City of Pullman
Parks & Recreation
2008 Five Year Plan

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Pullman Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan

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Introduction

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, businesses, and 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 citizens 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 the development of Itani Park on Sunnyside Hill which began in 2006 and will continue through 2009. The Pullman Aquatic and Fitness Center construction was fully funded by a private donation from Mary and Ed Schweitzer; it opened to the public in 2000. The facility was donated to the Pullman School District and built at Military Hill Park on grounds dedicated for park use; 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. A Metropolitan Park District was established by voter approval in 2002 creating a continuous funding source for Parks and Recreation programs and development. 2007 Proposition No. 1 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 the 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 sponsored recreation division programs throughout the city. In 1990, the City of Pullman provided partial 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; this has enabled the Recreation Division to increase the number of recreational activities offered to the Pullman community.

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 the 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.

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 the 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 a 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 Civic Trust to promote the passage of the 2007 Proposition 1, funding improvements for parks and paths. The vast support of the community made possible the construction of new paths, restrooms, and ballfield lighting at City Playfield. City staff has also met with Washington State Department of Transportation 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 into 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 Mayors' grove, Kiwanis Park, Neill Public Library improvements, the WSU Presidents' Grove, and the Well 7 greenspace. 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 & 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

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 supports Parks & Recreation through advertising programs in the monthly parent newsletter, e-mail weekly calendar of activities to parents, and in hosting teen activities in cooperation with the department. 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 Sport 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 Sport 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 to provide community placement opportunities for WSU students. Students have been placed as volunteers in the parks division, 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 provided 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 & Fitness Center and Pullman High School continue to 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 & Recreation department is able to utilize 10% of the funds for capital improvements such as new playground equipment, bleachers at ball fields, and fitness equipment and pool covers at for the Pullman Aquatic & 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 meets one of the following criteria: receive state income or energy assistance, receives 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 & Recreation department has gratefully 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 recreational 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 of enormous benefit to the community.

Executive Summary

Pullman is different from other communities in a variety of ways, beginning with its foundation 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% over the 2000 Census, which estimated the population at 24,948. Population figures 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 Pullman is most notably driven by government entities, (primarily 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.

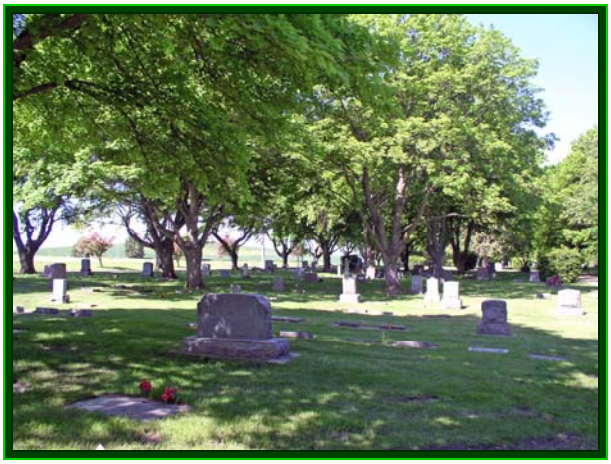
Development of recreation facilities is a priority for the general population of Pullman. In 1997, the passage of Proposition No. 1 and considerable private donations provided an additional 8 miles of paved trails, complete with furnishings. (appendix #2, pg 75) In 2006 with funds from private donations 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 to provide parks 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 for Pullman, 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 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.

Recommendations Summary
Section IV



Recommendations Summary

The Parks & Recreation Department will be challenged over the next five years to meet increasing demands in growth for existing programs and to meet requests for new services. Continued growth in the park system will require additional resources to maintain park maintenance standards at approved service levels. Attention to aging infrastructure and systems must continue.

Improvements in the use of technology and new marketing tools will be needed to improve services for the department customers. Also, additional facilities, staff and resources will be needed in the future to meet the increasing service level demands from a growing population.

Park Recommendations

Park recommendations have been formulated from city goals, staff input, and responses from the public input meetings and the needs assessment survey. 93.1% were supportive of continued development of walking and biking trails with connections to existing trails. The parks division plans to work with Pullman Civic Trust and other local groups for a fully connected trail system within Pullman. The trail system provides opportunities for Pullman citizens to safely walk or ride their bikes to school or work, or for their health, away from city traffic.

The continued development or acquisition of park property is deemed a high priority, based on the results of the needs assessment survey. Pullman citizens support land purchases to preserve open spaces/green spaces in the city. Remodel/repair of existing structures and youth/adult athletic fields, was also highly supported. This was further demonstrated by the passage of the 2007 Proposition 1 initiative, which is funding new restrooms at a number of the parks, along with new ball field lighting at the City Playfields.

Pullman city ordinance allows leashed dogs in the parks, with exception of Lawson Gardens, Harrision Tot Lot, and all city cemeteries. From public input an off leash Dog Park is needed in Pullman. The parks division plans to work with the Whitman County Humane Society in the planning of their new facility and WSU Veterinary School of Medicine in the possible development of a dog park connected with or to their facility.

