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# Chapter 1: Introduction

The Park, Arts, Recreation, Culture & Conservation (PARCC) Plan is the functional plan for the Parks & Recreation Department, which is adopted by amendment into the Comprehensive Plan. It provides policy guidance and an implementation plan for capital projects. The PARCC Plan also serves as a strategic plan for the department. This plan is a requirement of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to be eligible for grants.



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## Chapter 1: Introduction

# 1.0 Introduction

The Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation (PARCC) Plan the functional plan for the Parks and Recreation Department and also serves as the strategic plan for department for the planning period of 2017 to 2030. This plan is a revision of the 2010 PARCC Plan. In order to stay eligible for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grants and the Washington State Growth Management Act, the plan is updated every six years.

This plan covers the key functions of the Parks and Recreation Department:

- Parks and Trails** • Protecting Redmond’s natural beauty through a vibrant system of parks and trails that promote a healthy community.
- Art & Culture & Events** • Recognizing the City’s history and heritage, and celebrating the culture, customs, and creativity of our citizens through public art, arts facilities, arts and music performances, events, programs, and classes.
- Recreation** • Providing residents of all ages with wholesome and diverse recreational and cultural opportunities in clean, safe and accessible facilities.
- Conservation** • Protecting and enhancing sensitive environmental areas and wildlife habitat, preserving significant historical and cultural places, and developing parks using smart growth principles.

***Parks and Recreation Department Vision***

**We build community through people, parks and programs.**

***Parks and Recreation Mission Statement***

**We are leaders in providing sustainable parks, innovative recreation services, unique art and cultural experiences that continue to build a high quality of life in Redmond.**

The department is comprised of the following divisions: Administration, and Parks Planning, Arts and Culture, Recreation, and Park Operations. Exhibit 1-1 provides a chart that shows the key roles and responsibilities of each division.

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*Exhibit 1.1: Parks and Recreation Department—Division Roles and Responsibilities*



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Department staff works directly with the following commissions and committees comprised of volunteer community members, who provide guidance and recommendations to the department, Mayor, and City Council, and the department.

### Parks and Trails Commission

In 2007, City Council adopted Ordinance 2344, which merged the Board of Park Commissioners and Trails Commission into the Parks and Trails Commission. The commission consists of nine members, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by a majority vote of the City Council. At least four members have a primary interest in trails. Seven members represent various neighborhoods within the city limits, and two members must live outside the city limits. The members represent a broad spectrum of the community's interests from active to passive recreation. Typically, two youth advocates are also selected to participate as non-voting members in commission activities. Commissioners serve four-year terms. The responsibilities of the Parks and Trails Commissioners include:

- Make recommendations to the Mayor regarding about the acquisition and development of parks, trails, and related amenities,
- Identify the future parks and trails interests of the community,
- Propose policy language and design guidelines related to parks and trails,
- Identify maintenance and safety issues within the parks and trails system,
- Provide input during development review relative to parks and trail construction within private developments,
- Make recommendations for rules, regulations and user fees for parks, trails, and recreational facilities,
- Involve Redmond community members in procedures for acquiring, developing, or maintaining park properties and facilities

### Arts and Culture Commission

The Redmond Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) was formed in 1987 by Ordinance 1368 to provide and encourage public programs which will afford greater opportunity to experience and enjoy the cultural arts locally. "Culture" was an addition to the name in 2015, by action of City Council, to embrace the importance of our cultural diverse community and the impacts of culture on the arts. The ACC is comprised of nine volunteer commissioners, two are selected from unincorporated King County with a Redmond zip code or work in Redmond. Members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Typically, two youth advocates are also selected to participate as non-voting members in commission activities. The ACC has the following responsibilities:

- Recommends arts and culture policies to the Mayor and Council,
- Selects public art, and
- Presents a basic community arts program including performing arts, public art, literary arts, digital arts, and more.

### Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee

The Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee (RYPAC) is a unique board of the voice for youth which is made up of youth and adults whose help shape programs for our community. RYPAC is a unique board made up of youth and adults who focus on three areas of interest: recreation, youth voice, and service. purpose, under direction of the City of Redmond, is to be a voice for young people and to promote a community where youth are valued and involved by providing opportunities for youth to develop leadership abilities and interest in voluntarism through participation in the

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creation and delivery of projects within the community. With the help of the RYPAC coordinator, the committee creates, implements, and supports programs they feel best represent the needs and interests of Redmond's youth. RYPAC is open to youth ages 13-19 and adults who reside, work, or attend school in Redmond.

