

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission

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Date: November 18, 2015

Subject: 2016 Park, Arts, Recreation, Conservation and Culture (PARCC) Plan
Commission input on Draft Resource Park & Recreation Levels of Service and CIP
Ranking Criteria.

BACKGROUND

The City is updating the Park, Arts, Recreation, Conservation and Culture (PARCC) Plan, which is adopted as an amendment to the Redmond Comprehensive Plan. Components of the plan update have been brought to Planning Commission study sessions for review as follows:

1. July 22, 2015 –Public involvement and overall plan update schedule
2. September 30, 2015 – Initial consult on modifications to the levels of service (LOS) standards specific to parks and trails

Level of Service Updates

The level of service methodology and results are fundamental to the PARCC Plan update since they generate project proposals for the PARCC Plan update. The attached PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit C) describes proposals for a new LOS methodology for resource parks and retaining the current methodology for recreation LOS. The current policy basis for LOS can be found in Chapter 10.B of the Comprehensive Plan as shown in Exhibit D. This includes the specific standards and other policy guidance.

Staff's proposed concepts for modifications to the LOS methodology for resource parks is an effort to be responsive to public feedback received during this planning effort, which shows that preserving more open space and natural areas is a high priority for Redmond's community. Parks and Recreation staff have worked with Public Works and Planning staff to explain all of Redmond's efforts between multiple divisions to preserve natural areas. Generally, the department is recommending shifting from acreage per population calculation to a LOS method that is responsive to public demand and better reflects healthy natural systems. Currently, Redmond exceeds typical LOS standards for resource parks based on the traditional acres per capita measurement. Staff is proposing a LOS calculation based on canopy cover, which will also protect other critical areas. The department can then set measureable goals focused on canopy cover protection and expansion.

For the 2010 PARCC Plan, a LOS for recreation was developed that centered on the capacity and use of facilities and programs, the number of participants served, and hours of recreation provided by service category. The measurement has proven to be effective and meaningful for the department so it is proposed that it be used again for the 2016 plan update. Staff will present the details of the method for discussion.

Staff has received initial feedback from the Parks and Trails Commission on these items at their November 5, 2015 meeting as reflected in the “SUMMARY OF MAJOR IDEAS TO DATE” section below.

Capital Improvement Project Ranking Criteria

A major objective of the PARCC Plan is to develop a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that can be used for budget prioritization, grant applications and a long term plan for the Parks and Recreation Department to follow in to the future. The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requires a six-year capital plan and recommends a ten year plan. In addition, the PARCC Plan update will include a capital plan through the year 2030 to align with the City’s comprehensive planning horizon. To begin creating the recommended list of prioritized projects and programs for the department, capital improvement project ideas are generated using LOS analysis, public feedback, analysis of use, and other tools. Potential projects and programs are scored and ranked using a series of criteria that are based on Comprehensive Plan policies and goals and department guidance. The prioritized list is then rolled up into the department’s recommended CIP list. This list is then prioritized along with projects and programs from all other functional areas as part of the citywide Capital Investment Strategy (CIS).

For the 2010 PARCC Plan, different ranking criteria were applied to different types of capital projects, such as parks, trails and recreation projects. The current criteria are shown in Exhibit A. A major change being proposed for the 2016 update is to use one list of ranking criteria applied to those proposed projects. During the presentation, staff will review the recommended CIP ranking criteria and the rationale for the update. The proposed ranking criteria are attached in Exhibit B.

PREPARATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 18th STUDY SESSION

Staff asks that the Commission review the attached PowerPoint presentation and exhibits. If updates to the presentation material are made between the issue of this memo and the November 18th meeting, staff will indicate the changes during the presentation.

At the study session, staff will provide an overview of the proposed revisions to CIP ranking criteria, new proposals for level of service methodologies for resource parks, and the existing recreation level of service methodology. Staff will seek Planning Commission feedback on these items. If the Commission has issues for discussion or questions regarding the materials provided, please let David Shaw know prior to November 18.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR IDEAS TO DATE

Parks & Trails Commission (PTC) Meeting Summary (Nov. 5):

PTC discussed proposed CIP ranking criteria and LOS methodologies for resource parks and recreation at their Nov. 5th meeting. During the discussion of the CIP ranking criteria, PTC members expressed general support for the proposed direction to use one list of ranking criteria for all projects proposed by the department. There was also support for the concept of including a weighted score to the “Safety Hazard” and “Preserve/Replace Asset” criteria. Commissioners suggested that the criteria of “Geographic Equity” and “Improve Service Delivery” would be more meaningful if they were more quantitative in nature.

During the discussion of resource park LOS, Commissioners voiced support for the concept of establishing goals based on canopy cover. It was suggested that examples from other cities that have similar goals, such as Boulder CO, Portland OR, etc., would provide some precedence and guidance on the specific goal to set for Redmond.

REVIEW SCHEDULE

Follow up study sessions with the Planning Commission on this and other components of the PARCC Plan are scheduled for the following dates:

- Dec. 16, 2015: Policy Review
- Jan. 13, 2016: Policy Review
- Spring/Summer 2016: Official adoption process of the PARCC Plan Update

ENCLOSURES

- Exhibit A: Current CIP Ranking Criteria
- Exhibit B: Proposed CIP Ranking Criteria
- Exhibit C: DRAFT PARCC Plan CIP Ranking and Resource & Recreation LOS PowerPoint Presentation
- Exhibit D: Comprehensive Plan Ch.10.B Level of Service Excerpt