

Chapter 8

Parks and Open Space

Local parks, natural areas, recreational facilities and open spaces are a part of the urban form that makes a small town unique. They provide venues for community events. They create opportunities for residents and visitors to interact with each other, play, make friends and create memories. These public gathering spaces may be the site of a family picnic, a parade, a Friday night football game, a quiet walk with the dog along a creekside trail, a reflective moment at the veteran's memorial, a place to view the beauty of fall colors or listen to the rustle of leaves. Public parks and open spaces are essential elements of a livable community.

As Scio grows in the next two decades, the city will upgrade existing public places. Community leaders will invest in parks, trails and open spaces to serve a growing population. This chapter reviews Scio's existing parks and recreation facilities and provides goals and policies to guide development through the year 2035.

8.1 Statewide Planning Goals related Parks and Open Space

Each city in Oregon is required to provide land for public uses, protect natural resources, plan for the development of parks and open spaces, and provide recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors. Statewide planning goals Goal 2-“Land Use”, Goal 5-“Natural Resources”, Goal 8-“Recreational Needs” and Goal 12-“Transportation” each have elements in their goals, implementation policies and administrative rules that must be considered by local officials when planning for local parks and recreational opportunities.

Goal 2: Land Use Planning:

Public uses, including school facilities, recreational fields and street rights-of-way comprise 33.7% of all land uses in Scio. Goal 2 requires the City to plan for all types of land uses including the provision of an adequate supply of land for public purposes. The Scio Comprehensive Plan map and Zoning Map include a Public “P” plan designation and zone which are used to regulate existing public uses and preserve publicly owned properties for public uses. The City anticipates that 25% of the buildable land in the Scio UGB will be used for public purposes.

Goal 5: Natural Resources, Scenic and Historic Areas and Open Spaces:

The purpose of Goal 5 is “*To protect natural resources and conserve scenic and historic areas and open spaces.*” Cities are required to adopt plans to protect natural resources and conserve scenic, historic and open space resources. Chapter 5 “Natural Resources” of the *Scio Comprehensive Plan* addresses Goal 5 requirements and focuses on the protection of wetlands, groundwater resources and riparian corridors along Thomas Creek and Peters Ditch. Chapter 6 “Cultural and Historic Resources” of the plan addresses historic and cultural resources.

Goal 8: Recreational Needs:

The purpose of Goal 8 is *“To satisfy the recreation needs of the citizens of the state and visitors, and where appropriate, to provide for the siting of necessary recreational facilities, including destination resorts.”* Local governments are required to plan for parks and recreational facilities in coordination with private enterprise, non-profits, state and federal agencies. Parks and recreational facilities should be planned for and developed in such quantity, quality and locations consistent with the availability of resources.

Under Goal 8 cities are recommended to:

- inventory recreation needs,
- identify recreation opportunities,
- coordinate parks and recreation plans with other agencies,
- coordinate with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP),
- consider energy consequences of facility development, and
- encourage the use of non-motorized recreational activities.

Local governments planning for the development of new parks and recreation facilities or redevelopment of existing facilities are encouraged to give priority to:

- recreation needs in high population areas,
- users with limited mobility and finances,
- maximize the conservation of energy in the transportation of people to parks and recreation facilities and also in the use of energy in the facility,
- minimize environmental deterioration,
- provide recreational facilities to the public at nominal costs, and
- meet the needs of visitors to the state.

Goal 8 encourages local governments to adopt measures to finance and acquire park and recreation facilities. Cities are encouraged to consider various techniques for land acquisition including, but not limited to, fee simple site acquisition, conservation easements, development rights acquisition and subdivision park land dedication.

Goal 11: Public Facilities and Goal 12: Transportation:

Goals 11 and 12 and the accompanying administrative rules in OAR 660-011 requires cities larger than 2,500 persons to prepare and adopt public facility plans and OAR 660-012 requires cities to prepare and adopt transportation system plans. Facility plans include (1) an assessment of the existing facilities, including deficiencies and needed improvements; (2) assessment of vulnerability to natural hazards; (3) updated system-wide facility maps; (4) timing of when public facility improvements will be needed; (5) cost estimates; (6) a prioritized capital improvements list (5-7 year list) and (7) a financing plan listing potential local, state and federal funding sources and opportunities. As a city under 2,500 people Scio is exempt from most of the public facility planning requirements. The transportation planning rule, division 12, requires cities to plan for all

types of transportation facilities including multi-purpose paths and trails which serve a recreational and transportation purpose.

The City is encouraged to prepare and adopt a parks master plan that generally complies with statewide planning goal requirements. The adoption of a parks master plan will enable the City to effectively compete for grants from the Oregon Parks Department, Oregon Department of Transportation and foundations.

8.2 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) prepares a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan every five years. In 2008, OPRD released the 2008-2012 SCORP and in 2013, the 2013-17 SCORP. Local park plans are encouraged to be consistent with the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

OPRD has a key role in planning, conducting research and providing guidance to local governments and private recreation providers on contemporary parks issues. The SCORP enables Oregon to qualify for funding from the U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a federal program established in 1964 to create parks, preserve open spaces and wildlife habitats, and enhance recreational opportunities. The LWCF allots federal grant money to states, which in turn, provides grants to local parks and recreation agencies. To qualify for an LWCF federal appropriation, a state must complete a SCORP study every five years. The plan also provides guidance for other OPRD-administered grant programs including the Local Government, County Opportunity and Recreational Trails grant programs.

SCORP Research and Findings:

The 2008 SCORP summarizes demographic changes in Oregon during the 1990's and 2000's, describes how Oregonians use parks and recreational facilities and reviews national and statewide recreation trends. The 2008 SCORP recommends local recreation providers adapt to four significant trends on how Oregonians recreate and use public parks facilities. Those trends are: (1) fewer Oregon youth are learning and using outdoor skills, (2) Oregon's rapidly aging population will generate different demands on parks and recreation facilities; (3) Oregon is increasingly diverse, and (4) there is an overall physical activity crisis in the state.

In 2013, OPRD released the 2013-2017 SCORP. It includes a wealth of research data about the recreational activities, desires and needs of Oregonians. The 2013 SCORP includes results of a 2011 Oregon State University survey of almost 9,000 Oregon residents (*Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis*) and another survey of parks and recreation service providers that identifies park facility priorities and funding needs through 2020. The updated 2013 SCORP also provides guidelines for local governments on parks facility standards, development and maintenance of sustainable parks and a tool-kit for the development of local parks and recreation facility plans.

Outdoor Recreation Trends:

1. *Oregon's population is rapidly aging.*

By 2030, 20% of Oregon's population will be over the age of 65. The 2000 US Census showed 12.4% of Oregonians were senior citizens (age 65+). The percentage of seniors increased to 13.9% in 2010 and 16.0% by 2014.¹ With an aging population comes health and economic challenges. Parks and recreation providers play a key role in providing opportunities for senior citizens to maintain good health, through such activities as walking, biking or active participation in outdoor leisure sports and recreational programs.

The 2013 SCORP report presents several findings regarding the recreation activities and needs of senior citizens. Seniors have a strong desire to stay physically active and engaged with their community.

- a. Walking was the top physical activity for respondents age 40-79.
- b. Senior citizens engage in nature viewing, bird watching and RV/tent camping.
- c. Increasing participation rates in active outdoor recreation such as camping, biking, and water oriented activities.
- c. Survey respondents want clean and well-maintained parks, walking/hiking trails close to home, and more free-of-charge recreational opportunities.
- d. Retirees are willing to volunteer their time and expertise, but are not always sure how or where they can volunteer in the local community.

Local parks and recreation agencies can provide facilities which enable older Americans to stay physically active and provide opportunities for citizens to volunteer their time. Studies show that volunteering helps older adults maintain physical and mental health. More effort is required to convey information to senior citizens about close-to-home volunteer opportunities.

2. *Few Oregon youth are learning outdoor skills.*

Although Oregon has abundant natural resources and opportunities to recreate outdoors, youth are gravitating towards an indoor virtual reality, whether from surfing the Internet, using social media, or playing video games. Compared to prior studies, the 2013 SCORP data shows that participation in outdoor recreation opportunities such as camping, fishing, and hunting has dramatically decreased. National and statewide surveys forecast this trend will continue. Health professionals agree it is important for youth to be engaged in outdoor activity. Research has shown that adults have a greater chance of being physically active in adulthood if they participated in outdoor recreation when they were young.

