



# **City of Pasco Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

## **Brief 2: Needs Analysis Summary**

The City of Pasco is developing a long-term plan for parks and recreation. This summary presents supporting information about community needs to provide a basis for recommending projects and improvements in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (the Plan) for the next phase. In addition to presenting the Pasco community's priorities and park needs, this document discusses relevant park trends and opportunities.

There are four main sections included in this summary as well as two appendices:

1. Community Engagement to Date
2. Park Equity and Access
3. Level of Service Analysis
4. Recreation Trends and Needs

Appendices:

- A. Community Questionnaire Summary
- B. Park Access and Equity Maps

### **1. Community Engagement to Date**

The planning process is founded on public engagement and outreach.

Throughout the process, City staff from Administrative and Community Services and the MIG consultant team (the planning team) meet regularly to plan and discuss the approach to involving the community.

The planning team conducted several activities to share project information and listen to community concerns, ideas, and opportunities related to parks and recreation. Additional opportunities for community involvement will continue to shape the Plan and its outcomes.

## MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The City of Pasco organized the Master Plan Advisory Committee to represent a variety of stakeholders with an interest in parks and recreation. The planning team held an online meeting with the committee early in the planning process in November 2021 identifying key issues, needed changes, desired outcomes, and additional groups or community stakeholders to reach out to. The committee identified several key needs which included investing in updating and retrofitting older parks as well as parks in new growth areas, improving park and shoreline access, and expanding parks and programming in underserved areas. Figure 1 below shows notes from the meeting.

Figure 1: Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Summary



## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

As part of the plan update process, the planning team held separate video conference call interviews in December 2021 with representatives from Franklin County and Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Outcomes from the interviews helped identify several key needs and opportunities, including planning for growth in undeveloped areas of Pasco, involving community members that are traditionally underrepresented, shoreline access and management, park maintenance, and increased connections/accessibility.

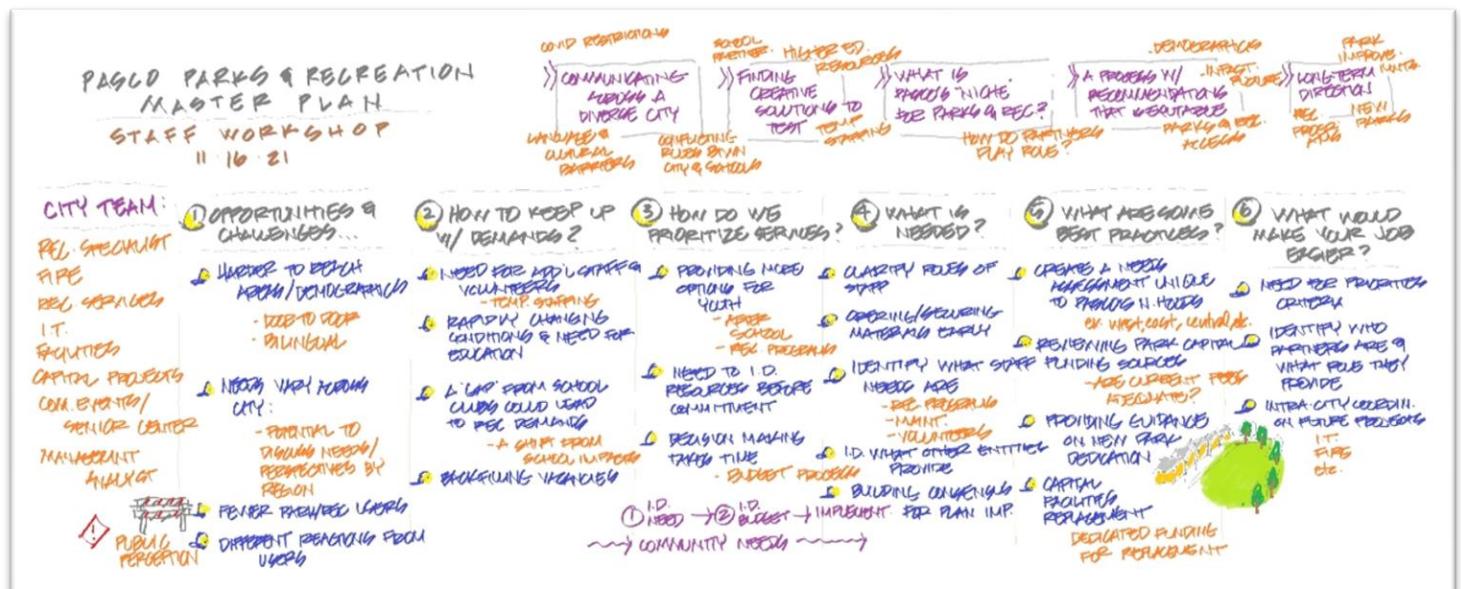
## COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

The online questionnaire was available online from September 8, 2021 through November 15, 2021. It included fifteen questions in Spanish and English focused on parks and recreation needs and five optional questions to gather demographic information and had a total of 922 respondents. Questions asked how respondents traveled to and used the park system, their satisfaction with parks, what facilities and programs they would like to see more of, trail use, and priorities for funding.

