



# **City of Pullman**

## **Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan**







## **Pullman Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan**

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# Introduction

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The City of Pullman boasts more than 100 acres of parkland and 8 miles of city trails and paths that link to the 7 mile Bill Chipman Palouse Trail which runs between the cities of Pullman, Washington and Moscow, Idaho.

The \$1,050,000 Downtown Riverwalk project was completed in 2006 and is the newest link to beckon walkers to Pullman Trails and Pathways; this project was funded by donations from present and former members of the Pullman community; with the help of many area businesses, in conjunction with a \$340,000 WA Wildlife and Recreation Coalition grant. This completed the trail connection from the locally funded 1999 Proposition 1 Koppel Farm Trail which was an inner city expansion of the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail. In 2007 the citizen's of Pullman passed a new \$2,250,000 Proposition No. 1 initiative for improvements to parks and paths. The additional trail expansion adds a Maple Street Extension linking campus to the downtown, a Palouse Highway addition linking the Military Hill area to the existing system and a Johnson Road connection adding pedestrian ways to housing developments to the southeast.

Recent developments to parkland include Terre View Park on Military Hill in 2003, Petry Park along the City Trail and Pathways in 2005 and Itani Park on Sunnyside Hill begun in 2006 and continuing through 2008. The Pullman Aquatic and Fitness Center construction was fully funded by a private donation from Mary and Ed Schweitzer which opened to the public in 2000. The facility was donated to the Pullman School District and built on grounds dedicated for park use during a joint City of Pullman and Pullman School District IAC funded project in the early 1970's. The pool is operated by the City of Pullman through an inter-local agreement. The formation of a Metropolitan Park District was established by voter approval in 2002 creating a continuous funding source for Parks and Recreation programs and development. The 2007 voter approved Proposition No. 1 initiative provided for improvements to restrooms at Kruegel Park, Sunnyside Park and City Playfields and funding for a complete lighting renovation of the ball field complex at City Playfields.

The Pullman School District is a significant partner in community access to recreational facilities. School playgrounds, gymnasiums and athletic fields are used for City of Pullman sponsored recreation programs throughout the city. In 1990, the City of Pullman provided funding to enlarge the gymnasium at Sunnyside Elementary School in exchange for community access during non-school use. After constructing a new elementary school on Pioneer Hill in 1998, the school district offered half of the old Franklin Elementary School to the City for use as a community center. The City remodeled the 1957 portion of the building into the 8,000-square-foot Pioneer Community Center, which opened to the public in 2000.

Washington State University (WSU) has also been a partner in community access to recreation facilities having participated in the Washington State Games, Cougar Plaza mini-park and extension of the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail. In 2002 WSU completed construction of a \$54,000,000 state-of-the-art Student Recreation Center. At 150,000 square feet; the center offers cardio and weight equipment, seven courts for basketball, volleyball and badminton, roller hockey, indoor soccer, floor hockey, and inline skating, four racquetball courts, 5-lane lap pool, leisure pool, 53-person spa, activity rooms, elevated 4-lane running/walking track, and more. Community access is restricted to students, faculty and alumni for a fee.





# 2005 Plan Review

## Section I





## 2005 Five Year Plan Review

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### **PARKS:**

**Short Term Goal:** Improve existing park facilities.

**Objectives:** **Continue to expand Lawson Gardens.**

Staff has completed the first installment of the stream bed improvements. A contract will be awarded in the summer of 2008 to complete the stream bed through the park to handle natural spring, well and runoff waters. The entrance paths and Terrace Garden graveled paths (Alvin Chandler Memorial Walk) will be improved with the installation of brick pavers under City Contract No. 08-07.



**Upgrade or replace playground equipment at Harrison Tot Lot, Kruegel Park and Military Hill Park.**

Scouts refurbished by painting and repairing all the exiting play equipment at Kruegel Park and staff installed a new climbing structure at Kruegel Park, a new Tug boat play apparatus in Harrison Tot Lot and totally revamped the Military Hill playground including a "max-mixer" play structure, a rock climbing element and jump pads. Staff also installed a new swing set at Terre View Park.