¹ *Oregon Demographic Trends*, Office of Economic Analysis, Oregon Department of Administrative Services, State of Oregon, December 2012 and U. S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, Annual Estimates of Resident Populations, 2010 and 2014.

Parent and youth surveys conducted as part of the 2008 SCORP study revealed parents believe their children should spend more time outdoors. The study found there are certain factors that limit youth participation in outdoor activities: lack of information about available recreational opportunities and the cost to participate (especially for low-income families). The survey of Oregon's youth found they are most interested in being able to play outdoor field games, followed by biking and camping. Oregon's youth are aware the state has extensive year-round outdoor recreation opportunities and expressed a desire for more opportunities to play or recreate outdoors in small groups or with friends. Recreation activities of interest ranged from fishing, hiking and river tubing in the summer to skiing and sledding in the winter. Despite the expressed interest, the actual participation rates in these outdoor activities are declining.

The SCORP concludes that providing fun and engaging outdoor activities to Oregon's youth will help to reestablish a foundation that has been symbolic to Oregon's history. Active involvement in outdoor recreation builds a personal connection between the individual and the environment that grows more important as the individual grows older. To help reverse the declining levels of youth participation in outdoor recreation activities, public and private parks and recreation providers need to develop opportunities that draw families and youth out of homes and into nature. The SCORP offers several recommendations to local and regional recreation agencies:

- a. Inventory the local private, non-profit, and governmental family and youth facilities/programs and assess whether they are appropriate for today's youth.
- b. Develop relationships with the above facilities/programs to ensure they are running at their highest potential. It is possible that more information is needed to increase awareness about the opportunities, including low-cost or free options that all families can afford. Extol the importance of developing outdoor skills and maintaining physical activity.
- c. Strive to make sure outdoor public spaces are safe for youth and families.

3. *Oregon is becoming increasingly diverse.*

The share of Oregon's population that is Hispanic, Asian, and African-American will grow from 13% in 2000 to 22% in 2020. SCORP research has shown that non-white groups are less likely than whites to participate in outdoor activities and forego the many health and social benefits that outdoor recreation can offer.

As the minority populations grow in number, there is a need for a greater understanding of the factors that limit the number of Hispanic, Asian, and African-American community members who visit park and recreational facilities. The SCORP study included surveys mailed to a random sample of Hispanic and Asian households to gather information about the respective group's recreational needs and concerns. The factors that led to spending fewer days participating in outdoor activities than whites were lack of information (such as knowledge of age/gender-appropriate programs), safety concerns, and the costs to participate. The survey did show an interest in outdoor recreation if these constraints were overcome.

OPRD conducted focus groups that centered on the opportunities and constraints of increasing outdoor activity among non-white groups. Their recommendations to local governmental and recreational agencies are:

- a. Develop recreational facilities that are large enough to host extended families. This is especially important for picnic facilities.
- b. Recruit a diverse staff and establish relationships with trusted community leaders that can help enhance awareness of regional opportunities to respective groups. Some of their ideas might be to include non-English languages in pamphlets and website that target overlooked groups or create age/gender appropriate recreation teams.

4. *More Oregon residents are becoming physically unhealthy.*

Oregon's population has become unprecedentedly obese. This can be correlated with the declining rates of physical activity. Health effects from obesity are significant; overweight and obese individuals have a higher incidence of chronic diseases such as coronary heart disease and type-2 diabetes. The health costs of being physically inactive and not maintaining a good diet are not just limited to physical well-being, as mental illnesses such as depression have increased as well. These findings are given a firmer foundation when it is noted that a greater number of Oregonians (56%) are physically active and have lower rates of chronic diseases than sedentary adults (44%).

There is good news in the SCORP findings that counteract the national and state trend towards increasing physical malaise. The study reports that *“Public facilities such as trails, swimming pools and parks that are conveniently located have been found to be positively associated with vigorous physical activity in a number of studies, among both adults and children.”*

Regions of the state that have more hiking or urban trail miles per household had higher rates of physical activity among the local population. This finding was from the October 2007 report from Oregon State University, *“Health and Recreation Linkages in Oregon: Physical Activity, Overweight, and Obesity”*. The report also stated health benefits accumulate quickly as the movement towards physical activity begins, and even obese residents who maintain levels of activity have lower morbidity and mortality than normal weight individuals who have a lower physical activity regime.

The state encourages local parks and recreation providers to focus on providing recreational facilities that can positively influence increased physical activity to the population, in order to help decrease rising obesity and health costs in Oregon. One of the roles a small city can play is to support an environment that is healthful to residents and visitors and limits stress-inducing factors that beleaguer the population. Local plan policies may:

- a. Promote physical activity by developing pedestrian and bicycle paths through local parks and open space that are close to home.
- b. Develop a variety of recreation facilities, equipment and features to entice various users to use local parks as a destination, no matter the occasion or circumstances.

- c. Market to at-risk groups. Provide information on the presence of existing trails, parks and recreation facilities and promote the health benefits of regular outdoor exercise.

These trends reflect how Oregon has been changing over the last decade and it is important for *Scio's Parks Master Plan* to bring into focus how the City can aid in solving inherent challenges that come with an aging population, declining youth outdoor activity, diversifying demographics, and rising rates of obesity.

2013-2017 SCORP “ENSURING OREGON’S OUTDOOR LEGACY”

In 2013, OPRD adopted a new five year Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan entitled “*Ensuring Oregon’s Outdoor Legacy*.” The 2013-2017 SCORP is the current five-year plan for Oregon outdoor recreation. The plan provides an overview of the role and responsibilities of federal, state, and local providers of recreational facilities and services. Local providers are identified as county, municipal, special district, school and private sector.

The 2013 SCORP states the mission of local recreation providers should be to provide natural areas, parks and recreation facilities, services and programs to meet the needs of the population it serves. As a small city, Scio does not have the staffing and resources to provide recreational programs and services. However, it can focus on providing quality park facilities such as neighborhood parks, bicycle and walking trails, playgrounds and sports fields. The City can also support local schools, the Scio Youth Club, the Lamb and Wool Fair and other non-profit organizations that provide or sponsor recreational programs for area youth and adults.

Mission of the
City of Scio as a
Local Recreation Provider

To provide natural areas, high quality park and recreation facilities, services and programs that meet the needs of the diverse population it serves.

The 2013-2017 SCORP provides survey data on outdoor recreation use by Oregonians and recent recreational trends. Based on the data, the SCORP provides policy guidance to the state’s recreation providers on how to plan for and address recreational needs of Oregonians in the next ten years. It recommends cities and counties adopt park and recreation plans and policies that address Oregon’s current recreational needs and identified priorities.

The SCORP-“*Ensuring Oregon’s Outdoor Legacy*” can be found at the OPRD website:
http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018_SCORP/2013-2017_Oregon_SCORP.pdf

During the preparation of the 2013-2017 SCORP, OPRD surveyed almost 9,000 Oregonians to identify their recreational activities and priorities and then tabulated the results on both a statewide and a county-by-county basis. Survey respondents identified the values and benefits of services delivered by Oregon’s park and recreation providers. The highest rated values and benefits were: (1) improving physical health and fitness, (2) making the local community a better place to live, and (3) preserving open space and the environment.

1. Linn County Survey Results

OPRD surveyed public recreation providers and Oregon residents in 2011. Two survey instruments were used for recreation providers: the first survey was for entities which provide recreational facilities and services inside urban growth boundaries and the second survey for agencies that provide recreational facilities and services in rural areas. Agencies were asked to identify the highest priority needs for funding “close to home” recreation facilities during the next five years.

Oregon residents were asked a similar question. Residents were asked to rate 17 recreational priorities using the question: *What should local parks and forests in or near your community invest in? For each of the following amenities [17 were listed], please indicate the level of priority for future investment.* Both surveys used a rating of 1 to 5, with a rating of 5.0 indicating a high priority and 1.0 indicating a low priority. The following table shows the compilation of results of the highest priorities for Linn County.

