

## 2013 Sweet Home Park System Master Plan

1. **Goal 1: Provide Adequate Park System Funding.** Develop and improve upon existing funding framework for park system activities that utilizes a stable, diverse and creative approach to securing funding.
  - a. **Objective 1.1:** Identify and evaluate external grant and donation opportunities to develop outside funding streams for parkland development. The external capital sources could come from non-profits, state government or federal agencies.
  - b. **Objective 1.2:** Evaluate the potential parks funding sources such as a park's SDC, parks utility fee, or establishment of an endowment through a local parks foundation.
    - i. **Recommendation 1:** Establish a park endowment fund that would be managed by 501-C non-profit organization that would serve as a partner organization that can accept grants, donations and other funding that the city could not accept itself. Many communities have nonprofit parks foundations.
    - ii. **Recommendation 2:** Explore creation of a parks utility fee that will support the park system with additional funding. Based on current population, even a modest fee could generate significant revenues.
    - iii. **Recommendation 3:** Use the updated Parks Master Plan and capital improvement program to develop and advocate for adequate funding and support—including allocations in the annual city budget process—as well as grants. Present annual updates to city council to build support for a stable funding stream that is consistently available to the parks budget over each fiscal year.
2. **Goal 2: Increase Capacity to Conduct Park Maintenance and Operations.** Establish an Increased capacity to conduct regular maintenance in a way that is efficient and cost effective and promotes the health, beauty and safety of Sweet Home's Parks.
  - a. **Objective 2.1:** Develop a parks maintenance program in collaboration with the Public Works Department that informs when replacements, repairs or other improvements should be complete and with what resources and staff.
  - b. **Objective 2.2:** Identify deferred maintenance projects that are immediate priorities and develop budget estimates to address the needed work. Consider developing a deferred maintenance program to promote long-term cost savings.
  - c. **Objective 2.3:** Where appropriate, use automated irrigation equipment at parks to improve efficiency of staff and maintenance activities.
    - i. **Recommendation 1:** Provide a minimum of 2 Full-Time Employee positions for park maintenance and operations and possibly additional FTE during as seasonal demand requires.
3. **Goal 3: Coordinate Parkland Development and Acquisition.** Develop and acquire parks to promote a healthy, safe and diverse set of passive and active recreational opportunities for residents while maintaining environmental stewardship and quality and an adequate level of service for all residents in Sweet Home.
  - a. **Objective 3.1:** Plan to acquire and develop 1-2 neighborhood parks in underserved areas for current residents in Eastern and Northern sections of the city.
  - b. **Objective 3.2:** Develop an acquisition program that begins to internally determine which properties inside the UGB can be acquired to bring park facilities online for underserved communities in the Northern and Eastern sections of the city.
  - c. **Objective 3.4:** Develop and build use areas (covered picnic tables, interpretive educational areas, and walking paths) that provide additional amenities at existing parks to increase passive and active recreational opportunities.
  - d. **Objective 3.5:** Conduct and finish planned and current park facility improvements (irrigation upgrades, bathroom facilities, exercise equipment)
  - e. **Objective 3.6:** Design and place interpretative and directional signage in the city and at specific park facilities to inform residents and visitors about park amenities and locations.
  - f. **Objective 3.7:** Ensure and provide access to disable portions of the population, especially ADA access to amenities found at parks.
  - g. **Objective 3.8:** Explore the possibility of adding additional unique park amenities to the system (such as a community garden,

dog park, Frisbee golf course, board walks at natural areas).

h. **Parkland Development Recommendations -**

i. **Sankey Park Recommendations:**

1. **Recommendation 1:** Replace fire sprinkler system for Weddle Bridge
2. **Recommendation 2:** Move irrigation equipment from current location to Lawn area and utilize quick-connect and automated timers
3. **Recommendation 3:** Replace heavily damaged picnic tables at park
4. **Recommendation 4:** Provide labor, equipment and materials as able to BMX restoration project
5. **Recommendation 5:** Thin trees where over-planted, remove dead branches and debris for safety

ii. **Hobart Natural Area Recommendations:**

1. **Recommendation 1:** Develop an Invasive/Native Vegetation Plan and a stewardship plan that integrates people into the natural environment
2. **Recommendation 2:** Install and improve parking by adding 4 spots with a gravel bed
3. **Recommendation 3:** Install interpretive and educational signage about ecological qualities of the area

iii. **Strawberry Hills Recommendations:**

1. **Recommendation 1:** Provide more swings and light play equipment
2. **Recommendation 2:** Develop drainage system (possibly earth removal with stonewash gravel fill and French drain)
3. **Recommendation 3:** Direct drainage system to wetlands on-site and perform vegetation enhancement
4. **Recommendation 4:** Improve upon existing parking facilities by adding 6-8 spots with a gravel bed
5. **Recommendation 5:** Develop and construct a soft walking path trail loop (300') for visitors to participate in active recreation such as walking and jogging
6. **Recommendation 6:** Partner with local community members to develop a small community garden area in the park

iv. **Northside Park Recommendations:**

1. **Recommendation 1:** Upgrade irrigation system for large lawn area on site, use quick connect and automated system with humidity sensors
2. **Recommendation 2:** Provide ADA access to Santiam River with an acceptable grade hard path with a covered seating area and fishing platform
3. **Recommendation 3:** Weatherize and winterize bathroom facilities on site
4. **Recommendation 4:** Upgrade and retrofit racquetball recreation area lights with an easier accessed system that utilizes efficient technology with LED bulb

v. **Ashbrook Park Recommendations:**

1. **Recommendation 1:** Install 2 concrete picnic tables on site
2. **Recommendation 2:** Develop 2-4 additional and different adult physical recreational amenities

