area, and trails.

WAYSIDES

FREEWAY LAKES PARK

The land now designated as Freeway Lakes Park was acquired by the Oregon State Highway Department in 1957 as a source of rock and fill materials for the construction of Interstate 5. After all of the necessary fill was extracted, the property was given to Linn County for development as a public recreation area. The park covers 56.2 acres and includes three lakes. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks trout in the lakes during winter months, and the lakes can accommodate fishing and boating year round. With the exception of the restrooms, the site is in need of renovation.

Suggestions for improvements include developing a new park master plan for the site that:

- Improves wayfinding;
- Installs monument entrance sign;
- Includes interpretive signage;
- Provides a day use area;
- Provides a picnic area;
- Upgrades the parking lot;
- Includes trails that connect the lakes;
- Includes lake viewpoints;

- Addresses water quality; and
- Establishes a fully ADA accessible site that accommodates its semi-urban character and nearby senior housing.

LARWOOD WAYSIDE

The Larwood Wayside lies at the intersection of Crabtree Creek and the Roaring River and provides opportunities for swimming, fishing, walking, and picnicking. The site is especially popular as a swimming hole. The site is adjacent to a covered bridge and historic water wheel mill.



Suggestions for improvements include:

- Improve wayfinding.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Develop interpretive signage for natural and cultural resources.
- Renovate the picnic area.
- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site, including trails; and
 - Picnic tables and benches.
- Develop a bridge to island area.
- When bridge is developed, develop a site master plan for the island area that details natural area amenities to be provided.
- Restore the river bank.
- Explore the feasibility of preserving the sawmill as historic site.
- Consider acquiring land to expand this site and provide connections to Roaring River.
- Develop a natural resource management plan.

MCCARTNEY PARK

McCartney Park encompasses 21.5 acres on the banks of the Willamette River just north of Harrisburg. The park includes a parking lot and a boat ramp. Portable picnic tables and toilet facilities are placed in the park during spring and summer months.

Suggestions for improvements include developing a new park master plan for the site that:

- Improves wayfinding;
- Installs monument entrance sign;
- Includes interpretive signage;
- Provides a day use area;

- Provides a picnic area;
- Includes additional parking;
- Includes trails;
- Includes primitive camping;
 - Considers relocating the boat ramp to a more protected location or repairing the ramp; and
 - Considers an ADA fishing pier.



MCC LUN WAYSIDE

The McClun Wayside is a very narrow park site with extensive river frontage on the Upper Calapooia River. The park is used mainly for fishing, swimming, and picnicking. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks the river at this site with trout.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Improve wayfinding.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Provide interpretive signage.
- Improve the parking lot.
- Develop a picnic area.
- Improve the trail.
- Develop a vegetation management plan.

MCKERCHER PARK

McKercher Park is a linear park with frontage on the Calapooia River. The site covers 7.83 acres just east of Brownsville and offers picnicking, fishing, and walking opportunities. There are also a series of natural pools that are popular as swimming holes during the summer months.

Suggestions for improvements include developing a new park master plan for the site, including:

- Improve wayfinding.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Developing interpretive signage.
- Consider acquiring additional land on both sides of the river to expand the park.
- Renovate the picnic area.
- Provide additional recreation amenities in the day use area.
- Develop trails.

- Address hazard trees.
- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site, including trails;
 - Picnic tables and benches; and
 - Accessible fishing/boating pier.
- Add parking by swimming area.
- Add view deck by swimming area.
- Develop a natural resource management plan.

PEORIA PARK

Peoria Park is sited north of Peoria on 3.56 acres on the banks of the Willamette River. The park offers boater access, river trail camping, picnicking, and fishing opportunities.

Suggestions for improvements include developing a new park master plan for the site, including:

- Improve wayfinding.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Develop interpretive signage.
- Renovate the picnic area.
- Provide additional recreation amenities in the day use area.
- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site, including trail; and
 - Picnic tables and benches.
- Install new restrooms.
- Consider improving river channel for boating.
- Develop a natural resource management plan.

BOATER ACCESS

BUELL MILLER BOAT RAMP

Buell Miller Boat Ramp is comprised of a long, narrow strip of abandoned railroad right-of-way and is owned by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Of this park's 2.7 acres, a substantial portion is south of the boat ramp and of no value to the ramp. The site provides boater access to the North Santiam River. Some bank fishing takes place at the site. However, no usage other than boat access is encouraged.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Consider developing a new site master plan.
- Develop wayfinding signage.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Add boarding floats.
- Add vault toilets.
- Repair gravel parking.

GEDNEY CREEK ACCESS

Gedney Creek Access is located on the north shore of Foster Reservoir approximately one mile east of the Foster Dam. The site includes a boat ramp, several docks, parking lot, and restroom.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Improve wayfinding.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Developing a small picnic area.
- Improve ADA parking.
- Provide an accessible path of travel to the restroom and new picnic area.

LYONS-MEHAMA BOAT RAMP

The Lyons-Mehama Boat Ramp is located within the State Highway 226 right-of-way at the southern approach to the Lyons/Mehama Bridge. The site is small but provides limited bank fishing and boat launching. No usage other than fishing and boater's access is encouraged. The site is served by a rental chemical toilet which is removed during the winter months.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Develop wayfinding signage.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Replace parking.
- Add vault toilets.

STAYTON BRIDGE BOAT RAMP

The Stayton Bridge Boat Ramp is located on 1.68 acres on the North Santiam west of Lyons. The site provides boater access, limited fishing, and some stream bank fishing.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Improve wayfinding.

- Install monument entrance sign.
- Consider improving parking and developing a day use area.
- Replace concrete boat ramp.
- Repair access road.
- Hold for potential long term expansion as a regional park.

THISTLE CREEK ACCESS

The Thistle Creek Access is located on the north shore of Green Peter Reservoir. The site encompasses 9.2 acres altogether, and is used primarily for boater access. A floating restroom is provided from April thru the end of October.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Consider acquiring adjacent land for expanding the park.
- Improve wayfinding.
- Install monument entrance sign.
- Add day use recreation facilities.
- Replace original boat ramp.
- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site, including trails;
 - Picnic tables and benches; and
 - Van accessible parking.
- Provide parking for longer vehicles and boats.

HISTORIC SITES

CRAWFORDSVILLE COVERED BRIDGE

This site on the banks of the Calapooia River features a historic covered bridge and a small area for picnicking. At .5 acres, it is the County's smallest park site.

Suggestions for improvements include:

- Acquire additional parkland on both sides of the bridge.
- Install monument entrance signage.
- Raise the bridge to an adequate elevation for flood potential.
- Provide parking.
- Improve ADA accessibility, including:
 - Parking;
 - Path of travel throughout the site; and



- Picnic tables and benches.
- Paint the bridge.
- Provide a small day use area with recreation amenities.
- Provide historically appropriate landscaping.

PROPOSED PARKS

This Plan recommends the acquisition and development of 800 acres of parkland. Priorities for parkland acquisition should include:

- *Parkland that provides additional acreage along the Santiam Rivers, Willamette River, Calapooia River, Foster Reservoir, and Green Peter Reservoir.* The County has traditionally focused on providing access to these waterways. Further, Linn County residents expressed strong interest in preserving lands along these waterways while opportunities still exist. Areas traditionally used by residents for recreation and swimming should be strongly considered.
- *Parkland that preserves significant natural areas or cultural/historic sites.* As noted in the Community Survey and Community Questionnaire, County residents recognize the importance of natural and cultural resources, and are interested in preserving them for future generations. These areas could include a variety of historic sites, such as covered bridges, historic farms and significant landscapes, as well as Native American sites such as; the Calapooia Native American mounds.
- *A regional park for the Harrisburg, western and north county areas.* These areas are currently underserved by regional parks.
- *Parkland that could generate revenue or contribute to the County's economy.* Future acquisitions could provide additional revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department, continuing to reduce its reliance on County general funds. Parkland acquisition also could support other efforts to promote tourism by providing facilities along scenic byways, waterways, and bikeways or by providing facilities that support special events.
- *Other parkland that is needed in order to provide specific recreation facilities or opportunities.* It may be necessary to obtain additional parkland to meet the needs outlined in the recreation facility analysis that follows, such as additional camping facilities, boating facilities, swimming facilities, or off-highway vehicle facilities. In addition, sites that provide other experiences, such as scenic viewpoints, should be strongly considered.

- *Properties in foreclosure.* Properties in foreclosure that are suitable for use as parks could be obtained, and reduce the need to acquire similar properties at greater cost to the county.
- *Sites identified in previous plans.* Past planning efforts, such as the 1996 Linn County Parks Plan, have identified a number of site opportunities for future parks. Many of these sites are still viable opportunities, and could be considered for future acquisition. These sites include but are not limited to:
 - Further Development of Green Peter Reservoir
 - Valley View point areas such as Peterson Butte
 - ODOT site on the Calapooia River
 - Greens Bridge on the North Santiam River
 - State land near Stayton Bridge
 - Jordan Valley Dam Area
 - South Santiam River
 - Sweet Home to Waterloo Area
 - Lebanon Dam Site
 - Highway 226 Bridge Area
 - Jefferson to Willamette River Area

PROPOSED RECREATION FACILITIES

New recreation facilities form a central component of the Plan as well. Facility recommendations are outlined below.

BOATING FACILITIES

One of Linn County's many strengths is its wide array of boating opportunities. In order to both improve and expand these opportunities, this Plan recommends the development of non-motorized and motorized boat ramps and boat-in facilities at sites on the Santiam Rivers and Green Peter Reservoir. In addition, this Plan suggests the renovation of sites on Foster Reservoir for ADA accessibility and the designation of non-motorized boating areas on Green Peter.

CAMPING FACILITIES

Camping is historically one of the most popular activities in Linn County parks. It is also the most lucrative. To capitalize on this historic popularity and revenue generating potential, this Plan recommends the development of additional campsites. These should include both traditional campsite designs, such as RV and tent pads,



but also yurts, cabins, and group camping facilities. The County also should consider the needs of canoe and kayak campers as well as equestrian campers. Development of camping in non-traditional settings should also be considered to serve boat in camping, special events, OHV and travelers. In addition, the County should develop wireless internet capabilities in its campgrounds.

OHV SITES

Pending the results of a feasibility study, the development of an OHV facility is also recommended. This facility could be self-supporting or revenue generating. In addition, it could channel users toward appropriate sites and help reduce use of inappropriate sites throughout the County. Finally, grant funding is currently available for OHV sites through Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The OHV facility should be located at a distance from major population centers, but in an area that is easily reachable by car. The site should be at least 300 acres in size, and include:

- Plantings or visual buffers.
- Trails of varying skill levels.
- Varied topography.
- Area for access by medical personnel (including helicopters).
- Bio-filtration system for runoff.

SWIMMING AREAS

In addition to developing the swimming area at Sunnyside Park, this Plan suggests the development of a swimming float on the south side of Green Peter Reservoir.

TRAILS

Because trail-related activities are popular with Linn County residents and visitors, it is suggested that the County develop additional trails as follows:

- Regional multi-use trails that link communities and County destinations, including:
 - The Lebanon-to-Albany Regional Trail.
 - Link to The Old Santiam Wagon Trail.
 - Foster Reservoir and Green Peter Reservoir Trails.
- Internal multi-use trail networks in planned and existing regional parks and waysides (as they are developed or redeveloped).
- Hiking trails in natural areas and regional parks.
- Equestrian and mountain bike trails, pending further study.

FISHING AREAS

Additional formal, ADA accessible fishing areas are suggested on the North and South Santiam Rivers, the Willamette River, and the Green Peter Reservoir.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

This Plan makes several additional recommendations which are designed to improve the Linn County parks and recreation system as a whole. These recommendations include planning and design, financing, partnerships, and other non-capital improvements. Finally, recommendations for public information are presented.



PLANNING AND DESIGN

In order to support the provision of parks and recreation facilities, it is recommended that the County develop the following plans:

- An ADA strategic plan, including an updated set of park system design guidelines that comply with current ADA standards.
- A Maintenance/Vegetation Management Plan.
- A study of significant natural and historic resources in the County.
- A regional trails plan.
- A study, conducted in partnership with the Linn County Roads Department and ODOT, that identifies missing bike lanes across the County.
- A joint master plan for the Quartzville corridor, including elements that improve management of camping in this area and considers water trail possibilities.
- Develop a study of the feasibility of non-motorized boating on the Calapooia River.
- Develop Santiam River Water Trail Plans for the South and North Santiam.
- A master plan for Green Peter Reservoir.
- Encourage the development of Bower's Rock State Park.
- Support local and regional tourism by providing attractive sites along scenic byways, river trails, etc.

FINANCING

The following recommendations pertain to the Department's funding mechanisms:

- Establish an equipment replacement fund.
- Establish an opportunity fund for trail development in existing parks.
- Develop a picnic table replacement program.
- Maximize donations, grants, and partnerships to increase the resources available for parks and recreation.
- Encourage donations of land, facilities, equipment, services, and gifts that are consistent with goals and objectives of this Plan and benefit the larger community.
- Consider trading forest lands for additional park land.
- Explore opportunities to add revenue-generating facilities to parks, where appropriate.
- Re-evaluate annually the priority and timeline for the implementation of projects within the park system as part of the development of the annual parks and recreation capital improvement budget.

PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration among service providers is critical in meeting community needs for parks, facilities, and services. Specific recommendations for the County include:

- Facilitate collaboration among area recreation providers, including the BLM, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, County towns and cities, and other public and private agencies to acquire, develop, and maintain parks, open space, and recreation facilities and maximize efficiency.
- Continue cultivating positive, strong relationships with current partners.
- Partner with businesses to provide services and amenities, such as vendors in parks.

OTHER NON-CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

This Plan also includes the following recommendations for programming and personnel:

- Develop new programs around special events, families, and youth.
- Develop volunteer opportunities.
- Upgrade technology, including camping reservation system.

- Expand office staff and develop an Assistant Operations Coordinator position to accommodate the increase in parks and recreation opportunities.
- Hire an arborist to manage trees.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Develop a public information plan that includes:
 - Updated public information materials, such as site and trail maps.
 - Includes outreach to the aging population, people from diverse cultures, and youth.
 - Increases winter use of outdoor recreation facilities.
 - Builds the parks and recreation volunteer base.
 - Publicizes the availability of facility rentals for groups, family's and businesses to support Linn County's revenue goals.
 - Involves working with the health community to publicize the health benefits of parks and recreation as well as Linn County recreation resources.
- Install wayfinding signage to direct users to park locations from routes of travel.

IMPLEMENTATION



IMPLEMENTATION

The development of this Master Plan involved a detailed evaluation of Linn County's park system and an assessment of the County's park and recreation needs. The master plan process also included a thorough review of the County's approach to financing parks operations and park improvements. This review included current and historic practices.



Based on current sources of capital and operating funds, meeting all of the needs identified in this plan will take a significant and long-term commitment for the County and its residents. Following a brief summary of Linn County's financial situation, this chapter identifies priority projects, their cost, and an approach to funding these projects. An analysis of costs for maintaining and operating the park system, including

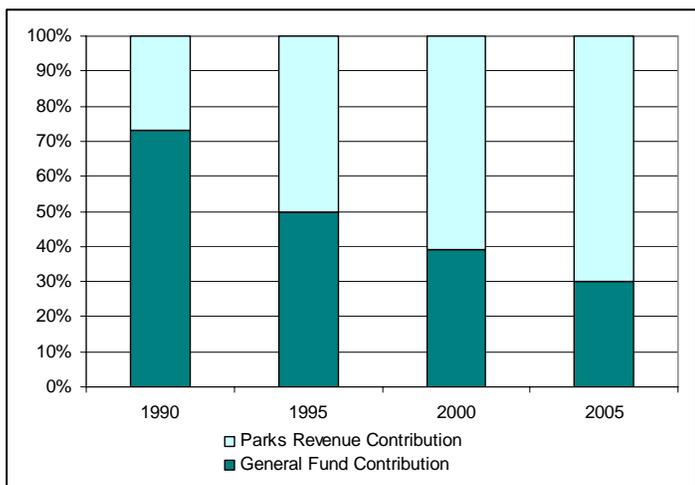
proposed improvements, is presented. Additional funding sources are identified that can help the County reach beyond its existing resources to develop and maintain an enhanced park system that serves the recreation needs of Linn County residents and visitors.

LINN COUNTY FINANCIAL HISTORY

Like other Oregon counties, Linn County underwent reductions in general fund revenues in the 1990s due largely to the reduction of timber harvesting on public lands. Since 2000, County income has been subsidized by a federal "safety net" officially known as the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. This funding was earmarked to help counties that were traditionally reliant on timber harvests to transition away from that funding source. During this transition, and even more so now that safety net funding has expired, all County services compete for increasingly limited general funds.

As a result, parks and recreation departments are often required to rely almost entirely on revenues collected from park user fees, such as entry fees, park reservations, camping fees, etc. Early on, Linn County recognized this impending financial crunch and has been adapting its funding approach for parks and recreation services.

FIGURE 8: PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET 1990-2005



Source: Linn County

In 1990 Linn County’s general fund (derived from property taxes) provided for nearly three-quarters of the County’s park and recreation operating expenses. Revenues from park fees covered the remaining quarter of park operations expenditures. Over the next 15 years, this ratio nearly reversed. Figure 8 illustrates how the Department has changed from dependence on general fund dollars to dependence on revenue generated from park fees.

CURRENT REVENUES

Over the most recent six years (2001-2007), the total current revenue, excluding balances carried forward and inter-budgetary transfers, has averaged just over one million dollars annually. During this period, the largest single revenue source for Linn County Parks has been income associated with camping. In 2006-2007 this source increased considerably with the addition of fees from Clear Lake Resort. Other significant revenue sources include RV licensing fees, grants and marine gas tax. Table 2 shows the average percentage of revenues from each of these sources over the past six years.

TABLE 2: REVENUES OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND

Revenue Type	6-Year Average Percent	6-Year Average Amount
Camping	41%	\$425,048
RV License Fees	25%	\$253,305
Grants	13%	\$130,900
Timber Sales	6%	\$54,617
Marine Maintenance Assistance Program	5%	\$63,712
All Other Revenues	9%	\$97,039
Total	100%	\$1,024,618

In 2006, camping revenues increased to 58% of total revenues. Much of the increase can be attributed to the acquisition of Clear Lake Resort as well as operation of new campsites at River Bend. Table 3 lists camping revenues that contributed to Linn County's parks and recreation budget in 2006-07.