Table P-1
2011 SCORP Survey Results
Recreation Provider and Oregon Resident
Recreational Facility Priorities in Linn County

Public Recreation Provider Survey Linn County Recreation Providers		Oregon Resident Survey Results Linn County Resident Responses	
Close to Home Priorities	Score	Needed Recreation Facility	Score
Children's playgrounds	4.1	Soft Surface walking trails	3.8
Children's natural play areas	3.6	Public access sites to waterways	3.7
Group day use facilities	3.3	Children's natural play areas	3.4
		Small group picnic shelters	3.4

The priorities of residents in Linn County were similar to the priorities of all Oregonians, with a few minor exceptions. The top priorities from the statewide results were:

- Soft surface walking trails.
- Public access to waterways.
- Nature and wildlife viewing areas.
- Playgrounds with natural play materials
- Picnic areas for small groups
- Off-street bicycle trails.

2. Statewide Issues Facing Parks and Recreation Providers: Funding and Sustainability

Another key finding of the 2013-2017 SCORP is that “*Funding maintenance of existing parks and recreation facilities and funding for the construction and development of new parks and recreation facilities*” poses a major challenge to local parks and recreation providers. Parks and recreation providers and OPRD identified the following issues confronting them during the next ten years:

- a. Provide adequate funds for routine and preventative maintenance.
- b. Fund major rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities that are at the end of their useful life.
- c. Add recreational trails and trail connectivity between parks and communities.
- d. Recognize and strengthen park and recreation role in increasing physical activities in Oregon's population.
- e. Recommend a standard of sustainable park practices for outdoor recreation providers.

OPRD used these issues to develop application and funding guidelines for various grant programs including the Local Government Grants Program and Recreational Trails Grant programs. As cities look at their existing park facilities and plan for future park improvements, they will be expected to incorporate best management and sustainable management practices so that they can continuously maintain high quality park facilities.

8.3 Federal, State and Linn County Parks

The City is fortunate to be located within a one-hour drive of federal, state and county recreation sites that are located near the North Santiam River, South Santiam River, federally managed reservoirs and within the Willamette National Forest.

The North Santiam Canyon from Lyons east to the Santiam Pass has a wealth of local, state and federal parks and recreation sites. Beginning with Linn County's John Neal regional park a traveler headed east on Oregon Hwy 22 encounters a wide variety of passive and active recreational sites every few miles. North Santiam State Park, BLM's Fisherman's Bend campground, Detroit Lake State Park, Marion County and BLM day use parks along the Little North Fork and the main stem of the North Santiam River all serve local residents and visitors. These parks include developed campgrounds, the Opal Creek wilderness area, waysides, small riverside recreation sites, boat launches, forest lands, natural areas and winter recreation sites.

Scio's residents benefit from the close proximity of these facilities and the multitude of outdoor recreation opportunities they provide. To the south and east of Lebanon and Sweet Home, the South Santiam River corridor offers a similar variety of parks near Foster Reservoir, Green Peter Reservoir and inside the Willamette National Forest.

Linn County's has a well-developed regional park system with over 1,350 acres of park land with many of them within a one-half hour drive of Scio. These parks are designed to serve the needs of Linn County residents.

The *Linn County Parks and Recreation Master Plan* (Linn County Parks Department, prepared by MIG, Inc, January 2009) sets forth the County's vision: *to provide a diversity of parks and recreation opportunities that support a healthy community, protect the natural environment, and enhance quality of life for all residents.*

Linn County anticipates it will achieve its vision for the county's parks and recreation facilities by focusing on the following desired outcomes:

- *Promote health and wellness*
- *Provide diverse opportunities*
- *Protect natural and historical resources*
- *Achieve financing stability*
- *Develop community partnerships*
- *Reinvest in existing parks and recreation facilities.*²

Linn County Parks Vision

Provide a diversity of parks and recreation opportunities that support a healthy community, protect the natural environment, and enhance quality of life for all

1. Existing Linn County Park Facilities:

The County Parks Department has several park facilities in the north end of Linn County. They include two regional parks, the Buell-Miller, Lyons/Mehama and Stayton boat ramps, and an undeveloped site just north of the City of Scio.

- John Neal Park (Lyons)*: A 27.6 acre camp-ground with 36 camp sites, a group picnic area and day-use picnic facilities situated next to the North Santiam River in Lyons. John Neal Park is 16 miles east of Scio. This park is a regional facility that serves recreation needs of all residents of Linn County.
- Roaring River Park*: A 27.9 acre park with three group picnic areas, day-use picnic facilities, hiking trails and fishing pond located adjacent to Roaring River. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife operates the nearby Roaring River Fish Hatchery for rainbow trout, summer and winter steelhead. Roaring River Park is 11 miles southeast of Scio. Linn County intends to prepare a redevelopment plan for this park by 2020. The park will continue to function as a day use park, but the County anticipates it will upgrade the amenities to the public. Potential improvements include redeveloped trails, improved playgrounds, multi-use sports fields and courts to make park more attractive for family gatherings. Special uses and group uses will be evaluated in the planning process.
- Larwood Wayside*: Larwood Wayside is located at the junction of Crabtree Creek and Roaring River. The wayside includes the historic Larwood covered bridge and water wheel, a small picnic site and a popular swimming hole. Larwood Wayside is 10.5 miles southeast of Scio.
- Boat Ramps*: Two boat ramps provide access to the North Santiam River and are accessed from the Stayton-Scio Road, 5 and 8 miles north of Scio. The Lyons-Mehama boat ramp is located on the south side of the North Santiam River bridge on Hwy 226 in Lyons, 16 miles east of Scio.

² Linn County Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Linn County Parks Department, prepared by MIG, Inc. page ii.

- i. Thomas Creek Site (outside Scio): In 2015, Linn County purchased a 5-acre site just north of Scio on Stayton-Scio Road with frontage on the west side of Thomas Creek. The property was acquired because it had suffered repetitive flood insurance losses. Consequently, deed restrictions require the site to be used for parks and open space and limits development to ensure flood waters can flow through the site. A hydraulic analysis will be needed prior to any excavation, fill or grading. New structures must be flood-proofed and cannot increase the base flood elevation. The Linn County Parks Department does not have any immediate plans for the use of this site and will look to the Scio community to provide recommendations. Potential uses could include leaving the site as an undeveloped wayside and day-use access to Thomas Creek or minimal development with picnic area and a small restroom facility.³

Map P-1
Existing Linn County Parks in North Linn County



Map from Linn County Parks and Recreation Master Plan, p. 87
courtesy of the Linn County Parks Department

³ Interview w/ Brian Carroll, Linn County Parks Director, December 1, 2015.

2. County-wide Recreation Trends and Park Facility Needs





In a 2015 interview with the City of Scio staff, Linn County Parks Director Brian Carroll identified several county-wide recreation trends, opportunities and park facility needs.

- **River Recreation.** Recreation use on both the North Santiam River and South Santiam River is expected to increase as more boaters, kayakers, fisherman and rafters take advantage of the available public access. The County anticipates it will acquire and improve public access points to these two rivers.
- **Family and Large Group Gatherings.** The demand for large group recreation facilities is increasing as the demographics of the state changes. Community groups and extended families, such as Hispanic and Russians, actively use Linn County's regional parks and local community halls. Linn County and its cities will be expected to provide group picnic areas, multi-use sports fields, playground and outdoor recreation venues.
- **Multi-Purpose Fields and Sports Facilities.** Youth, high school and adult soccer programs have grown rapidly in the State of Oregon. Organized youth t-ball, softball and baseball leagues are constantly looking for practice and game fields. Sports such as field hockey, ultimate Frisbee, disc golf and lacrosse are expected to grow. Community access to existing public school athletic facilities will become more limited due to concerns with security and the increasing use of these facilities by middle-school and high-school sports programs. Partnerships will be needed between cities, county, and school districts to plan for and provide multi-use sports fields and facilities.
- **Special Event Venues.** The Linn County parks staff is receptive to the County owning and developing a special event site near one of the County's small cities, if they can reach an agreement with a local city or non-profit organization for development, management and maintenance of the property. If located close to a city, the site could include a festival grounds plus more urban amenities such as sports facilities, group shelters and play areas.
- **Pedestrian and Multi-Use Trails:** Linn County parks staff encourages its cities to plan for greenways, linear parks and trails to enhance recreation opportunities and enhance livability and adopt development requirements to provide these facilities. They note that unless planning is initiated prior to development or redevelopment, the opportunities to develop connecting trails from residential neighborhoods to schools, business areas and community facilities may be lost. Linn County staff also referenced research provided by the Rails to Trails Conservancy finds security concerns about personal safety, security and vandalism are overstated.

