

enables each community to achieve more than might be possible independently.

The city's parks, innovative recreation services, and unique art and cultural experiences continue to provide a high quality of life in Redmond. Community members are able to improve their health and well-being, appreciate art, enjoy great parks and celebrate the cultural diversity of Redmond.

## Organization of this Element

### Introduction

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### Introduction

One of Redmond's most attractive features is the large number of high-quality recreational opportunities in the area. The City of Redmond, in cooperation with other public and private agencies, provides exemplary parks, open space, and recreational and cultural facilities and programs for the Redmond community.

- Redmond's park, recreation, arts and open space system, guided by the policies in the Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation Element, has the following basic functions:

- To serve existing and future demand for a variety of park types and a multitude of recreation activities;
- To provide recreational programs for the entire community, including all ages, physical capabilities and cultural backgrounds;
- To provide for the cultural needs of the community by providing facilities used for performing arts and arts exhibits, arts education and programming, and other facilities such as informal gathering places; and
- To provide for the conservation of important environmental resources, such as shorelines and wetlands, which might otherwise be lost to development.

The Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation Element helps achieve Redmond's vision for the future by helping to maintain the community's high quality of life, and meeting the City's recreational, social and cultural needs for a diverse population with changing interests and needs.

This Element is coordinated with the Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture & Conservation Plan (PARCC Plan), which provides specific implementation strategies to carry out these policies. The PARCC Plan is hereby incorporated by reference into this document. The PARCC Plan is updated every six years to comply with requirements for funding from the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

## A. Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation (PARCC) System

- PR-1 Provide a system of parks, recreation, arts, trails and open space to serve existing development and planned growth.**
- PR-2 Maintain a PARCC Plan that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and is flexible and addresses diverse recreational needs, accessibility, cultural and**

arts program requirements, and park, trail and recreation levels of service requirements.

**PR-3 Provide opportunities to improve health by encouraging use of parks and recreation facilities and participation in recreational and educational programs.**

**PR-4 Encourage conservation and sustainability throughout the Redmond parks and recreation system by preserving significant natural areas, protecting natural resources, and incorporating sustainable design, construction, renovation and maintenance of facilities.**

**PR-5 Ensure a community inspired and connected by arts and culture through the City's arts program.**



*Little league baseball camp at Hartman Park*

## B. Levels of Service

Level of service standards are used to determine the demand for facilities and services. The State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has requirements for local jurisdictions to develop levels of service in order to be eligible for grant funding.

The level of service standards are also used to calculate impact fees that development pays for improvements needed due to the increased demand for parks, open space and recreational programs generated by more people living and working in Redmond. Redmond has worked with other jurisdictions in the county to develop its parks and recreation facility guidelines and to prepare level of service standards and will continue to do so to ensure a coordinated approach.

The PARCC Plan defines the categories of parks as follows:

**Neighborhood Parks (NP)** provide space for active and/or passive recreation. These parks are



*Dudley Carter carving at Slough Park*

**PR-8 Provide for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that meet level of service standards, such as, but not limited to: meeting rooms, facilities to serve special populations, classrooms, picnic shelters, sports fields, an aquatics facility, arts facility and gymnasiums.**

### C. Park and Recreation Facility Development

One of the functions of the City is to develop and maintain parks and recreation facilities. Parks include the three categories of parks described in the previous section; recreational facilities include buildings used for recreational purposes, such as community centers, field houses, gymnasiums and pools. This includes planning, programming, designing and constructing or reconstructing facilities. These facilities must meet a wide range of community needs.