TABLE 3: CAMPING REVENUES 2006-2007

	Amount	Percent
Online Camping Reservations	\$62,546	9.9%
Camping Reservations	\$109,854	17.4%
Camping Fees	\$328,037	51.9%
Clear Lake Resort Fees	\$110,892	17.5%
Firewood Sales	\$12,750	2.0%
Ice Sales	\$8,305	1.3%
Total	\$632,386	100.0%

CURRENT EXPENDITURES

Over the last six years the total expenditures on parks and recreation have stayed relatively constant with a small peak in 2004-2006 resulting from River Bend Park development. Table 4 details the total revenues and expenditures for the last six years. The net amount in the last line of Table 4 represents that portion of the parks and recreation budget supported by general funds.

TABLE 4: 6-YEAR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE HISTORY

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	6-Year Average
Revenue	\$1,150,588	\$1,105,947	\$1,303,931	\$1,465,685	\$1,491,723	\$1,417,663	\$1,322,589
Expenditures	\$(1,436,705)	\$(1,459,374)	\$(1,572,457)	\$(1,761,595)	\$(1,665,397)	\$(1,527,576)	\$(1,570,517)
Net	\$(286,117)	\$(353,427)	\$(268,526)	\$(295,910)	\$(173,674)	\$(109,913)	\$(247,928)

In addition to the ongoing operations expenses of personnel, materials and contracted services, Linn County has invested an average of approximately \$300,000 per year in capital improvements for a total of \$1.8 million over the most recent six years. The percent of funding allocated to personnel, materials and services and capital improvements has varied, but on average these expenditures break down as shown in Table 5, below.

TABLE 5: EXPENDITURE
BREAKDOWN

Expenditure Category	6-Year Average
Personnel	58%
Materials and Services	18%
Capital	23%
Total	100%

PROJECT PRIORITIES

Despite the challenging financial climate, Linn County has developed revenue sources that support a substantial portion of its current park operations budget. The Master Plan includes recommendations for numerous capital and non-capital projects that will further enhance the value and quality of Linn County's parks and recreation opportunities. However, the total cost of all projects exceeds the County's anticipated revenues based on its current funding levels. In order to move forward with the recommendations outlined in this Plan, the projects were prioritized based on the following criteria:

- *Meets Master Plan needs:* Projects should be prioritized based on their ability to meet park and facility needs as identified in this Plan (i.e., their ability to fill existing geographic gaps or satisfy relevant ADA or design guidelines).
- *Expands recreation opportunities:* Priority should also be determined based on the projects' capacity to expand the County's recreation opportunities (i.e., their ability to accommodate new activities in high demand or leverage potential for grant funding).
- *Improves existing recreation resources:* Priority should be determined based on the ability of proposed projects to maintain or enhance the condition of existing County resources, or to generate additional revenue.
- *Enhances partnerships.* Projects should be prioritized on their capacity to create or strengthen existing partnerships (i.e., their ability to forge cost-sharing, joint development, or programmatic collaborations).

- *Strengthens the community:* Lastly, proposed projects should be prioritized based on their ability to strengthen community identity. For example, projects that would serve a diverse cross-section of the community or projects that have potential for positive economic impact should be ranked high in priority.

Based on these criteria, projects were assigned a priority of I through III:

- *Priority I:* highest priority
- *Priority II:* medium priority
- *Priority III:* low priority

The projects assigned a high priority should be implemented as soon as it is feasible, and as funding or other opportunities become available. Some projects will be phased over several years to make implementation more practical. This will allow important projects to move forward while recognizing the limitations of funding and staff time. A list of all capital and non-capital projects, along with their priority ranking, is included in Appendix D. If special opportunities arise, such as donations, earmarked funds, or partnership opportunities, Priority II and III projects should be considered for more immediate implementation.

COST ASSUMPTIONS

In order to develop costs for capital and non-capital projects, several assumptions regarding project costs were made. These cost assumptions were based on actual costs of recent County acquisitions and park development projects, estimated costs included in relevant plans (such as the Oregon State Marine Board's six-year facilities plan), as well as costs provided by comparable agencies. Costs presented here are planning level, or budgetary costs that represent a reasonable cost to cover construction and related services if the projects were under contract today. The final products and materials used in the projects, as well as changes in the cost of construction, professional services and inflation will affect the actual cost of each project.

PROJECTED CAPITAL COSTS

Using the assumptions above, projected costs for Priority I capital projects were developed (Table 6).

TABLE 6: PRIORITY I CAPITAL PROJECT COSTS

Capital Projects	Description	Planning Cost
Wayfinding Signage	Road sign to indicate direction to County parks	\$9,000
Lewis Creek Entrance Sign	Monument sign for park identification and image enhancement	\$3,000
River Bend Park Play Areas	Install large and small play areas	NIC ^B
River Bend Phase II	Develop second phase of park	\$1,500,000
Seven Mile Lane Park ^A	Site preparation and develop RV campground	NIC ^B
Sunnyside Renovation	Improve boat ramps and floats	\$314,000
Non-motorized Boat Launch	On the South Santiam between Sweet Home and Lebanon	\$175,000
Non-motorized Boat Launch	South Santiam, north of Lebanon	\$175,000
Non-motorized Boat Launch	North Santiam west of Stayton	\$247,000
Motorized Boat Launch	South side of Green Peter Reservoir	\$420,000
Boat-in Facility	South side of Green Peter Reservoir	\$364,000
Boat-in Facility	Rumbaugh Creek	\$314,000
New Camping Opportunities	Four cabins	\$100,000
Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park	Feasibility Study	\$10,000
	Site acquisition (assumes 400 acres)	\$4,000,000
	Develop site master plan	\$40,000
	Develop Site (cost depends on site)	NIC ^B
Lebanon to Albany Regional Trail	Collaborate with local agencies on 10 mile multi-use trail with adjacent soft surface trail	\$1,000,000
Foster Reservoir Trail	Collaborate to complete 7.5 miles of compressed gravel trail	\$475,000
South Santiam Accessible Fishing Area	Accessible fishing platform	\$200,000
Total Capital Projects		\$9,346,000

^A Costs under development

^B Not incorporated

TABLE 7: NEW PARK LAND PLANNING COSTS

New Park Land	Description	Per Unit Planning Cost
Park Land Acquisition	Budget to acquire land as opportunities arise	\$20,000/acre
Master Planning for New Park Sites	Typical Park Master Plan Cost	\$50,000/site
New Park Development	Cost to develop park sites will vary greatly based on facilities to be included	NIC

In addition to the above projects, acquisition of new park land to meet future needs in the community is a Priority I project. The specific quantity of land to be purchased will depend on the available resources and the purchase opportunities that arise. Following acquisition, sites should be master planned and then developed according to community needs and the opportunities provided by the site size, location or features. Table 7 identifies these projects on a per-acre cost basis.

PROJECTED NON-CAPITAL COSTS

In addition to capital projects, there are a number of other, non-capital, Priority I recommendations. Table 8 identifies various planning and support projects that are needed to guide decision making and make best use of County resources.

TABLE 8: PRIORITY I NON-CAPITAL PROJECT COSTS

Non-Capital Projects	Description	Planning Cost
ADA Strategic Plan	Develop a system wide plan to address accessibility needs	\$15,000
Quartzville Corridor Master Plan	Develop joint master plan for Quartzville corridor, including a camping study	\$150,000
Green Peter Reservoir Master Plan	Develop master plan for Green Peter Reservoir, including reservoir trail	\$150,000
Waterloo Master Plan	New plan for 128 acre regional park	\$100,000
Regional Trails Plan	Develop a regional trails plan	\$60,000
Bower's Rocks	Work with State Parks and other partners to develop an operations plan.	NIC
Event Marketing Plan	Identify potential event/wedding sites and develop marketing plan	NIC
Volunteer Management	Develop volunteer opportunities or volunteer programs	NIC
Technology Upgrades	Upgrade technology (reservations, etc.) Phase I	\$5,000
Picnic Table Replacement Program	Develop picnic table replacement program	NIC
Public Information Plan	Develop a public information plan including maps and brochures	\$15,000
Total Non-Capital Projects		\$495,000

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS COSTS

Ranked by over 80% of both community questionnaire and survey respondents as high priority, maintaining existing parks is the highest priority of Linn County residents. In order to understand how staff and resources are allocated to maintain Linn County’s park system, the cost of maintenance and operations can be separated from the overall budget by excluding all capital expenditures. Since many Linn County staff charged with maintenance also have other visitor-related duties, direct maintenance and operations costs were separated from other tasks, such as time spent on operation of campgrounds and boating facilities, and administration of user fees.

The portion of operating dollars spent on park maintenance is especially important to the implementation of this master plan. As the use of Linn County parks increases and new facilities are developed, maintenance costs should be allocated to protect the capital investment in park facilities. The current annual expenditure on parks maintenance, expressed in dollars per park acre, is detailed below in Table 9, along with a proposed level of future maintenance expenditures for two categories of parkland: 1) developed park acres and 2) undeveloped parks and natural areas.

TABLE 9: CURRENT & PROPOSED ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS

	Developed Parks	Undeveloped Parks/ Natural Areas
2007 Expenditure	\$1,084/acre	\$0/acre
Proposed Expenditure	\$2,000/acre	\$250/acre

The proposed maintenance expenditure per acre is suggested as a budget figure for both existing and any future developed properties to cover a minimal level of maintenance to protect park assets. These expenditures are a substantial increase from the County’s current maintenance budget, but are 50% less than what comparable communities are spending on maintenance of developed parks. Similarly, in undeveloped and natural areas in Linn County’s park system, a new budget figure is proposed for regular maintenance of these areas. The recommended \$250 per acre is 50% lower than a minimal level of maintenance recommended for basic hazard removal in natural areas (\$500 per acre). Again, this recommendation is higher

than Linn County’s existing level of maintenance. If more active management or restoration of these natural areas is pursued in the future, the per acre maintenance budget would need to be increased.

Assuming the proposed figures described above, the impact to the total maintenance budget, based solely on existing acreage, is calculated in Table 10, below.

TABLE 10: PROPOSED ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS

Parks and Facilities	Proposed Cost/unit	Existing System	
		Units	Cost
Developed Parks	\$2,000 /acre	660	1,320,000
Undeveloped Parks/ Natural Areas	\$250 /acre	700	140,000
Total		1,360	\$1,460,000

The total of \$1,460,000 is slightly more than double the current allocation of \$715,000 to park maintenance. If this recommended budget is adopted, Linn County’s maintenance budget will continue to be substantially lower than average. Therefore, it is recommended that this allocation be evaluated annually for opportunities for additional increases.



PROPOSED FUNDING OPTIONS

The total identified cost of Priority I capital and non-capital projects is in excess of \$10 million. In addition to these capital costs, Linn County Parks should prepare for increased operating costs coupled with continued reductions in available general funds. Financing this entire package of projects is not immediately feasible, and the County has elected to pursue a conservative approach to financing. Therefore, this Plan recommends approaching the Priority I projects on a pay-as-you-go basis, relying on existing and new funding sources.

Developing new funding sources will increase Linn County’s funding level for park operations, and allow the County to invest in continued development of its parks and recreation system. Listed below are a number of opportunities, based specifically on Linn County’s needs, which have the potential to generate additional resources.

PARTNERSHIPS

The County has been successful in building strong relationships with partner agencies on the local, state and federal level. Many of the Priority 1 projects would lend themselves to participation by multiple jurisdictions. Linn County should pursue partnerships to implement projects whenever these projects have multiple stakeholders.

GRANTS

Linn County has been successful in acquiring grant funding from a variety of agencies, and has been relying heavily on this particular source for new facilities. Grants have comprised an average of 13% of the County's non-general fund revenues for parks and recreation in recent years. In the future, identified capital projects and expanded programs, including additional boating facilities, OHV facilities and programs for youth, are well positioned to receive grant funding beyond the historic levels. However, most grants will not support operations, and it will be important to evaluate the County's ability to maintain any new facilities that are constructed under grant-funded programs. One exception is Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's grant program for OHV facilities, which does provide funding for operations. The County could pursue new grant sources, such as federal transportation funds for trails. In addition, with limited staff time, it is uncertain how much additional grant funding can be pursued. The County may need to add staff, tap personnel from other County departments, or recruit volunteers to further expand this funding source. Appendix F includes a description of the current Land and Water Conservation Fund grant priorities.

PARK REVENUES

Linn County has had great success moving to a largely fee-supported system, primarily because of the revenues from camping activities. As additional projects are considered, net revenue generation should be weighed in both the decision to implement projects and in the design programming of specific projects. Additional opportunities to generate revenue should be given high priority. Clear Lake Resort has further potential to generate revenue, but will require additional capital improvements and ongoing maintenance to sustain or increase use. Two additional Priority I projects have the potential to generate positive net revenues. Seven Mile Lane Park, currently under design, includes 145 RV camp sites with net revenues



estimated at \$1.5 million annually. The potential OHV facility also would be fee-supported. Careful analysis of the total revenues and costs associated with these facilities should be completed before moving forward. The County should ensure that increased operating and maintenance costs do not exceed either facility's revenue generating potential. The County also should pursue projects which generate revenues that exceed anticipated costs. In addition to these facilities, the Plan recommends that other smaller-scale revenue producing facilities be added, such as additional group picnic areas, camping cabins, and group camping sites. Wedding sites added to existing parks also could produce substantial revenues.

USER FEES

In addition to the well-established camping fees in Linn County parks, there is potential for generating new revenue from user fees. These could include a day-use park fee or a parking fee for some sites, such as Lewis Creek, that receive large numbers of daily visitors. Potential resistance to new fees might be overcome by committing the resources generated from user fees to the operation and enhancement of these very popular sites. New fees also could include fees for specific users, such as boat ramps. Higher fees could also be charged for out-of-County users of facilities where appropriate. Although many of these fees are not desired by users or are controversial, in light of the risk of potential loss of funding as well as the need for maintenance, acquisition and development, these should be seriously considered. The County should also periodically evaluate all user fees to ensure that they are in keeping with current market rates. In addition, a good public information program that explains the need for these fees should be implemented.

DONATIONS

In addition to donations from users of County facilities, Linn County should actively pursue donations from businesses and landowners who benefit from the positive values of parks and recreation in the area. This may require the formation of a park and recreation foundation. When developing new parks and facilities, donation of services, materials and labor is a well established way to lower costs. Wills and bequests as well as memorial donations, such as a memorial bench program, are also common. In the past, Linn County as well as other agencies have benefited from land donations. Linn County

should carefully track and report the percentage of revenues derived from donations, and increase annual donations received.

LAND EXCHANGE

Another opportunity for park land acquisition is an exchange of land owned by the County, such as the timber lands, for land more suitable for park use. Many of the major timber land owners might be willing to exchange land that can be cultivated for timber harvest for riverfront sections of land that cannot be harvested due to water protection regulations.

REIMBURSABLE SERVICES

Linn County maintenance and operations workers have developed skills in the construction of high-quality park facilities, such as picnic shelters. These skills could potentially be marketed to other park agencies in the region. Linn County could develop a service to build these types of amenities under contract for other agencies as a means to support the skilled workers on staff and generate additional revenues for new Linn County facilities. As other market opportunities are identified, this service could be expanded to other types of park and campground facilities as well as other areas of County expertise



OPERATING LEVY

Utilizing public support for improving existing facilities, heard from the public throughout this planning process, Linn County might consider an operating levy for park maintenance as a way to improve maintenance levels and replace potential future loss of general fund dollars. To develop the most support, the levy package that voters would approve should include specific information about improvements to services that could be provided by this new revenue source.

VOLUNTEERS

Creating volunteer opportunities is a Priority I non-capital project in this Plan. Using volunteers effectively can reduce the cost of renovation and other capital projects. However, some administrative staff time and County expense will be necessary for management of volunteers and support of projects. Having a list of “volunteer ready” projects at all times helps connect potential volunteers with needed

projects. In addition to small project based volunteer activities, Linn County could pursue volunteer camp hosts (with limited duties) to replace paid hosts in some locations and/or “adoptions” of parks, trails, etc.

O T H E R

To meet its needs, the County needs to aggressively pursue a variety of funding sources, including new and emerging opportunities. New opportunities for funding should be examined as they arise, and considered in the context of the substantial needs and desires of residents and visitors to Linn County. A variety of new sources are being used by other agencies as funding sources for parks and recreation. One revenue generating source that many park systems are supporting is the location of communication towers, such as cell towers, that are constructed on park land. These towers can generate a regular stream of income with minimal disruption to the site and no additional operations cost to the agency. In many cases, the towers can be camouflaged to resemble trees, thereby reducing their impact even further. Future opportunities might also include environmental “banking,” the protection of valuable resources such as wetlands, stormwater retention and forested areas to offset the impacts of development in other areas. An emerging trend is to create a market for credits representing preserved resources that can be bought and sold by urban developers and resource protection agencies.