vi. **Clover Memorial Park Recommendations:**

1. **Recommendation 1:** Coordinate with Public Works to improve storm water drainage and conveyance

vii. **Pleasant Valley Boat Launch Recommendations:**

1. **Recommendation 1:** Improve parking facilities by installing 4 additional parking spots with a gravel or paved road surface
2. **Recommendation 2:** Partner with Mid-Willamette Stealheaders to improve the boat launch amenities

i. **Parkland Acquisition**

- i. **Recommendation 1:** Collaborate with Linn County parks on planning future development of the reclaimed gravel ponds. This site has the potential to provide special use facilities over the 20-year planning period as well as any potential for trail connections to the existing trail system.
- ii. **Recommendation 2:** Acquire a neighborhood park in underserved areas of city East of 37th Street and South of Highway 20.
- iii. **Recommendation 3:** Maintain an agreed upon level of service standard that will guide the acquisition of additional properties for population growth. See Table 6-1 for a description of the current level of service and targets.

4. **Goal 4: Develop Park System Connectivity and Trails.** Increase connectivity between parks and points of interest in the city with the use of multimodal paths, trails and streets.

- a. **Objective 4.1:** Design and build trails and paths that are multimodal and provide a variety of active recreational opportunities and link schools, parks and natural areas.
- b. **Objective 4.2:** Collaborate with Linn County Parks to ensure that any planned facilities in Sweet Home are linked with county property (the aggregate ponds) to create a trail connection from county property to trail extensions inside the city.
- c. **Objective 4.3:** Identify South Hills trail extension areas and partner with the County and other agencies to obtain access easements.

- d. **Objective 4.4:** Collaborate and work with community groups and individual residents to identify trail extension areas and begin process to acquire land, access easements, dedications or donations for proposed trail extensions.
    - i. **Recommendation 1:** Develop a specific Sweet Home Trails Plan that describes path extensions in accordance with the TSP, acquire access easements, use agreements, dedications or outright acquisition of land that functions a trail system that connects parks in the city while providing a healthy active recreational opportunity.
    - ii. **Recommendation 2:** Develop ADA compliant paths at parks so that all visitors can equitably enjoy the recreational experiences provided in the city. Special consideration should be paid to Northside Park, where a path and 'ADA fishing area' could be provided to access the Santiam River.
    - iii. **Recommendation 3:** Coordinate with Cascade Timber Consultants to extend trails through land near Hobart Natural Area and connect to existing South Hills Trail.
5. **Goal 5: Enhance Planning and Community Involvement.** Focus on the coordination of planning from the Parks Board and city staff to increase community awareness, partnerships involvement, and stewardship of the parks system.
- a. **Objective 5.1:** Conduct reviews of the Sweet Home Master Park Plan at least every 10 years; update the five-year CIP every five years.
  - b. **Objective 5.2:** Create promotional concepts, educational opportunities community events that are geared to increase park system awareness and volunteer efforts.
  - c. **Objective 5.3:** Develop and coordinate volunteer opportunities to assist with the maintenance of existing parks.
  - d. **Objective 5.4:** Develop and nurture partnerships with private and public agencies like Cascade-Timber Consultants, The Trails Group and Sweet Home School District #55, The US Army Corp and Linn County.
    - i. **Recommendation 1:** Establish a volunteer program that targets park maintenance activities. Utilize volunteers, private businesses, group-quartered individuals, students and other Samaritans in town to perform light maintenance activities like mowing, trash pickup, trail maintenance and other similar work whenever possible. This will help to lessen the load placed on the maintenance crews and allow them to perform more complicated and difficult maintenance tasks such as building repairs.
    - ii. **Recommendation 2:** Explore approaches to engage active and interested members of the community who wish to volunteer their time or coordinate efforts to increase the appeal of the park system.

### 1983 Sweet Home Park System Master Plan

- 1. **Objective One:** Establish and maintain a city-wide park system which provides a variety of recreational opportunities to the citizens of Sweet Home.
- 2. **Objective Two:** As practicable, design each of the City's park prior to development
  - a. Develop master plans for each park with the City's park system.
  - b. Provide park design experience to students at Oregon State University, Linn-Benton Community College, and Sweet Home Schools by developing internships and class projects which fulfill Parks Board and student needs.
  - c. Develop an effective design for a series of directional/locational signs for the City's parks.
- 3. **Objective Three:** Develop several of the City's unique natural areas and open spaces for public recreation use.
  - a. Obtain property or easement needed to preserve the City's natural areas for public recreational use.
  - b. Develop the "waysides"
- ~~4. **Objective Four:** Coordinate park planning with the Sweet Home School District, Linn County Parks and Recreation, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in order to maximize use of public lands and avoid duplication of services.
 
  - a. Design and develop the sites identified in the joint use agreement.~~
- 5. **Objective Five:** Develop a parks and recreation program that ca be supported by the City and is based on a broad base of funding sources.
  - a. The City should continue to use volunteers, where appropriate, for construction and maintenance activities.
  - b. For neighborhoods without parks, system development charges should be considered to help finance new neighborhood parks.
- 6. **Objective Six:** Increase the public use and awareness of the recreational opportunities within the City of Sweet Home.
  - a. As the neighborhood parks are developed around the City, signs should be placed on adjacent blocks which point out the location of the parks.

- b. A promotional story on the City's park system should be placed in the local newspaper each summer.
- c. An Adopt-a-Park Program should be explored. Such programs in other communities involve local businesses and organizations "adopting" a park by paying for the cost of mowing and turf management. In return, the business can display its sign and logo in prominent locations in the park. The advertising value of the program is maximized by having only one contributor for each park and further exposure is provided by press releases. The adopters sign a one-year agreement and pay the fees in quarterly installments.