## CITY OF PASCO STAFF WORKSHOP

On November 16, 2021, the planning team held a video conference call meeting with City of Pasco staff representing several departments. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together a variety of service areas to discuss the project and planning process and to identify key challenges and needs related to the provision of parks and recreation in Pasco. This meeting highlighted the varied park needs across the city, strategies to include all residents in the park system, the need for flexible programming, and staff to support services (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2: STAFF WORKSHOP MEETING SUMMARY



### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Pasco is updating our master plan for parks, recreation facilities, trails, open lands, and programs. Take a minute to share your insights!

TAKE OUR SURVEY



[bit.ly/PlanPascoParks](http://bit.ly/PlanPascoParks)

Thanks for helping us enhance our parks, recreation facilities, open lands and trails!



### ¡Diga nos lo que piensa!

La Ciudad de Pasco está actualizando nuestro plan maestro para parques, instalaciones recreativas, senderos, terrenos abiertos, y programas. Por favor, toma un minuto para compartir su punto de vista.

TOMA NUESTRA  
ENCUESTA



[bit.ly/PlanificarParquesPasco](http://bit.ly/PlanificarParquesPasco)

Gracias por ayudarnos a mejorar nuestros parques, instalaciones recreativas, terrenos abiertos y senderos!

(Above) Flyers for the community questionnaire

## PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

On November 4, 2021 the City of Pasco Parks and Recreation Advisory Board provided their input on current park issues and park projects that could make a significant impact on the community. Projects noted by the Board included river access, trail connections, safety and accessibility improvements, park events, water play, and events (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3: PARKS BOARD MEETING SUMMARY



## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City Council offered initial direction for the planning process in June 2021, identifying significant issues to address such as population growth, funding, recreation programs, new facilities and amenities to add to Pasco and reinvestment in aging parks and facilities. In January 2022, the Council provided input regarding overall funding, impact fees, land dedication, and timing of decision-making.

## AMBASSADOR TOOLKIT

The planning team developed a Parks and Recreation Plan “Ambassador Toolkit” to help promote community-wide engagement in the process. City staff offered the toolkit to interested and involved community members (Plan ambassadors) to gather input for the Plan. It included questions around public programs and events, park system use, and park needs.

## DOWNTOWN PLAN VISIONING WORKSHOP

The City is also developing a plan for Downtown Pasco. The City hosted a public visioning workshop in December 2021 to gather input for the Downtown Pasco Master Plan. While the workshop focused on Downtown, outcomes helped identify several needs related to parks, recreation and programming, including a desire for increased activation and events, better connections between Downtown and the Columbia River and more bike infrastructure.



(Above) A section of the Ambassador Toolkit

## Equity and Access Defined

Throughout the planning process the planning team relies on the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) definitions for park access and equity.

- **Park access:** The just and fair quantity, proximity and connections to quality parks and green spaces, recreation facilities, as well as programs that are safe, inclusive, culturally relevant and welcoming to everyone. When people have just and fair access, our health and social well-being improve, and our communities can protect and better recover from environmental, social and economic challenges.
- **Equity:** The absence of avoidable, unfair or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically or geographically, or by other means of stratification. Equity = Fairness and Justice.

Source: Equity Language Guide, Glossary of Terms, NRPA, updated 10/21/21.

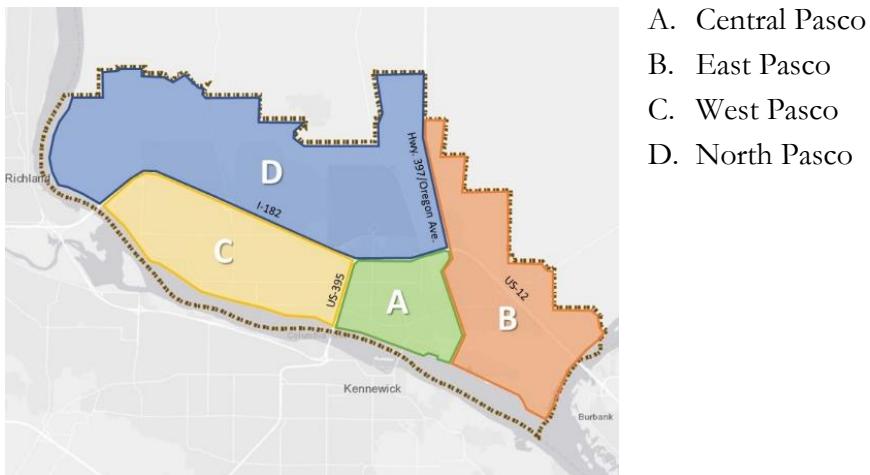
## 2. Park Equity and Access

Pasco is a diverse city and it will be critical to consider an equitable provision of park and recreation services. The city is also growing, especially in West Pasco and north of the current Urban Growth Area (UGA), and it will be important to plan for the needs in these future growth areas.

The planning team addressed park equity and access (see sidebar) based on findings from community outreach activities completed to date, as well as mapping of existing parks and recreation areas and different demographic data within Pasco.

To ensure equitable park access, the planning team uses a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile walking or biking distance from park access points. This is roughly the equivalent of a 10-minute walk. To help address different areas of Pasco, the park equity and access analysis uses the following four areas that are shown in Figure 4.