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APPENDIX A: PARK AND
RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY



TABLE A-1: LINN COUNTY PARK & RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

Park Name	Total Site Acreage	Boat Ramp	Camping Facilities	Group Campsites	RV Hookups	Dog Park	Fishing Areas	Horseshoes	Picnic Areas	Group Picnic Areas	Playground	Restrooms	Turf Area/Sports Field	Swimming Area	Trail	Volleyball
Regional Parks																
Developed																
Clear Lake Resort	8.00	•	14				•		•	1	•	•			•	
John Neal Memorial Park	27.60	•	36	•			•	•	•	1	•	•	•		•	•
Lewis Creek Park	40.00						•		•			•	•	•		
River Bend Park	75.00	•	45		35		•		•	2		•	•		•	
Roaring River Park	27.94						•	•	•	3		•	•		•	•
Sunnyside Park	100.00	•	165	•	133	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•
Waterloo Park	128.50	•	122		102	•	•	•	•	4	•	•	•	•	•	
Whitcomb Creek Park	328.00	•	39	•			•		•			•		•	•	
Subtotal	735.04	6	421	3	270	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	N/A
Undeveloped																
North Santiam Beach Site	21.90															
Seven Mile Lane Park	172.00															
South Santiam Site	40.68															
Stayton Bridge Site	39.30															
Subtotal	273.88	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
Natural Areas																
McDowell Creek Falls Park	102.62						•		•			•			•	
Subtotal	102.62	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A
Waysides																
Freeway Lakes Park	57.20	•					•					•				
Larwood Wayside	4.84						•		•			•		•	•	
McCartney Park	21.50	•					•					•				
McClun Wayside	2.00						•									
McKercher Park	7.83						•		•			•		•	•	
Peoria Park	3.56	•					•		•			•				
Subtotal	96.93	3	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A
Boater Access																
Developed																
Buell Miller Boat Ramp	2.70	•					•									
Calkins Park Boat Ramp	7.00	•					•					•				
Gedney Creek Ramp	4.80	•					•					•				
Lyons-Mehama Boat Ramp	1.00	•					•					•				
Stayton Bridge Boat Ramp	1.68	•					•					•				
Thistle Creek Access	9.20	•					•					•				
Subtotal	26.38	6	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
Undeveloped																
Fisherman's Bend	1.10															
Lyons Subdivision Site	2.84															
Subtotal	3.94	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
Historic Sites																
Crawfordsville Covered Bridge	0.50						•		•							
Linn County Historical Museum	0.27											•				
Moyer House Museum	0.61											•				
Subtotal	1.38	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
Forest Lands																
Detroit	90.17															
Big Cliff	29.40															
Subtotal	119.57	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
Total	1,359.74	15	421	3	270	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A

TABLE A-2: OTHER PROVIDERS' PARK & RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

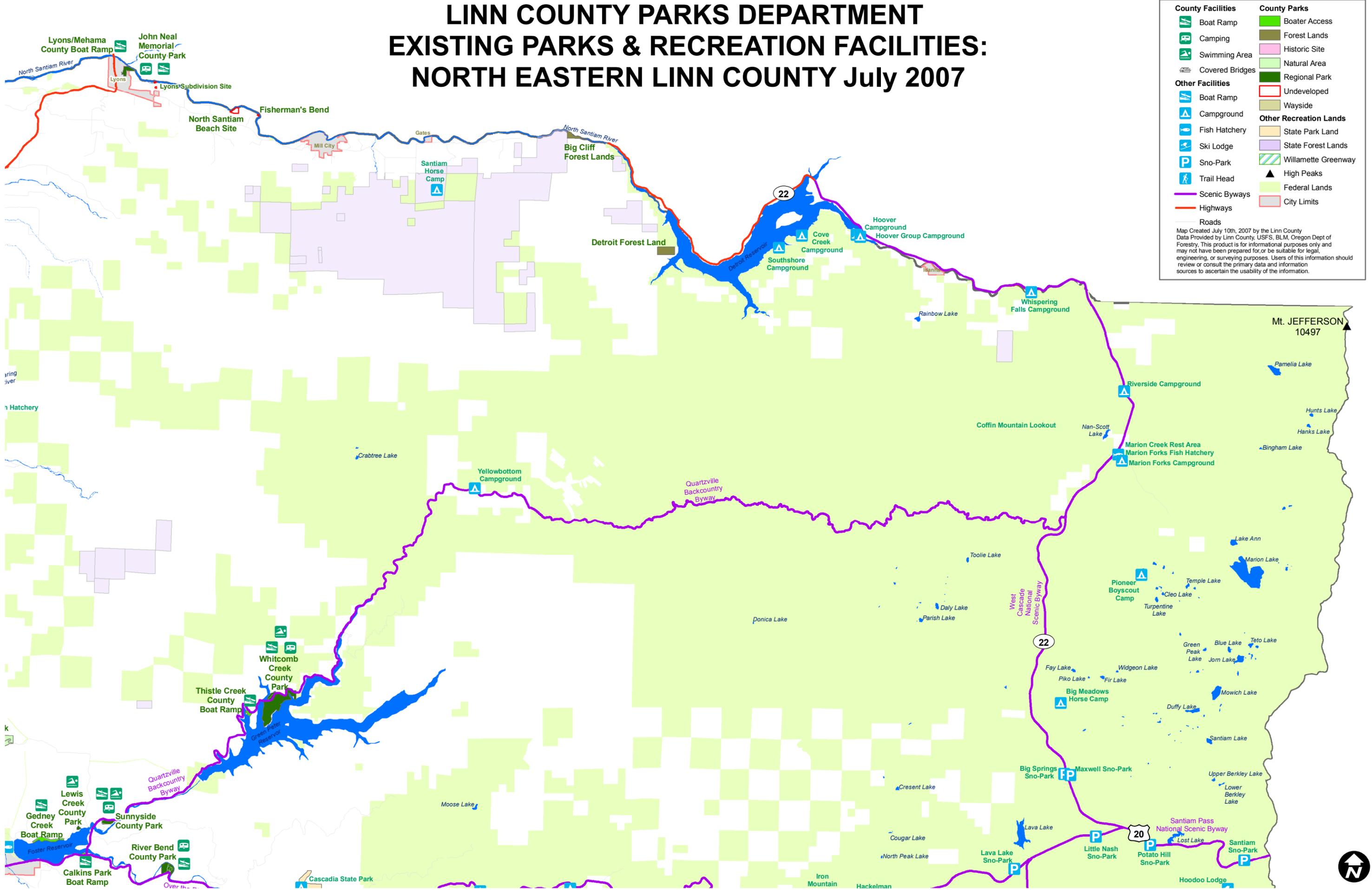
Park Name	Boat Ramp	Campsites	Fishing Areas	Picnic Areas	Swimming Area	Trail
State of Oregon						
Cascadia State Park		27	•	•	•	•
Thompson Mills Historic Park ¹						
U.S. Forest Service						
Big Lake Campground	•	49	•	•	•	•
Big Lake West Campground	•	11	•	•	•	•
Big Meadows Horse Camp		9				
Clear Lake Picnic Area	•			•		•
Coldwater Cove Campground	•	35	•	•		•
Cove Creek Campground	•	63	•	•	•	•
Fernview Campground		11	•		•	
Fish Lake Campground		8	•	•	•	•
Hoover Campground	•	37	•	•	•	•
House Rock Campground		17	•	•	•	•
Ice Cap Creek Campground	•	22	•	•		•
Koosah Falls Day Use Area						
Lakes End Campground	•	17	•	•		•
Longbow Organization Camp			•	•	•	•
Lost Prarie Camground		12	•	•		•
Marion Forks Campground		15	•	•		•
Olallie Campground	•	17	•	•		
Riverside Campground		37	•			
Sahalie Falls Day Use Area						•
South Shore Camground	•	30	•	•	•	•
Trail Bridge Campground	•	26	•	•	•	•
Trout Creek Campground		24	•	•	•	•
Yukwah Campground		20	•	•	•	•
Bureau of Land Management						
Dogwood Recreation Site			•	•		
Yellowbottom Recreation Site		20	•	•	•	•
Department of Fish & Wildlife						
Green Bridge Sportsman Access			•			

¹Planned to open in 2007.

APPENDIX B: PARK SYSTEM MAPS



LINN COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT EXISTING PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES: NORTH EASTERN LINN COUNTY July 2007



County Facilities	County Parks
Boat Ramp	Boater Access
Camping	Forest Lands
Swimming Area	Historic Site
Covered Bridges	Natural Area
Boat Ramp	Regional Park
Campground	Undeveloped
Fish Hatchery	Wayside
Ski Lodge	Other Recreation Lands
Sno-Park	State Park Land
Trail Head	State Forest Lands
Scenic Byways	Willamette Greenway
Highways	High Peaks
Roads	Federal Lands
	City Limits

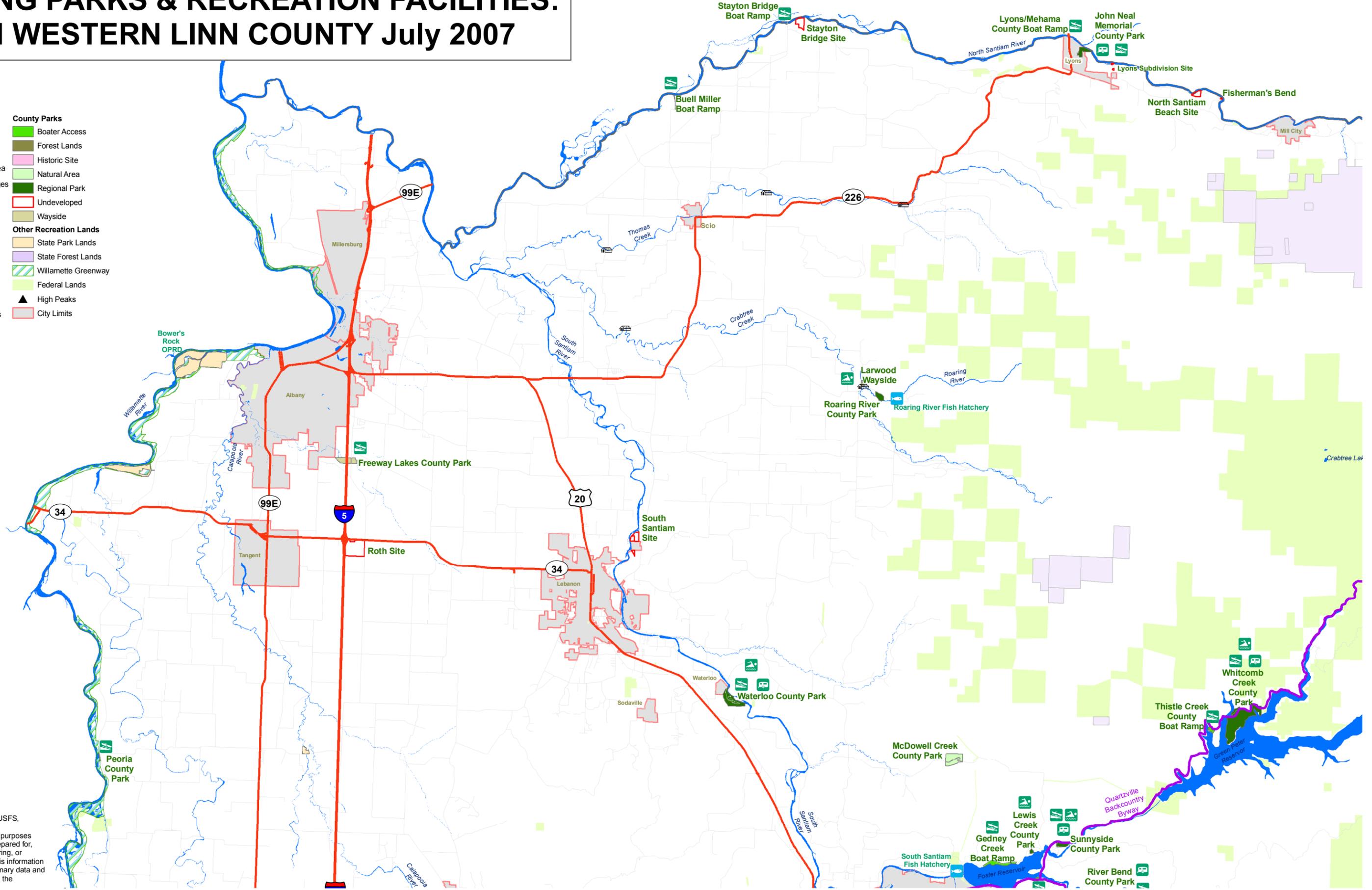
Map Created July 10th, 2007 by the Linn County
Data Provided by Linn County, USFS, BLM, Oregon Dept of
Forestry. This product is for informational purposes only and
may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal,
engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should
review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.



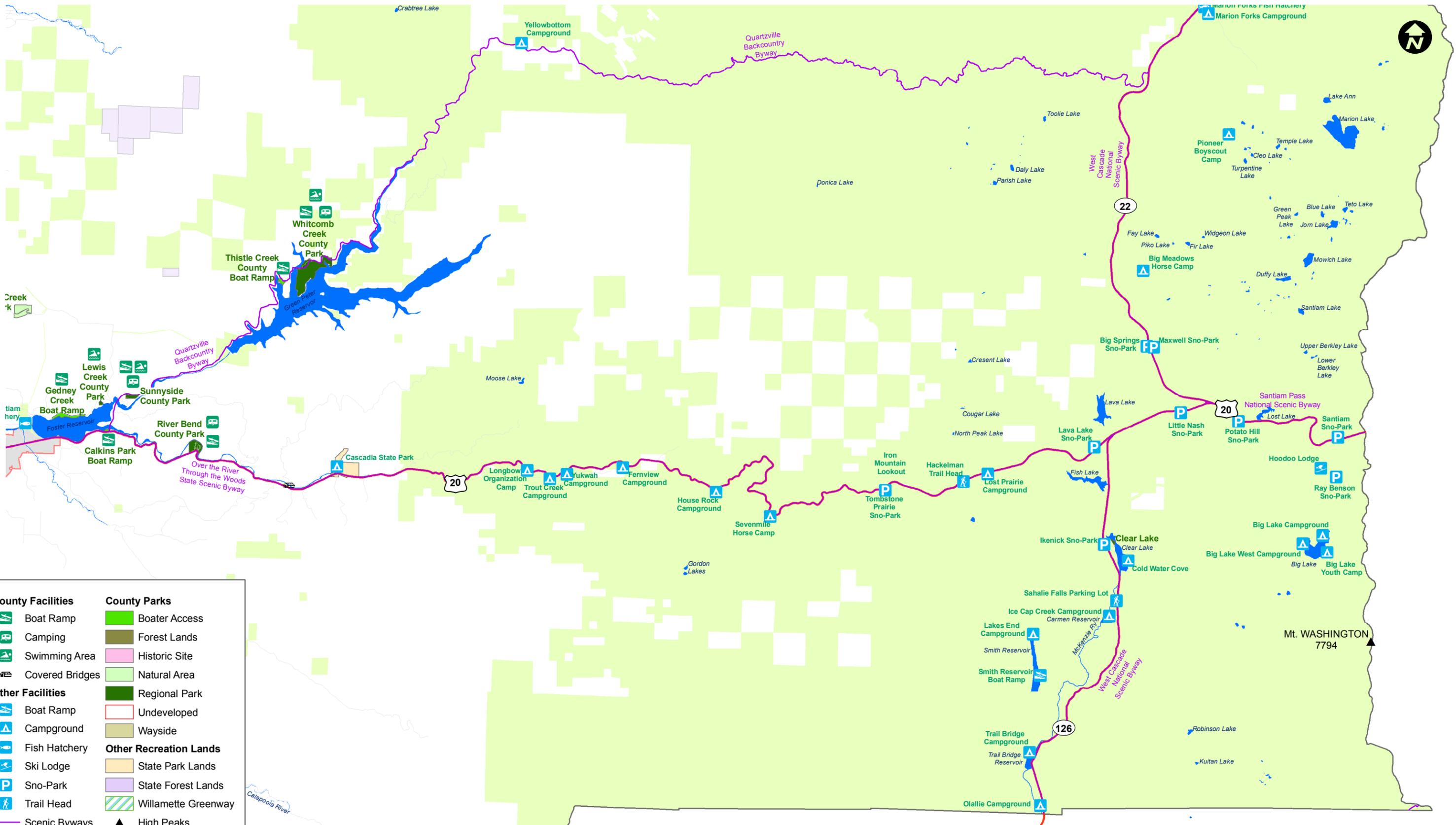
LINN COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT EXISTING PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES: NORTH WESTERN LINN COUNTY July 2007



- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| County Facilities | County Parks |
| Boat Ramp | Boater Access |
| Camping | Forest Lands |
| Swimming Area | Historic Site |
| Covered Bridges | Natural Area |
| Other Facilities | Regional Park |
| Boat Ramp | Undeveloped |
| Campground | Wayside |
| Fish Hatchery | Other Recreation Lands |
| Ski Lodge | State Park Lands |
| Sno-Park | State Forest Lands |
| Trail Head | Willamette Greenway |
| ScenicByways | Federal Lands |
| Highways | High Peaks |
| Roads | City Limits |



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should review or consult the primary data and
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County Facilities	County Parks
Boat Ramp	Boater Access
Camping	Forest Lands
Swimming Area	Historic Site
Covered Bridges	Natural Area
Other Facilities	Regional Park
Boat Ramp	Undeveloped
Campground	Wayside
Fish Hatchery	Other Recreation Lands
Ski Lodge	State Park Lands
Sno-Park	State Forest Lands
Trail Head	Willamette Greenway
Scenic Byways	High Peaks
Highways	Federal Lands
Roads	City Limits

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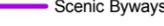
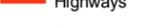
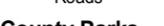
LINN COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT EXISTING PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES: SOUTHEASTERN LINN COUNTY July 2007

LINN COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT EXISTING PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES: SOUTH WESTERN LINN COUNTY July 2007

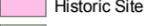
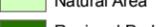
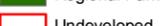
County Facilities