- PR-9 Encourage parks, beautification areas, art and gathering places throughout the city by coordinating planning efforts with other City departments and private businesses early in the development review process.**
- PR-10 Design and construct park facilities in a manner that is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and is sensitive to the environment.**
- PR-11 Preserve natural areas, open space corridors and sensitive habitats throughout the community whenever feasible to retain Redmond's character, create neighborhood linkages, protect habitat, maintain urban forest canopy and access to water bodies, and allow utilization of these areas at a level that will not compromise the environmental integrity of the area.**
- PR-12 Manage open space corridors through Redmond's critical areas regulations and by using sustainable management practices, such as enhancing habitat through use of native plant materials.**
- PR-13 Continue to promote Redmond as a Tree City through the urban forestry program, the Green Redmond Partnership, the street tree program, and other restoration and beautification programs throughout the city.**
- PR-14 Integrate art and landscape design from the onset of facility planning to create dynamic and interesting public places.**
- PR-15 Design new and renovated facilities, utilizing appropriate construction and maintenance technologies to gain cost efficiencies and conserve resources and integrate technology into park design, as appropriate, to accommodate diverse uses and increase capacity through extended and expanded uses.**
- PR-16 Encourage development of outdoor plazas and squares within public and private developments in the Downtown and Overlake urban centers for community events and informal gatherings.**
- PR-17 Provide facilities for unprogrammed active recreation, such as, but not limited to: indoor courts or sports fields, rollerblading, skateboarding and bicycling.**
- PR-18 Develop facilities and acquire land for environmental education, including a citywide interpretative sign program for shorelines, streams, native growth protection**

accessible to nearby residents and business people primarily by walking and bicycling. Neighborhood parks are the smallest parks and vary in size from pocket parks to 20 acres, and typically have fewer activities or amenities than community parks.

**Community Parks (CP)** provide diverse active recreation opportunities with some passive recreation uses. Community parks generally range in size from 20 acres to 40 acres and have a more regional draw than neighborhood parks. Community parks typically include a variety of active amenities that use more than half of the park for active uses, while the remainder of the park may be reserved for passive uses.

**Resource Parks (RP)** include natural areas or open space areas that are under City control and will not be developed for active recreation use. Development is typically limited to trails and interpretive and educational opportunities. The Growth Management Act requires local governments to designate open space corridors. Open space corridors can preserve a connected system of urban forested areas, fish and wildlife habitat, and unique recreational opportunities that have limited impact on these resources. Open space corridors will be managed through the use of Redmond's critical areas regulations, and the Natural Environment Element contains policies on managing critical areas and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.

**Private Parks (PP)** are created in a residential development and are usually small neighborhood parks or native growth protection areas. In most cases, this land is controlled by the homeowners' association and is private property. These parks are recognized in this plan and counted toward parks level of service (LOS) because they serve a portion of the population or protect sensitive habitat, just as a public park does. State law limits the liability of private land owners for public use of their property to encourage land owners to allow public use, where appropriate.

The City of Redmond has established the following level of service standards:

- Neighborhood Parks: 1.00 acre per 1,000 people (neighborhood population) <sup>1</sup>

- Community Parks: 3.00 acres per 1,000 people (citywide population) <sup>1</sup>
- Resource Parks: 2.50 acres per 1,000 people (citywide population) <sup>1</sup>
- Trails: 0.35 miles per 1,000 people (neighborhood population) <sup>1,2</sup>
- Recreation: 7.6 hours of programmed recreation per person annually

<sup>1</sup> The population is 100 percent of the residential population and 25 percent of the employment population to account for the high demand on the parks system from people who work in Redmond, but do not live in Redmond.

<sup>2</sup> The trail level of service standard will increase to 0.45 miles per 1,000 neighborhood population in 2017.

Based on the level of service standards, the City's projected 2030 needs include 28 acres of neighborhood park property and more than 32 miles of trails. This provides a 29 percent increase in neighborhood park property and a 55 percent increase in trail mileage. The following policies relate directly to the development of the level of service standards.

**PR-6 Distribute parks and recreation and cultural facilities throughout Redmond to improve walkability and provide an equitable distribution of parks based on population density. Encourage this type of planning by calculating neighborhood park and trail level of service standards based on neighborhood populations.**

**PR-7 Provide level of service credits for school properties and non-Redmond parks within the city and within walking distance of the city, where appropriate for park use.**