

# YAMHILL COUNTY PARK SYSTEM PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2025



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*In memory of Jim Culbert 2012-2024: Devoted park advocate  
and outdoor enthusiast*

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# LETTER FROM DIRECTOR

Dear Residents of Yamhill County,

I am pleased to share with you the 2025 Yamhill County Park System Plan. This plan will guide the County's efforts over the next 20 years to maintain, improve, and thoughtfully grow our network of parks and open spaces. Its purpose is practical: to support informed, responsible decisions about how we invest in, care for, and improve Yamhill County's parks, natural areas, and recreational offerings. All of which are critical resources that directly shape our quality of life, health, and connection to the great outdoors.

Our county is home to an extraordinary range of outdoor experiences, from kayaking the Willamette River to family picnics beneath old-growth trees and birdwatching in prairie wetlands. But despite this natural abundance, we face significant challenges. Years of deferred maintenance, outdated infrastructure, and limited staffing capacity have left much of our system unable to thrive. At the heart of these struggles is a persistent lack of funding—a barrier that has kept us from properly maintaining our parks, investing in necessary improvements, and expanding opportunities to serve our community today and for generations to come.

This Plan presents an opportunity to change course. It outlines a phased strategy to strengthen and expand the County's park system through thoughtful improvements that enhance creek and river recreation, develop parks as regional destinations, and elevate the quality of experiences across all park sites. It offers actionable implementation strategies, including phased action steps, capital improvement opportunities, and a variety of funding mechanisms to make this 20-year vision a reality.

Thank you to all who provided input into the update of the Park System Plan. I look forward to working with you to capitalize on all the wonderful opportunities to connect our communities to nature and water, preserve natural resources, and celebrate Yamhill County's agricultural legacy through a financially sustainable and outstanding park system.

With gratitude and commitment,



Mark A. Lago  
Public Works Director  
Yamhill County Public Works Department

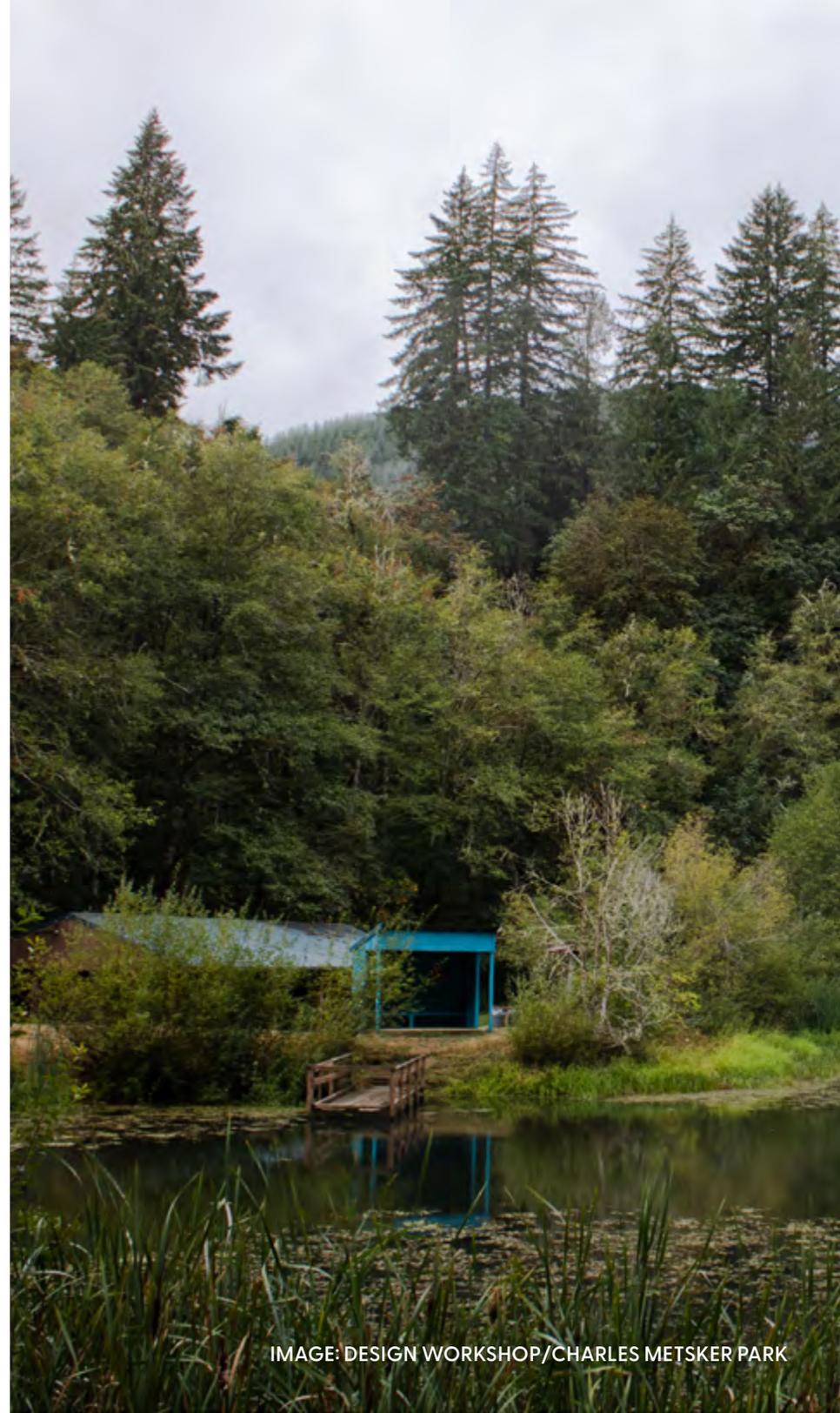


IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/CHARLES METSKER PARK

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IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/DEER CREEK PARK



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/LAFAYETTE LOCKS PARK



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **PLAN OVERVIEW**
- **PARK SYSTEM AT A GLANCE**
- **ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS**
- **A 20-YEAR VISION**
- **KEY INITIATIVES**

# PLAN OVERVIEW

## INTRODUCTION

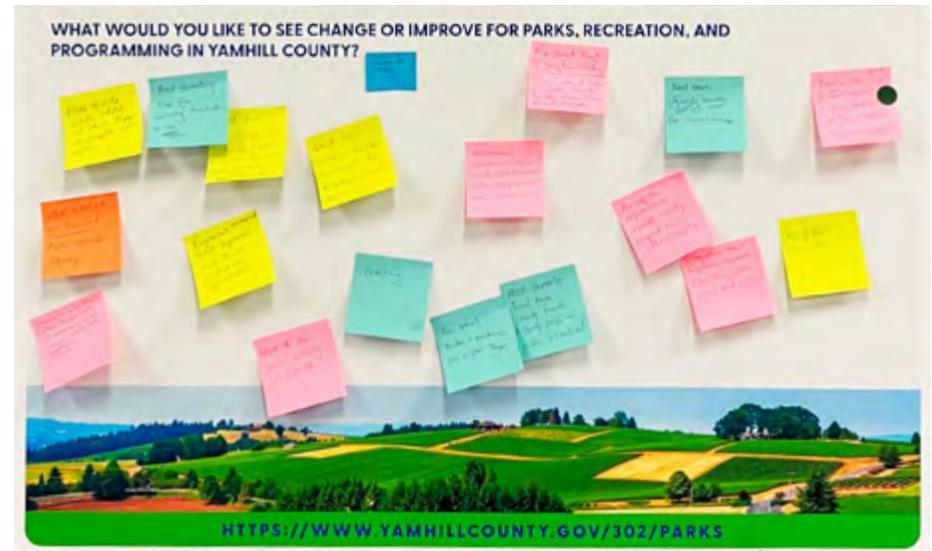
### THE SPECIALNESS OF YAMHILL COUNTY PARKS

Nestled in the heart of the Willamette Valley, Yamhill County Parks capture a variety of landscape types: lush forest, scenic rivers and streams, towering rock formations, serene lakes, rolling hills, working farms and ranches, historic oak woodlands and oak prairies. Its conservation allow rare vegetation, birds, fish, and other wildlife to thrive. The parks offer a variety of recreation opportunities for residents and visitors as destinations for nature observation, picnicking, fishing, boating, walking, play, dog walking, small group gatherings, and peaceful moments outdoors.

Yamhill County parks were established through donation of Stuart Grenfell Park in 1960 and Blackwell Park in 1957. Today, 85% of the County's total park acreage has been made possible through the generosity of private donors. With a system built on a legacy of giving, a renewed commitment of stewardship and a vision for the future is critical to ensure the level of park services keep up with changing demographics of the communities, increasing tourism, expectations for recreation variety and quality experiences, and sustains environmental health.

### CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

Historically, Yamhill County Parks partnered with the Yamhill County Department of Community Justice (YCDCJ) to support park maintenance and improvements. In 2023, Yamhill County Parks was moved under Public Works, creating an operational shift in the park system. Deferred maintenance across the park system had been accumulating for years due to multiple factors, including limited staffing and funding, a focus on contract work, and dwindling YCDCJ work crews. Today, funding for park operations including staffing, maintenance, and provision of park services has not been sufficient to keep pace with aging infrastructure, population growth, and rising costs. As a result, many parks continue to face deferred maintenance and limited capacity to meet community needs. Establishing a sustainable funding strategy and increasing overall investment in Yamhill



County Parks are critical priorities to ensure the long-term viability and improvement of the park system.

### VISION FOR LAND, WATER, AND RECREATION

The 2025 Yamhill County Park System Plan, developed based on feedback from community members, partners, leadership, and county staff, represents a 20-year investment to guide park system planning and development. It identifies and addresses system-wide service gaps, considers community and operational needs, takes care of existing offerings while creating distinctive destinations and experiences.

As an essential community service, Yamhill County Parks will continue to benefit community health and wellness, boost local economy, support tourism, celebrate agricultural legacy, and steward natural environments and wildlife for generations to come. This plan identifies additional funding opportunities that would make the big ideas and key initiatives possible. It is important as a community to form a collective vision of what possible to work towards the next generation of land stewardship.

## WHAT IS A PARK SYSTEM PLAN?

Yamhill County Park System Plan is a guide for the next 20 years of enhancing, maintaining, and adding to the County's parks, open spaces, and recreation opportunities. The Plan is informed by community needs and will direct County decision-making.

### THE PLAN WILL ANSWER:

- How are current County parks functioning?
- How can the County parks better serve the community?
- What are the community's current and future needs?
- How should Yamhill County operate and maintain its parks, open space, and recreation assets for the next 20 years?
- How can we increase community awareness of Yamhill County's park system offerings?
- What new capital projects should the County take on? How to prioritize them in the next 20 years?
- What additional funding is needed to maintain and improve Yamhill County's park offerings?

## PLAN CREATION PROCESS



BOC: Board of Commissioners

**Figure 1:** Plan Creation Process Diagram

## HOW IS THIS DOCUMENT ORGANIZED?

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A brief overview of the Yamhill County Park System Plan, highlighting the project background, engagement process, vision framework, and recommendations for the future.

### CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 introduces the planning context, an overview of Yamhill County's park inventory and park classifications, community profile, regional influences, and key findings from reviewing prior plans.

### CHAPTER 2: PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

Chapter 2 provides a comprehensive needs assessment including an evaluation of Yamhill County's parks, amenities, and program offerings and findings from engagement activities. It explores level of service, park condition and quality, community needs and preferences, operations and maintenance, and current budget and funding sources.

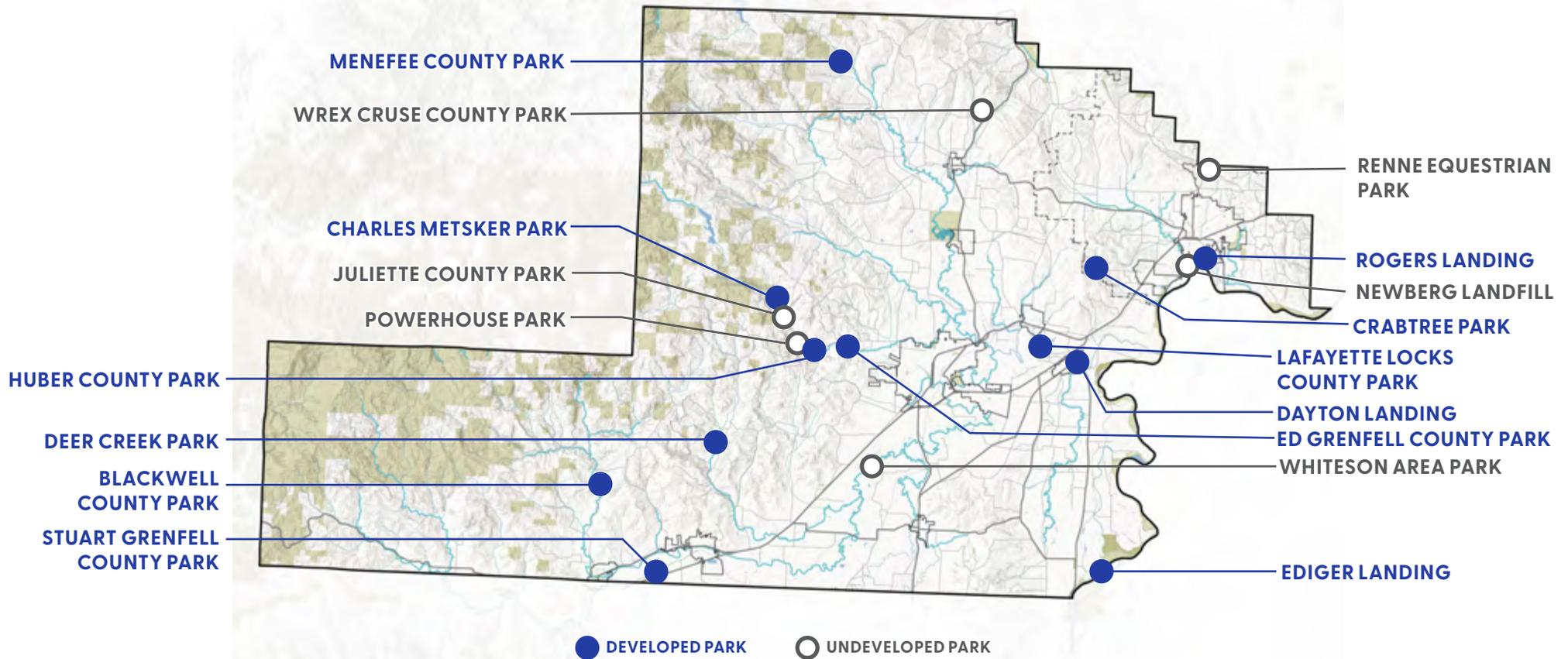
### CHAPTER 3: A 20-YEAR VISION

Chapter 3 presents the vision, themes, goals, and strategies that will guide the Yamhill County Park System for the next 20 years.

### CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION

Chapter 4 features a prioritization matrix which can be used for future decision making, prioritizes action items for strategic implementation, and lists the available funding sources to be pursued.

# PARK SYSTEM AT A GLANCE



**Figure 2:** Yamhill County Parks Quick Facts

# ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The engagement process began in July 2024 with the launch of an online survey focused on collecting public input on the current park system and gathering feedback on potential improvements for the future of Yamhill County parks and open spaces.

Over the duration of two months, the survey received a total of 626 responses, exceeding the anticipated minimum sample size 383<sup>1</sup>. The survey input provides valuable insights into current park visitation, perceived conditions and quality of parks, and desired future amenities.

An in-person meeting was held in September 2024 and provided community members with an introduction to the park system plan, the opportunity to provide input on how to improve park accessibility, comment on current park conditions, and share their vision for future improvements to parks, recreation, and programming in Yamhill County.

The engagement process concluded with a series of stakeholder meetings held in November 2024. Over 30 stakeholders representing a diverse range of interests and backgrounds were invited to participate in facilitated discussions surrounding key topics instrumental to the development of the plan. See Chapter 2 and the appendix for more information about the engagement methods and findings.

<sup>1</sup>-Based on sample size calculator, for a population size of 110,325, a confidence level of 95%, and a margin of error of 5%, a minimum of 383 sample size is anticipated.



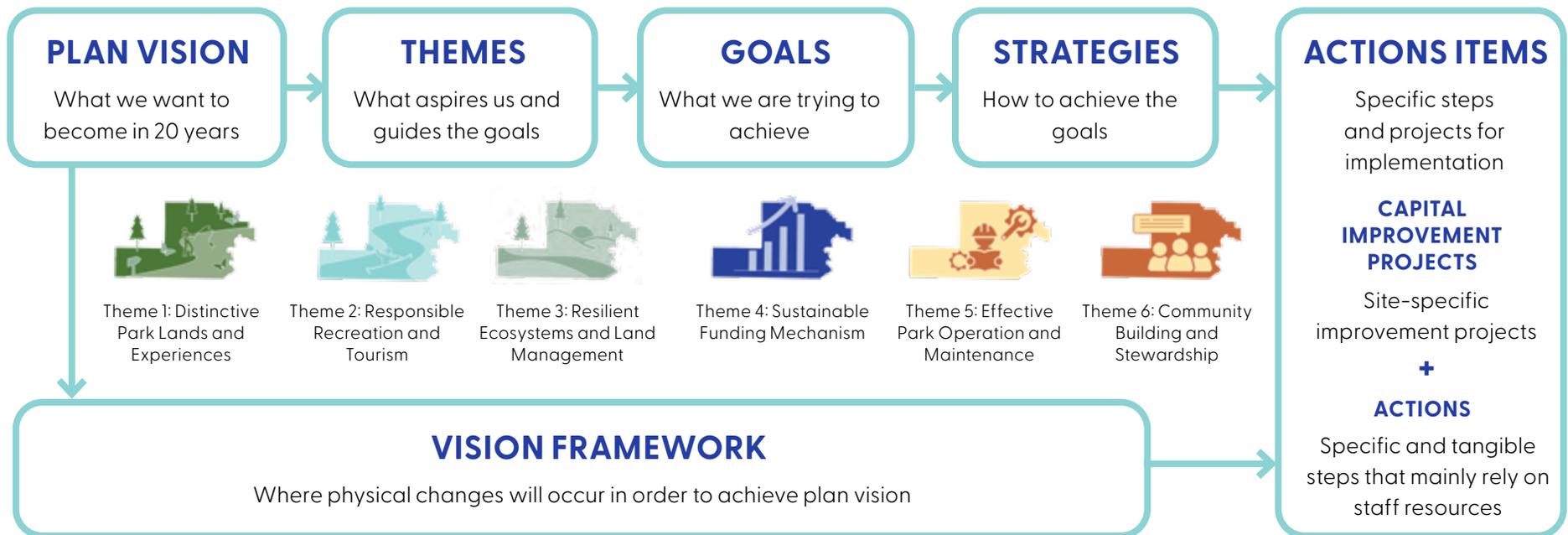
IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/COMMUNITY MEETING

# A 20-YEAR VISION

## PLAN VISION STATEMENT

Connect our communities to nature and water, preserve natural resources, and celebrate agricultural legacy by providing distinctive and outstanding parks and recreation that are financially sustainable.

Figure 3: Plan Structure



Chapters 3 and 4 provide a framework for bringing a 20-year vision to reality with tangible action steps. Map 1 Vision Framework on the following page highlights the locations identified for future projects that will enhance park offerings. Action items in Chapter 4 further explain the vision framework's opportunities to improve creek and river recreation, develop destinations and enhance experiences and environments.

## Map 1: Vision Framework

### Creek and River Recreation

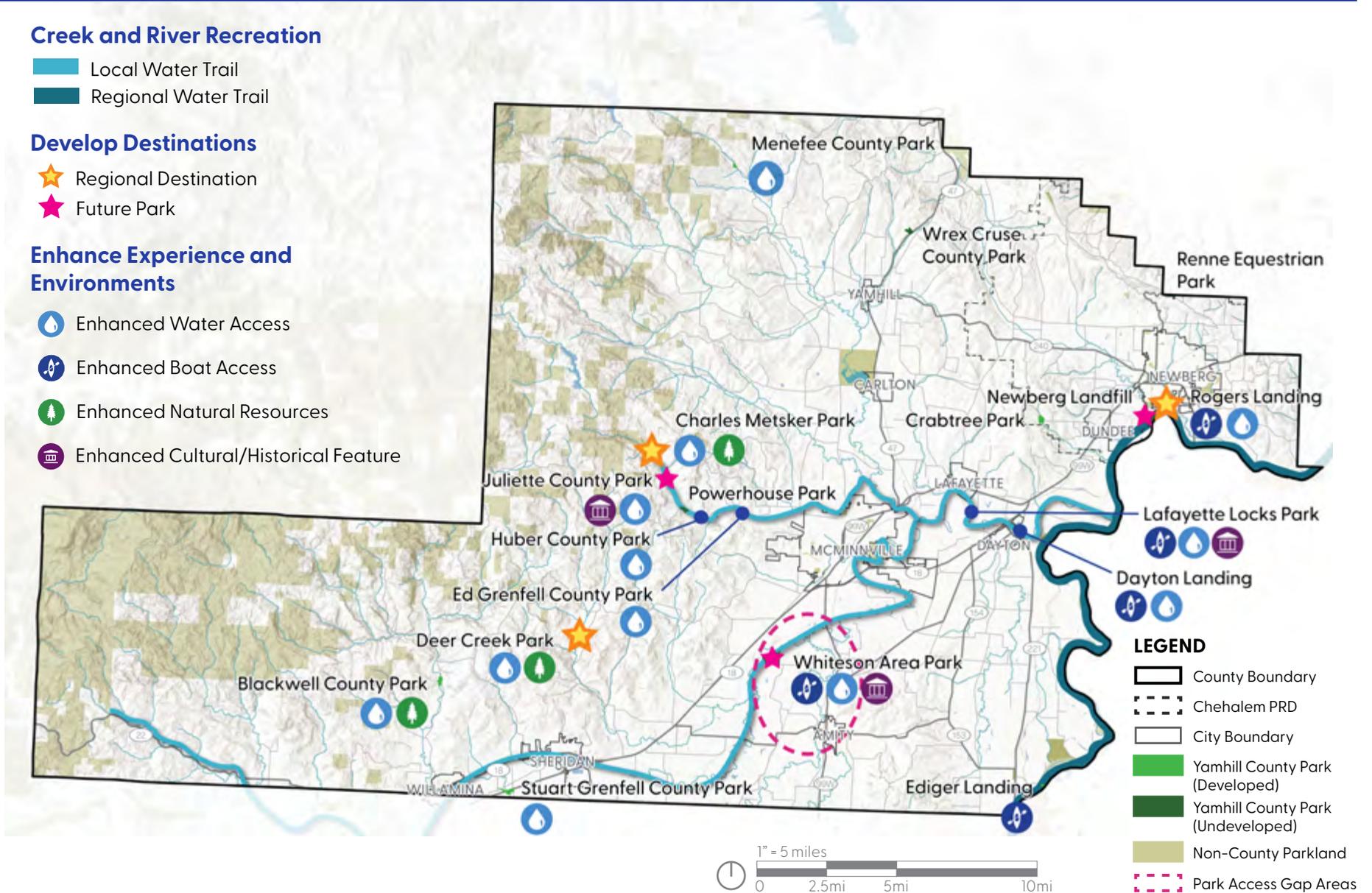
- Local Water Trail
- Regional Water Trail

### Develop Destinations

- Regional Destination
- Future Park

### Enhance Experience and Environments

- Enhanced Water Access
- Enhanced Boat Access
- Enhanced Natural Resources
- Enhanced Cultural/Historical Feature



**LEGEND**

- County Boundary
- Chehalis PRD
- City Boundary
- Yamhill County Park (Developed)
- Yamhill County Park (Undeveloped)
- Non-County Parkland
- Park Access Gap Areas



## CREEK AND RIVER RECREATION



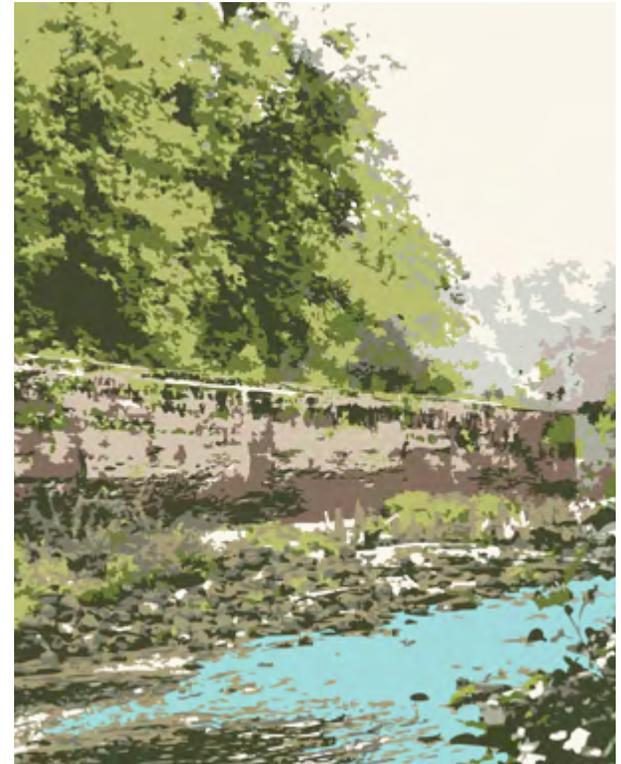
Increase water access and offer water-based recreational opportunities while proactively protecting wildlife habitats and ecological systems.

## DEVELOP DESTINATIONS



Transform selected park sites into regional destinations with distinctive experiences and amenities for both residents and tourists.

## ENHANCE EXPERIENCES AND ENVIRONMENTS



Improve existing park sites with enhanced natural, cultural, and historical features to create memorable experiences.

# KEY INITIATIVES

Based on the themes, goals, and strategies outlined in Chapter 3, actions and capital improvement projects are identified for implementation in three phases. Below are some key initiatives to highlight that are critical in achieving the plan vision:

## PHASE 1

- Increase overall parks funding from the general fund for maintenance and replacement.
- Strategic land ownership.
- Conduct repairs and replacements of park amenities.
- Increase park maintenance and project resources.
- Improve community awareness of park offerings.
- Update and replace park signs across the park system.

## PHASE 2

- Create planning and design concepts for destination sites.
- Seek a voter-supported dedicated funding source for parks projects and resources.
- Improve existing parks with landscape and ecological improvements.
- Establish a volunteer program supported by staff for organizing and project resources.
- Develop parks maintenance manual and natural area management plan.

## PHASE 3

- Develop destination sites in multiple phases.
- Continue improving existing parks with infrastructure and facility improvements.
- Continue addressing deferred maintenance, repairs and replacements.
- Continue seeking grant funding.
- Continue county-wide water access improvements through collaboration with local and regional partners.



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/BLACKWELL COUNTY PARK



# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

- **PLANNING CONTEXT**
- **COMMUNITY PROFILE**
- **INCORPORATING PREVIOUS PLANS**
- **CURRENT OFFERINGS**
- **OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

# PLANNING CONTEXT

## YAMHILL COUNTY PARK HISTORY

The Yamhill County Parks and Open Space Department was established to create, preserve, and restore spaces for outdoor recreation and education. What began as a small collection of parks has grown into a system of 18 parks and open spaces, totaling 272 acres.