### Senior Advisory Committee

The Senior Advisory Committee has eleven members age 50+ who serve a two-year term with the option of a second consecutive term. Nine of the eleven members must reside within the Redmond city limits. The committee meets monthly with the following purposes:

- Acts as a community liaison to the Senior Center staff regarding programming,
- Creates a vision for the future of the Senior Center, and
- Promotes and acknowledges volunteer contributions.

In addition to these monthly meetings, members are also asked to participate on one or more subcommittees, which include: fundraising, hospitality, intergenerational, marketing, newsletter, programs and special events, volunteers, and health and wellness.

### Youth Advisory Board & Advocacy

Youth Advisory Board & Advocacy (YABA) continues Redmond's tradition of youth advocating for positive change, and serving their community at the Old Fire House Teen Center. YABA members, who are ages 13 to 19, make a one-year commitment to leadership, program development and advocacy at the Teen Center.

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## 1.1 Background

The City of Redmond, Washington is located in the Sammamish Valley and surrounding forested hillsides, twenty miles east of downtown Seattle. Located in King County, at the north end of Lake Sammamish, and bounded by City of Bellevue to the southwest, City of Kirkland to the west, unincorporated King County to the north and east, and City of Sammamish to the southeast, Redmond's incorporated area is over 17.14 square miles. Exhibit 1-2 shows the map of Redmond and adjacent municipalities.



Currently, Redmond is home to more than 60,000 residents and nearly 78,000 employees.<sup>12</sup> It is the ninth most populous city in King County and the eighteenth most populous in the State of Washington.

**Exhibit 1.2: Past and Projected Population Growth**



<sup>1</sup> 2016, OFM. <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/april1/>

<sup>22</sup> 2015, City of Redmond. Planning department population and employment projections.

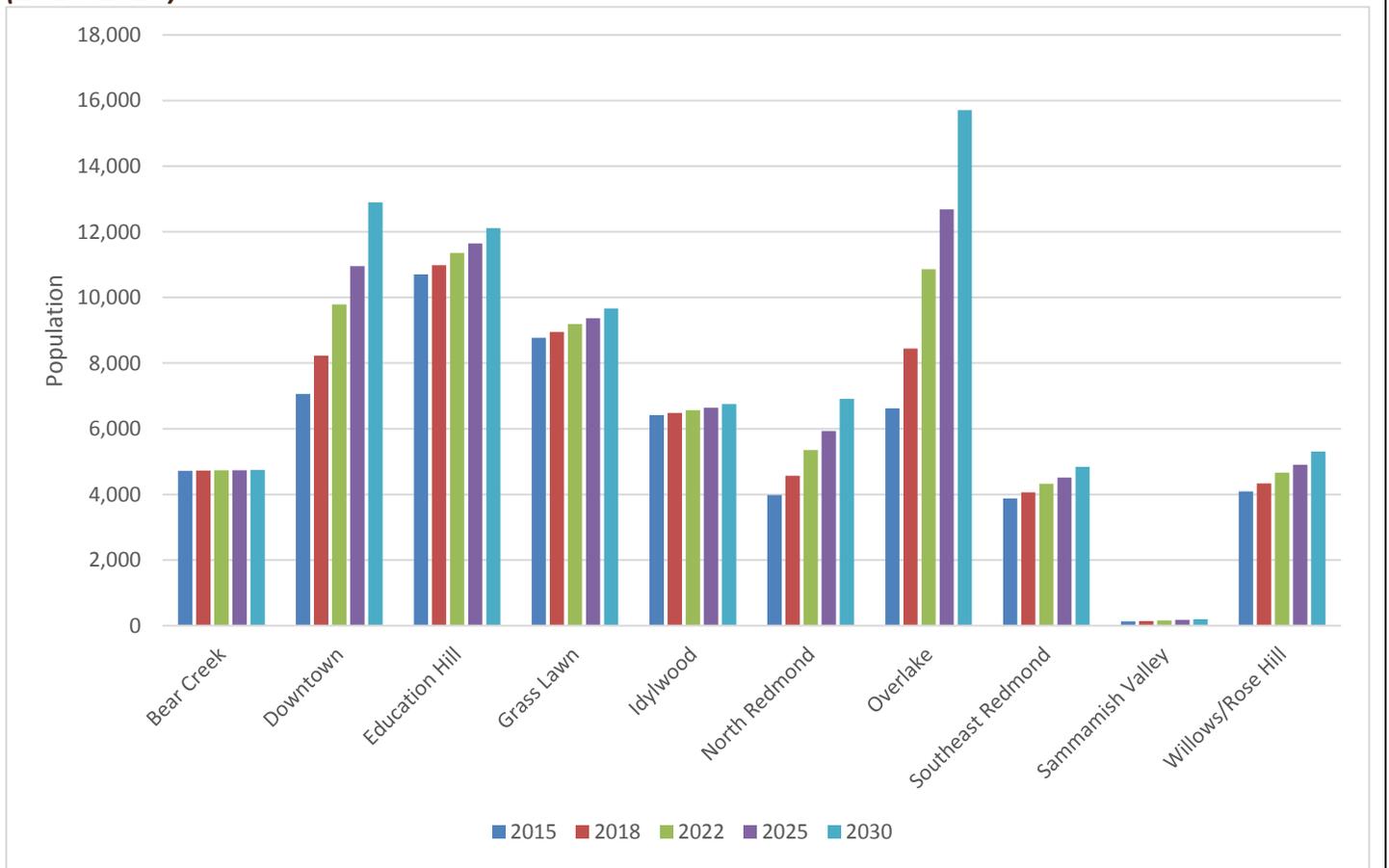
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The city is comprised of 10 neighborhoods:

- Bear Creek
- Downtown
- Education Hill
- Grass Lawn
- North Redmond
- Overlake
- Sammamish Valley
- Southeast Redmond
- Idylwood
- Willows/Rose Hill

The neighborhoods of Overlake and Downtown are two of the twenty-six regional growth centers designated by Puget Sound Regional Council. These centers have high concentrations of jobs and residents. The following exhibit shows how the residential population growth will shift the primary residential neighborhood populations from the single-family neighborhoods to the urban centers, where there will be a multitude of mixed-use housing.

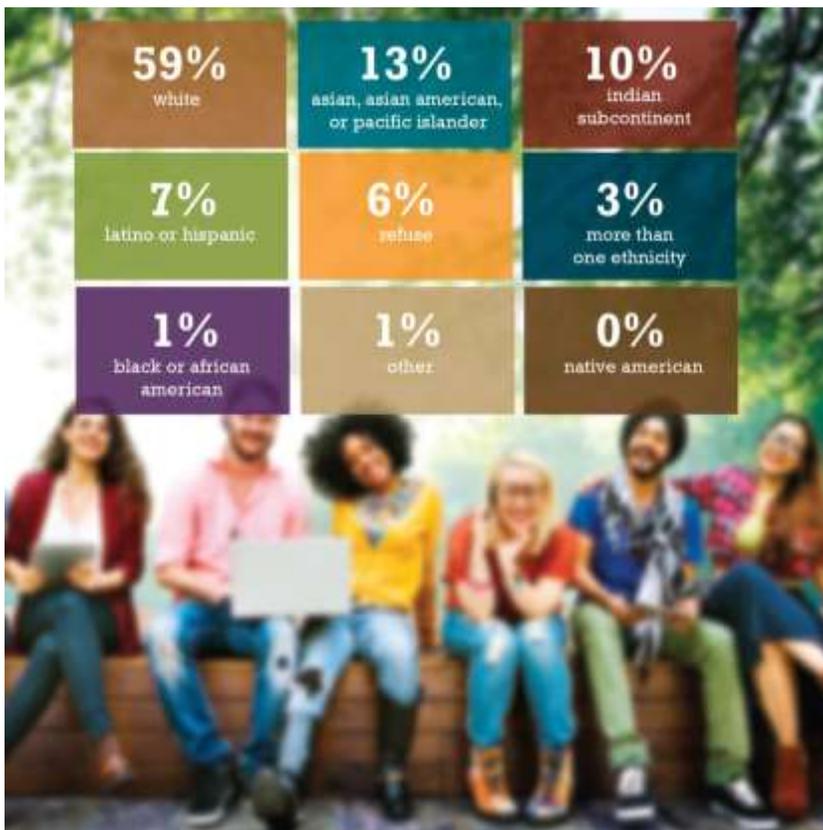
**Exhibit 1.3: Projected Population Shifts from Single Family Neighborhoods to Urban Centers (2015-2020)**