-  Boat Ramp
-  Camping
-  Swimming Area
-  Covered Bridges

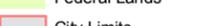
Other Facilities

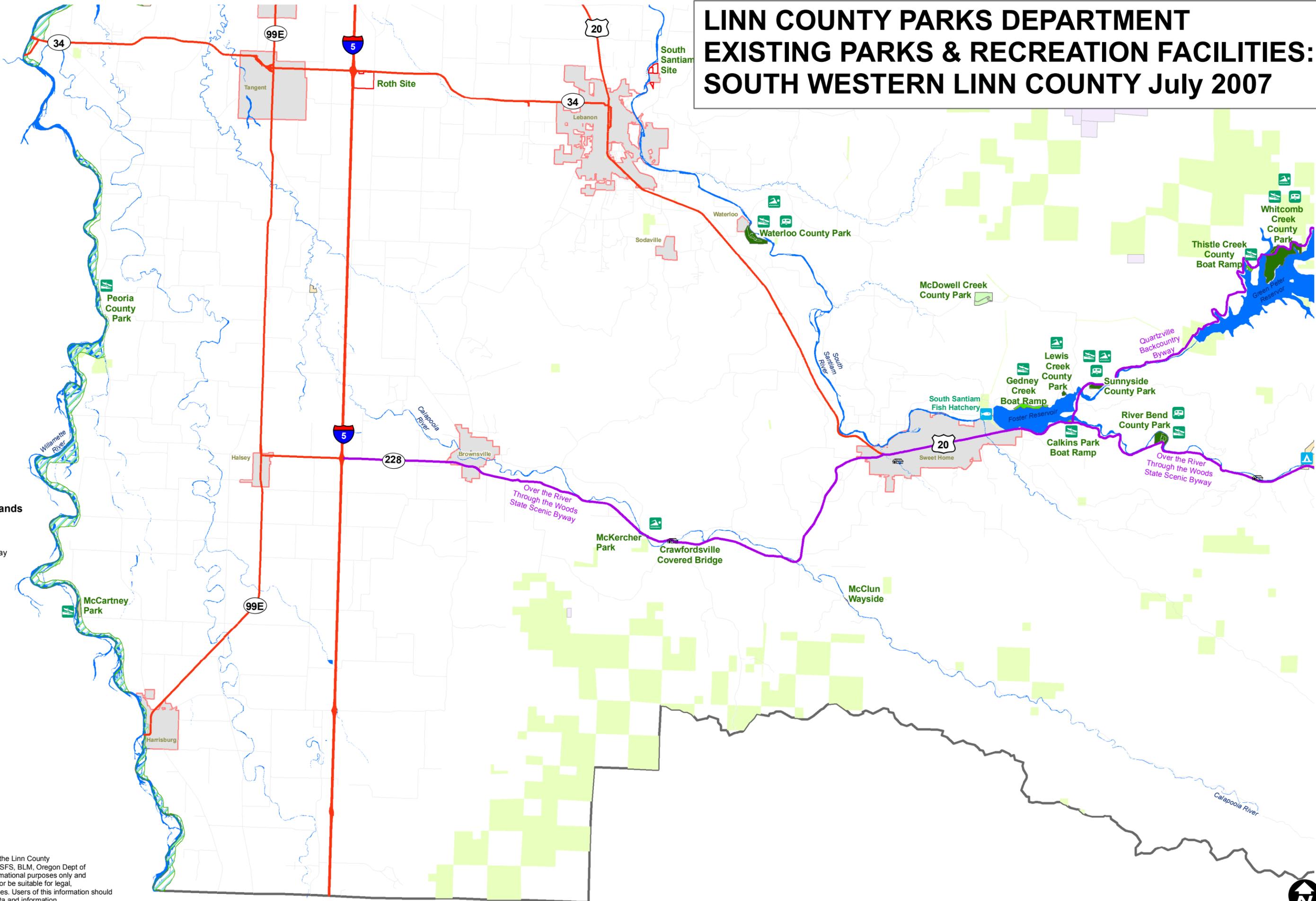
-  Boat Ramp
-  Campground
-  Fish Hatchery
-  Ski Lodge
-  Sno-Park
-  Trail Head
-  Scenic Byways
-  Highways
-  Roads

County Parks

-  Boater Access
-  Forest Lands
-  Historic Site
-  Natural Area
-  Regional Park
-  Undeveloped
-  Wayside

Other Recreation Lands

-  State Park Lands
-  State Forest Lands
-  Willamette Greenway
-  High Peaks
-  Federal Lands
-  City Limits



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APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This Community Needs Assessment provides a summary of background research, public involvement, and technical analysis conducted as part of the Linn County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It:



- defines the Linn County planning area;
- describes the County's existing organization structure;
- identifies key public involvement findings as they relate to park and recreation facility needs;
- identifies existing park and recreation resources owned by both the County and other public providers; and
- Assesses the need for parks and recreation facilities in the Linn County planning area.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Linn County Parks and Recreation Department is one of many administrative units in the Linn County government. The County Commissioners oversee the Parks and Recreation Director, who manages two major divisions: Operations and Administration. Operations include all park and facility maintenance. Administration oversees the Park and Recreation Department's daily business and handles all camping and picnic reservations. The Parks and Recreation Commission serves as an advisory body.

The Linn County Parks Director also oversees the operations of the Linn County Historical Museum and Moyer House in Brownsville. The museum is run predominantly by three part-time paid staff, although many volunteers play a key role in museum operations as well. The Historical Museum Advisory Commission serves as an advisory body. The Friends of the Linn County Historical Museum provide volunteers and some operations funding. The Linn County Historical Museum Trust is building a trust fund to permanently support operation of the museums.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS

In order to develop an accurate understanding of parks, recreation, and open space needs in Linn County, public input was solicited from a broad range of sources, including local residents and visitors, partner organizations, community groups, and Department staff. All public involvement activities were designed to ensure the participation of a cross section of community members. Altogether, over 800 residents participated in the following activities (Table C-1):

- *Community Survey:* A statistically valid telephone survey was conducted in March 2007. The survey reached 402 households in communities across Linn County.
- *Community Questionnaire:* An online questionnaire was conducted from March to May 2007. 390 respondents, including Linn County residents and visitors, completed the questionnaire.
- *Advisory Committee:* Nineteen individuals, representing residents, user groups, and partner agencies, attended the Linn County Park and Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee meetings.
- *Focus Groups:* Approximately 20 residents participated in a series of five focus groups held in Linn County in February 2007.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The statistically valid telephone survey was conducted in March 2007 and reached 402 households in communities across Linn County. The margin of error was +/- 5%.

KEY FINDINGS

- Almost all Community Survey respondents considered parks, recreation, and open space to be either very (77.1%) or somewhat important (20.4%) to Linn County's quality of life.

TABLE C-1: PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public Involvement Activity	Participants
Community Survey	402
Community Questionnaire	390
Advisory Committee	19
Focus Groups	20
Total	831

- From a list of seven benefits of parks and recreation, Community Survey respondents most often recognized the importance of strengthening families and communities (24.4%). Respondents also noted the importance of providing opportunities for youth (21.4%) and access to nature (18.41%).
- Use of County parks by Linn County residents is high. More than two-thirds of Community Survey respondents (66.9%) reported visiting one of Linn County’s parks in the prior year.
- When asked to name a park or facility provided by Linn County, Community Survey respondents most often cited Sunnyside Park, Waterloo Park, and “Foster Lake.” Respondents also frequently named parks owned by the City of Albany and the state, indicating a need for more public information about Linn County to increase awareness.
- More Community Survey respondents placed a high priority on maintaining existing parks and facilities (82.8%) than any other major park project (Table C-2). Respondents also placed a high priority on protecting natural areas (68.16%) and historic resources (54.3%).
- Community Survey respondents seemed to place a lower priority on park improvements and new park development. The majority of respondents indicated a medium low priority for upgrading existing parks and (52.7%) developing new parks (51.2%).
- In terms of facilities, more Community Survey respondents placed a high priority on developing play areas (56.2%), picnic areas and

TABLE C-2: PARK AND RECREATION PRIORITIES, COMMUNITY SURVEY

Should the following be a low, medium, or high priority for Linn County?	High Priority Responses (%)
<i>Park and recreation projects</i>	
Maintaining parks and facilities	82.84 %
Protecting natural areas	68.16%
Acquiring and protecting historic resources	54.23%
<i>Recreation facilities</i>	
Play areas	56.22%
Swimming areas	47.01%
Picnic areas and shelters	45.77%
<i>Trail projects</i>	
On-road bicycle lanes	55.47%
Unpaved mountain bike trails	45.52%
Multi-use trails	34.58%

TABLE C-3: PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY SURVEY

Outdoor activities	Participation rate
1. Fairs/festivals	83.3%
2. Picnicking	82.6%
3. Walking for pleasure	77.9%
4. Driving for pleasure	73.9%
5. Museums/galleries	70.4%
6. Wildlife watching	62.7%
7. Hiking	56.5%
8. Swimming	54.7%
9. Fishing	53.7%
10. Visiting a playground	53.7%

shelters (45.8%), and swimming areas (47.0%) than seven other potential recreation facility projects (Table C-2). Group picnic areas and camping facilities were also popular, with 40.6% and 35.8% of respondents indicating high priority.

- Off-highway vehicle facilities and dog parks were the least popular of ten recreation facility projects for Community Survey respondents, with 54.2% and 42.5% ranking these low priority respectively.
- On-road bicycle lanes and hiking trails were the top priorities for trail projects amongst Community Survey respondents (Table C-2). 55.5% of respondents placed a high priority on bike lanes and 45.5% placed a high priority on hiking trails. OHV trails, equestrian trails, and unpaved mountain bike trails received more low priority responses than other trail projects.
- Almost all Community Survey respondents felt that natural open space is either very (62.4%) or somewhat important (32.8%).
- Of six potential recreation program areas, most Community Survey respondents (33.6%) felt that providing children’s programs was important. Festivals or community events and environmental education were also popular, with 22.6% and 15.9% placing importance on these program areas respectively.
- While respondents were almost evenly divided on whether user fees should be charged for boating and group picnic areas, most felt that fees should be charged for camping (85.6%). In contrast, most Community Survey respondents did not support fees for parking and day use facilities. Likewise, most Community Survey

respondents (58.7%) believed that non-residents should not pay higher user fees than residents.

- On a list of 23 outdoor recreation activities, more Community Survey respondents reported attending fairs and festivals (83.3%), picnicking (82.6%), and walking for pleasure (77.9%) than any other activities (Table C-3). Walking for pleasure was also the outdoor recreation activity with most frequent participation; 29.4% of respondents reported walking for pleasure more than once a week.
- Driving for pleasure, visiting museums and galleries, wildlife watching, hiking, and swimming were also popular.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

An online questionnaire was conducted between March and May 2007. Altogether, 390 people participated. Of those that identified their residence on the questionnaire, 250 of these were Linn County residents and 93 were non-residents.

KEY FINDINGS

- Almost all (91.2%) of Community Questionnaire respondents indicated that parks, recreation, and open space are very important to the quality of life in Linn County.
- Out of eight potential parks and recreation benefits, most Community Questionnaire participants (37.9%) cited providing access to nature as the most important benefit. Strengthening families and communities (28%) and preserving natural areas (14.4%) ranked second and third respectively.
- Use of Linn County parks is high. Most Community Questionnaire respondents (93.4%) reported visiting one of Linn County's parks in the prior year.
- Of the respondents that had not used a Linn County park in the past year, most (33.3%) cited lack of time as the reason. Respondents also indicated that they don't know where they are or what's available (20.8%) and that they have no need for them (16.7%).
- Waterloo Park was the most used Linn County park in the past year, with 79% of respondents reporting visiting it at least once. Sunnyside Park was also popular (visited by 70% of respondents in the prior year), as was River Bend Park (visited by 65%).



- In the past year, at least 44% of Community Questionnaire respondents had visited the natural area at McDowell Creek Falls Park.
- In the last 12 months, the waysides and water access sites most used by respondents were Freeway Lakes Park (23%) and Thistle Creek Access (27%).
- 97% of Community Questionnaire respondents were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the level of maintenance in Linn County Parks.
- 96% of respondents felt either very safe or somewhat safe in Linn County parks.
- Over two-thirds (69.7%) of Community Questionnaire respondents reported that they had camped overnight in one of Linn County's campgrounds in the past two years. Non-resident respondents reported almost 20% higher usage of camping facilities.
- Out of a potential five campground improvement options, two categories received most high priority votes (34.5%): adding more recreation activities, such as playgrounds and trails, and adding more campsites.
- Of a potential eight park and recreation project options, most respondents (84%) rated maintaining existing parks and facilities highest priority. In terms of priority, protecting natural areas and providing recreation facilities were also popular (55%).
- 88.7% of respondents felt that natural open space is either important or very important in Linn County.
- Of a potential ten options to improve or build upon County recreation facilities, most respondents felt that camping should be a high priority. Boating facilities received the next highest percentage of high priority votes (40%).
- Of a potential six trail project options, most of respondents (51%) felt that hiking trails should be the highest priority for Linn County. Multi-use trails (37%) and on-road bicycle lanes (33%) were a distant second and third in high priority ranking.
- Out of six reasons to build trails in Linn County, most respondents reported interest in experiencing nature (40.5%) and recreation (34.7%).
- Of a potential seven options for types of recreation programs, festivals/community events were chosen most (20.3%).



Environmental education programs were also popular, chosen by 18.3% of respondents.

- On a list of 23 outdoor recreation activities, more Community Questionnaire respondents reported wildlife watching (87%) and picnicking (87%) than any other activities. Walking for pleasure (92%) was the outdoor recreation activity with most frequent participation; 25% of respondents reported walking for pleasure more than once a week.
- While respondents were divided on whether to charge user fees for boating, a majority (95%) said camping fees should be charged, and a smaller majority (69%) said group picnic area fees should be charged. In contrast, a majority said that parking (83%) and day use facilities (70%) should not be charged.
- When asked if non-residents should pay more than residents for the use of Linn County facilities, non-residents most often said no (75.8%) and residents most often said yes (59.3%).
- 76% of non-residents reported using River Bend campground as opposed to 61% of residents.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nineteen individuals attended the Linn County Park and Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee meeting in January 2007, representing residents, user groups and partner agencies.

KEY FINDINGS

- Participants were very positive about existing parks, the opportunities provided by the Linn County's natural resources, and the forward-thinking management of the park system.
- One of the major challenges was a need to define Linn County's niche in parks and recreation.
- When asked about their vision for the future, most participants appeared to support Linn County's current role as a resource-based, outdoor recreation provider.
- Acquiring future parks while opportunities exist, providing for water-related recreation, and focusing on youth and families were mentioned as important elements in the future vision.
- Trails and water trails, OHV facilities, and RV camping were mentioned as specific needs.

- Securing funding, pursuing partnerships, and engaging in regional planning was viewed as important means of achieving goals in Linn County.
- Participants indicated that parks and recreation should be tied to economic development, quality of life, and health and wellness.

FOCUS GROUPS

More than 20 Linn County residents and park users participated in a series of five focus groups held in Linn County in February 2007.



KEY FINDINGS

- The most frequently cited needs in the focus groups were an off-highway vehicle facility, bike and pedestrian trails, equestrian facilities, a special event facility, and water recreation access.
- Many participants noted the potential for partnerships as a way of acquiring, developing, and maintaining these and other needed facilities.
- Focus group participants emphasized the potential for Linn County parks to act as a stimulant for economic development in the County.
- The focus groups articulated a County vision through which everyone is served, programs and facilities are connected, and partnerships allow park and recreation agencies to provide higher quality services in an efficient way.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The Needs Assessment identifies Linn County's existing need for parks and facilities. To do so, the needs assessment uses a set of terms and methods specific to park and recreation planning. These terms and methods are defined and described below.

TERMINOLOGY

The following terms are used throughout the Community Needs Assessment:

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of service (LOS) describes the number of parks and recreation facilities currently provided within the planning area as a ratio of acres or facilities to number of residents. Usually, park level of

service is expressed in acres per 1,000 persons. Facility levels of service are often written in terms of the number of people served by one facility.

STANDARDS

Adopted parkland standards are expressed in terms of acres or facilities per number of residents and serve as goals that guide the development of a park system. The purpose of these standards is to balance development between different park types, active, and passive recreation in accordance with community values.

GUIDELINES

Often guidelines are often used in the place of adopted standards. As with standards, guidelines are expressed in terms of acres or facilities per number of residents. Because new recreation trends are always emerging, guidelines are meant to be flexible. They are not meant to serve as formal standards.

METHODOLOGY

A variety of tools were used to assess current and future need for parks and recreation facilities in Linn County:

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

All results of Master Plan public involvement activities were used in the development of this report, including the Community Survey, the Community Questionnaire, focus groups, and meetings of the Advisory Committee. These public involvement activities provided data about the County's current recreation participation, needs, and priorities, which informed the assessment of parkland and facility needs.

REVIEW OF TRENDS

The following sources were consulted in order to identify local, state, and national trends in sports and recreation:

- *National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA)*: The NSGA is the national association for sporting goods retailers and conducts an annual nationwide study in order to determine trends in recreation participation.
- *Oregon State Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*: The SCORP is a five-year statewide recreation plan published by Oregon Parks and Recreation. The SCORP identifies outdoor recreation issues

and opportunities and explores state and local response strategies. It includes valuable data on current trends in recreation participation and demand in Oregon.

- *Oregon Marine Board Six-Year Statewide Boating Facilities Plan*: The boating facilities plan, published by the Oregon Marine Board, provides specific boating-related recommendations for all Oregon counties. The plan relied on survey data from the triennial survey on boating in Oregon, which was last conducted in 2004.
- *Oregon Trails 2005-2014: A Statewide Action Plan*: Oregon's statewide trails plan uses data from a statewide public involvement effort to develop recommendations for motorized, non-motorized, and water trails throughout the state.

A number of other planning documents for Linn County and other agencies were also reviewed and are listed in the bibliography.

PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY
In late 2006, staff compiled an inventory of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities owned and operated by the Linn County Park and Recreation Department. This inventory provided the basis for all parkland and facility needs analysis. It is included in Appendix A.



STANDARDS ANALYSIS

In the case of parkland, the County's current level of service, or number of acres/1,000 residents, was compared to the levels of service of other comparable agencies, including Lane County, Douglas County, Benton County, and Marion County, Oregon. This comparison allowed a general assessment of Linn County's total parkland acreage.

GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Geographic distribution was also considered in determining need for both parkland and certain recreation facilities within the planning area. In these cases, service area definitions were developed and applied to a map of Linn County's existing system, resulting in a geographic representation of the areas served by given parks and recreation facilities. Those parts of the County not included in those service areas were considered underserved, and needs were defined based on the number of these underserved areas.

OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS

In the case of certain recreation facilities, the most practical way to quantify need was to define areas where opportunities exist to develop the facilities in highest demand. These areas were then counted in order to define the existing need.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

Park and facility design guidelines were also used to quantify needs in Linn County. These standard park design practices, which encourage the development of certain recreation facilities within each park type, allowed a basic evaluation of the service of each park in the County's system. Parks not meeting design guidelines were considered areas of need.

PARKLAND NEEDS

The parkland needs assessment discusses the current and projected need for additional parkland in Linn County. In general, this needs assessment is based on public involvement findings, comparison to similar agencies, and geographic analysis. The need for renovations to existing parks is addressed in Chapter 4, Recommendations.

Because the County's approach to parkland development has traditionally been resource- and opportunity-based, this section identifies needs on a system-wide level, rather than by specific park type. An analysis of recreation facility needs, which outlines needs for parkland related to specific recreation activities, follows.

TABLE C-4: SUMMARY OF LINN COUNTY PARKLAND BY CLASSIFICATION

Park Type		Total Acreage
Regional Parks	Developed	735.04
	Undeveloped	273.88
Natural Areas		102.62
Waysides		96.93
Boater Access	Developed	26.38
	Undeveloped	3.94
Historic Sites		1.38
Forest Lands		119.57
Total		1,359.74

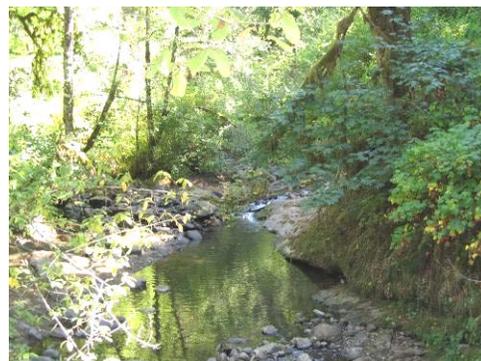
EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Linn County currently provides its residents with 24 developed parks. In addition to this land, the County owns six undeveloped park sites and two forest lands. Altogether, these properties total 1,359.74 acres (Table C-4). A detailed parkland inventory is found in Appendix A, and Maps 1 through 4 in Appendix B shows existing park locations.