8.4 Existing Parks, Recreational Facilities and Open Spaces

The City of Scio has a surprising variety of school recreational facilities, non-profit event and meeting halls, and some open spaces. The City of Scio has several pocket park venues but does not have either a community park or developed playground in a neighborhood park.




Table P-2
Public Parks and City Recreation Facilities in Scio, Oregon

	Park	Location	Owner	Size (Acres)	Type of Park	Facilities
1	 Chapin Park	NE 1 st Ave	City	0.34	Pocket	2 picnic tables, gravel parking area (6 cars), raceway overflow, Thomas Creek overlook.
2	 Bates Park	NW Beech & NW 3 rd	City	0.14	Pocket	1 picnic table; 1 bench, lawn & sequoia tree,
3	 Thriftway – N. Main St. Alley	Thriftway N. Main	City	0.05	Pocket	Green space w/ mini-covered bridge, picnic table, Adirondack chair
4	 Veterans Memorial Park	SE 1 st & Hwy 226	City	0.08	Pocket	Veterans Memorial;

	Park	Location	Owner	Size (Acres)	Type of Park	Facilities
5	 Thomas Creek Estates Park	SW 2 nd Ave	City	1.61	Neighborhood	1 picnic table, 1 bench and lawn area; Thomas Creek riparian corridor;
6	Wayside Park Area	Stayton-Scio Rd.	Linn County	5.44	Rural Wayside	Undeveloped site with direct access to Thomas Creek
7	Hamilton Way	Hamilton Way & Jefferson-Scio Drive	Linn County	2.65	ROW	Undeveloped – old right of way

Table P-3
School and Non-Profit Recreation Sites and Facilities
In Scio, Oregon

	Park Name	Location	Owner	Size (Acres)	Type	Facilities
1	 Centennial Elementary School	NW 1 st Ave	Scio School District	4.51	Playground & Athletic Fields	Baseball field (MS); Football/Soccer field (MS); play structure; jungle gym; 2 softball field / little league fields; Swings (14); 1 basketball court/tennis court (no nets).
2	Scio Middle School	NW 1 st Ave	Scio School District	1.01	Playground & Athletic Fields	2 basketball courts; softball/baseball field; grass area; Swings (6);
3	Scio High School	Stayton-Scio Rd.	Scio School District	11.30	Athletic Fields	Football Stadium & Track; Varsity baseball field; Varsity softball field.
4	 Lamb & Wool Fair site	NE 1 st Ave	Lamb & Wool Fair	0.43	Event Grounds	Carol Bates Memorial Stage, Show Arena, Lamb & Wool Fair grounds
5	Buckaroo Grounds	Gilkey Rd.	Scio Buckaroos	6.68	Event Grounds	Outdoor Horse Arena, concessions and several outbuildings

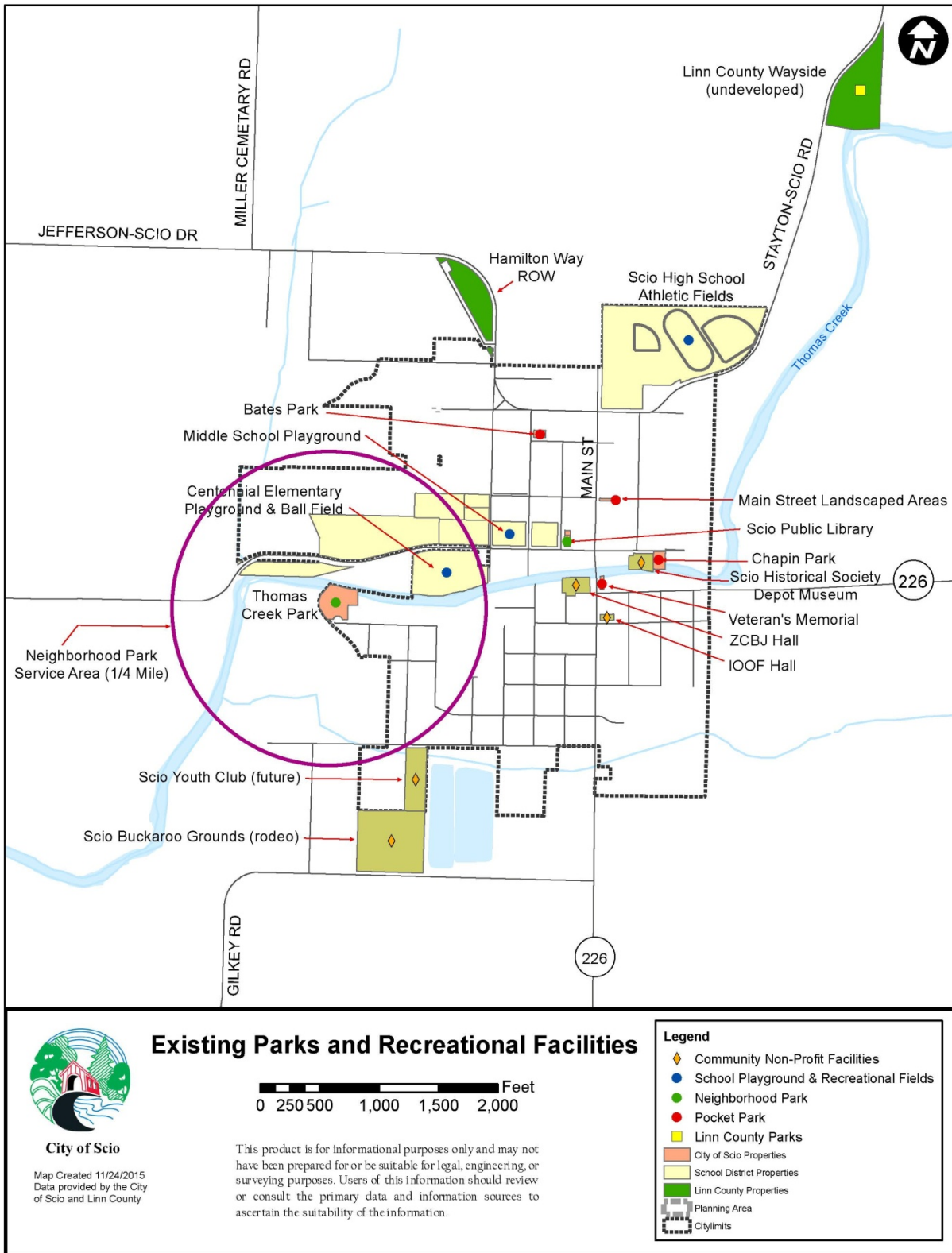
6	 Depot Museum	NE 1 st Ave	Scio Historical Society	0.57	Museum	Railroad Depot Museum & Chapin Park area to east; Overlook on Thomas Creek.
7	 IOOF Hall	Hwy 226	Odd Fellows & Rebekahs	0.14	Civic / Community Hall	Main Room 34 x 40 (1360 sf) Capacity: 49 persons Kitchen area
8	 ZCBJ Hall	Hwy 226	Lamb and Wool Fair	0.70	Civic / Community Hall	Main Room 44 x 70 (3,080 sf) Capacity: 299 persons Kitchen and stage area
9	Scio Youth Club	SW 6 th Ave	SYC	2.09		Undeveloped – planned for future youth club facilities

Existing Recreation Programs and Activities

The Scio Youth Club provides recreational activities for youth from age 4 through 6th grade. Sports activities include soccer (PreK-4th grade), flag football (1st – 4th grade), tackle football (5th – 6th grade), volleyball (3rd – 6th grade), boys and girls basketball (1st – 6th grade), t-ball (Pre-School to Kindergarten), coach pitch baseball (1st – 2nd grade) and baseball (3rd – 6th grade). Individuals and Linn-Benton Community College periodically offer aerobics or other recreational classes in the community.

The Scio School District provides nine athletic programs for high school students, eight athletic programs for middle school students and offers an outdoor school program to all 6th graders. The sports activities include: cheer, cross-country, volleyball, and football in the fall; boys and girls basketball and wrestling in the winter; and baseball, softball and track in the spring. In addition to athletics, the schools offer music, drama, Future Farmers of America, forestry, student leadership, clubs and other co-curricular offerings.

Map P-2 Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities in Scio



8.5 Urban Park System and Park Development Standards

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has developed a recommended Parkland Classification System and suggested Level of Service (LOS) standards as part of the 2013-2017 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan “Ensuring Oregon’s Outdoor Legacy”. Overall, the guidelines recommend Oregon’s cities plan for 6.25 to 12.5 acres of park land per 1,000 population.