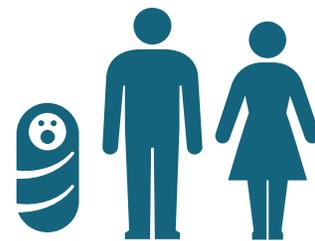
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Redmond is well known as a center of technology a number of nationally known high-tech and biomedical companies are located in Redmond. Among these are Microsoft, Nintendo, AeroJet, Space-X, AT&T Wireless, and Physio-Control. The growth of business in Redmond is leading to growth in the residential population and significant changes to the demographics of Redmond. Redmond is one of the youngest, most affluent, and well-educated populations in Washington. The growth will mean the center of the population will shift from residential single family neighborhoods to urban mixed-use development neighborhoods. In fact, the population has also shifted from being nearly all single family homes to thousands of apartment and condominiums and today more than 45% of people rent their homes.

**Exhibit 1.4: City of Redmond Demographics**



45% Renters



Average Age - 34

As Redmond continues to evolve into a thriving city of increasing diversity, it seeks to promote its sense of community through programs designed to celebrate its heritage, enhance its neighborhoods, and preserve its historical and natural treasures.

This thriving community means many families are very busy with work, school and many extra-curricular activities, with some people unable to find time to lead a healthy lifestyle. Some indicators of health in Redmond are derived from Seattle-King County Health data (2000-2004 and 2010-2014).

- 76% of Redmond residents did not meet physical activity guidelines set by the CDC. This is similar to the King County, WA and national averages of 78%, 79% and 79%, respectively.

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*Community Park - Idylwood Beach Park.*



*Neighborhood Park - Cascade View Park.*



*Resource Park - Redmond West Wetland.*



- 38% of Redmond residents have high blood cholesterol, similar to KC, WA and US averages of 43%, 40%, and 38%, respectively.
- While some health indicators improved over the last five years (obesity rate, smoking, asthma hospitalization, diabetes), some continued to worsen including (heart attack and chronic heart disease).<sup>3</sup>