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks provide access to unique features that appeal to residents from throughout the County and beyond. These parks can accommodate large group activities and often have infrastructure to support camping, special events, and festivals. Regional parks enhance the economic vitality and identity of the region. In some cases, these parks provide community park facilities for residents residing in smaller towns or unincorporated areas.

Linn County currently operates seven developed regional parks, ranging in size from 27 to 328 acres. Most of these were acquired by the County through private donation or lease in the 1970s, with the newest development at River Bend in 2006 and the newest lease at Clear Lake Resort. The County also owns four undeveloped regional park sites, three of which are located along the North and South Santiam Rivers and one of which is located at the intersection of I-5 and Route 34. Altogether, Linn County's developed regional parks total 735.04 acres and comprise the greatest percentage of the County's total inventory by far (Table C-4). Undeveloped regional parks account for an additional 273.88 acres, bringing the potential regional park total to 1,008.92.



NATURAL AREAS

Natural areas are permanent, undeveloped green spaces which are managed for both their natural value as well as for recreational use. Natural areas can range in size from one to 1,000 acres, and may include wetlands, wildlife habitats, or stream corridors. Natural areas provide opportunities for nature-based recreation, such as bird-watching and environmental education. These parks may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as unique or endangered plant species.

At the present time, Linn County owns one natural area, McDowell Creek Falls Park, which was acquired by trade in 1968. The McDowell Creek Falls property is located just north of Sweet Home and totals 102.62 acres in size (Table C-4). The site includes a series of waterfalls and a system of trails. The park also has restrooms and picnic areas.

WAYSIDES

Waysides are smaller parks located along scenic byways, highways or major County roads that provide access to active and passive recreation. Waysides vary in function, but most concentrate on providing specialized recreation opportunities, such as water recreation. There are no minimum sizes. Waysides often include facilities such as boat ramps, fishing areas, play areas, picnic areas, and restrooms.



Linn County owns six waysides, most in the two to seven acre range. Almost all of the County's waysides were acquired by the County in the late 1960s or early 1970s through donation or purchase, with the most recent acquisition, McClun Wayside, in 1988. All of the waysides are located on the water, with two on the Willamette River, two on the Calapooia, one at the confluence of Crabtree Creek and the Roaring River, and one on the Freeway Lakes in Albany. Altogether, the County's waysides total 96.93 acres (Table C-4).

BOATER ACCESS

Boater access sites are designed solely to provide access to a stream, lake, or reservoir for boat launching and retrieving. Sites may contain a restroom, parking area, and location for streambank fishing. There are no minimum sizes.

Linn County currently manages six developed boater access sites and two undeveloped sites. These boater access sites, which generally consist of boat ramps, restrooms, and fishing areas, range from one to nine acres in size. Three developed boater access sites are located on the North Santiam River, two on the Foster Reservoir, and one on Green Peter Reservoir. At the present time, the total acreage of developed boater access sites is 26.38 acres. Undeveloped sites account for an additional 3.94 acres, bringing the potential boater access total to 30.32 (Table C-4). Boat ramps are also offered at some

of the County's waysides, which provide coverage on the Willamette River.

HISTORIC SITES

Historic sites protect historic resources and encourage cultural tourism. In many cases in Linn County, the historic element is a structure, such as a house or covered bridge. Sites may contain restrooms, parking, and picnic areas. There are no minimum sizes.

At the present time, Linn County owns three historic sites: the Crawfordsville Covered Bridge, the Linn County Historical Museum, and the Moyer House Museum. Each of these sites is approximately half an acre in size and is maintained by the County in an effort to preserve historical resources. Altogether, these sites total 1.38 acres (Table C-4).

FOREST LANDS

Forest lands are timber reserves held by the County for potential future revenue generation, land swap, or recreational use. Most forest lands have been previously cut. There are no minimum sizes.

The County currently owns two forest lands, one at Detroit and the other at Big Cliff. These lands have been harvested and reforested by the County in the past, effectively limiting potential recreation use. However, there are opportunities to trade these sites for more suitable properties in the future. Altogether, they total 119.57 acres (Table C-4).

OTHER PROVIDERS

In addition to Linn County, a number of other providers supply parkland in the planning area. The U.S. Forest Service is one of the area's primary providers, managing thousands of acres of land in the eastern part of the County. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plays a similar role, owning large tracts of land in the Cascade foothills. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) oversees land directly adjacent to Foster and Green Peter Reservoirs, two of the County's biggest recreational assets.

The State of Oregon also operates one state park in the County, Cascadia State Park, just east of Sweet Home, as well as the Willamette Greenway, which spans the length of the Willamette in

Linn County. Oregon Parks and Recreation owns an additional undeveloped site, Bower's Rocks, on the Willamette River west of Albany, and is currently partnering with the Boston Mill Society around the development of Thompson's Mills, near Shedd, as an Oregon historic heritage site. Another state-affiliated provider, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), also provides several boat ramps within the County.

In general, these other providers offer natural and regional park amenities, such as campgrounds and trails, and essentially serve a regional park role. Where possible, these other providers' parklands have been included in the inventory in Appendix A and on Maps 1 through 4 in Appendix B.



Federal and state providers have also designated a number of scenic byways in Linn County. The Federal Highway Administration has two national scenic byways that run through the eastern part of the County: the McKenzie Pass-Santiam Pass Scenic Byway and the West Cascades Scenic Byway. The state-designated Over the Rivers and Through the Woods Scenic Byway traverses Linn County on Highway 228 and Highway 20 and the Quartzville Backcountry Byway, designated by the BLM, follows Quartzville Road. All of these scenic byways are included in the maps in Appendix B.

In addition to these scenic driving routes, there are designated bikeways and river trails that run through Linn County. The Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway follows low-traffic roads through the western part of the County, and the Willamette River Trail provides a water-based route for canoes, kayaks, and other boats.

There are a number of other agencies in Linn County that also focus on community-based recreation. These include all of the major cities and towns in the County, such as Albany, Brownsville, Lebanon, Harrisburg, Sweet Home, and Tangent. These towns provide parks and facilities to local residents.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS/TRENDS

- From a list of seven benefits of parks and recreation, Community Survey respondents most often recognized the importance of strengthening families and communities (24.4%). Respondents also noted the importance of providing opportunities for youth (21.4%) and access to nature (18.4%).
- Providing access to nature ranked first on the Community Questionnaire (38.1%), with strengthening families and communities ranking second (28%).
- Use of County parks by Linn County residents is high. More than two-thirds of Community Survey respondents (66.9%) reported visiting one of Linn County's parks in the prior year.
- 93.4% of Community Questionnaire respondents indicated use of Linn County parks at least once in the prior 12 months. Reported use was highest at Waterloo (79%), Sunnyside (70%), and River Bend (65%). Most of those respondents using these parks reported doing so a few times a year. In general, regional parks and natural areas were the most used park types in Linn County. Fewer visits were reported at boater access points and waysides.
- When asked to name a park or facility provided by Linn County, Community Survey respondents most often cited Sunnyside Park, Waterloo Park, and Foster Lake. Respondents also frequently named parks owned by the City of Albany and the state. This indicates a need to strengthen marketing and public information regarding Linn County's parks and recreation opportunities.
- Most Community Survey respondents placed a medium priority on upgrading existing parks (52.7%), acquiring land for future parks (41%), and developing new parks (51.2%). Survey respondents placed a larger emphasis on maintaining existing parks, which was considered a high priority for 82.8% of all respondents. Preserving natural areas was also emphasized on the survey, considered a high priority by 68.2% of respondents.
- Similarly, most Community Questionnaire respondents placed a high priority on maintaining existing parks and facilities (84%). Protecting natural areas also ranked high, with 55% of respondents favoring a high priority. The greatest proportion of



- respondents placed a medium priority on upgrading existing parks (48%), acquiring land for future parks (43%), and developing new parks (45%).
- Acquiring land for future parks was supported as a high or medium priority by just over 70% of Community Survey respondents and 79% of respondents to the Community Questionnaire.
- On the Community Survey, almost all respondents (95.3%) indicated that natural open space is either very or somewhat important.
- Results were similar on the Community Questionnaire, where 88.7% of respondents ranked natural open space either very or somewhat important.
- Linn County Parks and Recreation has a strong history of capitalizing on revenue generating recreation opportunities, such as group picnicking and camping. These revenues have enabled the Parks and Recreation Department to reduce reliance on County general funds. It is anticipated that Linn County Parks and Recreation will need to continue or expand these efforts in the future.
- Linn County parks and programs contribute to the County's tourism industry by providing recreation destinations along scenic byways, bikeways, and waterways and supporting special events, such as the Sweet Home Jamboree. In addition, County parks complement the services of others, including Oregon Parks and Recreation, the BLM, ODFW, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, and local providers, such as the cities of Albany, Lebanon, Sweet Home, and Harrisburg.
- Due to widespread budgeting challenges, there is a current trend amongst public agencies of divesting underdeveloped or unused parkland. Agencies in more fortunate fiscal positions, such as Linn County may have opportunities to make acquisitions in this light.

COMPARISON TO OTHER AGENCIES

In 2000, Linn County had a population of 103,069 residents. Given the County's existing park and open space acreage, it is currently providing a parkland level of service of 13.19 acres/1,000 residents (Table C-5). This level of service is slightly below the average level of

TABLE C-5: COMPARISON OF PARK ACREAGE BY COUNTY

	Linn	Marion	Benton	Douglas	Lane	Average of Comparable Agencies
Total Acreage	1,179.74	656.00	1,419.00	3,338.00	4,528.00	2,485
Total Population	103,069	305,265	78,640	104,202	322,959	202,767
Total Area (mi ²)	2,297	1,183	676	5,036	4,620	2,879
Acres/1,000 residents	13.19	2.15	18.04	32.03	14.02	16.56
Acres/mi ²	0.59	0.55	2.10	0.66	0.98	1.07

service of comparable agencies in western Oregon, 16.56 acres/1,000. It far exceeds Marion County’s level of service, falls slightly below the level of service provided by Benton and Lane Counties, and falls well below that of Douglas County, 32.03 acres/1,000. It should be noted that if Marion County’s figures were eliminated from the analysis, the average of comparable agencies would be substantially higher, 21.37 acres/1,000 residents.

It is also useful to calculate Linn County’s level of service in terms of acres of parkland per county land area. When considered in this light, Linn County is providing a level of service of .51 acres/square mile. Again, this level of service falls below the average for comparable agencies, 1.07 acres/square mile. Linn County’s level of service far exceeds the acreage to area ratio for neighboring Marion County, but falls below the ratios for other comparable agencies.

G E O G R A P H I C A N A L Y S I S

A review of the current distribution of Linn County parks can be used to identify major gaps in the existing service area network. At the current time, most of the County’s parkland is clustered around waterways, including the Santiam, Willamette, and Calapooia Rivers and the Foster and Green Peter Reservoirs. Almost all of Linn County’s parkland lies in the western half of the County.

The County’s developed regional parks include Clear Lake Resort, John Neal, Lewis Creek, River Bend, Roaring River, Sunnyside, and Waterloo. These regional parks are designed to serve both large regional populations and the residents of Linn County, who should be able to reach regional parks within a short driving distance of their homes. A geographic analysis can be conducted to determine if all cities and towns in Linn County are served by regional parks. An analysis of this type shows that, at the present time, most of Linn

County's major towns and cities are located within an easy driving distance, or 15 miles, from regional park sites. When the Seven Mile Lane Park is developed, the Harrisburg area in southwestern Linn County will be the only part of the County that is not served by regional parks. The Scio and northern section of the County is another area which could be better served by the Parks Department. Additional parkland is also needed in the western section of the County where population growth is occurring.

In addition to having access to the major recreation facilities located at regional parks, all residents of Linn County should have opportunities to picnic, fish, or swim close to home. A further geographic analysis can be conducted to determine the accessibility of these opportunities, which are located mainly at regional parks and waysides, smaller County sites. At the present time, all of the County's urban areas are within an easy driving or biking distance, or approximately five miles, from a regional park or wayside. Because natural areas and parks designed to accommodate special uses are usually acquired on the basis of opportunity, site suitability, and/or natural resource value, a spatial analysis of these park types is not included here. A geographic analysis of boating facilities is included in the recreation facility needs assessment that follows.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Public involvement findings show that Linn County residents clearly prefer the maintenance and renovation of existing park sites over the development of new facilities. In accordance, maintenance and renovations should be the County's priority. However, given a 15 year population growth of nearly 30%, the County will also need to acquire additional parkland to maintain its existing level of service and preserve significant natural areas while the opportunities exist. In response, it is recommended that the County adopt a conservative but flexible parkland guideline of 13-16 acres/1000 residents. This guideline would encourage a parkland level of service for Linn County which is similar to that of comparable agencies. Based on the proposed guideline of 13-16 acres/1,000, the County should acquire 400 to 800 additional acres of parkland for future recreation use. The following should be targeted:

- *Parkland that provides additional acreage along the Santiam Rivers, Willamette River, Calapooia River, Foster Reservoir, and Green Peter Reservoir.* The County has traditionally focused on providing

access to these waterways. Further, Linn County residents expressed strong interest in preserving lands along these waterways while opportunities still exist. Areas traditionally used by residents for recreation and swimming should be strongly considered.

- *Parkland that preserves significant natural areas or cultural/historic sites.* As noted in the Community Survey and Community Questionnaire, County residents recognize the importance of natural and cultural resources, and are interested in preserving them for future generations. These areas could include a variety of historic sites, such as covered bridges, historic farms and significant landscapes, as well as Native American sites such as; The Calapooia native American mounds.
- *A regional park for the Harrisburg, western and north County areas.* These areas are currently underserved by regional parks.
- *Parkland that could generate revenue or contribute to the County's economy.* Future acquisitions could provide additional revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department, continuing to reduce its reliance on County general funds. Parkland acquisition also could support other efforts to promote tourism by providing facilities along scenic byways, waterways, and bikeways or by providing facilities that support special events.
- *Other parkland that is needed in order to provide specific recreation facilities or opportunities.* It may be necessary to obtain additional parkland to meet the needs outlined in the recreation facility analysis that follows, such as additional camping facilities, boating facilities, swimming facilities, or off-highway vehicle facilities. In addition, sites that provide other experiences, such as scenic viewpoints, should be strongly considered.
- *Properties in foreclosure.* Properties in foreclosure that are suitable for use as parks could be obtained, and reduce the need to acquire similar properties at greater cost to the county.
- *Sites identified in previous plans.* Past planning efforts, such as the 1996 Linn County Parks Plan, have identified a number of site opportunities for future parks. Many of these sites are still viable opportunities, and could be considered for future acquisition. These sites include but are not limited to:
 - Further Development of Green Peter Reservoir
 - Valley View point areas such as Peterson Butte

- ODOT site on the Calapooia River
- Greens Bridge on the North Santiam River
- State land near Stayton Bridge
- Jordan Valley Dam Area
- South Santiam River
 - Sweet Home to Waterloo Area
 - Lebanon Dam Site
 - Highway 226 Bridge Area
 - Jefferson to Willamette River Area



RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

Currently, the Linn County Parks and Recreation Department owns a variety of recreation facilities. This analysis assesses the need for additional new facilities, including boating facilities, camping facilities, off-highway vehicle (OHV) sites, picnic areas, swimming areas, special event areas and trails. In addition, the need for other recreation facilities, including dog parks, disc golf courses, fishing areas, playgrounds, and sports fields, are discussed in brief. The need for renovations to existing facilities is addressed in Chapter 4, Recommendations.

Like the parkland needs assessment, the analysis for recreation facilities relies largely on public involvement findings, geographic analysis, and opportunity analysis. The recreation facility needs assessment also uses design guidelines in order to determine needs.

OTHER PROVIDERS

It should be noted that there are other agencies besides Linn County who provide valuable recreation facilities. In addition to those recreation facilities provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, there are numerous outdoor facilities provided by other local, state, and federal providers in Linn County. The U.S. Forest Service provides large numbers of boat ramps, campsites, fishing areas, picnic areas, swimming sites, and trails in the eastern half of Linn County. The BLM offers two sites on Quartzville Road, which can accommodate camping, fishing, picnicking, swimming, and hiking. Oregon Parks and Recreation manages Cascadia State Park in Linn County, where there are similar amenities for camping, fishing, picnicking, swimming, and hiking. The Oregon Department of Fish

and Wildlife also provides boat ramps in the County. Other providers, including local towns and cities, offer other recreation facilities that are used by Linn County residents.

Where possible, these facilities have been included in the inventory in Appendix A. Their sites have been shown, again where possible, on the maps in Appendix B.

BOATING FACILITIES

Boating facilities may include boat ramps, moorage, docks, or other launching or access points positioned along rivers, streams, or lakes. In general, these facilities are accompanied by parking and restroom facilities and may be located adjacent to camping or picnic areas as well.

OVERVIEW

Linn County currently provides boating facilities at most of its major regional parks, some of its waysides, and all of its boater access sites. Altogether, the County has 15 boat ramps, most of which are concentrated in the areas of the North and South Santiam Rivers, the Willamette River, and Foster and Green Peter Reservoirs.

CANOEES/KAYAKS

Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Over one quarter (26.4%) of Community Survey respondents reported canoeing, kayaking, or rafting at least once in the prior year. Of those, the majority did so a few times a year. Canoeing and kayaking ranked 15th of 23 outdoor recreation activities in terms of total participation.
- Community Questionnaire respondents reported a higher rate of canoeing, kayaking, and rafting, with 49% indicating participation during the prior year. As with the survey, canoeing and kayaking ranked 15th of 23 activities in terms of total participation.
- Almost half (49.5%) of Community Survey respondents thought that boating facilities should be a medium priority for Linn County. Boating facilities received most medium priority votes.
- On the Community Questionnaire, boating facilities fared considerably better. Most respondents (40%) indicated that the County should place a high priority on boating facilities. Boating facilities received the second largest number of high priority



votes. Non-residents appeared to emphasize the need for these facilities more than Linn County residents.