OPRD’s parkland classification system identifies 11 different types of parks that range from the smallest pocket park of less than ¼ acre in size to the largest nature park with hundreds or thousands of acres. Each parkland type has a particular purpose and function. Not all types of parkland will be developed in every community.

In Scio, the City has considered several factors including (1) the close proximity nearby school, county, state and federal parks and recreation facilities, (2) resident needs and desires, (3) land availability, (4) funding opportunities and limitations, and (5) local priorities in making decisions on what parks are appropriate for the City of Scio. The community is fortunate to have local non-profit organizations manage two community halls, a fairground and a museum. The Scio School District makes school playgrounds and athletic fields available for public use.

The City of Scio officials have concluded four types of public park facilities are needed to serve local residents:

- (1) pocket park,
- (2) neighborhood park
- (3) community park, and
- (4) special use park.

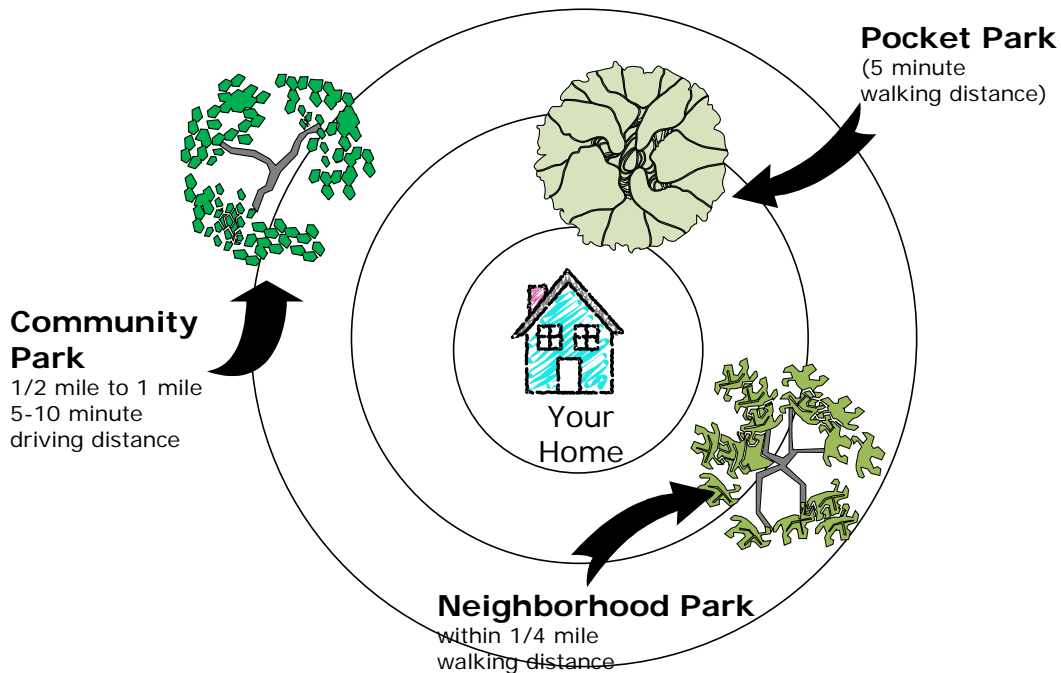
These parks will be coupled with the non-profit recreational sites, existing open spaces and recreational trails to create an integrated community-based park and open space network. Table P-1 shows each type of park, recommended size and number of parks recommended for the community.

Table P-4
Local Park Standards for the City of Scio

	Park Type	Typical Park Size	Acres Per 1,000 People	Recommended Acres Scio's 2035 Population 1,052 persons
1	Community Park	10-100 acres	2 to 6 acres	1 park 10+ acres
2	Neighborhood Parks	2-20 acres	1 to 2 acres	2 parks 1-2 acres each
3	Pocket Parks	¼ acre up to 2 acres	0.25 to 0.50 acres	Multiple sites 1+ acres total
4	Special Use Parks: Veteran's Memorial, Skate Parks, Dog Park, etc.	Varies by type of use		Based on community need or incorporate with other park / open space

Park size, service area, and population served increase with the type of park. As the size of the park increases, the number of parks needed in a category provided decreases. The following graphic illustrates the time/distance relationship between a home and the different types of local parks.

Map P-3
The Urban Park System
Time / Distance Relationship from Home to the Urban Park



Park Land Classifications and Standards for the City of Scio

COMMUNITY PARK:

Size: 2 to 6 acres per 1,000 population. Recommended size: 10 to 20 acres.

Need: 1 Park with 10+ acres

Purpose: The community park is designed to serve all of the residents of the city with a variety of facilities including group picnic shelters, playgrounds, athletic fields, restrooms, off-street parking and festival grounds. Natural areas, open spaces and recreational trails may be incorporated with a community park in order to protect waterways, drainage corridors, forested areas and/or wildlife habitats.

Location: Serves a surrounding area with a two-mile radius and is located within a five to ten minute drive of any residence in the City. Community parks may be located anywhere in the Scio UGB. Park users may reach the park on foot, bicycle or by motor vehicle.

Facilities: A community park provides facilities to serve local residents, visitors and may provide selected large facilities that serve county residents. Athletic fields, group shelters and picnic facilities, camping, open space, trails, paths, natural areas, community center, and/or special event venues may be developed. Community parks have restrooms and vehicle parking lots to accommodate community-wide events. If a community park also serves as a neighborhood park it should have play equipment and amenities for both pre-school and elementary age children.

Existing Community Parks

- Scio does not have a community park.
- The Lamb and Wool Fair grounds and the Buckaroos site on Gilkey Road serve as special event spaces, but do not function as a community park.
- The Scio School District fields on SW 1st Avenue across from Centennial Elementary School and the Scio Middle School provide youth athletic fields, softball diamonds, basketball courts, a play structure and swings. These are not available for public use during school days.

Community Park Policies:

- The City should seek to acquire a 10+ acre site to develop a new community park or a combined community/neighborhood park.
- Duplication of facilities should be avoided. If community park facilities are available at schools, development of duplicate facilities at the community park will be discouraged.

Siting Standards:

A community park should be located along a collector or arterial street and be of sufficient size and shape to accommodate sports fields, courts, playgrounds, restrooms and pathway systems to connect to nearby neighborhoods. If located near Thomas Creek or Peters Ditch the park design should allow for storm water detention to help minimize flooding impacts on nearby properties.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK:

Size: 1 to 2 acres per 1,000 population. Recommended size: 2 to 20 acres

Need: 2 Neighborhood Parks – Each park site should be 1 to 3 acres.

Purpose: The neighborhood park is the backbone of the small town park system. Each park serves a small geographic area and residential neighborhood. They are designed for children and adults. Day-use recreation is the staple; play equipment, walking trails, benches, lawns and shaded open space are the norm.

Location: Serves a surrounding residential neighborhood within a ¼ mile radius. Neighborhood parks are accessible to residents without crossing major roads or thoroughfares; they are a short 5-minute walk or bike ride from home. Walking and bicycle trails connect neighborhood parks to the rest of the community. If located next to a school, some facilities can be shared.

Facilities: Neighborhood parks are furnished with play equipment, either a hard surfaced and/or soft-surface all-weather play areas, benches, tables, small shelter, picnic facilities, outdoor basketball or sports courts, multipurpose field or grassy area (if space is available), trees, vegetation, and lighting. Neighborhood parks may be as small as ½ acre, but are recommended to be a minimum of two acres in size to allow for the provision of an open grassy area as multi-use field or play area.

Comments: Neighborhood parks are primarily pedestrian parks; on-street parking should be provided. Restrooms are not normally provided in neighborhood parks.

Existing Neighborhood Parks:

- Thomas Creek Estates Park is a 1.6 acre neighborhood park located in the Thomas Creek Estates subdivision on the south side of Thomas Creek. It is partially developed with an open grass area, benches and picnic table.
- The Scio School District's playground facilities near Centennial Elementary School and Scio Middle School function as a neighborhood park site.