FIGURE 4: PARK ACCESS MAP KEY



### PARK ACCESS

The maps on the following page show areas of Pasco that have a 10-minute walk to all city parks and recreation facilities, and the location of schools (Figure 5) and to developed parks (Figure 6).

FIGURE 5: ACCESS TO ALL CITY OF PASCO PARKS AND SCHOOL LOCATIONS

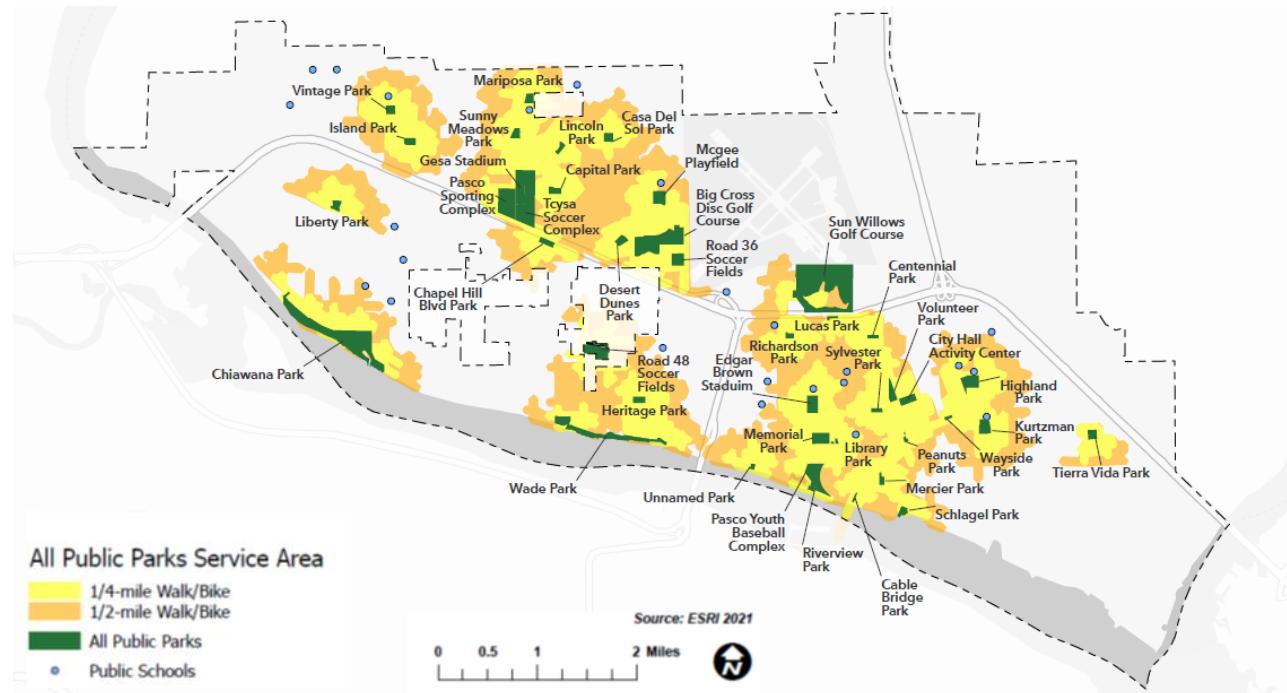
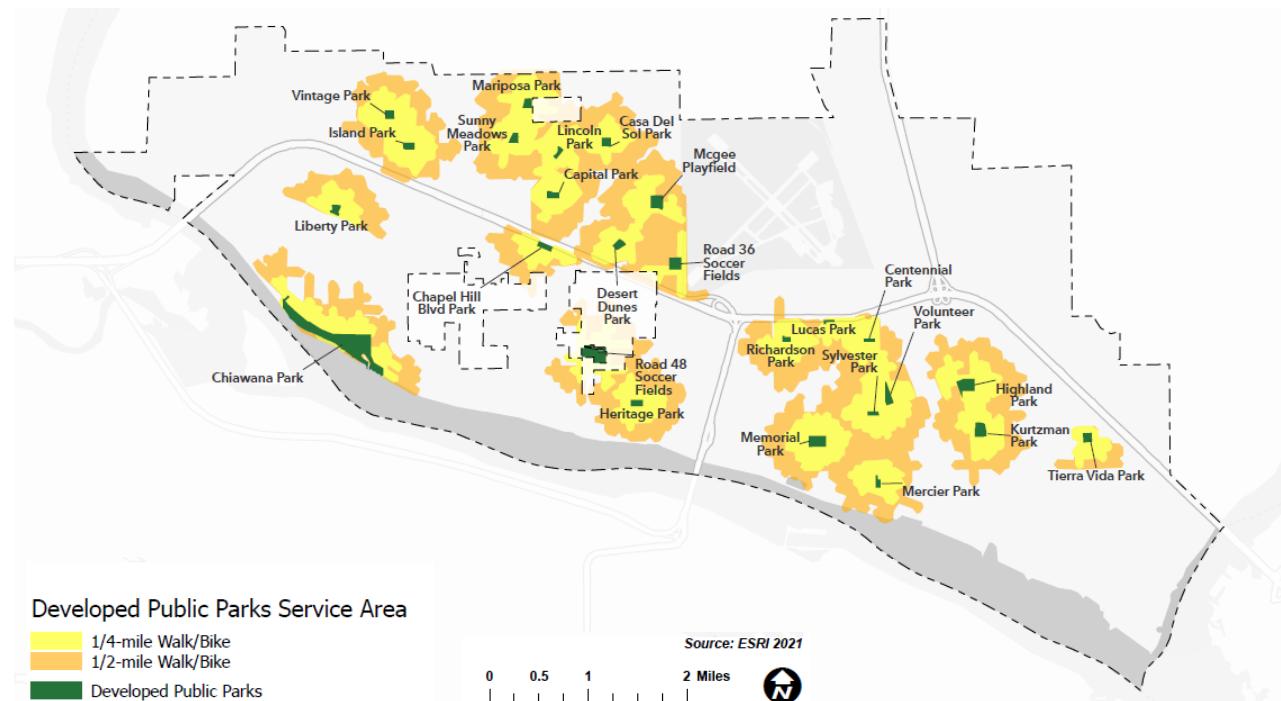