**Construct an outdoor spray pool at Reaney Park.**

Several plans were developed, but funding has been unavailable. Once funded a Reaney Park & Pool Master Plan will address the future pool and park needs.

**Replace or recondition the picnic shelter at Kruegel Park.**

Scouts took on the project of painting and reconditioning the existing structure several years ago. In May of 2007, the City of Pullman's Capital Improvement Committee with an endorsement of the Parks & Recreation Commission agreed to set-aside Metro Park dollars on an annual basis to be applied to the construction of a new facility.

**Upgrade restroom facilities at Kruegel Park, Reaney Park, Sunnyside Park and City Playfield.**

The citizens of Pullman approved overwhelmingly a 2007 Proposition 1 in the amount of \$2,250,000 for park and path improvements that included the construction of new restrooms at City Playfield, Kruegel and Sunnyside Park. Reaney restrooms were put on hold pending the development of a Reaney Park & Pool Master Plan.

**Expand the city's existing recreational vehicle park and build a facility to provide showers and restrooms for recreational vehicle park users.**

The city has met with local owners to express an interest in the adjacent land required for expansion. Public Works awarded a contract to improve the current sewer system and Parks Division has worked with Washington State University civil engineering students to develop plans for a shower/restroom facility.

**Short Term Goal: Cooperate with local organizations to enhance transportation corridors in the community.**

Staff continues to serve on the Palouse Chipman Trail Committee, having served as Secretary, Vice-President and most recently President. The city has made accommodations for storage of trail equipment and continues to work on efforts to plow sections of the trail that has become a year-round alternative commuter corridor.

**Coordinate with the Pullman Civic Trust and other local organizations to improve the community's pedestrian paths and to establish connections within pathway corridors.**

City staff worked with Pullman's Civic Trust to ensure the passage of the 2007 Proposition 1 funding improvements for parks and paths. The great support of the community made possible the construction of new paths, restrooms and ball field lighting at City Playfield. City staff has also met with Washington State DOT representatives expressing our interest in the possible abandonment of the Union Pacific line as an additional path possibility.

**Coordinate with the Grand Avenue Greenway Committee, local merchants, and other groups to beautify Grand Avenue and other major thoroughfares in the community through landscaping and other means.**

The Grand Avenue Committee to date has raised \$67,108 and had a carryover of \$32,929 in 2008 dedicated to improvements along the north-south corridor. A number of projects have been completed to date; new raised planter beds, hanging baskets, the addition of the Mayor's grove, Kiwanis Park, Library improvements, The WSU Presidents' Grove and the Well 7 Park. The WSU Landscape and Architecture Design Studio created and presented plans to local organizations for future development north of Stadium Way.

**Long term Goal: Establish and implement level of service standards for Parks and recreation facilities in the community.**

**Objectives: Adopt formal levels of service standards, in keeping with the expressed needs of the community, to guide the development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.**

Through the city's "budget by objective" format service standards are set and reviewed. Staff monitors actual costs and man-hours of maintenance activities for parks and facilities and adjusts during the yearly budget process

to address changes due to public input, city wide goal setting and direction from the Parks & Recreation Commission. Capital planning projects are reviewed and prioritized on a city-wide basis yearly.

**As community growth occurs, work with real estate developers to provide facilities in accordance with adopted level of service standards.**

Recent examples include the donations of Itani Park, Terre View Park, Petry Park and the Pullman Aquatic & Fitness Center. Staff continues to work with the Planning Department by providing comment on each new development and how that addition will blend with and link to the existing park system.