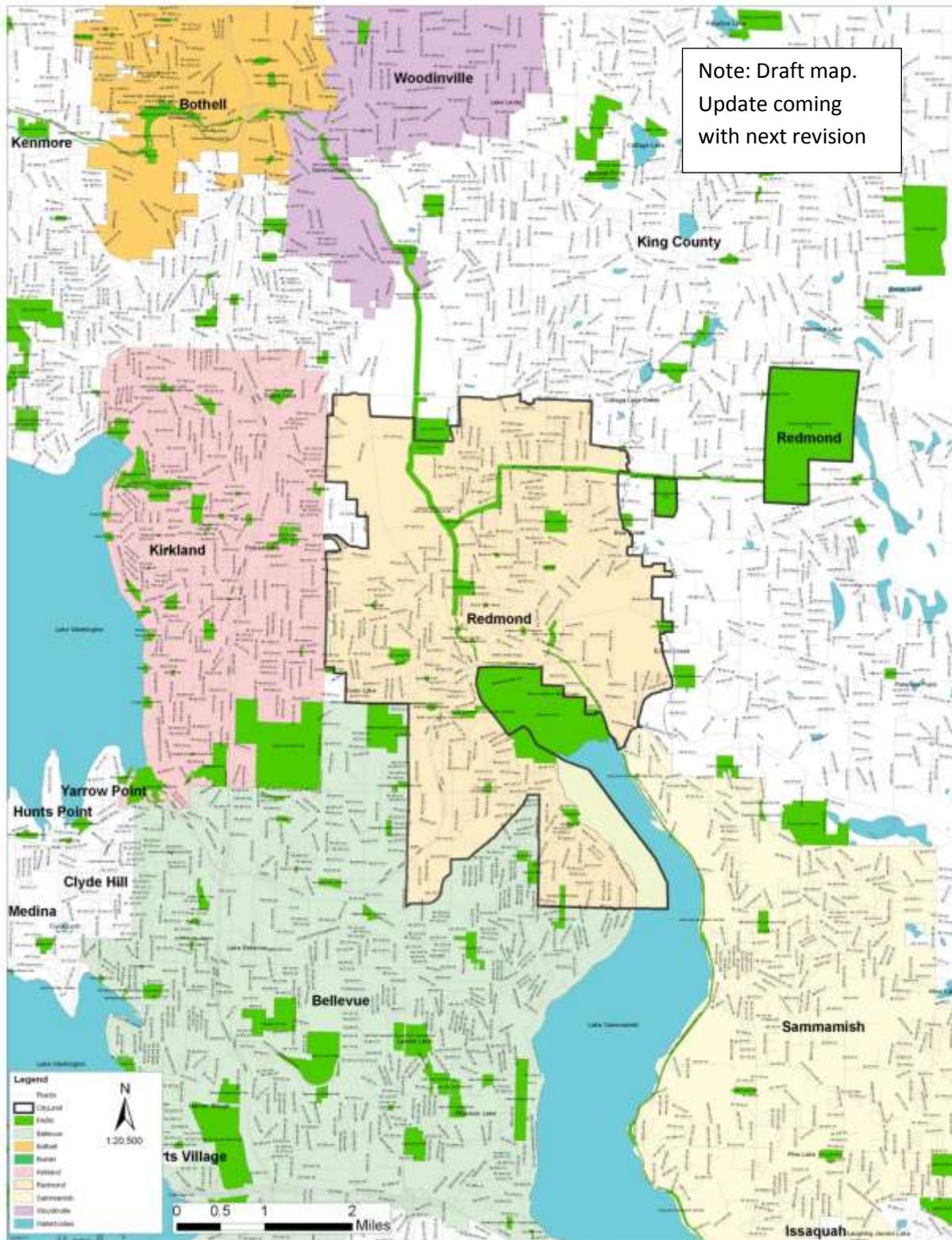
Redmond's park system is designed to provide active recreation, community gathering places, and lifelong learning to help address physical and mental health concerns. The Redmond parks system consists of 36 developed and 6 undeveloped parks as well as 5 parks which are partially developed for interim use. Park lands make up over 1,351 acres and house over 39 miles of developed trails, three recreation centers and a pool. Facilities range from community, neighborhood, and resource parks to undeveloped open space, beautification areas, and gathering places. They include a waterfront park on [Lake Sammamish \(Idylwood\)](#), a wildlife preserve known as the Redmond Watershed, and a farm with equestrian facilities at Farrel-McWhirter Park. Recreation programs provide life-long learning, socializing, and wellness opportunities for preschoolers through senior adults, as well as quality events, cultural arts performances.

The city prides itself for its high quality of life with good schools, a healthy economic base, a parks system that provides a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities, diverse offerings for shopping and dining, safe neighborhoods, and an emphasis on quality development and protection of the natural environment.

<sup>3</sup> 2015, SKCPH. Public health data set from 200-2004 and 2010-2015.