- The Willamette Valley River Trail runs through Linn County and should be supported by adequate boating facilities.

Geographic Analysis

The Oregon Marine Board suggests that park and recreation departments use a maximum five mile interval when planning for canoe and kayak launches or water trails. This interval can be applied to the navigable river system in Linn County, including the Willamette River, the North Santiam, and the South Santiam, to identify existing gaps in the boating facility network.

A geographic analysis reveals two major areas with access issues for canoes and kayaks. When all agencies' boat launches are mapped, there is very good canoe and kayak coverage along the Willamette River from McCartney Park to Albany. Benton County, the City of Corvallis, and the City of Albany provide boater access in the areas north of Peoria Park, where the County does not have established boat launch sites.

The South Santiam, in contrast, has several major gaps. The first is in the area between Sweet Home and Waterloo, where there are no existing boating facilities. Waterloo provides good access north to Lebanon, but there are no additional boater access points on the remainder of the South Santiam, from Lebanon to Jefferson.

Recreation access around or over the Lebanon Dam on the South Santiam between Waterloo and Lebanon is also an area of concern. These areas have long been recognized as an areas of need for the County. Likewise, there are several gaps on the North Santiam, especially in the area west of Stayton Bridge. These areas have also been recognized by the Oregon Marine Board in their *Six Year Statewide Boating Facilities Plan*.

Needs Analysis

Given the interest in boating in Linn County, especially amongst visitors, and the existing geographic patterns of boater access sites, there is clearly a need for additional boating facilities. At this time, three additional facilities should be developed for canoes and kayakers. These facilities should be located on the South Santiam between Sweet Home and Lebanon, the South Santiam north of

Lebanon, and on the North Santiam west of Stayton. All of these facilities would require new acquisition and development, which could potentially be accomplished through partnerships. In addition, the County should explore the possibility of developing kayaking and canoeing amenities on the Calapooia River. The County should also make efforts to facilitate canoeing and kayaking on the Foster and Green Peter Reservoirs and boat camping on its waterways, especially on Green Peter Reservoir and along the Willamette River Trail.

POWER BOATS

Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Almost one-quarter (24.1%) of Community Survey respondents reported power boating at least once during the prior year. Power boating ranked 17th of 23 outdoor recreation activities in terms of total participation, making it slightly more popular than canoe/kayaking.
- Again, boating activities were more popular on the Community Questionnaire, where 53% of respondents reported power boating at least once during the prior year. Power boating ranked 12th of 23 activities on the questionnaire in terms of total participation.
- The largest percentage of Community Survey respondents (49.5%) thought that boating facilities should be a medium priority for the County.
- On the Community Questionnaire, the largest percentage of respondents (40%) indicated that the County should place a high priority on boating facilities. Non-residents appeared to emphasize the need for these facilities more than Linn County residents.
- According to *Boating in Oregon: Triennial Survey Results 2005*, which measures predominantly power boat use in the state, there were 66.1 boat registrations per 1,000 residents in Linn County in 2004, ranking it 14th of Oregon's 36 counties in terms of per capita registrations. In absolute number of registrations, Linn County ranked 9th, with 7,032. Boat registrations in Linn County have actually been declining, however, since 1998.
- Linn County also ranked high on the triennial boating survey in terms of mean annual number of boat use days by residents, at 23.7. Linn County residents spend more days boating than most of the rest of Oregon, ranking 10th out of 36 counties. Linn County



also ranked high in terms of the specific boating activities. Linn County residents ranked in the top ten in the state in terms of sailing, water skiing, and cruising.

- Linn County is home to some of the most used waterbodies in the state. In 2004, the Willamette River ranked second in the state in terms of boater use days, Foster Reservoir ranked 18th, and Green Peter Reservoir ranked 19th out of 50. On all three waterbodies, fishing was the most popular activity. Foster and Green Peter ranked high in terms of water skiing as well, and the Willamette ranked high in terms of cruising.
- On Oregon's triennial boating survey, the Willamette River ranked high in terms of reported boater safety issues, particularly in terms of near collisions and collisions.
- According to the 2003 *Oregon SCORP*, power boating participation rose 16.8% in the period between 1987-2002 in Regions 2 and 3, which include Linn County.

Power Boat Wait Time

Respondents of the Oregon Marine Board's triennial boating survey reported more boating facility issues at Green Peter Reservoir than any other waterbody in the state in 2004. Over half of respondents (51.8%) reported long delays at the ramps at Green Peter Reservoir, earning it the number one ranking in the state in terms of reported delays. Large percentages of respondents also indicated that there is not enough parking for boat trailers at Green Peter (58.8%), insufficient short term tie ups (73.5%), and not enough boat launch lanes (55.2%).

Foster Reservoir also ranked high (6th of 50) on the triennial boating survey in terms of issues and problems. Much like Green Peter, long delays were reported at the boat ramps. Lack of sufficient short term tie-ups and launch lanes were also identified as considerable problems at Foster Reservoir.

Opportunity Analysis

At the present time, user capacity issues preclude further boat ramp development on Foster Reservoir. There are inherent issues in developing additional sites on Green Peter Reservoir as well. Draw downs in recent years mean that there are significant variations in

water level at Green Peter. The slopes on the banks of Green Peter Reservoir also present sighting issues.

Even with these inherent issues, the Oregon Marine Board's *Six Year Statewide Boating Facilities Plan* has identified five boat launch opportunities on Green Peter Reservoir. These include a drive-in boat ramp on the south side of the reservoir, two boat-in facilities on the reservoir's southeastern shore, a concrete ramp at the outlet of Quartzville Creek, and an additional boat ramp at Whitcomb Creek Park. Four of these facilities would require acquisitions. Partner agencies will be critical in this effort.

Policy/Design Guidelines

To meet ADA requirements for accessibility for people with disabilities, Linn County should provide a minimum of one ADA accessible boating facility in its system. However, to provide a high standard of services and universal access to diverse recreation experiences, the County could aspire to provide one accessible facility per major waterbody.

Needs Analysis

As with canoe and kayak facilities, there is clearly a need for additional power boat facilities in Linn County. These facilities will allow the County to address safety issues, reduce wait times, and meet current and future demand. Furthermore, new ramps at Green Peter might encourage additional tourism and economic development, especially if boating is provided in conjunction with camping.

Given this need, it is suggested that the Department develop each of the five power boating facilities suggested by the Oregon Marine Board *Six Year Statewide Boating Facilities Plan*. These include three additional drive-in boat ramps and two boat-in facilities on Green Peter Reservoir. All of these sites will help to relieve congestion at Foster Reservoir.

In addition, the Department should develop ADA accessible boating facilities based on the more aggressive design guideline suggested above. This guideline would require the County to provide ADA accessible facilities at both Green Peter and Foster Reservoirs, as well as on the Santiam and the Willamette. The facility at Foster Reservoir

should be a new or renovated facility. The facility at Green Peter, which could be located at any of the five sites highlighted by the Oregon Marine Board plan, would be a new acquisition.



CAMPING FACILITIES

Camping facilities may be designed either as cabins or for tent or RV use, but are generally grouped in a single area.

Camping areas should include reservable shelters, trash receptacles, campfire pits, and picnic tables. Drinking water, restrooms, and showers should be located within easy walking distance. In the case of RV campsites and cabins, water and electricity hookups may be provided at each individual site. Group campsites allow all amenities to be reserved by one group. Recreation facilities, such as playgrounds, dog parks, fishing areas, turf areas or fields, volleyball, and horseshoes, are frequently provided for users.

OVERVIEW

The County currently provides 407 tent and RV campsites and 14 cabins at six of its regional parks, including Clear Lake Resort, John Neal Memorial Park, River Bend, Sunnyside, Waterloo, and Whitcomb Creek. Slightly more than half of the County's campsites, or about 270, offer RV hookups. Historically, County campgrounds have been popular with RV users, and the demand for these sites has increased with the development of an online reservation system. In recent years, the demand for group camping facilities in Linn County parks has also increased. At the present time, three of the County's regional parks offer group camping, John Neal, Sunnyside, and Whitcomb Creek. All of the County's campsites have associated recreation facilities, such as playgrounds, dog parks, fishing areas, turf areas or fields, volleyball, and horseshoes. Accessibility for people with disabilities is an issue at most County campgrounds since facilities were not constructed to meet current guidelines. The cabins at Clear Lake Resort also have ADA accessibility issues.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS/TRENDS

- On the Community Survey, 40.3% of respondents reported participation in tent camping during the prior year, and 38.6% reported RV camping. Tent and RV camping placed 12th and 13th respectively in terms of total participation on a list of 23 outdoor recreation activities.

- Significantly higher proportions of Community Questionnaire respondents reported participation in camping. In fact, the majority of respondents indicated that they had camped in tents (52%) or RVs (68%) during the prior year. Tent and RV camping ranked 13th and 8th of 23 respectively in terms of total participation. The highest camping usage was generated by non-residents who reported RV camping a few times a month.
- Camping facilities ranked fairly high in terms of priority on the Community Survey, where 86.1% believed camping facilities should be either a high or medium priority for the County. Of a list of ten potential park projects, camping facilities ranked 4th in terms of high priority votes, with 40.6% of respondents placing a high priority on these facilities.
- On the Community Questionnaire, even more respondents considered camping facilities a high priority (68%), ranking these facilities first of ten potential park projects in terms of high priority.
- In terms of campground improvements, most Community Questionnaire respondents favored more recreation activities (39.5%) and adding more campsites (34.5%).
- Older adults, families with young children, and people with disabilities often enjoy camping cabins or yurts, including those with restrooms. These facilities have been constructed at several Oregon Parks and Recreation sites, and are in high demand.
- Camping facilities are needed to support campers who arrive by boats, bicycles, and horses.
- Dispersed camping is popular among those who prefer greater contact with nature.
- Camping has been a major source of revenue for Linn County Parks. During 2006, camping fees generated over \$300,000, which helped the Parks and Recreation Department reduce its reliance on County general funds.
- There may be opportunities for Linn County to adopt facilities previously operated by others, such as the U.S. Forest Service, since many local, state, and federal agencies are experiencing budget cuts.
- In the current economy, there is an increased demand for “close-to-home” vacations.

- Camping facilities in Linn County are in high demand, as is evidenced by the roadside camps which flank Quartzville Road during the summer. These sites are difficult to supervise and maintain.
- There is increasing demand for group camping facilities in Linn County.
- The 2003 Oregon SCORP reports that participation in RV camping rose 48.6% in the period between 1987-2002 in Regions 2 and 3, which include Linn County.
- The National Sporting Goods Association reported that in 2006, camping was the 4th most popular recreational activity in the nation.

RESERVATION DATA

In FY 2006, the vast majority of camping reservations were made at Sunnyside and Waterloo Parks, the two parks in the County system with the greatest number of campsites. Together, these two parks generated almost 80% of the Department’s 2005-2006 camping revenue.

In order to compare demand for camping across Linn County parks, it is useful to examine the capacity and use of each of the County’s existing campgrounds. Table C-6 shows the total capacity, in terms of camping nights available, for each facility in the County system during the height of the summer season (June 1st to August 31st). Table C-6 also shows the actual revenue generated by each of Linn County’s campgrounds during the summer season in 2006. The approximate number of nights reserved at each of these campgrounds can be derived by dividing the total summer revenue by the average nightly camping fee for each facility. This total number of reserved

TABLE C-6: AVERAGE NIGHTS RESERVED, LINN COUNTY CAMPGROUNDS, JUNE-AUGUST 2006

Campground	Campsites	Total Capacity (in camping nights)	Total Revenue	Nights Reserved	% Full
John Neal	40	3,600	\$17,402	1,243	35%
River Bend ^A	45	4,050	\$26,569	2,044	50%
Sunnyside	165	14,850	\$150,247	11,557	78%
Waterloo	122	10,980	\$99,924	7,686	70%
Whitcomb Creek	39	3,510	\$17,733	1,612	46%
Total	411	36,990	\$311,875	24,142	65%

^AData for River Bend are from its first year; revenue figures do not reflect the income of the campground once established.

nights can then be compared with the capacity to develop a “percent capacity” figure.

In these terms, Sunnyside emerges as the most heavily used campground in Linn County’s system in 2006, when it was almost 80% full over the course of the summer. Waterloo was also heavily used, operating at approximately 70% capacity. Reservations for 2007 indicate that there is increasing demand for sites at River Bend. As is consistent with anecdotal information, Whitcomb Creek and John Neal were the least used of the County’s facilities. Anecdotal reports also indicate that demand for these sites may be growing. The park evaluation conducted in December 2006 noted the need to develop new master plan at Whitcomb Creek and John Neal, which could increase their desirability for camping.



OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS

There are additional opportunities to develop or add individual campsites or group camp sites at several of the County’s existing regional park sites, including Roaring River. There may also be opportunities to build new campgrounds as the County develops additional regional parks in the future.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

There is strong demand for camping facilities in Linn County. This demand comes both from Linn County residents and, to a large extent, visitors, many who drive from as far as the Portland metro area to visit Linn County parks. Because camping is such a significant revenue generator for the County, and because camping has historically provided economic development benefits, it is clear that additional campsites could be developed in Linn County.

At the present time, it is suggested that Linn County increase its camping capacity. This expansion could help to disperse the crowding at Sunnyside and Waterloo Parks and allow the Department an opportunity to develop additional, smaller, modern sites like River Bend. The County should concentrate on providing diverse camping experiences, such as yurts and cabins, and ensure that camping is available for boaters, bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians. Group camping facilities should also be developed,

where feasible, in regional parks. Likewise, the County should establish policies for group reservations in its new and existing campgrounds.

Most of these camping experiences could be accommodated at existing, renovated, or new regional parks. The Willamette River is one unserved area, and a campground for boaters, bicyclists, as well as those who arrive by automobile could be provided at McCartney Park, where informal camping currently exists. These camping facilities would have to be developed to withstand annual flooding. When renovated, Whitcomb Creek might accommodate equestrian camping. Marketing could increase use and improve the feasibility of offering a greater number of camping opportunities.



OHV SITES

OHV sites are areas designed and maintained for use by dirt bikes, four wheelers, and other all-terrain vehicles. These areas typically contain topography, landscaping, and trails of varying difficulties. OHV sites should always have restrooms and parking areas, and are often accompanied by camping or picnicking facilities.

OVERVIEW

There are currently two formal OHV sites nearby. One of these is operated by the U.S. Forest Service at Santiam Pass. The second is at Shotgun Creek in Lane County. It is operated by the BLM. Because these sites are fairly far from Linn County's population centers, many OHV riders also use informal sites throughout the County.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS/TRENDS

- Only 19.2% of Community Survey respondents reported OHV riding during the prior year, ranking this activity 20th of 23 in terms of total participation.
- OHV riding ranked slightly higher in terms of total participation on the Community Questionnaire (19th), where 30% of respondents reported participation during the prior year.
- The majority of Community Survey respondents (54.2%) believed that off-highway facilities should be a low priority for Linn County.
- The largest percentage of Community Questionnaire respondents (46%) also gave off-highway vehicle facilities a low priority.

- Focus group participants advocated strongly for an OHV site in Linn County.
- Oregon Parks and Recreation grants are available to construct OHV sites.
- OHV sites have the potential to be self-supporting or revenue-generating.
- Safety of OHVs is a growing concern nationally.
- The 2003 *Oregon SCORP* reported that, from 1987-2002, ATV participation grew by 71.3% in the region of the state that includes Linn County.

OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS

There are opportunities to develop an OHV facility at various sites throughout the County. These sites are generally located in the County's more remote areas, where sound and traffic create less potential for conflict between user groups.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

The level of organization and advocacy for an OHV site in Linn County clearly illustrates the existence of a population segment that would frequently use a new off-highway vehicle facility, should the County develop one close to existing population centers. Because of this demand, it is suggested that the County pursue the development of one OHV facility at this time. The development of this facility should be contingent upon finding an appropriate site, securing funding for acquisition and development, and the development of a feasibility study to ensure that the facility is self-supporting or revenue generating. Adequate regulations or procedures also should be developed to maximize user safety.

PICNIC AREAS

Picnic areas are groupings of one or more picnic tables within a park setting. These areas may be situated under shade structures or in permanent picnic pavilions. Often, barbecue pits or grills are provided. Drinking water, restrooms, and parking should be located within easy walking distance. Sheltered group picnic areas can be reserved for a fee by groups for family or business events, weddings, and other gatherings.



OVERVIEW

Most of the County's parks provide picnic areas. Picnic areas are available at all regional parks, at the County's natural areas, and at most of the County's waysides. In some cases, these picnic areas are arranged in groups or covered with shelters, accompanied by running water, and may be reserved. In other instances, picnic areas are provided on a first come first serve basis. All picnic areas typically include wooden tables and barbecue pits or grills. The County has 12 group picnic areas. At least one group picnic area is provided at all regional parks, except Lewis Creek and Whitcomb Creek. There are no group picnic areas at County waysides.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS/TRENDS

- Picnicking ranked second on the Community Survey in terms of total participation among respondents, with 82.6% reporting participation during the prior year.
- Participation was similar among Community Questionnaire respondents, where 87% reported picnicking during the prior year. Picnicking also ranked second on the Questionnaire.
- Most of Community Survey respondents (45.8%) indicated that new picnic areas and shelters should be a high priority for Linn County. These facilities ranked third of ten potential park and recreation facility projects in terms of high priority votes.
- Picnic areas ranked slightly lower on the Community Questionnaire, where most respondents (49%) believed picnic facilities should be a medium priority for the County.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

A design guideline could be established that makes picnic areas a component of all major park sites, such as regional parks, natural areas, and waysides. Further, design guidelines could make group picnic areas a component of all regional parks and, when appropriate, waysides.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Because picnicking is very popular with Linn County residents, it is suggested that the County adopt the design guideline proposed above. Currently, Linn County has one regional park, River Bend, and three waysides, Freeway Lakes, McCartney, and McClun, that do not provide picnic facilities for visitors. In addition, there are two regional parks, Lewis Creek and Whitcomb Creek, that do not

currently have reservable group picnic areas. To comply with the proposed design guideline at each of these sites, the Department would need to provide four additional picnic areas and two additional group picnic areas. Supplemental group picnic areas could also be provided at parks where group areas currently exist to maximize recreation opportunities and Department revenues. In all cases where flooding is an issue, such as McCartney Park and McClun Wayside, picnic tables should be built to withstand floods.