## **RECREATION GOALS & OBJECTIVES:**

**Short Term Goal:     Implement diverse recreation programs.**

**Objectives:           Program development in new areas for the City of Pullman community.**

The Recreation department has been very active in pursuing new partnerships with other agencies in the City of Pullman and in the surrounding communities to offer new programs. The implementation of new programs included:

- WSU Athletics: Athletes assistance with Punt, Pass & Kick competition, Parks & Recreation youth teams scrimmage at halftime of men's & women's basketball games.
- Washington Recreation & Park Association: Offer the following skills competitions – Basketball HotSpot; Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run; Soccer Challenge; and Football Punt, Pass & Kick.
- WSU Human Development Department: Class projects include additions to the Pioneer Center playground, Kruegel Park Art Studio renovation, and Spring Street Skate Park revitalization.
- YMCA @WSU: Offer cooperative teen programs and summer day camps.
- Pullman Soccer Club: Cooperate to offer Futsal and British Soccer Camp.
- Skyhawks Sports Academy: Expanded sport camp offerings.
- Pullman High School: Work with high school coaches to offer camps for boys and girls basketball; volleyball; Jr. High football; and soccer.
- National Alliance for Youth Sports: Provide guidance and materials to train youth sport coaches, officials, parents.
- Delta Gamma Sorority: Co-Sponsor annual Halloween Carnival for over 200+ youth.
- Moscow Parks & Recreation: Offer combined youth softball; adult softball and basketball programs to expand league offerings.

**Short Term Goal:**     **Provide a more diverse program for youth.**

**Objectives:**            **Develop and implement programs for teens in cooperation with the Public Schools, Police Department and community businesses.**

Teen activity coordinators continue to work with Lincoln Middle School staff that support Parks & Recreation through advertisement of programs in the monthly parent newsletter, email weekly calendar of activities to parents, and in cooperation with the department have hosted teen activities. In 2006 and 2007 staff worked with the Lincoln Middle School leadership class to send several students to attend the National Youth Congress Retreat at Brooks Memorial State Park in Goldendale, WA.

In 2004-2006 Received grant monies from Pullman Police Department to purchase prizes for the annual Boards & Blades Lentil Festival Skate Competition.

Local businesses in the Pullman community such as Zeppoz, restaurants, movie theatres, and the ice skating rink in Moscow are utilized to entertain teens.

**Short Term Goal:**     **Continue to provide Washington State University Sports Management & Department of Education students with hands on experience and supplement full-time city staff.**

**Objectives:**            **Develop and implement internship and practicum opportunities within appropriate departments at WSU.**

Since 2002, 102 Washington State University Sports Management students have assisted Pullman Parks & Recreation youth sports programs by coaching, officiating or being a coordinator/on-site supervisor.

The Recreation Department has also worked with the Washington State University Center of Civic Engagement serving as a community placement for WSU students. Students have been placed to volunteer in the Parks Department, preschool program, youth sports, teen program, special events, dance classes, summer camps, aquatics, and senior center. In addition to individual placements, Parks and Recreation has served as a community placement for WSU groups such as sororities, Human Development 205 and Communication 235 classes for long term volunteering/service learning projects.

**Short Term Goal:**     **Provide vocational aquatic classes for Pullman High School students.**

**Objectives:**            **Develop and implement a curriculum with Pullman High School staff that meets the standards and educational needs of their students.**

The Pullman Aquatic and Fitness Center and Pullman High School continue have a strong working relationship to offer several programs to high school students. PAFC provides instructors and PHS provides a certified teacher for

one Physical Education class called hydro-fit; two days of lap swim curriculum and two days of water exercise curriculum.

**Short Term Goal: Create a Metropolitan Park District.**

**Objectives: The creation of Metropolitan Park District would help support the operation of the Aquatic Center, Reaney Pool and Parks Maintenance.**

On September 17, 2002 voters of Pullman approved Proposition 1, which called for the creation of a metropolitan park district. Voters agreed to a levy of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Money generated by the creation of the district supports aquatics, recreation programs and parks maintenance. The ongoing levy is expected to generate over \$476,000 in 2008. As part of this levy, the Parks and Recreation department is able to utilize 10% of the funds for capital improvement such as new playground equipment, bleachers at ball fields, and fitness equipment and pool covers at for the Pullman Aquatic and Fitness Center.