Neighborhood Park Policies:

- Neighborhood parks will be provided within a ¼- mile radius of all residents of the city.
- Acquisition of land and development of neighborhood park facilities will be targeted to serve existing and future residential areas. Neighborhood parks are recommended for the following locations:
 - Southwest: Acquire land to increase the size of the city park in Thomas Creek Estates.
 - Southeast: Acquire land to create a new neighborhood park (1-3 acres) or a community park (10+ acres) south of Thomas Creek.
- Duplication of facilities should be avoided. If a school park is already available to serve a neighborhood, then further development of a city neighborhood park will be discouraged.
- Restroom facilities will not normally be provided in neighborhood parks because of the high development and maintenance costs.

- Neighborhood park facilities are for daily activities or spontaneous use by residents. Highly organized, competitive sports areas will be discouraged.

Siting Standards:

Neighborhood parks are typically located within residential areas with direct frontage on a public street and with connecting pathway systems and bike lanes.

POCKET PARK:

- Size:** 0.10 to 0.50 acres per 1,000 population. No minimum size.
- Purpose:** A pocket park is the smallest municipal park. It may be located in an alley, a postage stamp size lot or be as large as ½ acre to 1 acre in size. Pocket parks may have a special use or limited recreational amenities. Examples include a downtown plaza, public art space, landscaped area, picnic spot, veteran's memorial or a playground serving a small neighborhood.
- Need:** Scio has several pocket parks scattered throughout the community. The existing pocket parks need regular maintenance and will benefit from minor improvements. There is not a need for any additional pocket parks, with the exception of a downtown park area with parking and restrooms to serve visitors.
- Location:** Serves a surrounding area within a one-eighth mile radius. A mini-park or pocket park should be selected for its unique aesthetic features (waterways, public buildings, commercial areas) and designed to serve pedestrians during daytime hours and/or provide an attractive open space area within a developed area of the community.
- Facilities:** Pocket parks may be furnished with benches, tables, and interpretive displays, memorials, walkways, murals, small play areas, lighting, fountains, restrooms, trees, and low maintenance vegetation.

Existing Pocket Parks:

- Chapin Park is a 0.34 acre green space and creek overlook on the south side of Thomas Creek next to the Historical Society Museum on SE 1st Avenue.
- Bates Park is a small 0.14 acre lot with a picnic table and seating area at the corner of NW Beech Street and NW 3rd Avenue.
- Thriftway Alley. This is a 20' wide alley that has been landscaped and includes a miniature model of a covered bridge. The color spot is located at the north end of the parking lot of the Scio Thriftway grocery store on N. Main Street.

Comments: Pocket parks need to be carefully designed to serve pedestrian needs and for access to the existing commercial area and Thomas Creek.

Pocket Park Policies:

- A pocket park will supply a public open space, small picnicking areas or attractive green space. Pocket parks may be located along pedestrian or bike trails, waterways or in commercial areas. They may provide a resting place, an attractive landscaped area, or take advantage of a historic site or view shed. Pedestrian or bicycle access.
- Donation of land for pocket parks will be encouraged. The participation of adjacent property owners, nearby businesses, and community groups in the development and maintenance of pocket parks will be encouraged.

- Restrooms in the downtown area are needed. They may be located in a new downtown pocket park or may be located near existing publicly owned land such as the veteran's memorial, museum, city hall or Lamb & Wool fair site.

SPECIAL USE PARK:

Size: Depends on the proposed use.

Purpose: Special use parks are designed to serve a specific function. Examples include a skate park, dog park, linear recreation trail along a creek, boat ramp, ornamental garden, a downtown plaza with a restroom or park site with a natural geological feature or vista. Special use parks may serve local residents or be designed as a destination for visitors.

Need: Scio has expressed a desire to create a dog park and a small skate park. Other special use parks may be identified in the future.

Existing Special Use Parks:

- Veteran's Memorial. This memorial at the south end of the N. Main Street bridge over Thomas Creek honors Scio residents who have served in the United States armed forces.

Location: May be located to minimize impacts of the proposed use on neighbors or may be located to take advantage of nearby school, public building, or recreation site.

Facilities: Varies depending on function. Facilities may be minimal or extensive depending on the demands placed on the park.

Special Use Park Policies:

- Community members and affected neighbors should be actively involved in the planning and design of any special use park or facility to make sure the project fits into the neighborhood and minimizes negative impacts on the community or neighborhood.

General Park Development Recommendations:

The City has used OPRD's recommended classification system and LOS standards to establish some general policies to guide the acquisition of land and development of parks within the community.

- Scio's parks and recreation facilities will be designed and developed to comply with Oregon's parkland classification system and recommended park and recreational facility standards.
- Conceptual park design plans will be developed for each neighborhood and community park. Citizens will be invited to participate in design charettes and public meetings when each park design is developed so the proposed park improvements reflect the needs and desires of the residents. Final park designs will be approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council.
- Facilities and equipment within a park (e.g., tables, benches, grills, trash cans, etc.) will be selected for compatibility with other features of the park and park use.
- The City desires high quality and sustainable park facilities. New park buildings,

facilities and equipment will use high quality materials and will be designed for a minimum 20-year life cycle. Park facilities and equipment should be vandal resistant and require a minimal level of on-going maintenance by the city public works staff.

- Volunteerism is vital if the city wants an excellent "community" parks system and recreation programs. Civic organizations and citizens will be encouraged to be responsible for recreation programs, park development, and parks maintenance whenever possible.

Development Requirements in the Scio Development Ordinances

The Scio zoning and subdivision ordinances allow a developer to provide parks and open spaces as part of a development in order to protect wetlands, waterways or flood prone areas, provide land for parks or other public purposes.

The provision of public open spaces schools, parks, natural areas and recreational trails is essential for the sound development of residential areas. Article 9 of the subdivision ordinance requires a developer to show proposed land intended for public use on a preliminary subdivision plat. Where a proposed park, school, utility facility or other public use shown in the comprehensive plan is located in whole or in part within a subdivision, the planning commission may require the dedication at the time of subdivision or reservation of the area for future acquisition.

In its review of any land acquisition or dedication requirement as part of a development proposal, the City should routinely seek legal counsel to ensure the proposed dedication or land acquisition complies with legal requirements (rationale nexus test). If it does not, the City may elect not to require a public park dedication or may pay an agreed upon amount or a court-mandated amount as just compensation to the property owner.

8.6 Community Needs for Parks and Recreation Facilities

In September 2015, the Scio Planning Commission reviewed the inventory of city parks and community-based recreation facilities. They identified the following community needs and public park deficiencies. Table P-5 identifies park and recreation facility needs in Scio.

Community Park:

The City of Scio does not have a community park. There is no city-owned or county-owned park with a community gathering place equipped with picnic facilities, multi-purpose recreation fields, play structures or public parking.

The Lamb and Wool Fair site downtown is too small for group use. The Buckaroos site is a single purpose rodeo facility. The Linn County park site on Stayton-Scio Road is not available for public use. Residents and community groups use Millersburg, Lebanon, Albany and Stayton community parks for large group gatherings.

Neighborhood Park and Playground Facilities:

The community does not have a fully developed neighborhood park with play structures or play areas designed to serve pre-school children or elementary school age children. The Thomas Creek Estates neighborhood park is only partially developed and does not meet the needs of children and families in the nearby homes.

Sports Fields and Multi-Purpose Recreational Fields:

The Scio School District's playground and sports fields near NW 1st Avenue partially meet the community needs. The school district fields provide practice areas and fields for youth sports activities, but practices and games for school sponsored athletics take priority. The Centennial Elementary School playground is heavily used after school hours.

The Planning Commission noted several issues that affect community use now and may further impact local residents in the future:

- Playground and recreational fields are limited to school use during school hours.
- School District policy currently allows public use after regular school hours, which means there is no local playground available to parents with young children during school days.
- Due to the increasing concern with student safety and school facility security, there is no guarantee community residents will have access to the school fields and facilities in the future.
- The increasing popularity of youth sports will place increasing demand on the community to provide practice and game fields for football, soccer, baseball, softball and other sports which need multi-use grass fields.

Special Use Park Facilities:

The Scio Lamb and Wool Fair, Buckaroo's fairground facilities, the IOOF Hall and ZCBJ Hall host community-wide festivals and special events that serve local residents and visitors. Nearby covered bridges and cycling on rural roads attract visitors.

Without an active Chamber of Commerce or business association, the community does not effectively market Scio's assets and attractions. It relies on employees at local restaurants and stores to share visitor information. Hospitality services in Scio are lacking. The community can improve its ability to serve visitors by providing a few special use facilities such as public restrooms, an information kiosk, map of covered bridges, parks and regional attractions and an electronic reader board announcing community events. A downtown pocket park or easily found neighborhood park are needed to provide accessible restrooms, picnic tables, water fountain and pet areas.