SWIMMING AREAS

Swimming areas are generally located on reservoirs, lakes, or at slow flow points in a river. Frequently, these areas include picnic tables, restrooms, and parking. Several may simply provide roped-off areas as a self-guided safety precaution.

OVERVIEW

The County currently has swimming areas at some of its regional parks and several of its waysides. Some of these swimming areas, like that at Lewis Creek, have developed swimming amenities. In the case of Lewis Creek, the County provides a formal beach area with restrooms and picnic tables for swimmers. Other swimming areas, like that at Larwood Wayside, are less formal in nature. None of these provide ADA accessibility for people with disabilities.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS/TRENDS

- 54.7% of Community Survey respondents reported swimming at the beach in the prior year, ranking this activity 8th of 23 in terms of total participation.
- On the Community Questionnaire, swimming ranked similarly (10th), with 64% of respondents reporting participation.
- Swimming facilities ranked high in terms of priority on the Community Survey. Most respondents (47%) ranked indicated that the County should place a high priority on swimming facilities, ranking them second of ten in terms of high priority votes.
- Swimming areas were slightly less popular on the Community Questionnaire, where most respondents (48%) ranked them medium priority.
- The National Sporting Goods Association reported in 2006 that swimming was the 2nd most popular sport in the nation.

OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS

Opportunities for additional swimming areas exist at Sunnyside, Larwood Wayside, and at McKercher Park, where there are currently informal swimming spots. The Oregon Marine Board *Six Year Statewide Boating Facilities Plan* also identifies an opportunity for a swimming float on the south side of Green Peter Reservoir.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Given the popularity of swimming in Linn County and the success of Lewis Creek as a swimming area, it is clear that additional formal swimming sites could be supported by the County, especially if these areas were located proximate to urban centers. Based on the locations of potential opportunities and their distance from regional populations, it is suggested that two of the County's existing opportunities be developed as formal swimming sites: the swimming area at Sunnyside Park and the addition of floats at Green Peter Reservoir. McKercher Park may be the next priority, as opportunities exist to develop parking to support swimming and to expand the site. Swimming at Larwood Wayside should be investigated further if demand remains and funding is available.



TRAILS

Trails can be soft-surfaced or hard-surfaced. Examples of soft surfaces include soil, crushed rock, and wood chips. Hardened surfaces include asphalt (permeable or impermeable), concrete, crushed rock or soil stabilized with resin products or cement; open or solid masonry, and boardwalks. Most soft surfaces do not provide accessibility for people with disabilities, but are preferable for some recreation activities, such as running. Most hardened surfaces are accessible, with the exception of some masonry surfaces. Hard-surfaced, multi-use pathway designs accommodate bicycling and may incorporate adjacent soft-surfaced paths for running or equestrian use.

OVERVIEW

Some hiking opportunities exist at County regional parks. For example, a hiking trail runs through McDowell Creek Falls Park, the County's only natural area. This is a pedestrian trail that passes several waterfalls and covers some change in topography including extensive stairways. A pedestrian trail has been partially developed

around Foster Reservoir, but is in poor repair. In general, regional parks have short, hard-surfaced internal pathways that provide access to recreation amenities. Linn County has no significant multi-use trails.

MULTI-USE TRAILS

Review of Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- 87.9% of Community Survey respondents reported walking for pleasure at least once in the prior year, ranking this activity third of 23 outdoor recreation activities in terms of total participation.
- Walking for pleasure ranked first on the Community Questionnaire, where 92% of respondents reported participation during the prior year.
- Most Community Survey respondents (43.3%) placed a medium priority on multi-use trails.
- Multi-use trails were also a medium priority for most Community Questionnaire respondents (40%).
- *Oregon Trails 2005 – 2014: Statewide Action Plan* found that 82% of Oregon households had walked for pleasure in the prior year.

Opportunity Analysis

There are a number of opportunities to develop regional multi-use trails that serve both County-wide and local needs. First, existing trails, such as the Foster Reservoir Trail or River Bend trail, could be redeveloped as an accessible multi-use trail. Second, there are opportunities to develop a regional trail network using Lebanon as a hub, with spokes to Albany, Sweet Home, Scio, and Tangent. Rails-to-trails could provide a mechanism for developing this regional trail network. Green Peter Reservoir could also offer a remote natural regional trail opportunity.

Design Guidelines

It is common for large regional parks to include internal multi-use trail networks that provide a looped route, circumnavigate the park, or allow access to a significant feature, such as a lake or pond. Many County waysides could accommodate a multi-use trail as well. Design guidelines could be adopted that require the development of multi-use trails in regional parks and, when appropriate, in waysides. These trails should be ADA accessible whenever possible.

Needs Analysis

Based on the interest in trail-related activities in Linn County, statewide, and nationally, there appears to be some need for multi-use trails, especially those that provide access to walking and biking opportunities. As noted above, there is potential for a regional multi-use trail network, which should be pursued as the opportunities arise. In terms of internal trails, it is suggested that the County develop trails based on the design guideline suggested above. Multi-use paths should be developed in all regional parks and in waysides as these sites are redeveloped or when demand requires. These should be ADA accessible when the terrain allows. Looped pathways would be preferred.



HIKING TRAILS

Review of Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Hiking ranked seventh in terms of total participation on the Community Survey, with 56.5% reporting participation during the prior year.
- Hiking ranked even higher on the Community Survey (3rd), where 86% of respondents reported participation during the prior year.
- 40.5% of Community Questionnaire respondents indicated that the most important reason to build trails in Linn

County is to provide experiences in nature, ranking this rationale first of five. Recreation was also cited as an important reason to build trails by 34.7% of respondents, ranking second.

- On the Community Questionnaire, most respondents (51%) reported that hiking trails should be a high priority for Linn County. This trail type received more high priority votes than any other.
- Most Community Survey respondents (45.5%) rated hiking trails a high priority.
- *Oregon Trails 2005 – 2014: Statewide Action Plan* found that 87% of Oregon households reported hiking in the prior year.

Opportunity Analysis

There are opportunities to develop additional hiking trails at some of the County's regional parks and some waysides. These trails could supplement existing or needed internal multi-use networks. Trails could also be provided at future regional parks and natural areas.

Design Guidelines

It is common for agencies to adopt design guidelines that identify hiking trails as components of all natural areas and large, regional parks.

Needs Analysis

Given the popularity of walking and hiking activities in Linn County, it is suggested that the County adopt a design guideline that makes hiking trails a component of natural areas and regional parks, and when appropriate, waysides. This guideline results in the need for hiking trails throughout the County park system. These trails should be developed as interest and need arises, when renovations occur, and when funding is available.

OTHER TRAILS

Review of Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- 11.7% of Community Survey respondents reported mountain biking during the prior year, ranking this activity 22nd out of 23 recreation activities in terms of total participation.
- 30% of Community Questionnaire respondents reported mountain biking during the prior year. Mountain biking ranked 18th out of 23 outdoor recreation activities in terms of total participation.
- 26.6% of Community Survey respondents reported road biking during the prior year, ranking this activity 14th of 23 in terms of total participation. Reported road biking participation was significantly higher (46%) on the Questionnaire, where it ranked 16th in terms of total participation.
- Horseback riding ranked 21st on the Community Survey in terms of total participation. Only 13.7% of respondents reported participating in horseback riding during the prior year. Results were similar on the Questionnaire, where 14% of respondents reported participation in horseback riding activities.
- On-road bicycle lanes ranked first in terms of high priority votes on the Community Survey, with the majority of respondents (55.5%) placing a high priority on this trail type. On-road bicycle lanes also fared well in terms of high priority votes on the Community Questionnaire (3rd), with 33% indicating a high priority.

- Equestrian trails ranked significantly lower on both the Community Survey and the Questionnaire, where the largest percentages of respondents ranked them medium and low priority respectively.
- During focus groups, community residents reported a need for additional on-road bicycle lanes.
- Residents also indicated a need for equestrian trails closer to Albany and other populated parts of the County.

Missing Link Analysis

Particularly for on-road bicycle lanes, filling in missing links should be a priority for the County, especially on its scenic byways. Further study should be conducted by the County, in conjunction with ODOT and the County road department, in order to identify places where additional bike lanes could help to connect the County's major towns, parks, and facilities.

Opportunity Analysis

There are opportunities for other trail types at any of a number of existing and potential sites in the County, including Whitcomb Creek Park, Bower's Rocks State Park, or the proposed site at the Roth property (Seven Mile Lane and Highway 34).

Needs Analysis

There are needs for additional on-road bike lanes and an equestrian-friendly trail system in Linn County. These facilities should be developed pending further study by the County, ODOT, and local stakeholder groups. Mountain biking and equestrian trails should be considered as existing parks are master planned.

OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES DISC GOLF

Disc golf courses consist of a series of numbered posts and cages set at regular intervals to serve as “holes.” Signage should accompany each hole. Courses are usually located in natural areas.

Overview

The County is not currently providing disc golf courses, although one is under construction at Waterloo. This course was designed by volunteers.



Review of Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Disc golf ranked last in terms of total participation on the Community Survey. Only 6.7% of respondents reported playing disc golf during the prior year.
- Disc golf also ranked low on the Community Questionnaire (21st). 16% of respondents reported participation during the prior year.

Opportunity Analysis

The site with the best potential for a disc golf course is Roaring River Park. Roaring River is predominantly flat, does not have camping, contains large natural areas, and is generally not as crowded as the County’s other regional parks. Other new or redeveloped regional parks, like Whitcomb Creek and River Bend, could also be suitable.

Needs Analysis

It does not appear that there is an overwhelming need for additional disc golf courses in Linn County at this time. However, disc golf courses could be added to campgrounds and day use areas to provide opportunities for additional recreational activity. The County should consider developing disc golf courses if a suitable site arises along with volunteers or an outside funding source.

DOG PARKS

Dog parks can be either free-standing facilities or dedicated portions of larger parks. In either case, these areas are designed as off-leash areas for dog owners and dogs. Dog parks should include shade structures, trash receptacles, and drinking fountains, and may include special features, such as concessions.

Overview

At the present time, Linn County provides two dog parks, one at Sunnyside Park and one at Waterloo. Both have been developed recently. Waterloo Park is particularly well-suited for such a use, since it is adjacent to a developed residential community and in some senses serves as a community park. Sunnyside's dog park provides a controlled exercise area for dogs that helps discourage off-leash activity in campgrounds and day use areas.

Review of Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- One-quarter (25.9%) of Community Survey respondents reported dog walking or visiting dog parks during the prior year, ranking this outdoor recreation activity 16th of 23 in terms of total participation.
- On the Community Questionnaire, dog walking and visiting dog parks ranked slightly higher (14th), with 50% reporting participation during the prior year.
- Most Community Survey respondents (42.5%) placed a low priority on building and improving dog parks.
- Similarly, 50% of Community Questionnaire respondents placed a low priority on building and improving off leash areas.

Design Guidelines

Linn County is currently providing dog parks only in regional parks with large numbers of campsites or regional parks adjacent to population centers. In continuing with this approach, a design guideline that considers dog parks as design element of campgrounds or regional parks, especially those near populated areas, could be adopted. This guideline could then be used to identify existing gaps.

Needs Analysis

It does not appear that there is an overwhelming need for additional dog parks in Linn County. The County should pursue a policy of considering dog parks in future regional parks, especially those near population centers, when parks are master planned or renovated. These facilities could support camping and day use areas.

FISHING AREAS

Fishing areas include piers, landings, or any designated area where fishing is promoted.

Overview

The County currently provides fishing access at the majority of its parks. In some parks, developed fishing areas, such as a platform or pier, are provided. At other park sites, fishing areas are not designated and fishing occurs on an informal basis. Currently, Linn County is providing formal fishing areas on the Roaring River at Roaring River Park, on Foster Reservoir, and at the fishing ponds at Sunnyside Park and Roaring River. A fishing area is also provided at Lewis Creek.



Review of Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Fishing ranked 9th of 23 outdoor activities in terms of total participation on the Community Survey. 54% of respondents reporting fishing during the prior year.
- Fishing was also popular on the Community Questionnaire, where 75% reported participation. Fishing ranked 6th of 23 outdoor recreation activities.
- However, most Community Survey (47.3%) and Questionnaire (46%) respondents ranked fishing pier development as a medium priority for the County.

Design Guidelines

To meet ADA guidelines, Linn County should provide at least one ADA accessible fishing area in its park system. Since the fishing area at Sunnyside is accessible, this guideline has been met. However, to provide a high standard of service and universal access to diverse recreation experiences, the County could aspire to provide one accessible fishing area per major waterbody.

Needs Analysis

There is a clear interest in fishing in Linn County, with large percentages of Community Survey and Questionnaire respondents reporting participation. Given this interest, it is suggested that the County develop additional formal fishing areas based on the higher service level suggested above. Based on this guideline, the County should develop additional formal, ADA accessible fishing areas

where it is not providing them on Freeway Lakes, the North Santiam, South Santiam, Willamette River, and at Green Peter Reservoir.



PLAYGROUNDS

Playgrounds can be constructed using a variety of materials, but must include impact-attenuating surfacing and a sufficient barrier to divide the play area from neighboring uses. Shade structures should also be provided.

Overview

Playgrounds are not a major feature of established County park design. However, the County provides playgrounds at three of its regional parks, John Neal, Sunnyside, and Waterloo. The John Neal and Waterloo playgrounds serve both the campgrounds at those parks and the local communities of Lyons and Waterloo, respectively. The playground at Sunnyside serves camper use and some day visitors. In addition, a new playground has just been completed at River Bend.

Review of Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Over half (53.7%) of Community Survey respondents reported visiting a playground during the prior year, ranking playground activities 10th of 23 outdoor recreation activities.
- Playground activities also ranked high (11th) on the Community Questionnaire, where 71% reported participation during the prior year.
- Play areas were a very high priority amongst Community Survey respondents. The majority of respondents (56.2%) placed a high priority on improving or developing additional playgrounds in Linn County, ranking these facilities first in terms of high priority votes.
- Questionnaire respondents were less enthusiastic about play areas. The majority of respondents (49%) placed a medium priority on these facilities.
- According to the 2003 Oregon SCORP, Regions 2 and 3, which include Linn County, experienced a 113% increase in playgroup usage in the period between 1987 and 2002.

Design Guidelines

It is common for regional park agencies to provide playgrounds to support day use areas and camping. A design guideline could be adopted that identifies playgrounds as components of all regional parks, and, when appropriate, in waysides.

Needs Analysis

There is clearly enough interest in additional playground facilities in Linn County to support the design guideline suggested above. Assuming the adoption of this guideline, there is currently a need for play areas at each of the three regional parks that are not currently providing them: Lewis Creek, Roaring River, and Whitcomb Creek. Playgrounds could also be explored as a component of popular waysides, like McKercher Park. The County should consider developing a large regional play area as well.

SPORTS FIELDS

Multi-use fields are fields where, depending on the season, soccer, baseball, softball or recreational games can be played. Multi-use fields can also allow for other sports, such as ultimate frisbee or football. Fields must be level without holes or mounds.

Overview

Linn County currently provides turf areas/sports fields at six of its seven regional parks. At Whitcomb Creek, which has provides a more natural camping setting, there are currently no turf areas for sports and games.

Review of Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Open fields in parks near populated areas can be used to host the practices and games of local sports organizations. This helps to relieve pressure on town or city park and recreation departments.
- There is a need for more recreation amenities near campgrounds and day use areas in Linn County.

Design Guidelines

Again, a design guideline could be adopted that includes informal turf fields a design component of all regional parks with camping facilities or large day use areas, when appropriate.

Needs Analysis

Turf fields could be added at existing or new regional park sites as these areas are renovated or planned. For example, when a new master plan is developed for Whitcomb Creek, a small open turf area could be considered to complement the camping or day use areas.

MUSEUMS AND FESTIVAL SPACES

Because museums and special events were popular amongst Community Survey and Questionnaire respondents, it is suggested that the Department continue to support existing programs, like the Historical Museum. The County should also provide support for events in which it is not currently involved, like the Sweet Home Jamboree, which is managed by a non-profit organization, by acquiring and developing sites as the opportunities arise.

RECREATION PROGRAMS NEEDS

In 2006, Linn County began offering interpretive programs at its parks, including guided nature walks, nature talks, and arts and crafts programming. Programs were primarily offered in association with campgrounds, and were hosted at four of the County's parks: John Neal, Waterloo, Sunnyside, and River Bend. Programs were also available to local residents. Programs were well attended during the 2006 season.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- More Community Survey respondents reported that it is important for Linn County to provide children's programs (33.6%) than other program category.
- Festivals and community events were second most popular amongst Community Survey respondents, with 22.6% reporting an interest. Festivals and community events were the most popular program type on the Community Questionnaire. 20.3% of respondents placed an importance on these programs.
- Many Community Questionnaire respondents (18.3%) also felt that it was important for Linn County to provide environmental education programming, which was the second most popular program type. Environmental education was the third most popular category on the Community Survey, where 15.9% of respondents felt it was important.

- 83.3% of Community Survey respondents reported that they had visited fairs or festivals during the prior year. Visiting fairs and festivals ranked first in terms of total participation amongst respondents to the survey.
- On the Community Survey, over 70% of respondents reported visiting museums or galleries during the prior year, ranking this recreation activity 5th in terms of total participation.
- Current priorities of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) include: addressing the aging population; addressing the needs of the diverse population; increasing outdoor recreation among youth; and increasing levels of physical activity.
- Increasing winter use of outdoor recreation facilities is also a SCORP priority.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

It appears that there is some demand for recreation programming across the County. In response to this demand, the County should focus its efforts on providing:

- *Special events.* The County could provide organized events from fishing derbies to movies-in-the-park. In addition, County facilities should continue to be used as sites for special events organized and hosted by others, such as the Sweet Home Jamboree.
- *Programs for children and families.* The County should build on residents' priorities by providing youth and family programming that emphasizes the County's most popular recreation activities.
- *Environmental interpretation.* The Department should continue its camping-based environmental interpretive programs. There may also be opportunities to develop environmental interpretation potential around boating, water trails, and hiking.
- *Historical and cultural programming.* As with the County's existing environmental education programming, there may be opportunities to provide historical or cultural programs that tie to activities at camping and day use areas.

These programs would further the SCORP priorities of addressing the aging population; addressing the needs of the diverse population; increasing outdoor recreation among youth; and increasing levels of physical activity.



MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Parks maintenance is conducted entirely under the auspices of the Linn County Park and Recreation Department.