**Long Term Goal: Continued support of financially disadvantaged population.**

**Objectives: Coordinating financial assistance through social service agencies.**

The Care-To-Share fund which was established over 20 years ago continues to provide funds for children whose families are financially challenged. The fund, established through private donations provides a 50% match in registration fees for children through age 17 who reside within the Pullman School District and whose family meet one of the following criteria: receive state income or energy assistance; food stamps; or the child receives free or reduced school lunches. Since 2006, the Care to Share Program has awarded 354 scholarships to individuals in need.

The Parks and Recreation department has graciously received donations from the Pullman Child Welfare Association over the past couple of years including \$1,500 in 2007 which allowed the department to provide 32 Reaney pool memberships to deserving youth in the community.

**Long Term Goal: Develop a Community Center.**

**Objectives: Establish a Community Center to better meet the recreation needs of the community that are not currently being met due to increasing demand for indoor programs and resultant facility conflicts.**

The development of a Community Center to serve the Pullman residents is still a need and high priority for the Parks & Recreation department to pursue. Funding for a project of this magnitude will be a challenge, but the end result would be great benefit to the community.





## Executive Summary

### Section II





## **Executive Summary**

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Pullman is unique from most other communities in variety of ways. The City was founded at the base of four large hills. Pullman has grown to encompass these hills making the topography mostly sloped with very little flat land. Washington State University dominates the northeastern hill and is by far the largest employer in Pullman. The population of the city as estimated in 2006 by the State Office of Financial Management was 27,030, an increase of 8.3% since the 2000 Census which estimated the population at 24,948. Population figures within the area are expected to continue to increase at 1.8% per year based on projections by the City of Pullman, Planning Department and the State Office of Financial Management. The economy of the city of Pullman is most notably impacted by government entities, primarily due to Washington State University, trade center activities, a growing manufacturing and high-tech research sector and agriculture.

Recreation is clearly a priority to the WSU students who passed a student initiative to build one of the nation's largest Student Recreation Centers (SRC). The SRC includes seven gymnasiums, a large leisure pool and spa, an elevated quarter mile running track, several aerobic and conditioning rooms with state-of-the-art equipment and encompasses a total of 150,000 square feet. The student initiative levied \$54,000,000 in capital to be paid over the life of the bond and over \$1,000,000 in operating costs annually.

Development of recreation facilities is a priority for the general population of Pullman. In 1997 the passage of Proposition No. 1 with considerable private donations provided an additional 8 miles of paved trails, complete with furnishings. (See appendix #2, pg 58) In 2006 with funds from private donations and a grant from IAC now RCO (Recreation Conservation Office) the Downtown Riverwalk project was completed, which helped link the downtown area to the existing Pullman Trails and Pathways. In 2007 the citizens of Pullman passed an additional Proposition No. 1 totaling 2.24 million dollars for the purpose of constructing new restrooms at Kruegel Park, Sunnyside Park, and the City Playfields; new field lighting at the City Playfield complex and additions to the trail system with expansion and completion of the Maple Street Extension, Palouse Highway, and Johnson Road trails.

The City's partnership with the Pullman School District has contributed significantly to the development of community access to recreational facilities. The City and the District have developed an inter-agency agreement for joint use of facilities. Examples of joint ventures between the two agencies include: the expansion of Sunnyside Elementary gymnasium (1995) to accommodate recreation use after school hours; development of Military Hill Park (1976) to serve the growing recreational needs of residents near the Pullman High School; and remodeling of the old Franklin Elementary School (2000) for use as a community center by the City of Pullman and the administrative offices of the Pullman School District.

Pullman's park system is largely comprised of land privately donated to the City over many years for the purpose of park and open space. While this method has resulted in an evenly distributed and varied system of parks, it cannot be expected that large, desirable land donations will occur in the future. The purpose of this plan is to identify desirable levels of service in Pullman and anticipate the probable growth areas and proactively plan for park, recreation, and open space development.

The City of Pullman may consider park and recreation impact fees to newly proposed development to fund the future recreation needs within the City. This method would require developers to dedicate funds, property or in-kind value to be dedicated toward new facilities. Dedicated funds would be targeted to benefit the general area of the proposed development. The City of Moscow is the closest example of a city where recreation impact fees are mandatory for new development.

