

Summary of all meetings

Parks providers (4/9/15):

Key priorities: Gaps in regional trails and lots of comments regarding trails in general making connections...Chelatchie Prairie Trail etc, High demand for sports fields, need for developing and keeping partnerships between jurisdictions; need for a regional aquatic facility, mentioned the need for a broader more regional park plan

County's future role: County provide a regional approach; not clear the boundary between parks and trails

Opportunities for collaboration Lots of discussion regarding the need for collaboration between the county and cities for parks and recreation facilities and that county could provide the infrastructure in a cooperative effort

NACC (4/13/15):

Key priorities: Lots of discussion regarding accessibility to parks and trails; planning for an aging community; need for parking; trails were mentioned especially the Heritage trail; lots of discussion regarding water features: pool, water access for kayaks and canoes; and water features and splash pads at parks

What park/trail/recreation facilities are missing: Places for seniors, such as benches and seating; ways to get kids outside; wayfinding signs; more dog waste bins/stations; East Minehaha park-add benches

Gaps in regional recreation facilities: Hazel Dell Park; county should partner with federal agencies and outreach with the wildlife refuges and partnering with the federal agencies for coordinated development and management of sites like Flume Creek

Amenities or opportunities that will make the county parks system better/stronger?: Better marketing regarding the location of parks and their amenities; work with disability groups to provide information regarding which parks provide accessibility; mention of different types of activities such as disc golf, skateboarding, mountain biking, off leash areas; provide incentives for environmental and neighborhood groups to partner with the county i.e., such as the fee waiver program for parks

Future of county parks and rec: More parks and do not surplus parks property; county partnerships with cities; build the Chelatchie Prairie Trail; and look to future trends in parks and rec

How can NACC contribute/support: Public outreach; volunteering-in-kind contributions such as landscaping and labor; consider rezoning parkland that is still residential

Trail User Groups (4/23/15):

Key priorities: safe usable trails, more ADA access, more natural trails, ensure trails are built correctly for anticipated users; best practices for trail design, trail connection to Vancouver Lake and Frenchman's bar-traffic to Port is heavy and fast and doesn't facility use for families/children; trailhead parking

Highest priorities for connecting gaps: Connect Frenchman's Bar and Vancouver Lake trail to the Salmon Creek Trail and the Burnt Bridge Creek trail; promoting bicycling to kids since they are future users-promote cycling among families and Safe Routes to School; Intertwine; connect Burnt Bridge Trail east to Lacamas Lake trail; connect Ridgefield NWR to Frenchman's Bar; provide safe connections between residential areas to parks and trails so people don't need to drive; access to Green Mountain; and work with Port of Camas/Washougal on trails

How organizations view County's future role: Need for parks trail planner position; volunteers are the key to trail system success-county could facilitate; grant writing ; county leaders should support parks and trails; county help with staging of materials for volunteer projects; county sponsored signage i.e., wayfinding and directional

How can your organization contribute: Volunteers for trail maintenance and cleaning; Whipple Creek volunteers as an example of success and the equestrian community have provided volunteers to work on trails; can encourage clubs and groups to get involved with trails

Sports groups (4/28/15):

Key priorities: Need a complex to attract regional tournaments-Luke Jensen is almost "good enough"; need more synthetic fields; softball needs dirt infields; potential partnering with large complexes such as Delta Park for big tournaments; all weather fields are needed for lacrosse and soccer; lacrosse is an old sport that is growing in popularity in the Pacific NW

Shortcomings of existing facilities: weather challenges create the need for indoor facilities-facility in Centralia is used as an example of a public/private partnership; tournaments require RV parking and camping which is currently not allowed at facilities in the county; there was much discussion about the need for a countywide sports organization for purposes of advocacy and coordination; need for better waste stream management/recycling at sports facilities

County's future role: Partner with sports organizations; county could provide data to assist volunteer run sports organizations; county could assist with permitting; county staff could provide expertise in applying for grants

How can sports organizations collaborate with county in ensuring parks and recreation plans are implemented: More discussion about a countywide sports organization; organizations could assist with fundraising; discussion of public/private partnerships