**Table P-5
CITY OF SCIO
Park Land and Recreational Facility Needs**

Type of Park	Park Size & Acres per 1,000 people	Current Supply (2015)	Projected Need (2,035)	Recommended Improvements
Pocket Park	Size = 0.10 to 0.50 acres 0.5 acres per 1,000 people	4 pocket parks = 0.61 acres <ul style="list-style-type: none">NW 3rd & Beech (0.14 ac)NE 1st – Museum (0.34 ac)Veterans Memorial (0.08 ac)Mini-Covered Bridge (0.05 ac)	None	Add Pocket Parks as opportunities arise Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Downtown restrooms and visitor information servicesThomas Creek overlook
Neighborhood Parks	Size = 1-3 acres per park 1 to 2 acres per 1,000 people	1 existing park = ____ acres <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thomas Creek Estates city parkCentennial Elementary & Scio Middle School play areas serves as a neighborhood park	2 city parks 2 to 5 acres total	Locate neighborhood parks within ¼ mile radius of residential neighborhoods with easy pedestrian and bicycle access. Improvements may include play structures and open areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Expand Thomas Creek Estates ParkAdd a neighborhood park south of Thomas Creek
Community Park	Size = 5 to 20 acres 10 acres per 1,000 people	None	1 park 10 to 20 acres	Acquire land for a community park. Park improvements may include play structures, picnic facilities, multi-use fields, trails and open space. If located along either Peters Ditch or Thomas Creek, the park can provide storm water detention. Locate a Community Park within or near the existing Scio UGB.
Trails, Pathways & Bikeways	0.62 miles / 1,000 population	Covered Bridge over Thomas Creek as access to local schools	1.0 mile +/- of on-street & off-street trails	Provide designated bike/pedestrian trails as “Safe Routes to School” to link residential areas to local schools. Provide recreation trails along Thomas Creek and/or Peters Ditch where public access is appropriate.
Natural Areas	up to 5 acres / 1,000 population	Riparian area in Thomas Creek Estates Park	5 to 10 acres	Expand the natural area along Thomas Creek near Thomas Creek Estates Park or in conjunction with a new Community Park acquisition.
Community Center	1 center / 15,000 population 1 sq ft per person	No City Community Center	None	Utilize the ZCBJ Hal, IOOF Hall and the elementary school and middle school multi-purpose room

8.7 Recommended Park Improvements

The City conducted an inventory of park land and facilities inside the community during September 2015. Based on the inventory, the Planning Commission recommends improvements to the City of Scio park facilities and county-owned properties in the Scio Planning Area.

Pocket Parks Recommendations:

1. Chapin Park (NE 1st Avenue):

This 0.34 acre park is located east of the Scio Historical Society Museum on NW 1st Avenue and across from the Lamb & Wool Fair site. This pocket park is a passive use park and has few daily users, except when events are taking place at the Lamb & Wool Fair site. The park has a gravel parking area for 6-7 vehicles, several picnic tables and overlooks Thomas Creek. The City mows and maintains the park and museum property.

Safety improvements are needed adjacent to a storm sewer discharge where the Mill Race flows back into Thomas Creek and along Thomas Creek where erosion has created steep drop-offs and a potential safety hazard to park users. Additional landscaping will make the park more attractive and enhance the downtown area. There is potential to expand the park site by acquiring a small area west of the museum behind the feed store.



2. Bates Park (NW 3rd Avenue):

The City acquired this 0.14 acre parcel from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2013 after a January 2012 flood damaged the existing home beyond repair. Under terms of the city acquisition, the site must remain in public use and be open to allow floodwaters to flow through the property. The home was demolished and the City has installed a lawn with a picnic table and bench. A large sequoia tree is located at the west edge of the property.



An adjacent home also flooded in 2012 and remains vacant. City acquisition of this parcel may be appropriate if future floods create a repetitive flood loss. Acquisition would double the size of the pocket park. If the 2nd site is acquired, the pocket park may be large enough for a tot lot play area, small skate spot or a larger open grass area with benches and tables.

3. Mini-Covered Bridge (Thriftway on N. Main Street):

The City and the Scio Thriftway jointly manage this color spot just north of the Scio Thriftway parking lot on N. Main Street. A miniature covered bridge, a picnic area, benches, and trash receptacles are located on this city owned right-of-way. The site is well used by store customers and visitors to the community. The City maintains the irrigation system, lawn and removes trash, while the Thriftway employees monitor the property and remove litter. No changes or improvements are recommended.



4. Scio Veteran's Memorial:

In November 2006 the Vietnam Veterans Chapter #585, was appointed by the city council to develop a veteran's memorial in Scio. The following year the Veteran's Memorial was developed next to the Main Street Bridge over Thomas Creek, at the intersection with Hwy 226. The memorial honors and celebrates the memories of Scio residents who have served in the nation's armed forces.



The City proposes a volunteer group take responsibility for the care and maintenance of this memorial. Volunteers can order and install new bricks honoring veterans. The City will maintain the hardscape, flags and water fountain. City plans include the addition of one or two more benches for visitors.

Neighborhood Park Recommendations:

1. Thomas Creek Estates Park (SW 2nd Avenue):

The 1.61 Thomas Creek Estates Park was acquired in 2006 when the subdivision was developed. This neighborhood park serves residents within the 77-lot development. The park is located along the banks of Thomas Creek and at the west end of the SW 2nd Street cul-de-sac.

A citizens advisory group developed a park improvement plan in 2008, but was unsuccessful in securing a Local Government Grant to develop the park. Since then the City public works staff has created a small picnic area and lawn area on a 1/3 acre area of the park next to the cul-de-sac. The balance of the park site is a tree-covered 100'+ wide riparian corridor along the edge of Thomas Creek.

The City recommends basic low maintenance improvements to the park:

- Playground equipment including a small play structure, spring toys, swings and natural play area which a focus on serving pre-school and elementary age children.
- Unisex bathroom and water fountain.
- Simple landscaping and site amenities to minimize maintenance costs.
- Land acquisition of property across Thomas Creek or to the west along the creek.



Community Park Recommendations:

The City of Scio needs a community park. A community park can serve as a community gathering place, may host special events and can meet the daily needs for City residents and those who live in the surrounding rural area.

Scio residents participate in a wide diversity of outdoor recreation events. They are active leaders in the Lamb & Wool Fair, Buckaroo Rodeo, and a multitude of youth sports programs. City officials have discussed a variety of uses and facilities for a new community park. Depending on the type of facilities desired a community park could range from 10 acres to 50+ acres in size. Potential community park uses and improvements include:

- Large open field for the Lamb & Wool Fair dog trials.
- Event parking area
- RV and/or Tent Camping (electrical outlet only);
- Vendor spaces for community events
- Restrooms
- Large picnic shelter / open air event pavilion
- Walking Trails / Cross county loop
- Neighborhood Park facilities –
 - Playground area – equipment, horseshoe pits, climbing structures.
 - Lawn Area – open for recreation use
 - Multi-use fields for youth sports activities
 - Small group picnic shelters
- Wetlands/Storm Detention basin
 - Educational opportunities: wetlands, forested area
 - Environmental education study area

Linn County Owned Properties:

1. Wayside Park (Stayton-Scio Rd.):

In 2015, Linn County acquired this 5.44 acre parcel from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) after repetitive floods damaged the property. Under terms of the acquisition, the site must remain in public use and allow floodwaters to flow through the property. The property is located on the west bank of Thomas Creek where the creek takes a sharp turn to the south. During major flooding events, the creek overtops its banks, inundates this property and then flows west into the open grass fields west of Stayton-Scio Rd. Linn County has not developed any plans for future use of the property, but indicates it may be developed as a wayside park with minimal improvements.

2. Hamilton Way (Scio-Jefferson Drive):

In the 1990's Linn County realigned the Scio-Jefferson Drive at the NW edge of the Scio city limits. The realignment created a 2.65 acre parcel between Hamilton Way and Scio-Jefferson Drive. The County mows the site to maintain a clear vision for drivers entering and leaving Scio. At this time, Linn County has no plans for making improvements to the site.

Community Priorities:

The City has identified priorities that warrant further study, development of conceptual plan proposals and cost estimates. As a small city with limited financial resources, the City must rely on existing not-for-profit organizations and community volunteers to conceive, implement and staff recreation programs and services for children, youth and adults. Table P-6 provides a preliminary list of community priorities and Map P-3 shows the general location of proposed parks.