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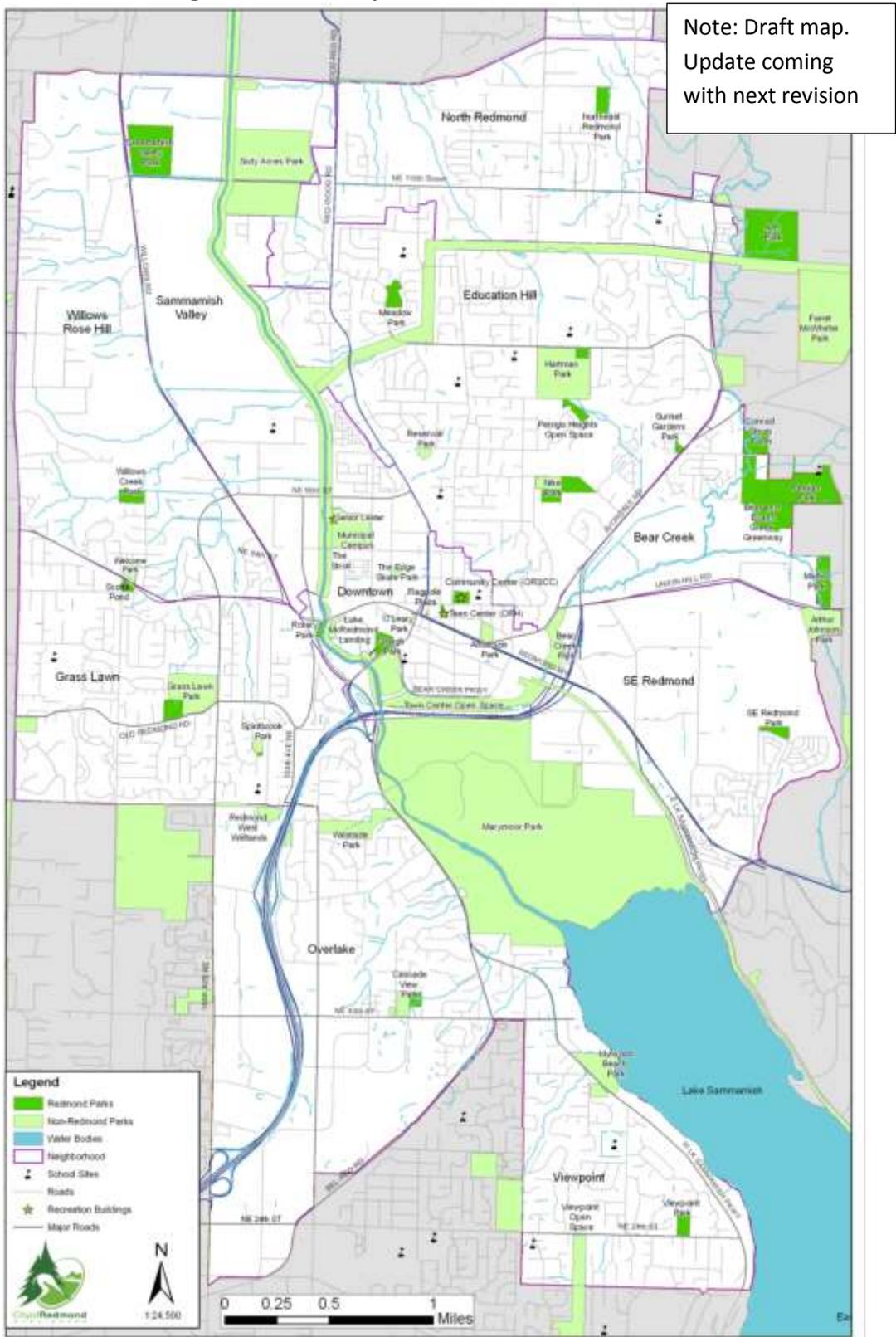
Exhibit 1.5: Vicinity Map



Captions

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Exhibit 1.6: Neighborhood Map



Captions

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## 1.2 Purpose:

There are a number of principal drivers for the development of this plan including are:

- Complying with City of Redmond Comprehensive Plan policy CF-1 for **functional plan** development, including a baseline Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Parks and Recreation Department;
- Complying with the Washington State **Growth Management Act** (GMA) for Parks and Recreation;
- Meeting the pre-requisites for **state grant funding** offered by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for capital projects; and
- Providing the **strategic plan** for the Parks and Recreation Department.

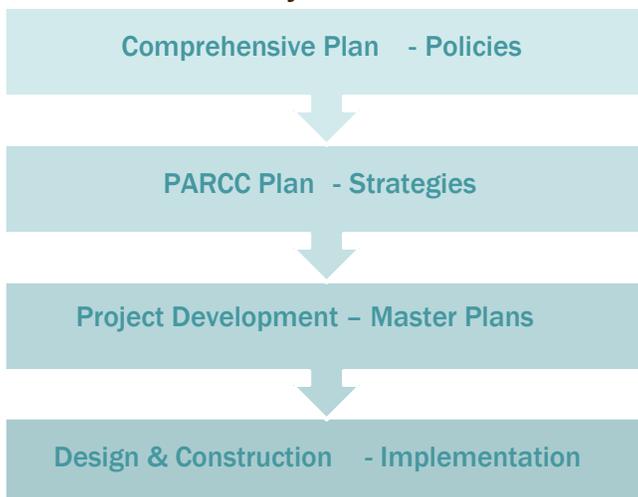
### 1.2.1 Functional Plan

This document is the functional plan for the Parks and Recreation Department and provides that provides implementation strategies for the goals and policies of Park, Recreation and Arts Element laid out in the Comprehensive Plan., specifically the Park, Recreation and Arts Element. The strategies are in the form of principally address the capital projects and major new programming trends and growth that affect impact capital needs. This Plan:

- Addresses how the City will meet the requirements of the Growth Management Act and other requirements for parks, trails, arts, recreation, culture and conservation.
- Provides a description of the current capital facility infrastructure for parks and recreation and an analysis of the needs for the next 20 years and a systematic approach for prioritizing projects
- Recommends a financial strategy for implementing the capital program
- Analyzes how the proposals meet Comprehensive Plan goals and policies.