Over the years, much of this growth has been driven by the generosity of donors, with 85% of the total acreage acquired through private land donations. These properties are significant for their natural resource conservation and outdoor experiences that are different than the active recreation offerings provided by the local municipalities.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Yamhill County is defined by its extraordinary natural resources, which form the foundation of its unique character and charm. The Willamette River and Yamhill River are two prominent waterways that weave through the county, serving as lifelines for local ecosystems and offering scenic beauty. Numerous creeks traverse the landscape, adding dynamic features to the environment and enriching the county's natural heritage.

Situated within the Willamette Valley, the county was once home to extensive riparian forests, prairies, oak savannas, and upland conifer forests. While much of these historical habitats



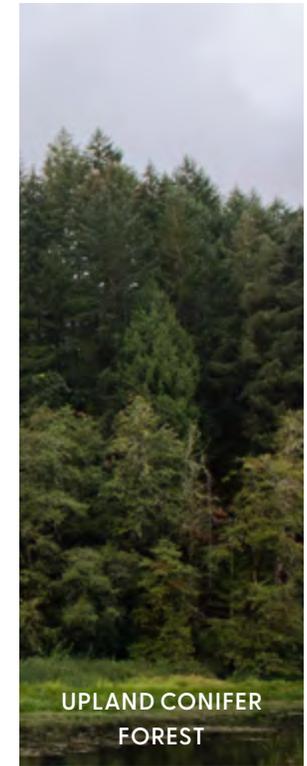
LOWLAND RIPARIAN  
FOREST



PRAIRIE



OAK SAVANNA



UPLAND CONIFER  
FOREST

have been reduced by development, they still persist within Yamhill County parks, preserving a piece of the region's ecological richness and diversity.

## CULTURE AND HISTORY

Yamhill County's cultural and historical roots are deeply intertwined with the lives of the Yamhelas, a Kalapuyan tribe who have inhabited and stewarded the region for thousands of years. Their presence shaped the area's identity long before it became one of Oregon's earliest districts

in 1843. The county's name honors this heritage, reflecting a legacy that predates European-American settlement. The fertile lands and natural resources, central to both the Yamhelas and later immigrants, made the area an appealing place for those seeking new opportunities. Over time, agricultural traditions took root that continue to define the region today.

Key historical moments, such as the establishment of the Provisional Government, McMinnville's rise as the county seat, and the implementation of the Donation Land Claim Act, played pivotal roles

in shaping Yamhill County’s development and governance. Over time, towns like McMinnville grew alongside critical infrastructure, including railroads and river navigation on the Willamette and Yamhill Rivers, solidifying the county’s role in Oregon’s evolving history.

## RECREATION AND RESILIENCY

Parks, trails, and waterways are an integral piece to the county’s way of life, offering space for outdoor recreation, gathering, and connecting with nature. As demand for these spaces increases, long-term planning and responsible management will be essential. Wildfires, flooding extreme heat, destructive pest infestations, and droughts present challenges, but targeted investments in infrastructure and land stewardship can make these properties strong contributors to resiliency, mitigate extreme weather and hazards.

Well-maintained facilities, sustainable resource use, and proactive restoration efforts will ensure the county’s landscapes remain accessible and resilient. Natural systems provide benefits of improving water and air quality, wildfire breaks, pollination support, flood management, ground water regeneration, heat reduction, and more. By balancing recreation with resiliency, the county can protect its natural assets while continuing to support outdoor recreation for future generations.

## TOURISM

Renowned for its vineyards, small towns, and scenic landscapes, Yamhill County has become a premier destination for wine, food, and outdoor recreation in Oregon’s Willamette Valley. Tourism plays a vital role in the local economy, supporting small businesses, hospitality, and cultural events across the county. While wineries remain the primary draw in the county, agritourism—including farm stays, orchards, and local markets—offer visitors with a deeper connection to the region’s historical agricultural heritage. Yamhill County’s outdoor recreation opportunities attract those seeking both leisure and adventure. Parks, rivers,

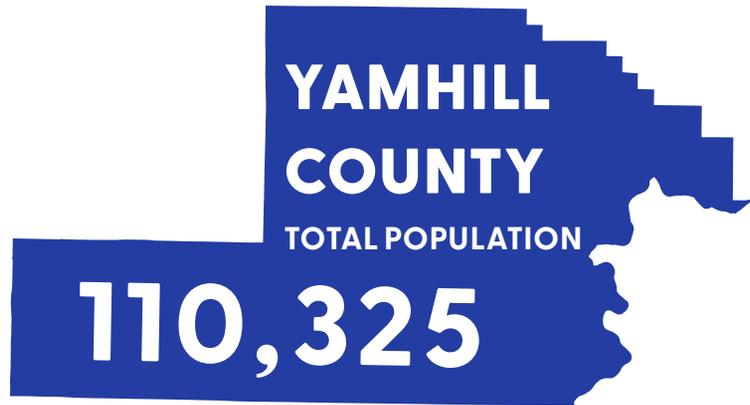
and trails within the county offer activities such as hiking, cycling, paddling, and fishing.

Yamhill County has an opportunity to leverage the County parks as a stronger contributor to tourism, encouraging more visitation and longer stays to enjoy these recreation opportunities. However, this requires increasing awareness of the park offerings and expanding their ability to support visitor interest, while also ensuring their sustainable management. This means investing in maintenance, new facilities, protecting natural and cultural resources, and building support for stewardship and connecting people to these places.



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/ROGERS LANDING

# COMMUNITY PROFILE



**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

**\$83,439**



**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE**

**2.66**



**MEDIAN AGE**

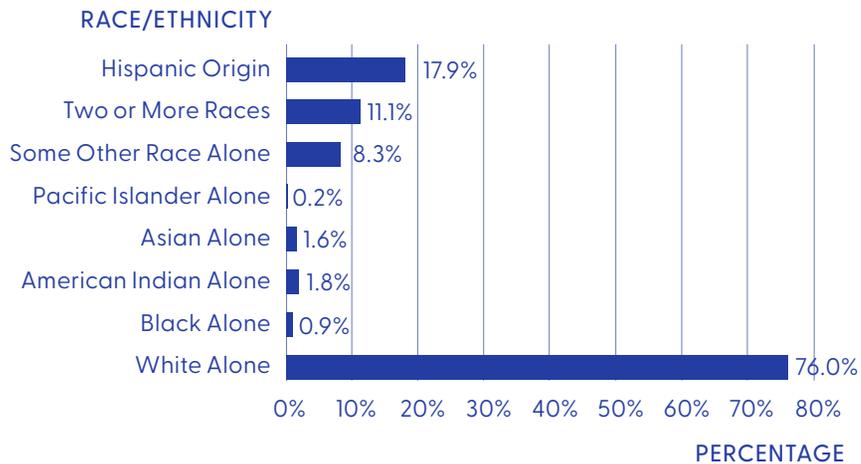
**40**



**PERCENTAGE RENTER OCCUPIED**

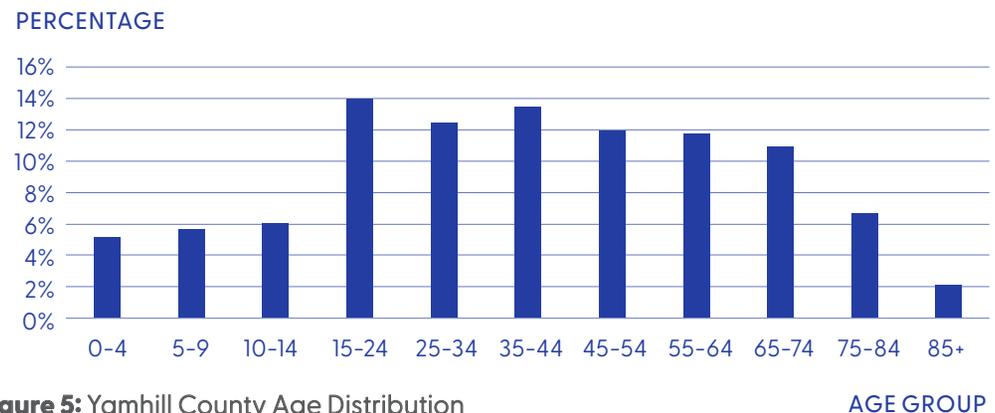
**29%**

## RACE/ETHNICITY



**Figure 4:** Yamhill County Race/Ethnicity  
Source: ESRI Demographics 2024

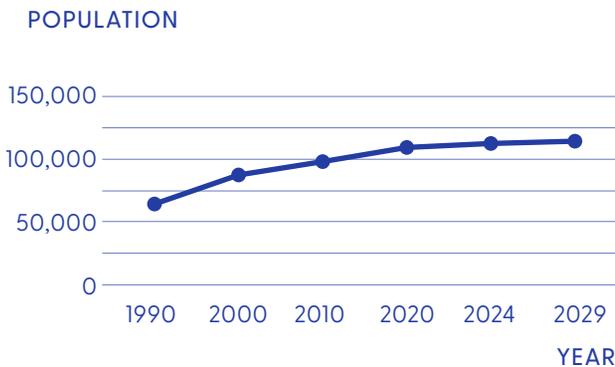
## AGE DISTRIBUTION



**Figure 5:** Yamhill County Age Distribution  
Source: ESRI Demographics 2024

## DEMOGRAPHICS AND GROWTH

Yamhill County hosts a population of 110,325 as of 2024, ranking as the 10th most populous county in the State of Oregon. The County has seen high population growth from 2010 to 2020 of 8.6%, which is just slower than the State of Oregon growth rate of 10.6% during that same period. Yamhill's growth is anticipated to steadily slowdown in the next few years, with a projected annual growth rate of 0.36%.

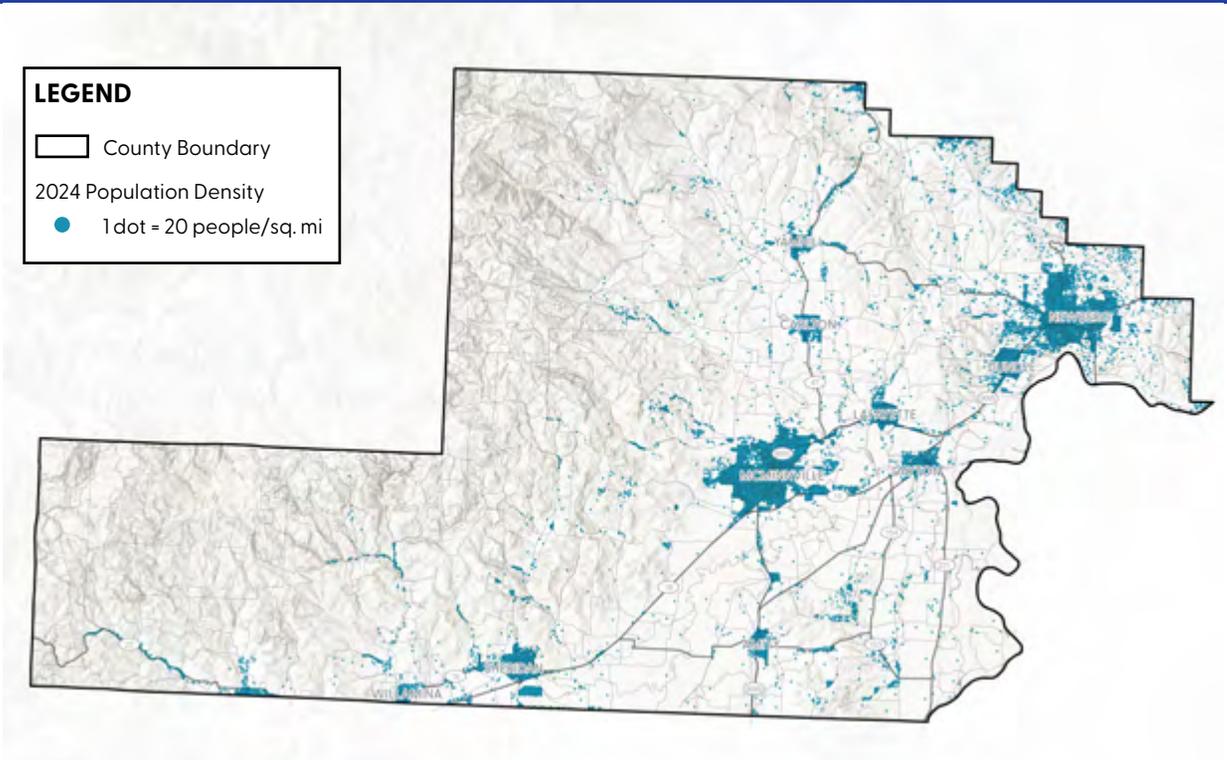


**Figure 6:** Yamhill County Population Trends

Source: ESRI Demographics 2024

Yamhill County's population will continue to grow, though at a slower pace, bringing shifts in community needs and priorities. An aging population, increasing cultural diversity, evolving household structures, and changes in housing and employment trends will shape the demand for parks and open space. As communities within the county change, it will be increasingly

## Map 2: Population Density



Source: ESRI Demographics 2024

important to provide recreational opportunities serving individuals of diverse backgrounds and needs. Thoughtful planning and adaptive strategies will be essential to ensuring the park system meets the needs of current and future generations.

# INCORPORATING PREVIOUS PLANS



## WILLAMETTE RIVER WATER TRAIL

The Willamette River Water Trail played a key role in shaping the Yamhill County Park System Plan, particularly in guiding strategies for water-based recreation and access. As one of 35 nationally recognized water trails, it offers a network of motorized and non-motorized launch points, campsites, and amenities serving a wide range of users.