Maintenance duties are overseen by the Parks Operation Supervisor, who is responsible for two construction and maintenance workers, six park rangers, and approximately 25 temporary seasonal employees. Park rangers currently live on site in three of the County's existing regional parks, Roaring River, Sunnyside, and Waterloo, and on-site rangers are planned for Clear Lake Resort and River Bend as well.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Most Community Survey respondents (89.4%) who visited Linn County parks reported that they were either very or somewhat satisfied with the existing park maintenance in Linn County.
- 96.7% of Community Questionnaire respondents who visited Linn County parks were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their level of maintenance.
- Maintaining existing parks and facilities emerged as a high priority on both the Community Survey and the Community Questionnaire. The vast majority of Community Survey (82.84%) and Community Questionnaire respondents (84%) felt that the County should place a high priority on park and facility maintenance.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

To a large extent, Linn County residents and visitors appear to be satisfied with the level of maintenance currently provided in Linn County parks. However, the County's park maintenance staffing levels have not kept pace with its growing inventory, both in terms of parks and facilities. In the past two years, the additions at River Bend Park and Clear Lake Resort have caused increased pressure on the County's park maintenance staff. With the development of Calkins Park Boat Ramp, the Seven Mile Lane Park, and additional acquisitions required to keep pace with a growing population, further maintenance challenges will arise. In addition, if the Parks and Recreation Department chooses to diversify its approach to parks provision by pursuing more natural resource management opportunities, maintenance efforts will have to increase accordingly.

The *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* will estimate maintenance needs based on its recommended capital improvement program.

MARKETING NEEDS

The County is currently marketing primarily through its website and its *Summer Parks & Visitors Guide*. These resources provide information on camping, day use areas, special events, and activities. The Department has also developed some promotional marketing in conjunction with local businesses, such as RV dealers. While these marketing efforts have helped the County inform some local residents and campers about its park sites, there are also many Linn County residents who do not know where Linn County is providing park and recreation resources. The County should explore additional web-based marketing and map distribution efforts in order to encourage visits by local and regional user-groups.



Marketing efforts could further the goals of SCORP by targeting the aging population, diverse community members, and youth. The connections between physical activity and health and opportunities to exercise in Linn County parks should be emphasized, including opportunities for winter recreation. Finally, opportunities for facility rental could be targeted to support Linn County's revenue goals.

APPENDIX D: CAPITAL &
NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS



TABLE D-1: PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	No.	Units	Priority		
			I	II	III
Park Improvements					
Install wayfinding signage			■		
Develop interpretation potential at regional parks					■
Develop interpretation potential at natural areas				■	
Develop interpretation potential at historic sites					■
Regional Parks					
Clear Lake Resort					
Conduct a condition assessment and identify needed upgrades				■	
John Neal					
Develop new site master plan					■
Lewis Creek					
Install monument entrance signage			■		
Develop new master plan				■	
Implement boating upgrades ^B					■
River Bend					
Improve ADA accessibility				■	
Develop large and small play areas			■		
Add cabins or yurts				■	
Develop phase II of the Park			■		
Provide recreation amenities (volleyball, basketball, turf, play area)					■
Roaring River					
Install monument entrance signage				■	
Develop new site master plan					■
Seven Mile Lane Park					
To be determined			■		
To be determined				■	
To be determined					■
Sunnyside					
Improve ADA accessibility				■	
Expand recreation amenities for day use (volleyball, basketball, turf, play area)					■
Renovate boat ramp and floats ^B			■		
Develop amphitheater					■
Improve fishing pond				■	
Renovate group camping area					■
Develop additional group picnic areas					■
Address erosion issues					■
Develop swim area					■
Add staff housing and screen maintenance yard					■
Waterloo					
Develop new master plan				■	

TABLE D-1: PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	No.	Units	Priority		
			I	II	III
Whitcomb Creek					
Develop new site master plan				■	
Natural Areas					
McDowell Creek Falls					
Improve ADA accessibility				■	
Waysides					
Freeway Lakes Park					
Develop new site master plan				■	
Larwood Wayside					
Install monument entrance signage					■
Improve ADA accessibility				■	
Renovate picnic area					■
Develop bridge to island area					■
Restore river bank				■	
McCartney Park					
Develop new site master plan					■
McClun Wayside					
Install monument entrance signage					■
Improve parking lot					■
Develop small picnic area					■
Improve trail					■
McKercher Park					
Develop new site master plan					■
Peoria Park					
Develop new site master plan					■
Boater Access					
Buell Miller Boat Ramp					
Develop new site master plan					■
Install monument entrance signage					■
Implement boating upgrades ^B					■
Gedney Creek Access					
Install monument entrance signage				■	
Improve ADA accessibility				■	
Develop small picnic area					■
Lyons-Mehama Boat Ramp					
Install monument entrance signage					■
Improve parking lot and add vault toilets ^B					■
Stayton Bridge Boat Ramp					
Install monument entrance signage					■
Implement boating, access, and parking upgrades ^B					■
Thistle Creek Access					
Install monument entrance signage				■	
Improve ADA accessibility					■
Add recreation amenities for day use					■
Replace docks ^B				■	
Improve parking					■

TABLE D-1: PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	No.	Units	Priority		
			I	II	III
Historic Sites					
Crawfordsville Covered Bridge					
Install monument entrance signage					
Improve ADA accessiiblity					
Raise bridge to avoid flooding and paint					
Develop parking					
Add recreation amenities for day use					
Provide historically appropriate landscaping					
New Parks					
Acquire new parkland	800	acres			
Master plan for new parkland					
Develop new parkland	800	acres			
New Recreation Facilities					
Boating Facilities					
Develop non-motorized boat launch on South Santiam between Sweet Home and Lebanon					
Develop non-motorized boat launch on South Santiam north of Lebanon					
Develop non-motorized boat launch on North Santiam west of Stayton ^B					
Develp motorized boat launch on south side of Green Peter Reservoir ^B					
Develop boat-in facility on south side of Green Peter Reservoir ^B					
Develop boat-in facility at Rumbaugh Creek ^B					
Develop motorized boat launch at outlet of Quartzville Creek ^B					
Develop additional motorized boat launch at Whitcomb Creek					
Renovate boat launch on Foster Reservoir for ADA accessibility					
Designate non-motorized boating areas on Green Peter Reservoir					
Camping Facilities					
Develop camping opportunities	4	cabins			
Develop additional group campsites					
Develop wireless internet in campgrounds	6	sites			
OHV Sites					
Develop feasibility study for OHV facility					
Acquire site for OHV facility					
Develop master plan for OHV facility					
Develop OHV facility					
Picnic Areas					
Develop picnic area at River Bend					
Develop picnic area at Freeway Lakes ^A					
Develop picnic area at McCartney Park ^A					
Develop picnic area at McClun Wayside					
Develop group picnic area at Lewis Creek Park					
Develop group picnic area at Whitcomb Creek Park ^A					
Swimming Areas					
Develop swimming area on Green Peter Reservoir ^B					

TABLE D-1: PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	No.	Units	Priority		
			I	II	III
Trails					
Collaborate to develop Lebanon to Albany regional trail			■		
Collaborate to complete Foster Reservoir Trail					
Fishing Areas					
Develop ADA accessible fishing area on North Santiam					■
Develop ADA accessible fishing areas on South Santiam			■		
Develop ADA accessible fishing areas on Willamette River					■
Develop ADA accessible fishing areas on Green Peter Reservoir				■	
Play Areas					
Develop play area at Lewis Creek Park					■
Develop play area at Roaring River Park					■
Develop play area at Whitcomb Creek					■
Opportunity-Based Facilities					
Continue development of disc golf course in Waterloo Park				■	

^A Developed as part of new park master plan.

^B As recommended in the Oregon Marine Board's 2005 plan.

TABLE D-2: PROPOSED NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	Priority		
	I	II	III
Funding			
Establish an equipment replacement fund			■
Establish an opportunity fund for trail development in existing parks		■	
Personnel			
Hire arborist to manage trees			■
Planning and Design			
Develop ADA Strategic Plan	■		
Develop joint master plan for Quartzville corridor, including a camping study			
Develop master plan for Green Peter Reservoir, including reservoir trail			
Develop a Maintenance/Vegetation Management Plan		■	
Develop a regional trails plan	■		
Assess community needs and update the Park and Recreation Master Plan on a 10-year basis		■	
Assess the feasibility of non-motorized boating on the Calapooia River			■
Work with State Parks and other partners to develop a plan for Bower's Rocks	■		
Complete a study of significant natural and historic resources			■
Identify potential wedding sites and develop marketing plan	■		
Work with Road Department to identify missing bike lanes		■	
Programming			
Develop new programs around special events, families, and youth		■	
Develop volunteer opportunities or volunteer programs	■		
Develop Santiam River Water Trails Plan		■	
Upgrade technology	■		
Develop picnic table replacement program			■
Public Information and Program Marketing			
Develop a public information plan	■		

APPENDIX E: DESIGN GUIDELINES



APPENDIX E: DESIGN GUIDELINES



This appendix includes a set of general design and development guidelines for the Linn County park system. It establishes design and development guidelines for all park classifications:

- Regional Parks
- Natural Areas
- Waysides
- Boater Access
- Historic Sites

Park design guidelines for specific classifications provide information regarding recommended size, layout, amenities, facilities, and other park planning and development concerns. Because the County's last classification, forest lands, are not meant for public use, no design guidelines are provided.

It should be noted that every site and part of the County is unique, and that these guidelines are not intended to override specific site concerns. In some cases, exceptions that address community preferences or site issues may take precedence if consistent with the park function and the goals of the Master Plan.

GENERAL PARK SYSTEM GUIDELINES

Each park within the County will be designed in a context-specific manner and in ways that enhance connections between community members and their environment. All parks in Linn County should be designed to:

- Engage residents and visitors of all ages in meaningful participation in the park planning and design process;
- Respond to local conditions, including topography and site context;
- Reflect specific uses and activities that help define the park and create an identity; and

- Incorporate flexible space which responds to potential change in community needs.

AMENITIES

- In all parks, provide:
 - Standard Linn County park signage; and
 - Appropriate site furnishings (e.g. picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles) for the intended park use.
- Preserve and enhance the area's characteristic landscape by emphasizing native tree and plant species.
- Blend additional landscaping in developed areas with the existing native vegetation both ecologically and visually. Non-native trees and plants, fully adaptable to the area's environmental conditions, may be provided in developed areas when they add visual compatibility, beauty, and help avoid overdependence on a single species.
- Locate amenities such as playground equipment, picnic areas and swimming areas to improve visibility, promote use, and enhance user safety.
- Consider lighting and coverings, such as shade structures, to extend the use of outdoor facilities such as picnic areas and children's play areas.
- Design lighting systems and select fixtures to minimize light pollution.
- Reflect local culture and history in park design.
- Use design to capitalize on existing environmental conditions, re-create past environmental features, and teach visitors about the local or regional environment.
- Locate permanent restrooms in highly visible areas with high visitation in order to reduce the risk of vandalism.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Connect parks with a circulation system of trails, roads, and bikeways.
- Consider parking and lighting when reviewing park accessibility.
- Design parks using universal access principles to facilitate use by people of all ages and abilities.

SAFETY

- Design parks to enhance the safety of both park users and the surrounding community.
- Consider lighting in parks as a means of increasing safety.

MAINTENANCE

- Involve maintenance staff at all levels of park design to ensure that creative design is also efficient and sustainable.
- Account for maintenance requirements in the design of parks and the selection of amenities or develop a maintenance management plan as part of the design process.
- Incorporate labor-saving design elements, such as mow strips, into park design.
- Incorporate innovative technologies, such as computer-controlled irrigation, into park designs.
- Identify maintenance costs and funding sources.

GUIDELINES FOR SPECIFIC PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The following guidelines for specific park classifications reflect the Department's commitment to providing a diversified and well-designed park system. The guidelines include:

- *Definition:* A definition of the park classification.
- *Size:* Typical park size.
- *Site Selection:* Criteria, including location, site size, and access, to consider when selecting sites for park development.

- *Amenities to Provide:* Elements which should be provided in every park within this classification.
- *Amenities to Consider:* Elements which should be considered during the master planning and design process.
- *Amenities to Avoid:* Elements not compatible with the park classification.

REGIONAL PARKS

DEFINITION

Regional parks provide access to unique features that appeal to residents from throughout the County and beyond. These parks can accommodate large group activities and often have infrastructure to support camping, special events, and festivals. Regional parks enhance the economic vitality and identity of the region. In some cases, these parks provide community park facilities for residents residing in smaller towns or unincorporated areas.



SIZE

- 25 to 100+ acres

SITE SELECTION

- Site should be a minimum of 25 acres in size.
- Site should be acquired based on its capacity to provide access to unique features such as rivers or reservoirs.

AMENITIES TO PROVIDE

- Appropriate site furnishings, including benches and bicycle storage.
- General landscape improvements (including tree planting)
- Multi-use and pedestrian trails
- Natural areas/greenspace
- Off-street parking
- Permanent restrooms
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas and group picnic areas

- Site identification signage
- Turf areas for multi-use and informal sports

AMENITIES TO CONSIDER

- Boat ramps
- Camping facilities
- Disc golf courses
- Dog parks
- Fishing areas
- Horseshoes
- Interpretive signage
- Swimming areas
- Volleyball court

AMENITIES TO AVOID

- Ornamental landscaping and heavily landscaped areas

EXAMPLES

- Clear Lake Resort
- River Bend Park
- Sunnyside Park
- Whitcomb Creek Park



NATURAL AREAS

DEFINITION

Natural areas are permanent, undeveloped green spaces which are managed for both their natural value as well as for recreational use. Natural areas can range in size from one to 1,000 acres, and may include wetlands, wildlife habitats, or stream corridors. Natural areas provide opportunities for nature-based recreation, such as bird-watching and environmental education. These parks may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as unique or endangered plant species.

SIZE

- Varies

SITE SELECTION

- Site size should be acquired on natural resource value, with acreage based on area needed to preserve or protect the resource

AMENITIES TO PROVIDE

- Appropriate site furnishings, including benches and bicycle storage
- Interpretive signage
- Off-street parking
- Pedestrian trails
- Picnic areas
- Site identification signage

AMENITIES TO CONSIDER

- Indoor or outdoor interpretive or educational facilities
- Multi-use trail or pathway system with trailhead
- Seasonal or permanent restrooms
- Shelters
- Viewpoints
- Water fountains

AMENITIES TO AVOID

- Active use facilities (e.g. courts, fields)
- Ornamental plantings or heavily landscaped areas
- Turf areas

EXAMPLES

- McDowell Creek Falls Park



WAYSIDES

Waysides are smaller parks located along scenic byways, highways or major County roads that provide access to active and passive recreation. Waysides vary in function, but most concentrate on providing specialized recreation opportunities, such as water recreation. There are no minimum sizes.

Waysides often include facilities such as boat ramps, fishing areas, play areas, picnic areas, and restrooms.

SIZE

- Varies

SITE SELECTION

- Site should be acquired based on its capacity to provide access to unique features, such as rivers, creeks, or reservoirs.
- Site should be located proximate to major roads or driving routes to provide easy access from populated areas.

AMENITIES TO PROVIDE

- Boat ramps
- Off-street parking
- Permanent restrooms
- Picnic areas

AMENITIES TO CONSIDER

- Appropriate site furnishings including benches and bicycle storage
- Disc golf courses
- Fishing areas
- Group picnic areas
- Multi-use trails
- Playgrounds

AMENITIES TO AVOID

- Ornamental plantings or heavily landscaped areas

EXAMPLES

- Freeway Lakes Park
- Larwood Wayside
- McKercher Park
- Peoria Park

BOATER ACCESS

Boater access sites are designed solely to provide access to a stream, lake, or reservoir for boat launching and retrieving. Sites may contain a restroom, parking area, and location for streambank fishing. There are no minimum sizes.

SIZE

- Varies

SITE SELECTION

- Site should be located adjacent to river, stream, or reservoir.
- Sites should be distributed to provide access at routine intervals along waterways (i.e., 5 miles for non-motorized boat ramps)

AMENITIES TO PROVIDE

- Boat ramps
- Fishing areas
- Off-street parking for boat trailers
- Seasonal or permanent restrooms

AMENITIES TO CONSIDER

- Picnic areas

AMENITIES TO AVOID

- Active use facilities (e.g., courts, fields)
- Ornamental plantings or heavily landscaped areas
- Turf



EXAMPLES

- Buell Miller Boat Ramp
- Calkins Park Boat Ramp
- Gedney Creek Ramp
- Stayton Bridge Boat Ramp



HISTORIC SITES

Historic sites protect historic resources and encourage cultural tourism. In many cases in Linn County, the historic element is a structure, such as a house or covered bridge. Sites may contain restrooms, parking, and picnic areas. There are no minimum sizes.

SIZE

- Varies

SITE SELECTION

- Site should be acquired on historical and cultural resource value, with acreage based on area needed to preserve or protect the resource.

AMENITIES TO PROVIDE

- Appropriate site furnishings, including benches
- Interpretive signage
- Site identification signage
- Off-street parking

AMENITIES TO CONSIDER

- Indoor or outdoor interpretive or educational facilities
- Picnic areas
- Seasonal or permanent restrooms

AMENITIES TO AVOID

- Active use facilities (e.g. courts, fields)

EXAMPLES

- Crawfordsville Covered Bridge
- Linn County Historical Museum

APPENDIX F: LWCF GRANT PRIORITIES



APPENDIX F: LWCF GRANT PRIORITIES

The 2008-2012 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant priorities include:

- *A Rapidly Aging Oregon Population:* Greater priority for trail acquisition and development projects in high-priority counties and communities as identified by the Population Research Center (under the heading A Rapidly Aging Population) in the LWCF grant program.
- *Fewer Oregon Youth Learning Outdoor Skills:* Greater priority for projects which include innovative park designs to connect youth with nature in high-priority counties as identified by the Population Research Center (under the heading Fewer Youth Learning Outdoor Skills) in the LWCF grant program.
- *An Increasingly Diverse Oregon Population:* Greater priority for developing group day-use facilities, recreational trails, outdoor sports fields, close-to-home camping and alternative camping opportunities in high-priority counties as identified by the Population Research Center (under the heading An Increasingly Diverse Oregon Population) in the LWCF grant program.
- *Oregon's Physical Activity Crisis:* Greater priority for close-to-home non-motorized trail acquisition and development projects in high-priority counties as identified by the Population Research Center (under the heading A Physical Activity Crisis) in the LWCF grant program.