The PARCC Plan identifies projects that will help fulfill policies and goals of the Comprehensive Plan. After a project is identified in the PARCC Plan, most park projects go through a master planning process, which involves the public, commissions, and City Council in determining the programming, function and conceptual design of the park. If the project is funded, the project moves into the design and then construction phases. Exhibit 1-6 shows this process .

#### *Exhibit 1.7: Role of the PARCC Plan*



*Developed Park: Grass Lawn Park.*



*Undeveloped Park: Southeast Redmond Park.*



### 1.2.2 Growth Management Act

This plan addresses the Growth Management Act's (RCW 36.70A.020) planning requirements that specially relate to parks, including:

Retain open space within each urban growth area and between urban growth areas including lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas

- Enhance recreational opportunities
- Conserve fish and wildlife habitat
- Increase access to natural resource lands and water
- Develop parks and recreational facilities
- Ensure that adequate public facilities are available at the time of development.
- Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.
- Maintain, enhance, and conserve land used for natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries.
- Discourage incompatible uses.
- Avoid taking of private property for public use without just compensation.

### GMA Requirements

In 2002, Washington State began requiring a Park and Recreation Element to the comprehensive plan, which must be consistent with the Capital Facilities Element and provide estimates of park and recreation needs and demand for a ten-year period.

### 1.2.3 Grant Funding

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) houses the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB), which is the primary source of state and federal grant funds for parks and recreation capital projects. The types of projects funded generally include parks and recreation, trails, water access and boating, habitat conservation, off-road vehicle recreation, and firearms and archery range recreation.

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In order for park jurisdictions to be eligible for funding, they must prepare plans every six years that describe the proposed projects for which the applicant may seek funding. The draft plan should be reviewed by the RCFB prior to completion (prior to March 1, 2017) and the plan must be adopted by the applicant's governing body (City Council) before the grant application due date to be eligible for consideration. The RCFB Manual 2: Planning Policies requires that plans include the following information:

1. Goals and objectives;
2. Inventory of facilities, lands, programs, and their condition,
3. Public involvement in plan development and adoption, including an interactive process to ensure that plan reflects the interests of the community;
4. Demand and need analysis to determine the priorities for acquisition, development, preservation, enhancement, and management;
5. Capital Improvement Program list for land acquisition, development, and renovation projects by year of anticipated implementation, including costs and funding source(s);
6. Council Adoption by resolution, ordinance or similar method.

### 1.2.4 Strategic Plan

This plan is intended to serve as a visionary and implementation document for the Parks and Recreation Department. This document will continue to be revised in the future through amendments and revisions to include more information that will be useful to the department and the public, such as:

- Policy guidance
- Inventory of land and key facilities
- Level of Service Standards and performance measures
- Capital Improvement Plan

Historically, this plan has been focused on capital projects. The plan has evolved to also include chapters about the Arts & Culture Program, Recreation, and Maintenance and Operations. It will be important in the future to include the recreation business plan, as it evolves.

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### 1.3 Process of Developing Plan:

This section summarizes the process that the Parks and Recreation Department followed in developing this plan. The state RCO requires that the Plan contain the following elements.

For the purposes of this plan the elements above are described further below.

#### 1.3.1 Goals and Objectives:

Citywide goals for parks and recreation are described in Chapter 2. More specific park, trail, art and recreation goals were developed by staff upon review of the information compiled from the public visioning process, surveys, inventory, demand assessment, and the needs assessment. These goals are listed in each element of this plan, namely: parks, trails, arts, recreation, and in the neighborhood by neighborhood analysis in Part II. This review also provided ideas for new or revised policies that will be incorporated into the Parks, Recreation, and Arts Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

With each PARCC Plan update, there are new issues and challenges to address and consider when developing goals and objectives. In this update, some of the key issues and challenges include:

- Rapid residential and mixed-use commercial development throughout the city, and especially in Downtown, has led to extensive growth of residential and employment population and transition of some neighborhoods, especially in Downtown, from suburban to urban. This growth has led to escalated real estate values, increased traffic congestion, and a transition of people owning single family homes to renting multi-family homes.
- Growth in the local regional high-tech job market sector has provided resulted in a more culturally diverse employee and resident population. The population is becoming more diverse, young, wealthy, and well educated. This demographic directly influences changes in the types of needs for recreation programming, including, such as cricket, lacrosse, yoga, tai chi, cultural programs, senior social activities, meeting room use, and cultural arts.
- Smartphones, 24-7 work connectivity lifestyles, and highly programmed youth are leading to additional demand for more drop-in programs of all types, childcare, and evening activities.
- With this fast paced society comes unhealthy lifestyles and the Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide opportunities for the community to engage in healthy lifestyles through exercise, learning healthy behaviors, and taking time to socialize and experience new things at our community centers, parks and trails.
- Conservation, sustainability, and enhancement of the natural environment are goals the City continues to strive toward and the City Council has formalized goals in the Climate Action Plan, which affect all departments. The Parks and Recreation Department is working on enhancing native vegetation, planting more trees, reducing use of energy and water, and finding more sustainable materials to use in construction of park amenities.

In the following chapters, there is an inventory of the parks, trails, community centers, art collection and more. In addition, there are summaries of programs offered, and projects planned to address conservation goals and recreation needs. In order to better understand the approach and criteria used in this plan, it is also important to understand the demographics of Redmond, including the health of our community members.

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### 1.3.2 Community Involvement

A number of groups provided input into the visioning process to help define the future goals and policies for the PARCC Plan as well as the review of the Draft Plan, as described in Chapter 3. In addition, a statistically valid survey was conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department in 2015 that provide valuable input from the public.

### 1.3.3 Inventory

The City conducted an inventory of existing facilities and programs to compare to the 2010 PARCC Plan and summarize the accomplishments and service gaps. The inventory was used to help prioritize projects for this plan. Physical inventories were conducted of parks and trails by staff and compared to inventories conducted over the past six years and to records kept by Parks Maintenance and Operations staff. In addition, a review of current recreation programs was provided and information from an ongoing study of recreation buildings was used to develop an assessment of recreation facilities.

### 1.3.4 Demand Assessment:

Demand as it relates to this plan is the desire of people to have a service or facility. Demand was measured in the following ways:

- The number of people served by the department's programmed activities was measured through our registration database, drop in attendance, and wait lists for programs.
- Demand for un-programmed activities was measured through a statistically valid survey and supplemented by You Count data, which is a tracking system that counts users in parks and on trails. Public requests for new or additional programs or facilities were also derived from public comments and other survey questions and comments.

### 1.3.5 Needs Assessment:

Need relates to why the City provides recreational space and programs to the community. It evaluates national, regional, and local trends from industry standards to feedback from our community.

### 1.3.6 Capital Improvement Program:

One of the primary goals of this plan is to develop a capital project list that can be used to determine budget priorities, guide grant applications, and to provide a strategic plan for the department to follow in the future. The Washington RCO requires a six-year plan and recommends a long term plan.

### 1.3.7 Council Adoption:

The RCO and Comprehensive Plan policy CF-1 require that the City Council adopt this functional plan. The Draft PARCC Plan will be presented to City Council in February 2017. After a public comment period and subsequent revision and review of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist, the Final Plan will be presented to Council for adoption.

## 1.4 Plan Organization

This document is organized as follows.

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## Chapters:

### Executive Summary

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Community Engagement
- 3 Strategies & Policies
- 4 Parks
- 5 Conservation
- 6 Trails
- 7 Operations & Maintenance
- 8 Recreation
- 9 Arts & Culture
- 10 Capital Improvement Program

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### 1.5 Adoption Process:

This PARCC Plan is updated every six years. The Plan is developed using a public process and involving staff members from across City departments. During the course of plan development, staff periodically updates the Mayor, Commissioners and City Council Members and seeks input and approval on draft policies and recommendations.

The Draft PARCC Plan has been submitted for public comment. Once public comments are incorporated into the document, the Final PARCC Plan and a SEPA Checklist will be submitted. Once a SEPA determination has been made, the Final PARCC Plan must be adopted by City Council before being submitted to Washington RCO.