By evaluating the water trail's connectivity and access points, the planning process identified potential opportunities to strengthen the county's role in supporting low-impact recreation along the Willamette River, both now and in the future.



## YAMHILL RIVERS ACCESS PROJECT

The Yamhill Rivers Access Project is a collaborative initiative led by community leaders in Sheridan, Willamina, McMinnville, Lafayette, Dayton and Yamhill County. It aims to establish formal access points along the Yamhill Rivers, which span more than 120 miles and include the North Yamhill, South Yamhill, and main stems Yamhill Rivers, as well as Mill Creek and Willamina Creeks. While these waterways have significant potential for regional recreation, formal access remains limited.

Though still in its early stages, the project has worked to identify sites where establishing or improving access could enhance water-based recreation. Yamhill County can align its efforts with the project's vision to create year-round, family friendly recreational experiences along the county's rivers and creeks.





## YAMHILL COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN (2003)

The 2003 Yamhill County Parks and Open Space Master Plan established a long-term vision for the county’s park system, guiding its future planning, management, improvement, and expansion. It documented inventory assessment, key insights from public engagement activities, and outlined a vision plan for the park system’s future.

Aligned with the 1996 Yamhill County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the plan emphasized preserving open space, scenic resources, and historic sites. The expansion of water-based recreation opportunities and access along the Willamette and Yamhill Rivers was also noted as a priority. As the county’s first comprehensive parks plan, it set the foundation for the current plan and future efforts to enhance Yamhill County’s parks and open spaces.



## WHITESON PROPERTIES PARK PHASE 1 PLAN

The Whiteson Properties Park Phase 1 document set the framework for the development of trails, river access points, and day use facilities within a proposed 94-acre regional park in the Whiteson area. The plan identified the regional and local need for camping facilities and multi-use trails, emphasizing the site’s potential to address these needs. The document also assessed existing conditions, documented planning timelines, goals, themes, and strategies. Most notably, it outlined a phased development plan to guide the park’s future implementation and management.

## SUMMARY OF TAKEAWAYS

- County parks and open spaces lack accessible pathways and amenities, highlighting a need for improved accessibility within parks.
- Strong intergovernmental partnerships are crucial to meeting community recreation needs.
- Water-based connections are essential for the plan’s success.
- Limited funding for operations and maintenance remains a major challenge.
- Parks and open spaces enhance quality of life, health, and wellness.
- With over half the population in McMinnville and Newberg, balancing recreational opportunities across urban and rural areas is important.

# CURRENT OFFERINGS

## PARK INVENTORY

Yamhill County currently owns and manages 18 park properties across the county, encompassing 12 developed parks and 6 undeveloped parks. These parks are categorized into four classifications based on existing characteristics such as size, amenities, and access. A brief description of classifications of these parks and their classifications are describes below and identified table 3.

## PARK CLASSIFICATION

### REGIONAL PARK

Regional parks provide recreational programs and amenities for the entire county and tourists. Activities that visitors may partake in at regional parks may include nature immersion, hiking, paddling, picnicking, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, group gatherings, and outdoor education. Regional parks may also perform important ecological and environmental functions, such as serving as wildlife habitats, supporting biodiversity, protecting water resources, and preserving significant views.

### COMMUNITY PARK

Community parks focus on meeting the needs of the communities in nearby cities or small towns or rural areas. They serve as a destination for community-wide activities and group gatherings. Their amenities provide broad purposes, balancing active and passive recreation needs that can be enjoyed by all user-groups at one time. Some of the community parks have reservable areas.

### ACCESS POINT

Access points serve as a physical point to access water or for a quick stop by the wayside. They can be community focused or tourist focused.

## UNDEVELOPED

Undeveloped parks are typically spaces with no current recreational opportunities and limited or no public access. These spaces may include dedicated park areas still in development or proposed parks.

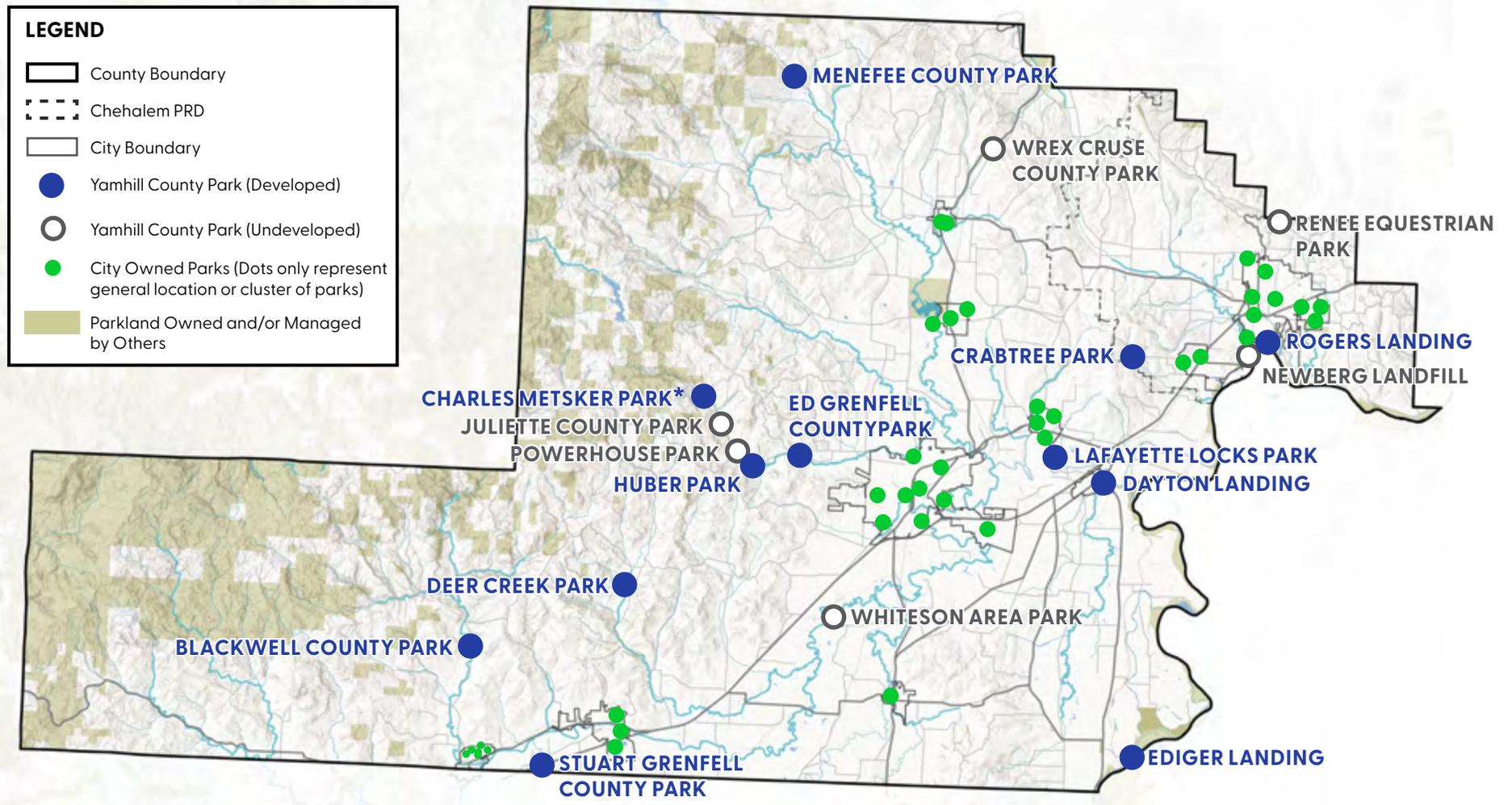
**Table 1:** Parks and Open Space Inventory Acreage

Classification	Properties	Acres	% of System
Regional Park	3	78.7	29%
Community Park	6	33.1	12%
Access Point	3	9.0	3%
Undeveloped	6	151.1	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>100%</b>



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/STUART GRENFELL PARK

### Map 3: Yamhill County Park Inventory



\*Note: Charles Metsker Park is deed-restricted to chaperoned, organized youth or school groups only.



# INVENTORY CLASSIFICATION

**Table 2:** Yamhill County Park Classifications

Size	Purpose and Function	Characteristics and Amenities	Service Area	Access
<b>Regional Park</b>				
Greater than 10 acres	<p>Provides recreational programs and amenities for the entire county and tourists.</p> <p>Activities that visitors may partake in at regional parks may include nature immersion, hiking, paddling, picnicking, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, group gatherings, and outdoor education.</p> <p>Regional parks may also perform important ecological and environmental functions, such as serving as wildlife habitats, supporting biodiversity, protecting water resources, and preserving significant views.</p> <p>Some of the regional parks require reservations.</p>	<p>Regional park sites often include unique natural resources such as lakes, rivers, prairies, forests. Some of the natural areas are minimally developed and maintained in their natural state.</p> <p>Special site features such as essential habitats, historic and cultural features, and other sensitive areas may be preserved or enhanced to add to the unique character of the park.</p> <p>Amenities for regional parks can include shade pavilions, public restrooms, nature centers, information kiosks, outdoor education areas, nature art, nature play features, nature demonstration areas, viewpoints, lighting, trails and trail heads, walking paths, scenic drives, picnic areas, water access, boat access, fishing, and campgrounds etc.</p>	<p>Entire county and region. 15-minute driveshed or more. Anticipated to draw a service area of 20 miles or more.</p>	<p>Typically have direct access from an arterial street or local road. Car is the primary mode of transportation. Some sites can be accessed by bicycle or foot.</p> <p>Dedicated off-street parking. Location and layout of parking should consider site characteristics and natural resources sensitivity.</p> <p>Based on park capacity, some sites are by permit only or require reservations.</p>
<b>Community Park</b>				
2 to 15 acres	<p>Community parks focus on meeting the needs of the communities in nearby cities, small towns or rural areas. They serve as a destination for community-wide activities and group gatherings.</p> <p>Their amenities provide broad purposes, balancing active and passive recreation needs that can be enjoyed by all user groups at one time.</p> <p>Some of the community parks have reservable areas.</p>	<p>Site characteristics vary significantly among the different community parks. Park design, development, and renovation need to respect the existing site characteristics. Special site features such as essential habitats, historic and cultural features, and other sensitive areas may be preserved or enhanced to add to the unique character of the park.</p> <p>Amenities may include:</p> <p>Informal open play areas, nature play features, picnic areas, barbecues, shade pavilions, public restrooms or port-o-lets, dog play area, water access, boat access, fishing, walking paths, trails and trail heads, and historic and cultural features.</p>	<p>Local and regional draw. Mainly serving residents within 15-minute driveshed. Anticipated to draw from a Service Area of 10 miles.</p>	<p>Typically have access from an arterial street or local road and are accessible by car, bicycle, or foot. Parking conditions vary. Parking may be on-street or off-street depending on the site characteristics and natural resources sensitivity.</p>

Size	Purpose and Function	Characteristics and Amenities	Service Area	Access
<b>Access Point</b>				
Varies	Access point serves as a physical point to access water or for a quick stop by the wayside. They can be community or tourist focused.	<p>The location of the physical access point should be carefully planned to ensure accessibility, traffic control, lighting, and noise issues do not negatively impact neighborhoods.</p> <p>Amenities for access points can include:</p> <p>Boat ramps or launches, fishing docks, water access, and flexible open space.</p>	Local and regional draw.	Generally accessible to primary roads and pathways. Parking conditions vary. Parking may be on-street or off-street depending on the site characteristics and natural resources sensitivity.
<b>Undeveloped</b>				
Varies	Undeveloped parks are typically spaces with no current recreational opportunities and limited to no public access. These spaces may include dedicated park spaces still in development or proposed parks.	<p>Varies. Properties are typically natural or unmaintained areas unsuitable for public access.</p> <p>Future recreation programs and amenities proposed on landfill properties are limited and should follow the requirements from Yamhill County's Solid Waste Management Department and Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality. Undeveloped properties will be reclassified as their planning and design evolve.</p>	Not Applicable	Not Publicly Accessible

# PARKS AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

**Table 3:** Yamhill County Park Inventory

Park Name	Acres	Developed	Publicly Accessible	Boat Access	Waterway Access	Conservancy	Historical Vegetation	Historical/Cultural Features	Outdoor Education
<b>Regional Park</b>									
Charles Metsker Park	35.2	•	By Permit		•	•	Upland Forest		•
Deer Creek Park	29.4	•	•		•	•	Prairie		•
Rogers Landing	14.1	•	•	•	•		Riparian, Wetland, Woodland		
<b>Community Park</b>									
Blackwell Park	5.8	•	•		•		Woodland, Savanna		
Crabtree Park	12.7	•	•				Woodland		
Ed Grenfell Park	5.2	•	•		•		Savanna		
Lafayette Locks Park	7.0	•	•		•		Riparian, Wetland, Savanna	•	
Huber Park	1.5	•	•		•		Savanna		
Menefee Park	1.0	•	•		•		Woodland		
<b>Access Point</b>									
Dayton Landing	2.5	•	•	•	•		Riparian, Wetland		
Ediger Landing	0.3	•	•	•	•		Riparian, Wetland		
Stuart Grenfell Park	6.1	•	•		•		Riparian, Wetland, Prairie		
<b>Undeveloped</b>									
Juliette Park	5.7				•		Upland Forest	•	
Newberg Landfill	38.8				•		Riparian, Wetland, Woodland		

Park Name	Size	Developed	Publicly Accessible	Boat Access	Waterway Access	Conservancy	Historical Vegetation	Historical/Cultural Features	Outdoor Education
Powerhouse Park	4.2						Woodland	•	
Renne Equestrian Park	3.0						Woodland, Savanna		
Whiteson Area Park	93.0				•		Riparian, Wetland, Prairie	•	•
Wrex Cruse	6.4								



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/ED GRENFELL PARK

# OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

## OPPORTUNITIES

### PARKS AS DESTINATIONS WITH MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES

Featured by its special natural, cultural, and historic beauty, many of Yamhill County's Parks hold untapped potential to become regional destinations not only for local residents but also for tourists. Many stakeholders expressed the desire to consolidate resources and create larger parks with meaningful experiences in the County.