Recreation Recommendations

The Recreation Division recommends offering recreation programs at the current level or higher. It is the constant goal of the division to be largely self-sustaining. The cost to implement program recommendations will vary depending on the extent of new programs offered, staffing levels, and community interest. Based on the community response to the 2008 Needs Assessment Survey, youth and aquatic programming are a main concern to community members. In addition, adult fitness programs are a high priority in order to improve the fitness and quality of life for Pullman residents. Those taking the survey are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with current program offerings and with how the department is meeting the community’s park and recreational needs. Community members expressed their favoritism for the continued

support of special programs, such as the Egg Hunt, Halloween Carnival and Concerts in the Park. The Recreation Division needs to continue balancing the multi-generational needs of Pullman residents, taking into account the various interests and needs of the different age populations.

Recreation programming is dependent on facility availability; a softball quad-plex would greatly enhance the department's ability to meet programming needs, including groups such as PYBA.

From the survey and public input meetings, 67.3% of the Pullman residents support the development of a new recreation/community center. At this time the recreation division has staff in three main locations, Pioneer Center, Pullman Aquatic & Fitness Center, and the Pullman Senior Center. By consolidating the recreation division into one central location, the department would be able to streamline administrative responsibilities and increase programming for the Pullman community. The City's capital improvement planning (pg 33) supports the construction of a community recreation center in 2020 or before, depending on the community support and funding opportunities.

2008 FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSED BY CONDITION AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

PROJECT	Est. Cost	Year
Ballfield Light: Install new ballfield lights at the City Playfields. Funded by 2007 Proposition 1.	**$525,000**	**2008**
City Playfield Restroom: The restroom facility is in poor condition and does not meet full access requirements; two new faculties are funded and will be constructed in 2008. Funded by 2007 Proposition 1.	**$65,000**	**2008**
Kruegel Park Restroom: The restroom facility is in poor condition and does not meet full access requirements; construction of two new facilities is underway. Funded by 2007 Proposition 1.	**$65,000**	**2008**
Maple Street Extension & Palouse Highway path: Funded by 2007 Proposition 1.	**$180,000**	**2008**
Sunnyside Restrooms: The restroom facility is in poor condition and does not meet full access requirements. Funded by 2007 Proposition 1.	**$65,000**	**2008**
Path Connections: Connection through Koppel Farms to Bishop Blvd on to Johnson Road with connecting bridge to Bishop Boulevard. Funding by 2007 Proposition 1, fund raising and RCO Grant.	**$900,000**	**2009**
Military Hill Landscape: Landscape mitigation banking. Funded by 2007 Proposition 1.	**$20,000**	**2009**
Itani Pavilions: Small pavilions/shelters located in the park for shade, and reflection. Metro Park improvement fund	**$33,000**	**2009-10**
Military Hill Park: Continue upgrade of play equipment and fields at the Park. Funded by Metro Park District Capital Improvement Funds.	**$60,000**	**2010**
Reaney Park Restroom: The restroom facility is in poor condition and does not meet full access requirements. Funding unknown.	**$65,000**	**2010**
Trail System: Continue upgrading signage along the city trial system and install bicycle racks. Possible funding through fund raising. The Pullman Civic Trust is currently working on this project.	**$30,000**	**2010**
RV Park: Expand the city's existing recreational vehicle park and build a faculty to provide showers and restrooms for recreational vehicle park users. Funding is unknown, possible lodging tax dollars.	**$300,000**	**2011**
Sunnyside Park Ball Field: Move and construct the PYBA ballfield. Possible revenue sources are fund raising and grants.	**$125,000**	**2011**
Sunnyside Arts Pavilion: Construct an Arts Pavilion at Sunnyside (this would first require moving of the PYBA ball field). Possible funding by fund raising, grants and lodging tax dollars.	**$2,500,000**	**2012**
Softball Quad Plex: In cooperation with WSU, a joint softball complex. Funding is unknown, possible lodging tax dollars.	**$2,500,000**	**2012**
Itani Linear Park: Connection greenway between Itani Park and Sunnyside Park. Funding through Metro Park District Capital Improvement Funds, private donation, and grants.	**$100,000**	**2014**
Reaney Park Spray Pool: Construct an outdoor spray pool or other aquatic feature at Reaney Park. Possible funding by grants and lodging tax dollars.	**$500,000**	**2012**
Kruegel Park Picnic Shelter: The picnic shelter at Kruegel Park had dry rot and will need to be replaced or reconditioned. Metro park dollars are currently being secured. Metro Park District Capital Improvement Funds.	**$250,000**	**2017**
Lawson Gardens Expansion: Completion of Lawson Gardens in accordance with master plan. Possible funding by gifts, grants and lodging tax dollars.	**$3,500,000**	**Ongoing (Completion: 2018)**
Community Recreation Center: Consolidate recreation programs to one location, housing, weight rooms, indoor walking track, kitchen, meeting/ program rooms, and administrative offices with equipment storage. Possible funding by bond issue.	**$8,000,000**	**2020**

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