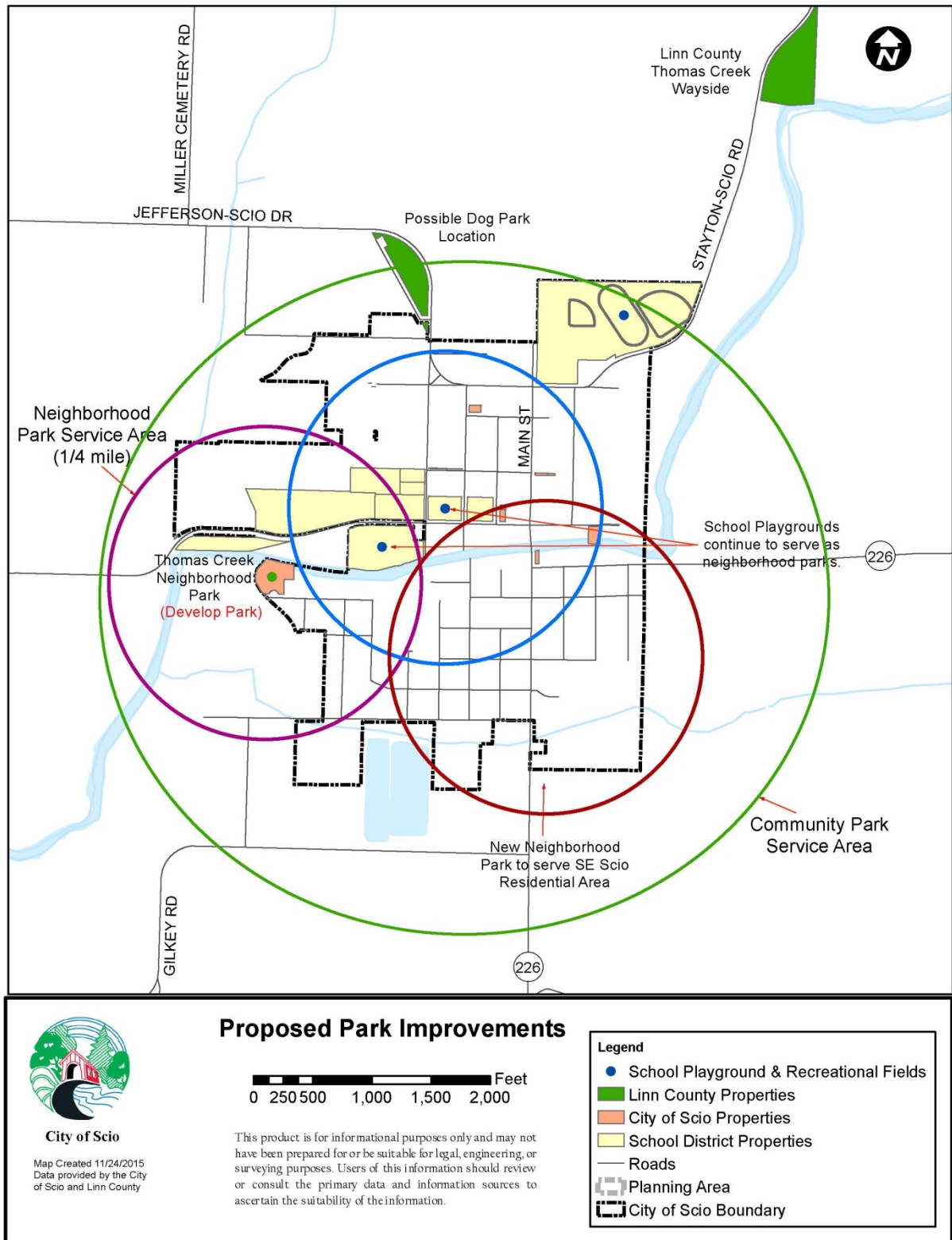
Table P-6
Priority Park Improvement Projects for the City of Scio
2015 to 2025

	Community Priorities	Description
<i>City of Scio Park Facilities</i>		
1	Community Park	Acquire land for a community park
2	Thomas Creek Neighborhood Park	Design, fund and install a play structure, natural play area and restroom.
3	Public Restrooms	Design, fund and install a public restroom facility to serve visitors and special events in Scio's downtown area.

Table P-7
Priorities for Non-Profit Recreation Facilities, Programs and Projects
In the Scio Community
2015 to 2025

	Community Priorities	Description
<i>Non-Profit Recreation Facilities, Programs and Projects</i>		
1	Scio Youth Club Facility	Develop the Scio Youth Club facility and recreation fields on SW 6 th Avenue
2	Lamb & Wool Fair	Explore use of the Lamb and Wool Fair site for community events: Farmers Market, Art Fair, Youth Fair, etc.
3	Recreation Programs	Rely on existing schools, Scio Youth Club and volunteer not-for-profit organizations to provide one-time and on-going recreation programs for the community. The City of Scio will continue to offer literacy and related programs at the Scio Public Library.
4	Marketing & Information Sharing	Utilize social media, the Scio Community Happenings Facebook page, Twitter and other means to maintain and share an up-to-date calendar and information about local events, parks and recreation opportunities. Where appropriate coordinate with the Linn Tourism Coalition, Albany Visitor Center and nearby communities.

Map P-3 Proposed Park Improvements in Scio



GOALS AND POLICIES PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

STATEWIDE PLANNING GOALS

GOAL 5 – NATURAL RESOURCES, SCENIC AND HISTORIC AREAS, AND OPEN SPACES:
To protect natural resources and conserve scenic and historic areas and open spaces.

GOAL 8 – RECREATIONAL NEEDS: To satisfy the recreation needs of the citizens of the state and visitors, and where appropriate, to provide for the siting of necessary recreational facilities, including destination resorts.

CITY OF SCIO GOALS AND POLICIES

Goal P-1: To protect natural areas and open spaces and provide a variety of parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of Scio's residents and visitors.

Goal P-2: To provide accessible parks and recreation facilities for our citizens.

Goal P-3: To preserve open space areas in order to enhance the quality of life and protect natural resources.

Policy P-1: Parks Master Plan. Chapter 8 of the Scio Comprehensive Plan serves as the City of Scio Parks Master Plan, until a more detailed plan is prepared by the City. It will serve as a guide for parks and open space land acquisition, the development of new parks, trails and recreation facilities and for the improvement of existing parks within the City of Scio.

Policy P-2: Future Park Sites. The Parks Master Plan will identify general locations for future parks. In order to acquire specific properties, the City is encouraged to work with existing property owners to acquire property from a willing seller. The City may purchase the property, obtain either a right-of-first refusal or enter into an agreement for future acquisition.

Policy P-3: Community Parks. The City will acquire a 10+ acre site for a community park.

Policy P-4: Neighborhood Parks. The City will develop several pocket parks and neighborhood parks to serve existing residential neighborhoods and the downtown commercial area.

Policy P-5: Dedication of Land for Parks and Open Space.

- a. The City will include park land and trail acquisition/dedication requirements and development standards in the Scio Subdivision Code to enable the City to acquire park land and open spaces concurrently with new development.

- b. Dedication of less than one-half acre for a neighborhood park is discouraged unless it is positioned on the edge of a subdivision and can be combined with adjoining vacant land as it develops.
- c. Park names may recognize the donor, honor a historical community figure or refer to a geographic site. The planning commission will recommend names of new parks to the city council, with preference given to the donor(s) wishes.

Policy P-6: Youth Recreation Facilities. The City will support efforts of the Scio Youth Club to provide community-based recreational facilities and programs to serve local youth and families.

Policy P-7: Public Access to the Thomas Creek. Whenever possible, the City will acquire land and protect open spaces along Thomas Creek and Peters Ditch. These open space areas will improve flood plain functions, provide a natural riparian corridor, protect existing wetlands and provide attractive natural areas along these waterways.

Policy P-8: Pedestrian and Recreational Trails. The City will develop a recreational trails plan that may include pedestrian paths, sidewalks and multi-use trails to connect residential neighborhoods with parks, schools and the Main St. business district.

Policy P-9: Coordination with State and County Parks and Recreation Facility Plans. The City will coordinate the city's park and recreation facility planning with plans for Linn County and the Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).