Meaningful experiences can inspire, educate, heal, and strengthen the sense of community. For example, observing the natural habitat and wildlife in Charles Metsker Park can inspire awe and wonder. With proper planning and management, the site can be developed for immersion in nature, environmental education, and ecological conservation.

### PARKS AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

A key national trend in recent years is people's greater appreciation for access to nature and outdoors. Parks and outdoor spaces have become vital community infrastructure, supporting physical, mental, and emotional well-being. As green infrastructure, parks also support environmental health and community resilience by working in harmony with natural systems. With close proximity to nature, Yamhill County residents love to spend time outdoors. Both land-based activities such as hiking, bicycling and camping,

and water-based activities, such as boating, kayaking and fishing are popular in the region. Enhancing existing parks and creating larger parks with meaningful experiences are essential to meet the needs of the community, improve quality and life and attract future residents to live in the County.

### PARKS AS DRIVERS FOR TOURISM AND ECONOMY

Parks provide economic benefits by attracting visitors and generating revenues. Especially large parks with rentals and amenities for reservations can charge fees, which can be reinvested back to the maintenance, services, and expansion of these park sites.

Linking county parks to the county's wine-tourism and agri-tourism can create mutual benefits. Camping, cycling, and non-motorized water crafting is rising as some of the tourism trends in the region. County parks could have the infrastructure and amenities to support these popular outdoor activities and boost tourism economy.

### PARTNERSHIPS

Providing parks spaces and continuous operation and maintenance to these parks is not a one-person or one-department effort, it requires partnership with entities that share similar goals. Yamhill County Parks and Recreation Department forged partnerships with local and regional municipalities, schools, organizations and state

agencies. Strengthening collaborations with these entities can help advance the department's mission and support the strategic implementation of the plan's recommendations, ensuring high quality park services to the community.

Successful public-private partnerships can further contribute to the local economy and tourism. Offering all season, family-oriented programs in parks is one of the ideas suggested in the stakeholder listening sessions.

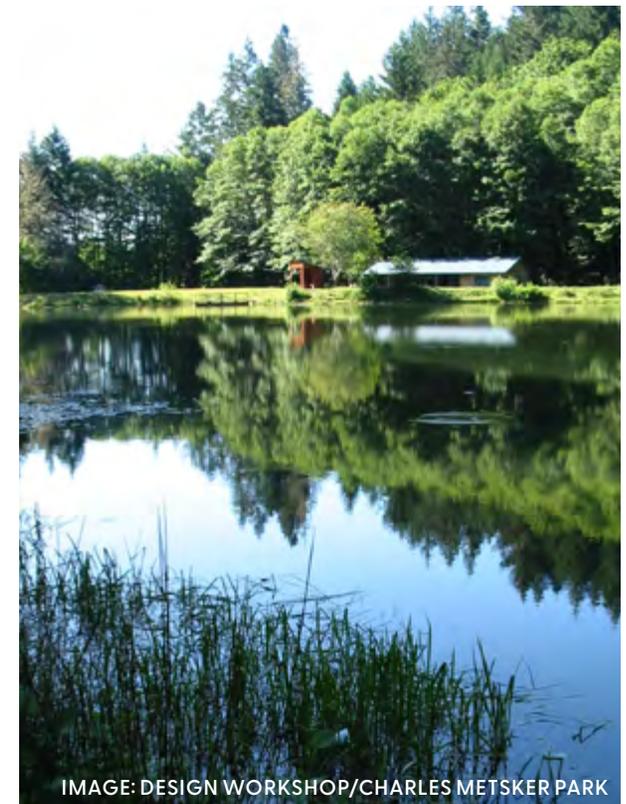


IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/CHARLES METSKER PARK

## CHALLENGES

### FUNDING LIMITATIONS

The Yamhill County Parks and Open Space Department operate under significant financial constraints. The County's general fund serves as the primary source of funding, with few dedicated revenue streams to support park maintenance, improvements, or expansion. As described in Chapter Two under the Budgeting Assessment, the Parks and Recreation Department budget makes up a small percentage of the overall County general fund. Neighboring counties benefit from dedicated tax levies, bond measures, or park-specific fees, however, Yamhill County has limited mechanisms for generating sustainable funding for its parks system.

This lack of financial resources directly impacts the department's ability to maintain existing park facilities, restore natural areas, and invest in new recreational opportunities. Many park sites face deferred maintenance issues, including aging infrastructure, and limited accessibility improvements. Without a consistent increase in funding sources, the department is unable to take on needed capital improvements or ecological restoration projects.

### LACK OF RESOURCES

Staffing challenges further impact park operations. The County's parks manager currently divides their time between overseeing park operations and assisting with maintenance tasks

across the county. The department employs two full-time maintenance staff and typically hires one seasonal staff member during peak season. However, rising labor costs have outpaced available funding, making it difficult to expand staffing levels.

In addition to staffing challenges, the County's maintenance facility is outdated and lacks basic infrastructure. The equipment used for park upkeep is aging, with many machines being outdated and inefficient, leading to increased repair costs and downtime. Without investment in modern facilities and equipment, the ability to maintain parks and open spaces at high levels remains constrained.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

The County's rural park settings are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and extreme weather events threatening their natural landscapes. Water scarcity poses a significant challenge, potentially impacting wetlands, creeks, and rivers. Wildfires and intensified storms threaten critical infrastructure at parks. To safeguard these parks, proactive measures and strategies will be essential in adapting to changing climate.

### DIMINISHING HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY

Rural parks provide some of the last intact natural areas in the County. Habitat loss and ecosystem fragmentation present growing concerns to the

region's natural resources. The spread of invasive species further threatens native ecosystems, outcompeting native plant life. Without targeted conservation efforts, including habitat restoration and invasive species management, the ecological integrity of these rural parks will decline. Ensuring these spaces remain thriving natural habitats will require long-term investment in conversation and land stewardship initiatives.



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/DEER CREEK PARK



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/MENEFFEE PARK



# CHAPTER 2: PARK SYSTEM EVALUATION

- **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**
- **LEVEL OF SERVICE**
- **CONDITION AND QUALITY ASSESSMENT**
- **EXISTING PARK AMENITIES**
- **COMMUNITY INPUT**
- **RECREATION TRENDS**
- **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT**
- **BUDGET ASSESSMENT**

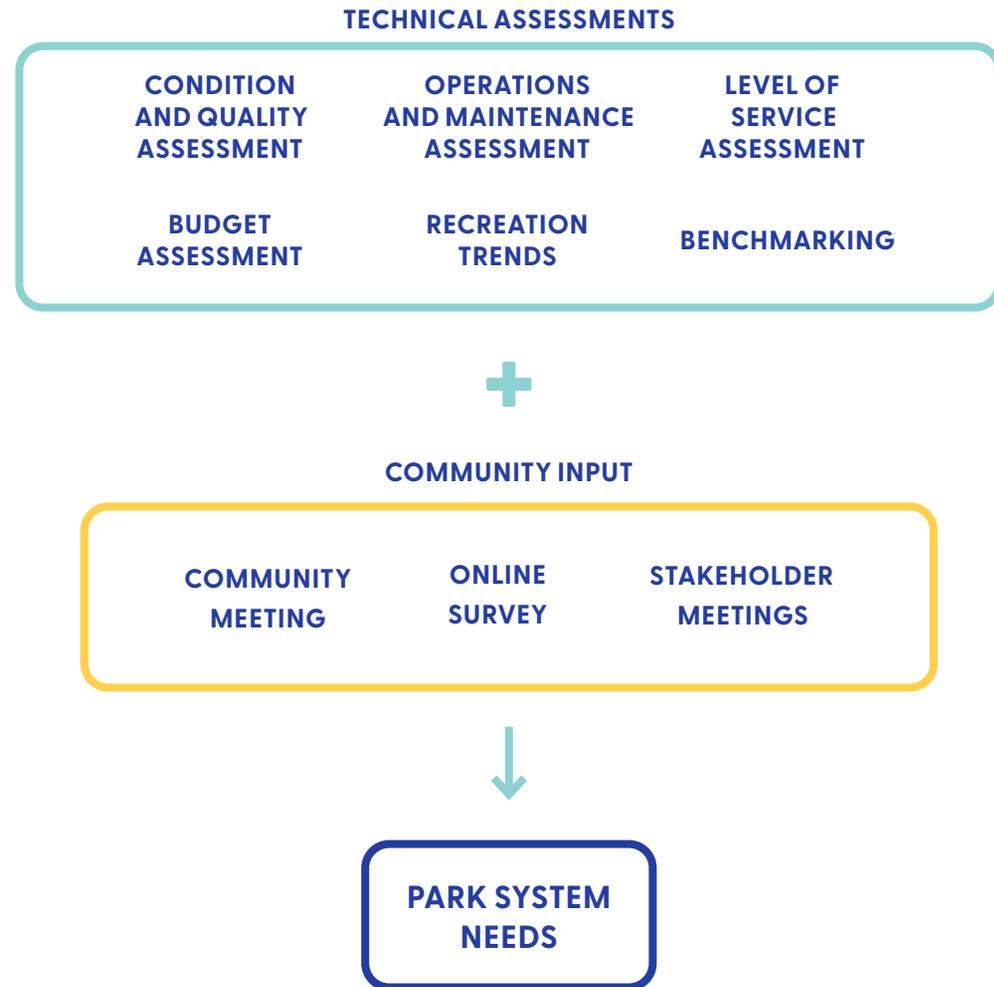
# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## OVERVIEW

A needs assessment serves as a foundational analysis, drawing on findings from previous planning efforts, regional influences, community engagement, and evaluations of the current park system. This process considers the county's demographics, projected growth, and evolving recreational trends at both state and local levels.

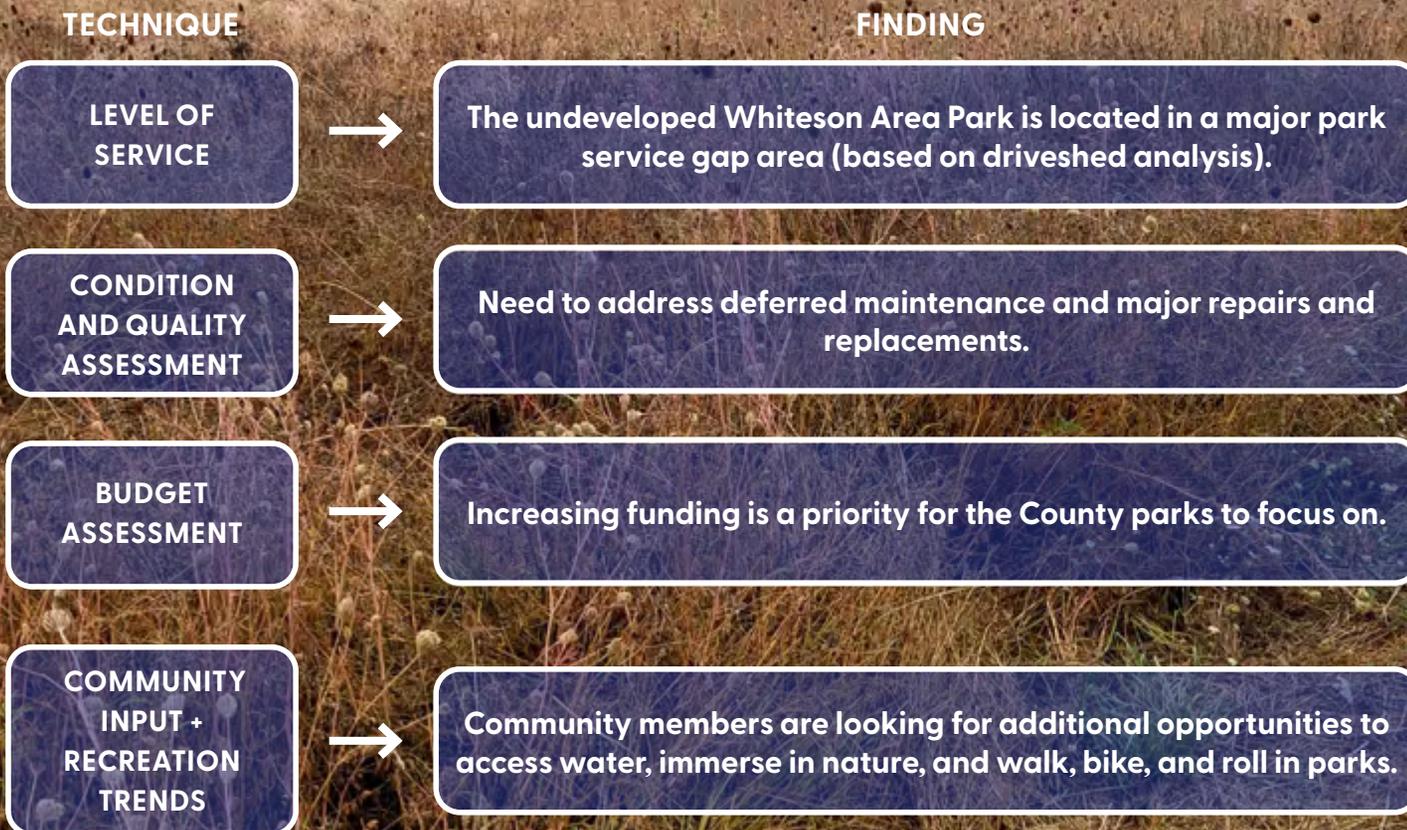
In Yamhill County, there are other municipalities, public agencies, and private recreation providers that offer parks and recreation services. The needs assessment took park services offered by others into consideration. The proposed strategies focus less about increasing the total park acreage, but more about strategic investments to the destination parks that serve a wider geography and users.