FIGURE 6: ACCESS TO DEVELOPED CITY OF PASCO PARKS



As noted in Brief 1 (State of the System Summary), the City of Pasco has 41 park and recreation sites totaling approximately 626 acres. But not all parks provide the same recreation opportunities, especially to children and families. To help compare, Figure 5 shows all city-owned park sites and school locations while Figure 6 only shows developed parks.

Developed parks include sites that offer a playground or a ball court or ball field (not including special use facilities and sports complexes). Both maps highlight a lack of park access especially in East Pasco and West Pasco. Figure 6 shows that there are additional gaps in access to developed parks in Central Pasco. Public schools take on the role of providing recreational spaces in many neighborhoods. Figure 5 highlights the location of public school sites showing many school facilities in areas that lack access to public parks.

#### PARK EQUITY

The planning team applied additional factors to the park access maps using an index of four scored indicators: communities of color, youth, low income and population density. Appendix B provides the complete series of maps highlighting park equity and access using these factors. The park equity index (Figure 7) shows areas with a greater need for park access. The darker shaded areas indicate a greater need.

FIGURE 7: PARK EQUITY INDEX MAP



Using the maps in Appendix B, the planning team assigned a score from one to five with one being an indication of the lowest park need and five being the highest. The index (Figure 7) shows all of the demographic indicators ranked and compiled into one map.

While there are several areas in Pasco without a 10-minute walk to a park, the Parks and Recreation Equity Index map shows areas that are most underserved when considering communities of color, youth, income and density. According to the map, portions of Central Pasco and East Pasco have the greatest need for park access, in addition to North Pasco along Hwy. 397/Oregon Ave. The map also shows a greater need along I-182 in West Pasco.

### **3. Level of Service Analysis**

The City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan process uses a variety of factors to determine needs including park equity and access, recreation trends and common themes identified from the community and in conversations with local stakeholders. The following level of service analysis is part of the input used to identify key needs and resulting recommendations for policies, projects and programs.

The State of Washington offers several competitive grant opportunities for park and recreation agencies. While an updated plan for parks and recreation is required for eligibility, many grants rely on level of service criteria. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) outlines the following three categories with several criteria for addressing park and recreation levels of service. Included is a general ranking of high, medium and low and a summary of the criteria.

#### QUANTITY CRITERIA

Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities	
Intent:	Measures quantity of existing park and recreation facilities in a community.
Level of Service:	Medium
Analysis:	The City has level of service standards of 2 acres of neighborhood parks and 2.1 acres of community parks per 1,000 population. Based on the existing inventory, the City is currently providing 1.4 acres of neighborhood parks and 1.44 acres of community parks per 1,000, which is around 70% of its goal.
Facilities that Support Active Recreation Opportunities	
Intent:	Measures the percent of facilities that support or encourage active recreation opportunities such as walking, cycling, and court and field sports.

<b>Level of Service:</b>	High
<b>Analysis:</b>	Based on the current inventory, approximately 90% of all developed parks provide opportunities for active recreation. These facilities are primarily ball fields, trails or pathways and sport courts.
<b>Facility Capacity</b>	
<b>Intent:</b>	Measures the existing capacity of a community's park and recreation facilities.
<b>Level of Service:</b>	Low (for certain programs and activities)
<b>Analysis:</b>	The City of Pasco has dozens of programmed recreation facilities and does not have data on the use of each facility. Of the recreation participation numbers collected by the City, attendance at the Memorial Pool and aquatics programs have some of the highest participation rates but the City only has a single public pool. In addition, there is unmet demand for several activities due to a lack of certain recreation facilities in the park system such as interactive play areas, a skate park, and an off-leash dog area.

#### QUALITY CRITERIA

<b>Public Satisfaction</b>	
<b>Intent:</b>	Measures the public's satisfaction with the condition, quantity, or distribution of existing park and recreation facilities in their community.
<b>Level of Service:</b>	Medium
<b>Analysis:</b>	Based on responses to the questionnaire, the majority of respondents rated parks and recreation opportunities as positive. However, additional feedback gathered during the planning process has indicated a desire to improve parks and recreation in Pasco including increasing maintenance, better funding, and a greater variety of opportunities especially in underserved areas.

#### DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS CRITERIA

<b>Population within Service Areas</b>	
<b>Intent:</b>	Measures the distribution of and population served by existing park and recreation facilities in a community.
<b>Level of Service:</b>	Medium
<b>Analysis:</b>	While Pasco has a large and growing park system, there are several areas of the city that don't have convenient access to parks and recreation facilities. Section 2 (Park Equity and Access) identifies the general location of these areas.
<b>Access</b>	
<b>Intent:</b>	Measures the ability of people to access park and recreation facilities without a personal motorized vehicle.
<b>Level of Service:</b>	Low
<b>Analysis:</b>	Several of Pasco's parks have excellent access for people walking, biking or using transit. These are primarily newer parks in North Pasco, or riverfront parks accessible by the Sacagawea Heritage Trail. However, many parks and facilities in Central and East Pasco are primarily accessible by driving and there are several barriers that limit safe and direct access to parks such as busy streets and highways, rail lines and development patterns.

## 4. Recreation Trends and Needs

Recreation trends at the national, state and regional level provide additional insight on popular activities, challenges, and potential opportunities to consider in the city's park and recreation system. This section includes relevant information from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022 and other existing plans and studies such as the City of Pasco Transportation System Plan and Rivershore Master Plan.

Data from the State of Washington helps compare recreation trends at the local level, with participation at the regional and state-wide level. Based on survey results for the Tri-Cities region, visiting rivers or streams, attending outdoor concerts or events, playing and day-hiking are the top activities. The survey also provides state-wide results for respondents identifying as Hispanic. Of those respondents, all but one of the top activities at the regional level are also within the top four activities at the regional level (Table 1).

TABLE 1: TOP-10 ACTIVITIES BY PARTICIPATION BY REGION AND HISPANIC POPULATION

Rank	Top Activities in South Central Region	%	Top Activities for Hispanics (State-wide)	%
1	Walking in a park or trail setting	82%	Walking in a park or trail setting	91%
2	Visiting rivers or streams	72%	Playing	65%
3	Attending an outdoor concert or event (e.g., farmer's market, fairs, sporting events)	60%	Attending an outdoor concert or event (e.g., farmer's market, fairs, sporting events)	62%
4	Playing	50%	Relaxing, reading, hanging out	60%
5	Day-hiking	50%	Visiting rivers or streams	58%
6	Swimming in an outdoor pool	49%	Picnicking, BBQ, or cookout	56%
7	Scenic or wilderness area	48%	Family gathering	56%
8	Swimming/wading at beach (freshwater)	47%	Day-Hiking	48%
9	Wildlife or nature viewing	47%	Visiting a beach or tide pools	47%
10	Gather or collect things in a nature setting	47%	Scenic or wilderness area	46%
11	Visiting a beach or tide pools	47%	-	-

Source: State of Washington 2017 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report, July 2017.

#### KEY NEEDS:

- Land acquisition and a continuous public waterfront
- Improved connections to the river, especially to Downtown
- Comprehensive signage and wayfinding program
- Thematic design and branding in waterfront parks and along trails
- Communication and coordination around shoreline management

#### A HEALTHY CONNECTED RIVERFRONT

Access to rivers, streams and beaches is one of the top trends at the state and regional level. Locally, waterfront parks such as Wade Park or Chiawana Park are of the most popular in Pasco. Many riverfront cities are investing in rehabilitating their waterfronts to connect people to the water and create recreation destinations after decades of ignoring them. This trend can also help reverse the loss of natural areas that has historically impacted lower-income communities or communities of color.

This trend is highlighted by the Tri-Cities Rivershore Master Plan, a multi-jurisdictional plan that envisions a riverfront that connects the region, provides recreational and economic opportunities, and increases environmentally responsive access to the Columbia, Yakima, and Snake Rivers. As a participant in this plan, the City of Pasco had several riverfront opportunities identified including adding outdoor dining and seating areas; building more trail connections and enhancements; increasing bird and wildlife viewing; and incorporating arts, culture, commerce, heritage, and environmental features into the riverfront.



(Left) Howard St.  
Promenade at Riverfront  
Park, Spokane, WA

The City of Pasco coordinates planning and management of shoreline areas with a consortium of partners. There are several partners responsible for managing the shoreline including the Army Corps of Engineers, Port of Pasco, Franklin County and others. Residents place a high priority on a healthy riparian shoreline and it will be critical to work together with land managers to protect and enhance these assets. The City of Pasco also relies on the Shoreline Master Program to guide management of the city's shorelines. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will use information from this plan to inform future recommendations for parks and recreation.

## WELCOMING AND ACTIVE PUBLIC SPACES DOWNTOWN

Developing Pasco's downtown as a distinctive local and regional destination is a shared vision of community leaders, business owners and residents. Embracing the historic character, upgrading buildings, installing public art, and activating the downtown year-round are elements of that shared vision. The City is working towards a diverse and engaging downtown, investing significantly in the downtown area, updating aging infrastructure and repurposing buildings.