Additionally, benchmarking against peer counties and conducting financial assessments help to evaluate the park system's performance in comparison to similar regions. By assessing the level of service, the condition and quality of parks, and the effectiveness of operations and maintenance practices, the current and future needs of the park system are identified. The result is a comprehensive evaluation, informing the County's vision for the park system.



**Figure 7:** Needs Assessment Diagram

## FINDINGS FROM NEEDS ASSESSMENTS



# LEVEL OF SERVICE

## OVERVIEW

Level of service is a guideline used to evaluate and plan for the availability and accessibility of parks and recreation facilities within a community. The following two metrics were employed to evaluate how well Yamhill County's park system is serving the recreational needs of the community:

- Park acreage per 1,000 County residents; and
- Percentage of resident housing units located within 15-minute driving distance to a Yamhill County park.

## PARK ACREAGE

Located in a rural setting, Yamhill County offers parks of different sizes and features that serve communities in the two largest cities (McMinnville and Newberg), small towns, and rural areas.

Yamhill County's total park acres per 1,000 residents equals 1.1 (for developed parks only), which is relatively low compared to peer counties with similar populations in the State of Oregon. However, communities in Yamhill County are also served by parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces provided by local municipalities and the Chehalem Park & Recreation District.

### YAMHILL COUNTY HAS A TOTAL OF 1.1 PARK ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

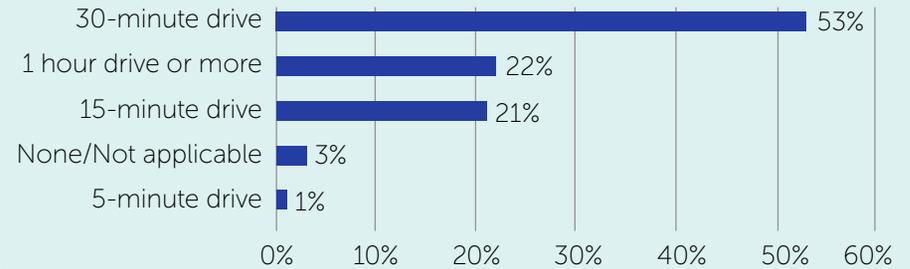
Peer Counties for Comparison (2024):

- Benton County has a total of 8.3 Park Acres Per 1,000 Residents
- Linn County has a total of 10.2 Park Acres Per 1,000 Residents
- Josephine County has a total of 10.2 Park Acres Per 1,000 Resident

Source: ESRI Demographics 2024. The benchmarking study is based on available online data. Nuances may exist among data sets.

With an annual growth rate of 0.36% from 2024 to 2029, Yamhill County's projected population for 2029 is 112,348. It shows a steady slowdown comparing to previous years (8.6% growth rate from 2010 to 2020). Yamhill

### What is the maximum distance you are willing to drive to a Yamhill County park?



Source: 2024 Yamhill County Parks Community Survey

County is not expecting large expansion with its park system in the next two decades to maintain the same level of service.

## PARK DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS

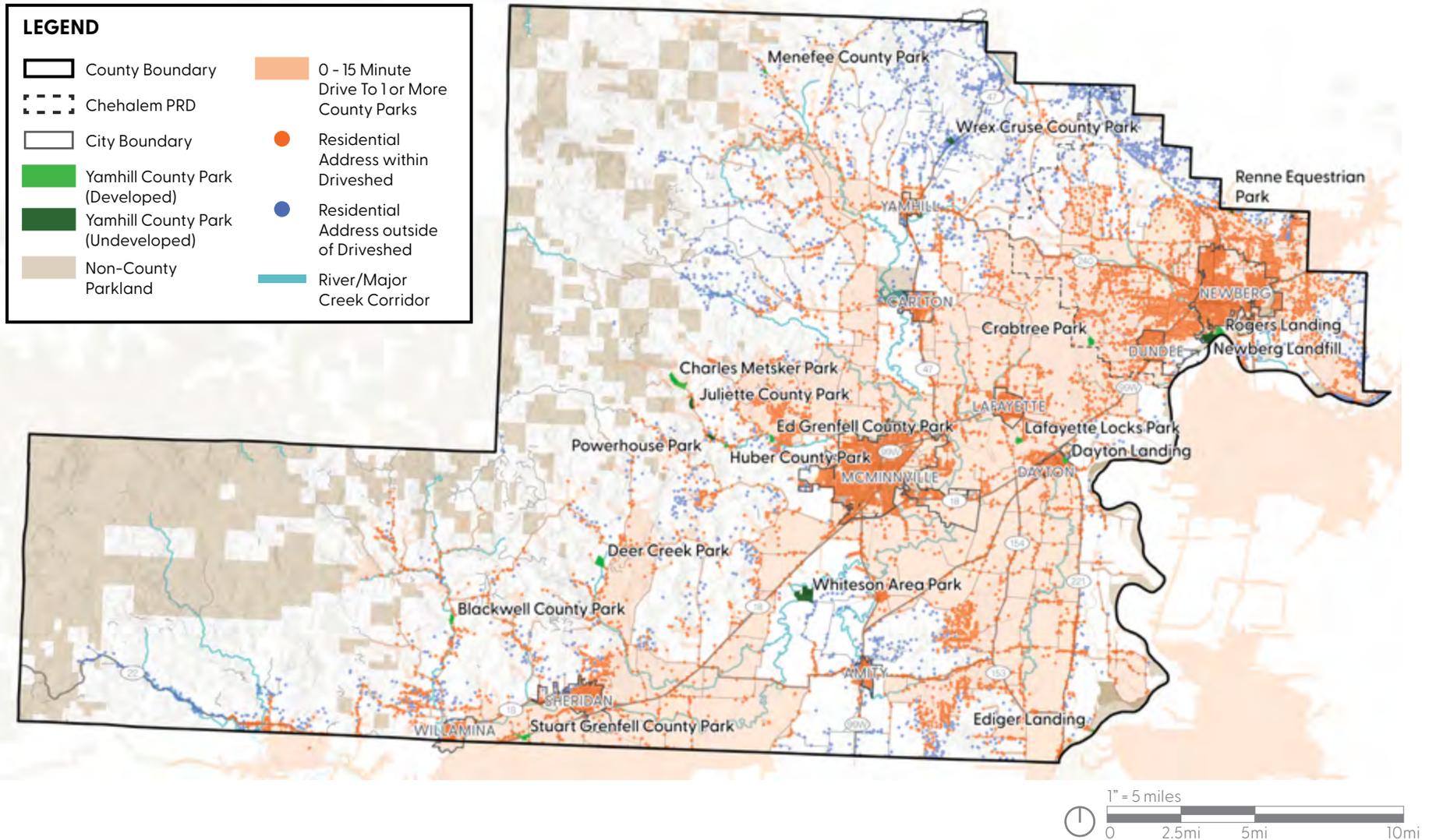
Yamhill County parks are more spread out than parks provided by local municipalities. Driving is the primary transportation mode for people to get to a county park. The chart above shows the survey results which indicates that the majority of respondents are willing to drive more than 15-minutes to get to a county park.

Map 4 helps visualize a 15-minute driveshed mapping with residential addresses overlaid on top. The orange dots represent residential addresses located within the driveshed while the blue dots represent residential addresses located outside of the driveshed.

Through the planning process, community members expressed a desire for improved access to parks by walking, cycling, boating, and public transit, as well as better transportation for youth to reach parks for educational opportunities.

**PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHIN A 15-MINUTE DRIVE TO ONE OR MULTIPLE DEVELOPED COUNTY PARKS** **96%**

**Map 4: Yamhill County Parks Driveshed Map**



# CONDITION AND QUALITY ASSESSMENT

In collaboration with Yamhill County staff, the consultant team conducted assessments to evaluate the existing condition and quality of the 12 Yamhill County developed parks. These parks were rated as Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor based on their overall scores.

**Excellent:** Optimal system functionality and conditions.

**Good:** System is functioning well, though it may have minor performance or aesthetic deficiencies.

**Fair:** System has deficiencies, but functionality is not affected, and safety is not a concern.

**Poor:** System needs an urgent upgrade as it has passed its useful life or poses a safety risk for users.

Four criteria were used to generate the overall scores:

**Maintenance Condition:** evaluates the impact of wear and tear of parks and facilities on a scale from 0 to 4. 0 indicates non-functional, failed or missing components, or complete replacement required. 4 represents newly constructed or highly maintained areas that are in excellent condition.

**Level of Development:** assesses the level of development at each location relative to the planned or intended use on a scale from 0 to 2. 0 indicates a lack of amenities or the amenities are not appealing to users. 2 reflects well-developed

areas with a good variety and sufficient amenities for the intended users.

**Extent of Undesirable Use:** reflects the extent of undesirable use, such as vandalism, illegal Activities, littering, uncontrolled pets, overcrowding, in the parks and natural areas on a scale from 0 to 3, where 0 indicates that park activities are significantly disrupted or pose serious safety risks, while 3 signifies none or minor disruptions that are easy to manage and do not impact the park experience.

**Natural Resources Quality:** evaluates the health, ecological function and human impact on the natural resources quality of each park. A scale from 0 to 2 was used for this evaluation, where 0 indicates severely degraded natural resources with major ecological disruption, and 2 represents healthy, well functioning ecosystems with none or minimal human impact.

More than half of the Yamhill County parks fall under the Fair to Poor condition categories, indicating that future improvements are needed in these parks.

The scoring breakdown for every assessed park can be found in Appendix.

## YAMHILL COUNTY DEVELOPED PARKS CONDITION AND QUALITY ASSESSMENT TOTAL RATINGS:

**8.3% EXCELLENT**

- Edward Grenfell Park

**16.7% GOOD**

- Deer Creek Park
- Menefee Park

**50% FAIR**

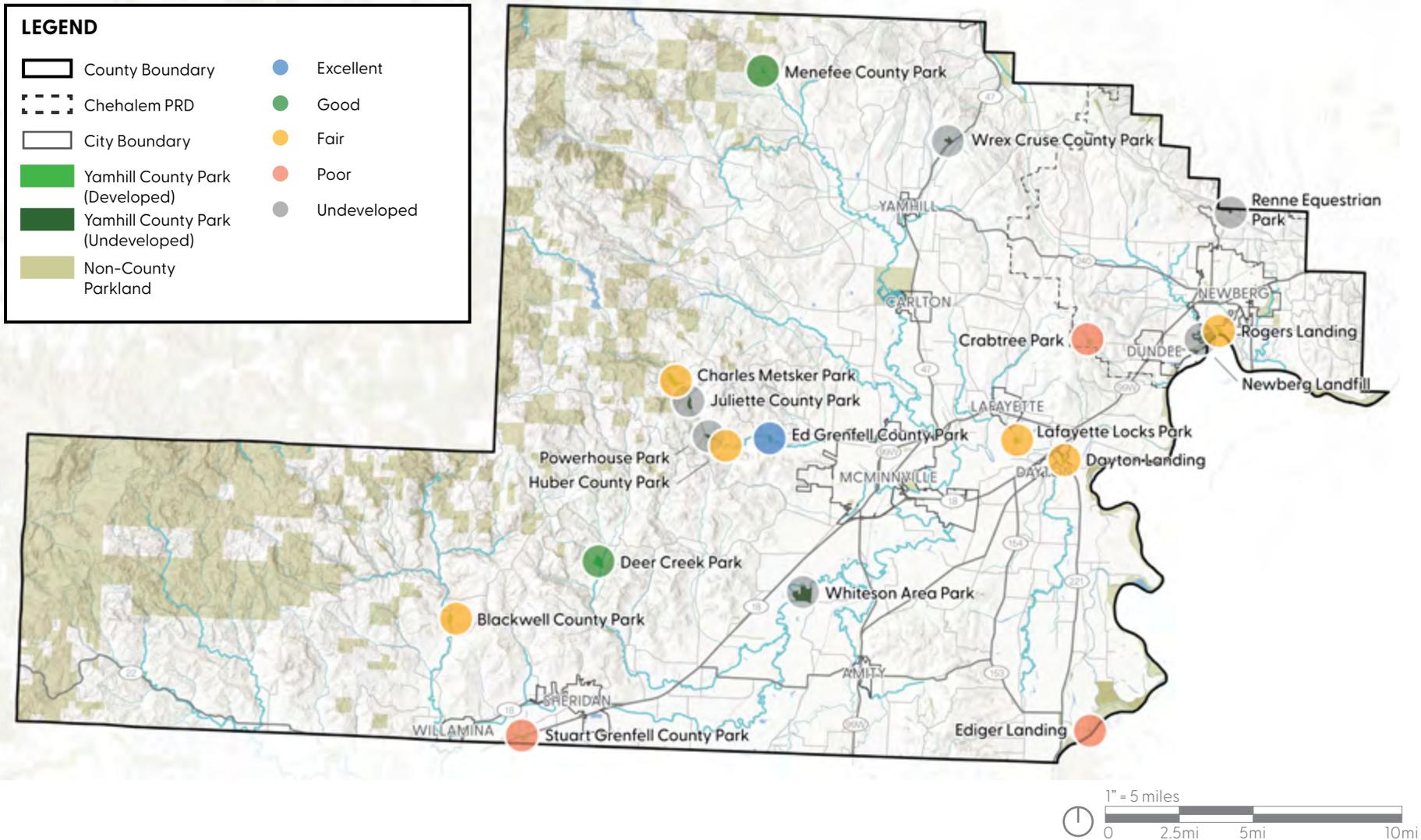
- Charles Metsker Park
- Rogers Landing
- Blackwell Park
- Huber Park
- Lafayette Locks Park
- Dayton Landing

**25% POOR**

- Crabtree Park
- Ediger Landing
- Stuart Grenfell Park

Source: 2024 Yamhill County Parks Community Survey

# Map 5: Yamhill County Parks Conditions Map



# EXISTING PARK AMENITIES



## CHARLES METSKER PARK

This gated park is dedicated to youth and nature, and is deed-restricted to chaperoned, organized youth or school groups only.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 1 Lake (Rainbow Lake)
- 1 Pavilion
- 10 Picnic Tables
- 1 Restroom
- Unpaved Parking Surface
- 3 Trailhead/Access Point
- 1 Pedestrian Pathway/  
Boardwalk/Bridge



## DEER CREEK PARK

A nature lover's delight, this park contains the largest wet prairie ecosystem in the lower Willamette Valley. The tall-grass prairie at Deer Creek Prairie Park attracts regional attention each spring when both very rare and more common wildflowers burst into bloom. Located in Gopher Valley at the confluence of Cronin Creek and Deer Creek, this 29-acre park is one of the county's finest, with abundant picnic areas beneath a grove of 100-year-old Oregon ash.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 2 Grills
- 7 Picnic Tables
- 2 Benches/Seating
- 1 Pet Waste Station
- 1 Restroom
- 15 Parking Spaces
- 2 Pedestrian Path/Boardwalk/Bridge



## ROGERS LANDING

One of Oregon's premier boating facilities on the majestic Willamette River, this park offers expansive parking and a three-lane boat launch. From land or water, Rogers Landing is one of Yamhill County's top recreational resources. Many enjoy strolling the docks at sunset or scanning the skies for blue heron, osprey, kingfishers, or migrating geese.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 1 Boat Launch (Motorized/non-Motorized) to access Willamette River
- 1 Water Access Point to Willamette River
- 3 Pet Waste Stations
- 1 Drinking Fountain
- 1 Restroom
- 2 Port-o-lets



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP

## BLACKWELL PARK

Refreshing Willamina Creek bends around a shady grove of Oregon white oak before cascading over sculpted bedrock formations. The creek pools invitingly next to a river rock beach. Shady picnic sites are abundant at this six-acre park.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 1 Water Access Point to Willamina Creek
- 6 Picnic Tables
- 3 Grills
- 1 Restroom
- 1 Pet Waste Station
- Unpaved Parking Surface
- 1 Trailhead/Access Point
- 1 Pedestrian Path/Boardwalk/Bridge



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP

## CRABTREE PARK (OPERATED BY CPRD)

Crabtree Park is located in Dundee. It is a secluded park ideal for outdoor gatherings. This location is popular for weddings and large family picnics. There are portable restrooms located on site, but please be aware there is no drinking water available in this park.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 15 Picnic Tables
- 1 Rentable Pavilion
- 1 Grill
- 1 Playground
- 1 Pond
- 1 Port-o-lets
- 12 Parking Spaces
- 1 Trailhead Access Point to Green Thumb Nature Trail



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP

## EDWARD GRENFELL PARK

Baker Creek meanders through grassy fields in this popular countryside setting. The covered picnic shelter can be reserved for group gatherings and events.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 1 Water Access Point to Baker Creek
- 1 Pavilion
- 1 Rentable Pavilion
- 4 Grills
- 2 Pet Waste Stations
- 2 Gated Dog Play Areas (1 for small dogs and 1 for large dogs)
- 4 Drinking Fountain
- 27 Picnic Tables
- 4 Restrooms
- 33 Parking Spaces (8 ADA Parking Spaces)
- 2 Pedestrian Paths/Boardwalks/Bridges

# EXISTING PARK AMENITIES



## LAFAYETTE LOCKS PARK

Listed on the National Historic Register, this 7.1-acre park features the remains of the old locks that once permitted boats to navigate up the Yamhill River to McMinnville. Meandering paths and picnic areas, under a canopy of ancient Douglas-fir, allow for nice views of both river and locks.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 1 Historic Feature (Listed on the National Historic Register)
- Access to Yamhill River
- 1 Pavilion
- 1 Rentable Pavilion
- 11 Picnic Tables
- 7 Grills
- 1 Playground
- 1 Restroom
- 13 Parking Spaces
- 3 Benches/Seating



## HUBER PARK

Tucked inconspicuously along Baker Creek, a grassy area and secluded rock beach make this small park a great getaway for picnics.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 1 Water Access Point to Baker Creek
- 2 Picnic Tables
- Unpaved parking surface



## MENEFEE PARK

A mature Western red cedar grove along Turner Creek provides a charming setting for a secluded picnic in this small, out-of-the-way park.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 3 Picnic Tables
- 1 Restroom
- Unpaved Parking Surface
- 1 Pedestrian Pathway/Boardwalk/Bridge
- Turner Creek Viewing



## DAYTON LANDING

Dayton Landing is a 2.5-acre county park consisting of a gravel parking lot and small boat ramp. The boat ramp is located at the confluence of the Yamhill River and Palmer Creek, about five miles upstream from the Willamette River. The Yamhill River is currently navigable upstream from here to Lafayette Locks Historical Park and is popular with canoeists and kayakers.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 1 Water Access Point to Yamhill River
- Unpaved Parking Surface



## EDIGER LANDING

A popular Willamette River beach access and boat ramp, this 0.3-acre park, located next to the Wheatland Ferry, serves as a gateway to recreation opportunities along the Willamette River, our nation's thirteenth-largest river. Pedestrians and bicyclists may cross the river on the ferry at no charge.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 1 Boat Launch
- Unpaved Parking Surface



## STUART GRENFELL PARK

Maple, cottonwood, and ash trees greet visitors traveling to and from the Coast. This park provides a lovely setting for a picnic with easy access to Mill Creek.

### SITE AMENITIES

- 2 Water Access Points to Mill Creek
- 3 Picnic Tables
- 1 Grill
- 2 Restrooms
- 1 Pet Waste Station
- Paved and unpaved parking surface

# COMMUNITY INPUT

## COMMUNITY MEETING

Feedback received during a September 2024 community meeting underscored the need for a more connected, accessible, and well-maintained park system in Yamhill County. Participants highlighted infrastructure deficiencies, safety concerns, and the importance of clear development standards, particularly for underutilized sites like Dayton Landing and Stuart Grenfell County Park. There was strong support for improving signage, outreach, and ADA accessibility, alongside calls for integrated land and river trail systems to enhance connectivity. Additionally, many saw outdoor recreation as an economic driver, emphasizing the need for strategic investment, stakeholder collaboration, and potential ownership transfers to ensure long-term sustainability and community benefit.

See the Appendix for a full report on public input responses.

## STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Yamhill County conducted a series of topical based stakeholder meetings. These discussions, held from November 18 to November 19, 2024, were instrumental in understanding the County's park system needs. The topics were carefully chosen to comprehensively understand diverse interests, concerns, opportunities, values, and needs. Around 30 participants, including subject matter experts, key stakeholders, county staff, representatives from surrounding municipalities, and community members, contributed via virtual meetings.

The stakeholders were also asked to participate in open-ended and multiple-choice questions focused on a series of discussion topics to get a better understanding of opportunities and challenges in each of the three topic areas:

1. Natural Resources, Land Management, and Agricultural Interests
2. Recreational Interests and Tourism
3. Parkland Management, Economic Vitality, and Future Growth

## STAKEHOLDER MEETING KEY TAKEAWAYS

### Natural Resources, Land Management, and Agricultural Interests

- There is a strong community desire to identify restoration opportunities and priorities throughout the county.
- Planning efforts need to account for sensitive lands and urban growth.

### Recreational Interests and Tourism

- Non-motorized boating and paddling are trending up.
- There is a desire for increased outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Recreation and tourism can complement each other.

### Parkland Management, Economic Vitality, and Future Growth

- Establishing partnerships with local organizations and agencies is key to a successful park system.
- Continue and expand collaborations with local municipalities.
- Alternative revenue streams for parks need to be explored.

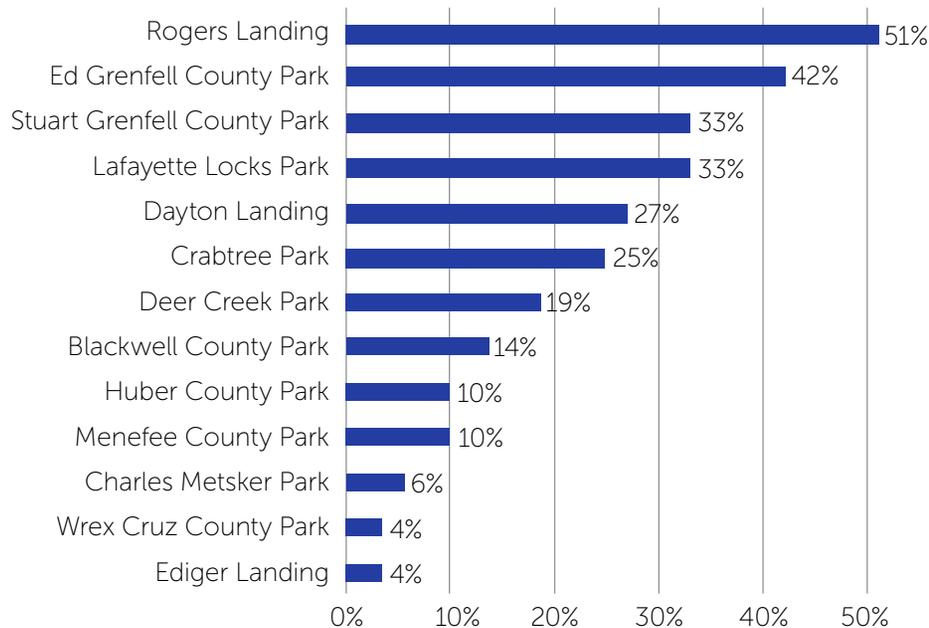


IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/COMMUNITY MEETING

## ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey was conducted from July 30th through September 30th, 2024, to gather public input on community needs and priorities for Yamhill County's current and future park system. Over the three-month period, the survey received 626 responses, surpassing the target sample size of 383<sup>1</sup> for a county population of 110,325. Responses show representation from all geographies and demographics of the County, ensuring an appropriate sample for understanding diverse interests and needs of residents. Participants shared feedback on park visitation, maintenance and cleanliness, overall quality and condition, and potential improvements to enhance the park system for the future. The results provided valuable insight into how respondents use and perceive the county's parks, helping to guide decision-making and future investments.

### Which Yamhill County parks and open spaces have you visited in the past 12 months?



Source: 2024 Yamhill County Parks Community Survey

## SURVEY RESPONDENTS DEMOGRAPHICS

**68%** of respondents live within an incorporated area in Yamhill County

**49%** of respondents have lived in Yamhill County for more 20+ years

## ONLINE SURVEY KEY TAKEAWAYS

### Usage of Current Yamhill County Parks and Facilities

- Park visitation is largely occasional, with **35%** of respondents visiting only a few times a year. Moderate visitation is also notable, with 21% of respondents visiting several times a month and 14% visiting several days a week.

### Future Improvements to Yamhill County's Park System

- Unpaved trails surrounded by nature (**68%**) were identified as the most desired future recreational opportunity in Yamhill County, with non-motorized water access (48%), paved recreation pathways (47%), and nature play/playgrounds (40%) trailing behind.

### Funding and Priorities

- **82%** of respondents expressed that they are likely or very likely to support additional funding and spending for parks and recreation improvements. This figure is nearly aligned with the 91% of respondents who expressed it is important to fund parks, trails, recreation services and natural areas in Yamhill County.

<sup>1</sup>Based on sample size calculator, for a population size of 110,325, a confidence level of 95%, and a margin of error of 5%, a minimum of 383 sample size is anticipated.

# RECREATION TRENDS

## OVERVIEW

Parks and natural spaces serve as vital infrastructure for meeting physical, mental, and emotional needs of communities. Providing appropriate recreational amenities that reflects the evolving recreation patterns and community needs is critical in ensuring the quality of life of Yamhill County residents. Based on evaluation of various national, state-wide, and county-wide data sets, the following relevant recreation trends were identified:

## YAMHILL COUNTY RECREATION TRENDS AND POPULAR ACTIVITIES

The most popular outdoor activities in Yamhill County per Yamhill County Participatory Market Potential List (Esri forecasts 2024 and 2029) include Hiking (21.4%), Swimming (17.1%), Bicycling - road (11.7%), fishing - freshwater (9.5%), Canoeing/kayaking (8.2%), and Boating - power (5.1%). Available access to nature and access to water in Yamhill County provides residents with abundant water-based recreational opportunities.

The activities with significantly higher percentage participation in Yamhill County than the U.S. population are boating (power), golf, walking for exercise, yoga, Pilates, hiking, canoeing/kayaking, and backpacking.

## YAMHILL COUNTY RECREATION SPENDING

Yamhill County's recreation expenditure by activities is slightly higher than the U.S. average, while Yamhill County consumer spending on Sports, Recreation and Exercise Equipment appears to be a lot higher than the U.S. average.