Street fairs, cultural events, tournaments, art walks and a variety of other events are being facilitated by park agencies in both traditional and non-traditional sites. While community leaders are actively updating existing public spaces in Downtown, other public spaces such as streets and alleys, parking lots as well as underused private spaces can serve as venues for events and program. These spaces can support social gatherings and recreation while attracting visitors and residents to Downtown.



(Above) Street festival, Hillsboro, OR

Along with improved street design, parking and other amenities, results from the Downtown Master Plan Vision Workshop identified improved connections between Downtown and the Columbia River, public art and murals, cultural events and family-friendly activities. Recommendations in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be coordinated with outcomes of the City's Downtown Master Plan.

### KEY NEEDS:

- More and varied events and programs in Downtown
- Family friendly opportunities
- Connection to the river
- More public spaces and play areas
- Improved public spaces to host events and programs
- Street furnishings, street trees and wayfinding
- Public art that expresses Pasco's heritage and cultural diversity

## KEY NEEDS:

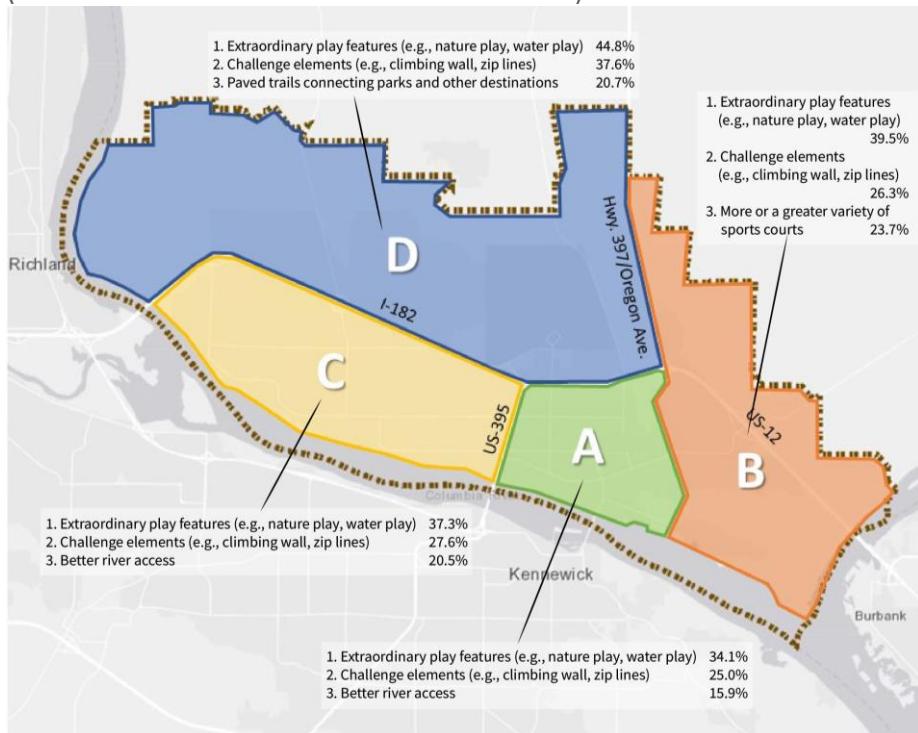
- Updated park facilities including play areas, shade and shelters
- ADA accessibility improvements
- A greater variety of opportunities in certain parks
- Adding challenge activities including a skate park
- More shade trees and draught tolerant landscaping
- Prioritizing underserved areas, especially neighborhoods that lack access to nearby parks
- More spaces and amenities for gathering, picnicking and BBQing

## REINVESTMENT IN AGING PARKS AND FACILITIES

Reinvestment creates an opportunity to address deferred maintenance needs and create new opportunities in parks that have capacity. In particular, adding unique park features such as interactive musical instruments, artwork and nature play areas (moveable or permanent natural features that encourage interaction with nature) in underserved neighborhoods, or a new skate park in a larger community park. When updating park amenities and facilities, there is also a need to provide ADA compliance and best practices in universal design.

The cost to repair or replace park features is costly and increasing. The City generally replaces play structures every 20 years but there is no program to implement replacement. Proactively planning for and addressing facility replacement can avoid aging facilities that are more expensive to maintain, safety issues or hazards due to failing equipment, or removal of features without a plan for replacement. Based on results of the online questionnaire, repair and replacement, maintenance and variety were some of the top responses to a question around funding priorities. When comparing questionnaire responses to respondent location, the top three needs for Pasco's parks were nearly the same across the city (Figure 8). Extraordinary play features and challenge elements were the most popular, with a variety of other needs dependent on different areas of the city.

FIGURE 8: "WHAT IS MISSING OR NEEDED MORE IN PASCO'S PARKS?"  
(TOP THREE CHOICES BY RESPONDENT LOCATION)



## CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

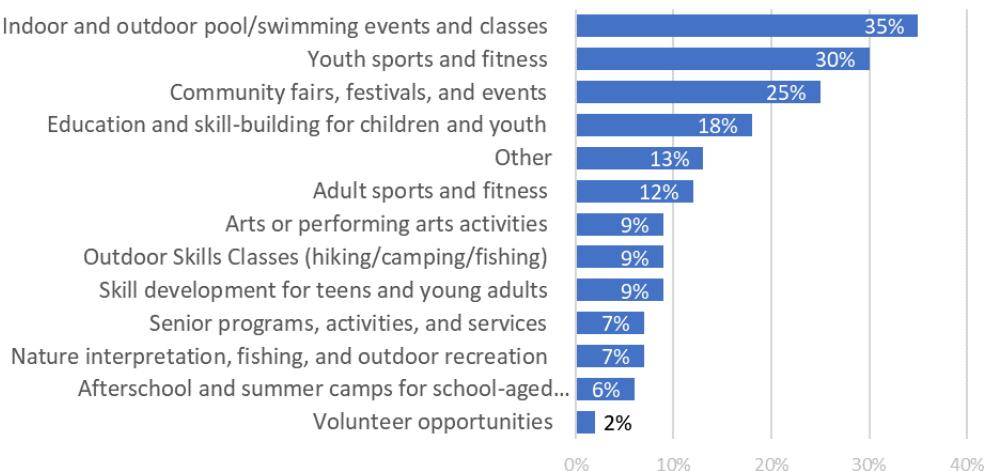
According to the questionnaire, Pasco residents are satisfied with the amount and availability of recreation programs and community events but feel that swimming events and classes, youth sports/fitness, and community fairs, festivals and events are the most important for the City to support and expand (Figure 9).

Flexibility can be the key to adapting to the changing trends in recreation. This can come in the form of park features that serve multiple activities or can be repurposed for an emerging trend. The ultimate expression of this flexibility is not in the built facilities but in the recreation programming. Programming creates opportunities to introduce residents to fitness, culture, and learning new skills in parks, classrooms, and fitness rooms.

Somos Pasco, a collaboration between the City, county, Port of Pasco, Hispanic Chamber and Pasco Chamber, has also identified Latino/a-themed events (fairs, carnivals, parades, bakery events, etc.) as a way to underscore Pasco's distinctive character and draw attendees from around the region.

The importance of supporting year-round programming also emerged as a key theme in community outreach. Work hours and weather can be an impediment to programming participation and park visitation. In response to year-round interest, more jurisdictions are finding ways to move outdoor activities, such as climbing walls, field houses and covered or indoor courts, into multi-purpose community centers.

FIGURE 9: "WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE MOST IMPORTANT FOR THE CITY TO SUPPORT OR EXPAND?" (TOP 2 CHOICES)



## KEY NEEDS:

- Aquatics classes and programs
- Latino/a-themed events
- More year-round opportunities, including indoor programming
- Introductory programs for beginners
- More youth sports and fitness-related programs
- Continued support for community-wide festivals, fairs and events

#### KEY NEEDS:

- ADA accessibility improvements to and within parks
- Better trailhead amenities
- Trail lighting
- Coordination with priority routes identified in existing plans and studies
- Dedicated future connections concurrent with future growth
- Identifying short-term solutions such as phased construction of off-street trails
- Improved signage and wayfinding
- Prioritizing safe routes to schools

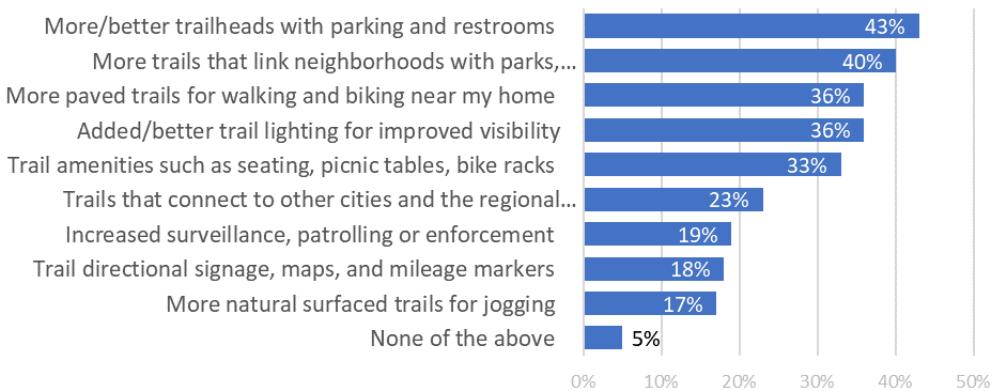
#### SAFER CONNECTIONS FOR WALKING AND BIKING

Trails for non-motorized transportation and recreation continue to grow in importance. At the state and regional levels, trail-related recreation, including walking, hiking, and running are among the most popular outdoor recreation activities. According to the 2017 State of Washington Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report identified that 84% of respondents participate in walking at a park or on a trail, the top outdoor recreation activity. The popularity of these activities is consistent across age groups, income levels, education, and ethnicity.

Across all public engagement opportunities, trails and a trail network emerged as a top priority for Pasco residents when considering parks and recreation. The City is currently updating its Transportation System Master Plan, which among other projects, would identify off-street trails and shared use pathways. The Tri-Cities Rivershore Master Plan has also identified key trail linkages between the Rivershore, historic downtowns, and other inland destinations.

Park providers are using a variety of strategies to meet this demand, such as providing loop trails in larger parks, providing off-street multi-use trails, designating on-street bike routes, ensuring sidewalks are wider and accessible, providing pedestrian crosswalks and bridges over roadways to support connectivity, developing soft-surfaced nature and jogging trails and connecting parks and community destinations with trails. In Pasco, questionnaire respondents identified improved amenities along trails and at trailheads, better lighting and a connected trail system as the top ways to increase trail use (Figure 10).

FIGURE 10: “WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU USE TRAILS, PATHWAYS OR BIKEWAYS MORE FREQUENTLY?” (TOP 3 CHOICES)



## NEW COMMUNITY-SERVING FACILITIES

The City of Pasco provides a mix of recreation facilities to support indoor use, outdoor recreation, sports, play, arts programming, social gathering and visitor comfort. While the mix and provision of facilities is contingent on available space and funding, there are opportunities to rethink the mix of what is provided, as well as consider changing trends, demographics, and community priorities that affect needs.

The multi-year initiative to build an aquatics facility in Pasco remains a priority for many community members. The City has undertaken several feasibility studies for a possible aquatic/recreation center, but these efforts were recently put on hold due to the pandemic. The community desire for an aquatic facility was reiterated in community outreach events, with 39% of questionnaire respondents stating that building a new community aquatics facility was their top investment priority.



(Above) Madras Aquatic Center, Madras, OR

In addition to building an aquatics center, there are also opportunities for Pasco to add other recreational facilities currently missing from the parks system. This can include a skate park, off-leash dog area and various types of interactive play areas that would have a community-wide draw. Skate parks can provide an active recreation opportunity for all ages, especially younger residents. Off-leash dog parks provide much needed space for dogs and their owners, particularly for those with limited or no yard space. Another recent study identified the potential for a sports complex in Pasco, by repurposing the TCYSA Soccer Complex with multiple turf fields and lights. As noted in the study, redevelopment would allow for more use and help to offset increased demand for outdoor multipurpose fields.

### KEY NEEDS:

- Skate park located at a highly visible and centrally located area
- Off-leash dog area
- Continued focus on identifying a regional-serving aquatics center
- Continue studying feasibility of a new sports complex

#### KEY NEEDS:

- Identify future park locations based on future growth needs
- Prioritize higher density growth areas
- Preserve natural open spaces and shoreline areas as inventoried in existing plans and studies
- Promote connected/intact open space areas and shoreline habitat

#### LAND ACQUISITION IN GROWTH AREAS

Pasco's rapidly growing population will continue to place a high demand on parks, recreation and open space. The City of Pasco has experienced significant population growth over the last two decades with an approximate average annual population increase of 3.3% from 2010-2020, a growth rate higher than the county average (Table 2). Preserving park and open space areas in these new growth areas will help keep neighborhoods vibrant, enjoyable, and sustainable.

TABLE 2: POPULATION GROWTH (2010-2020)

	2010	2020	10-Year Change (#)	10-Year Ave. Annual Change (%)
City of Pasco	58,041	77,100	19,059	3.3%
Franklin County	76,832	96,760	19,928	2.6%
Benton & Franklin Counties	251,221	302,460	51,239	2.0%

Source: <http://bentonfranklintrends.org/>

The State of Washington Growth Management Act requires fast-growing cities to develop a comprehensive plan for public services and community growth. In accordance with the GMA, the City of Pasco's Comprehensive Plan (2018-2038) provides direction for public services and growth for a twenty-year time period. The Plan calls for the provision of parks, open space, trails, and recreation facilities throughout the urban growth area. To ensure equitable distribution and access to parks, the City will need to ensure space and funding for their provision.



(Right) Development of Palomino Park, Pasco, WA

Next steps in the planning process will include the identification of general locations for future park sites in undeveloped areas.

## IMPROVED POLICIES AND STANDARDS

The City of Pasco implements the Parks and Recreation Master Plan through adopted policies and standards. City staff have noted the need to revise ordinances, policies, and Municipal Code to ensure a vibrant park system throughout the city. City staff have discussed the need for updating park impact fees and land dedication requirements, as well as other policies to modernize municipal standards. The City does not currently have an adopted standard for dedication of park land.

Pasco does require park impact fees for new residential development; however, the current impact fees alone cannot fund the development of new parks. The Municipal Code splits Pasco into three park districts that each collect impact fees to go towards acquiring new parks, major capital improvements for an existing facility, or the construction of a new facility. However, money from the park fund cannot be used for maintenance, repair, general operations, or replacement of existing facilities which can restrict parks in districts where there is little growth. The City should consider updating the code to include updated park impact fees, requirements for park land dedication, and allowing for park funds to be flexibly allocated.



(Above) Yanaguana Park, San Antonio, TX

Pasco currently has no planning or design guidelines for dedication of new parks and facilities to direct staff and decision-makers. Guidelines could apply to both renovations at existing parks and the planning and design of new parks. The intent of the design guidelines would be to protect and enhance the city's quality of life and community identity and encourage functional, safe, and aesthetically pleasing development while maintaining compatibility with the surrounding environment.

## KEY NEEDS:

- Guidance on park siting and design
- Updated impact fees for parks
- Updated maintenance standards for natural areas and habitat management
- Policies to guide user conflicts on off-street trails