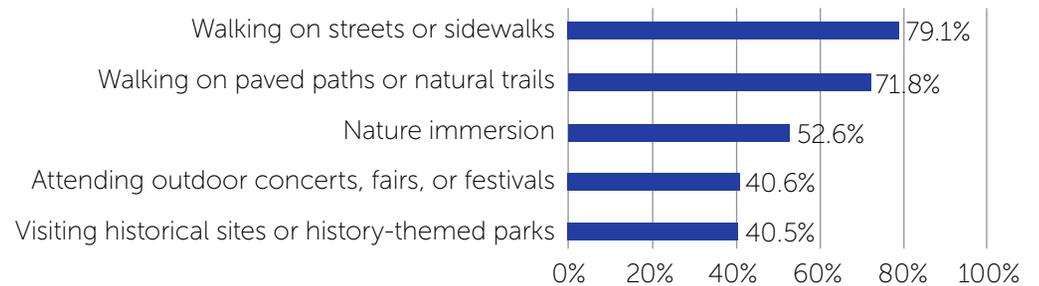
Population growth in some parts of the County will place increased demand on the existing parks and facilities. Aging population, especially older population with disability, will require appropriate accommodations to meet their needs.

## YAMHILL COUNTY MOST POPULAR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

1. Hiking & Walking
2. Swimming
3. Bicycling (road)
4. Fishing (fresh water)
5. Canoeing/kayaking
6. Boating (power)

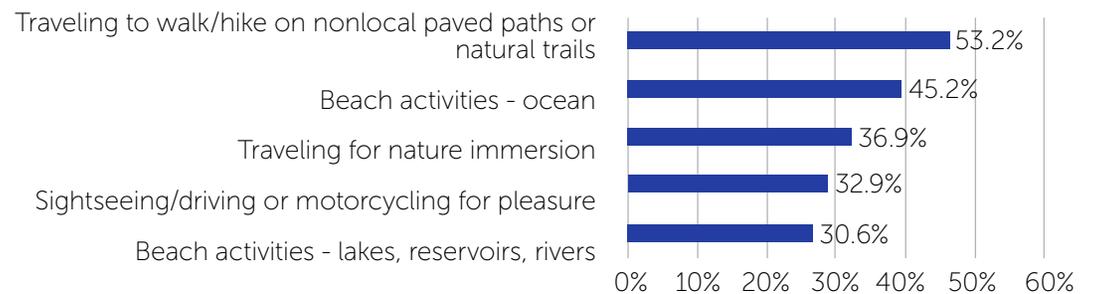


## TOP 5 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR OREGON RESIDENTS IN THEIR COMMUNITY, 2022



Source: 2025-2029 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

## TOP 5 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR OREGON RESIDENTS OUTSIDE THEIR COMMUNITY, 2022



Source: 2025-2029 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

## OREGON RECREATION TRENDS AND NEEDS

The top five outdoor activities that are favored by Oregon residents in their community vs outside their community (see the two charts on the previous page) provide valuable insights into the recreational preferences of Oregonians. It helps to guide decisions related to resource allocation and infrastructure development to meet the diverse needs of outdoor enthusiasts across the state.

Walking on paved paths and natural trails stands out as the most popular activities. Nature immersion, different types of outdoor events, visiting historical sites, and water-related activities are also popular among Oregonians.

Many of Yamhill County’s developed and undeveloped parks have the infrastructure to support these outdoor popular activities. Enhancements on internal park paths, river accesses, and cultural and historical features will make county parks more appealing to both residents and visitors. Additionally, some of the properties could be developed to better host events.

## NATIONAL CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES

According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association’s (SFIA) 2022 Topline Report’s 2021 data collection, the number and percentage of Americans engaging in sports or fitness activities witnessed growth for the fifth consecutive year. This reflects a fundamental and enduring appreciation for the benefits of physical activity, particularly following the pandemic-induced period of indoor confinement. Also, proximity to high-quality parks and recreation opportunities consistently ranks as a crucial factor influencing people’s decisions regarding where to live, further highlighting the importance of parks and recreation in ensuring people’s quality of life.

## YAMHILL COUNTY RECREATION EXPENDITURES

**Table 4:** Yamhill County Annual Recreation Expenditures

ACTIVITY	ANNUAL AVERAGE AMOUNT SPENT	SPENDING POTENTIAL INDEX (SPI)
<b>Entertainment/Recreation Fees and Admissions</b> (Including activities such as Admission to Sporting Events, excl.Trips, Fees for Participant Sports, excl.Trips)	\$852.57	103
<b>Recreational Vehicles and Fees</b> (Including activities such as Docking and Landing Fees for Boats and Planes, Camp Fees, Rental of Boats/Trailers/Campers/ RVs)	\$201.57	102
<b>Sports, Recreation and Exercise Equipment</b> (Including activities such as Exercise Equipment and Gear, Game Tables, Bicycles, Camping Equipment, Water Sports Equipment)	\$321.50	105

The Spending Potential Index (SPI) represents the amount spent in the area relative to a national average of 100. An SPI of 110 means that the area spends 10 percent more than the national average, on that good or service.

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Sports + Leisure Market Potential Report and Recreation Expenditures Report (Esri forecasts 2024 and 2029); Consumer Spending data are derived from the 2021 and 2022 Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics

# OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT

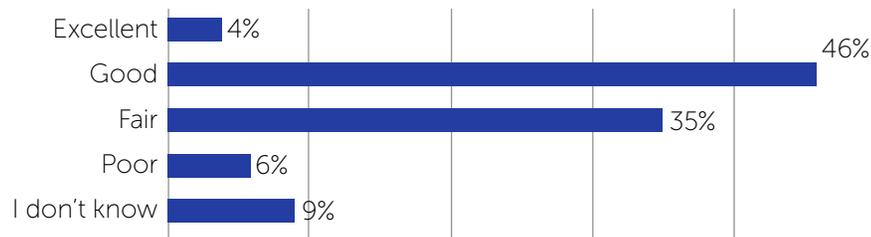
## EXISTING ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Yamhill County Parks Division is comprised of three full-time employees (FTEs), including one Division Manager and two Park Maintenance Specialists. One seasonal part-time parks intern is hired to assist with park maintenance in the summer months. Low maintenance staffing level has been an on-going challenge for the Yamhill County Parks Division.

## EXISTING OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

According to the 2024 community survey results, 46% of respondents rated the maintenance and cleanliness of Yamhill County parks as 'good' and 6% rated them as 'excellent', reflecting a positive overall perception from the community, though there is still room for further improvements.

**Please rate the overall maintenance and cleanliness of Yamhill County's parks.**



Source: 2024 Yamhill County Parks Community Survey

Many Yamhill County Parks are defined by their natural landscapes. The natural areas with high traffic and visibility are well maintained while natural areas with limited accessibility and steep slopes receive minimal care. While current maintenance crews are capable of day to day maintenance responsibilities, the County lacks sufficient staff capacity to address more specialized natural resource management tasks, which can include invasive species control, creek and riverbank stabilization, ecological enhancement, and coordination of volunteers. Methods for monitoring and documenting natural resources, such as field surveys, sampling, GIS analysis, and remote sensing are currently not supported due to limited staffing and budget. In addition to this gap, the County faces several other challenges related to operations and maintenance:

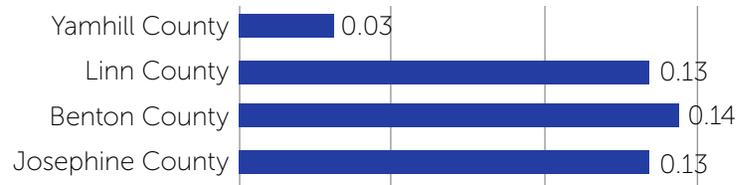
- Long driving distance among parks;
- Aging equipment and maintenance building; and
- Some amenities and infrastructures are at the end of their life cycle.



## STAFF BENCHMARKING

The benchmarking study reveals that Yamhill County is short on park employees (FTEs) compared with peer counties.

### Benchmarking: Employees Per 1,000 Residents



Source: Yamhill County FY 2025 Budget, Linn County 2024-2025 Budget, Benton County 2023-2025 Biennial Budget, Josephine County FYE 2024-2025 Proposed Budget. The benchmarking study is based on available online data. Nuances may exist among data sets.

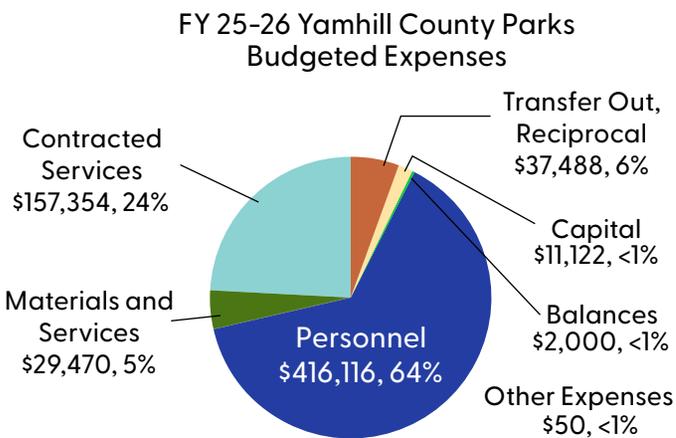


# BUDGET ASSESSMENT

## FY 25-26 ADOPTED BUDGET ASSESSMENT

Based on the the Fiscal Year (FY) 25-26 Yamhill County Adopted Budget, the Parks budget is currently supported by County allocation, grants, usage fees and lottery dollars. Including a beginning fund balance of \$45,000, the projected total revenue for FY 25-26 was \$364,950. While the projected total expenses was \$653,600, indicating a total \$288,650 deficit of fund.

Among all the budgeted expenses, personnel expense (2.95 FTEs) takes up more than half of the projected total expenses. The rest can only support basic landscape care, groundskeeping, minor amenity repairs and improvements. With rising operational costs, Yamhill County parks has not been able to take on any major capital improvement projects since its organizational change as of the FY 22-23.



Source: Yamhill County FY 25-26 Adopted Budget

Table 5: Peer County Benchmarking

Benchmarking Metrics	YAMHILL COUNTY	LINN COUNTY	BENTON COUNTY	JOSEPHINE COUNTY
Population (2024)	110,325	133,133	98,368	89,450
Park Acres Per 1,000 Residents (Developed Park)	1.1	10.2	8.3	10.2
Park Budget Per 1,000 Residents	\$6,150	\$52,508	\$52,238	\$31,251
Total Park Budget	\$653,600	\$6,990,607	\$5,138,513	\$2,795,400
Percentage of Park Budget within Total County Budget (FY 24-25)	0.3%	2.8%	2.1%	1.6%

Source: Yamhill County FY 2024-2025 Budget, Linn County 2024-2025 Budget, Benton County 2023-2025 Biennial Budget, Josephine County FYE 2024-2025 Proposed Budget, Find a Location | Linn County Parks & Recreation, 2024 Linn County Parks & Visitors Guide, Benton County Parks, Josephine County Parks. The benchmarking study is based on available online data. Nuances may exist among data sets.

## BUDGET BENCHMARKING

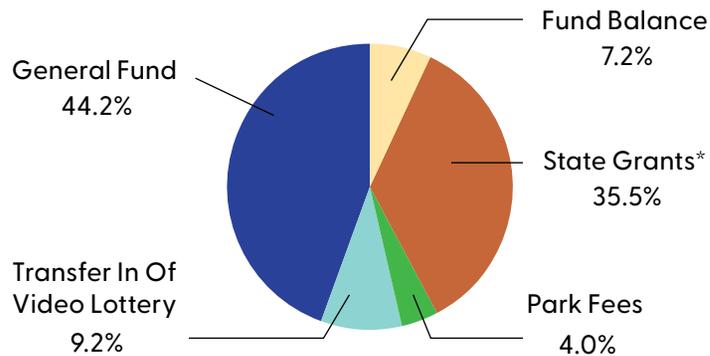
Benchmarking was also used to compare parks budget related key metrics across the selected three peer counties in Oregon, including Linn County, Benton County and Josephine County. The peer counties are providing significantly more park acres per 1,000 residents and have invested 4 to 8 times more park budget per 1,000 residents than Yamhill County. In FY 24-25, Yamhill County allocated just 0.3% of its total County budget to parks, a notably lower share than its peer counties. Parks provide essential community services that benefit the quality of life, health and well-being of the Yamhill County residents. To

meet the community's current and future needs, sustain and improve Yamhill County Parks level of service in the next two decades, greater revenues need to be generated through different venues. Yamhill County values park quality over simply increasing park quantity. The goal is to create a long-term sustaining park system, making investments that reduce maintenance cost fluctuations and increase County revenues.

Potential revenue sources and funding strategies are located in Chapter 4 Implementation.

# PEER COUNTY PARK REVENUE SOURCES COMPARISON

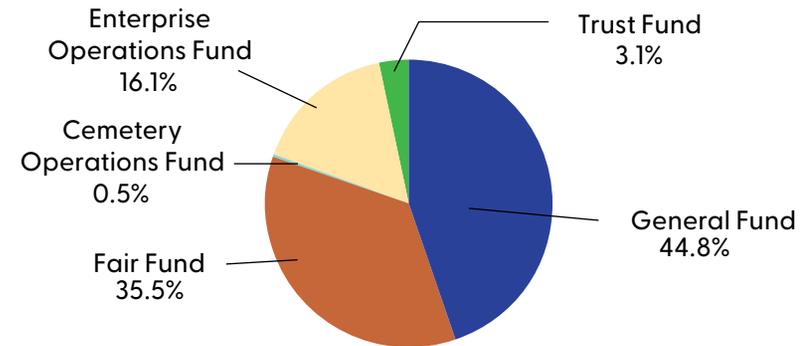
FY 25-26 Yamhill County Parks Revenue Summary



Source: Yamhill County FY 25-26 Adopted Budget

\* Include \$100,000 Other State Grants Expense as Placeholder for Matching Fund

FY 25-27 Benton County Natural Areas, Parks, and Events Funding Summary\*\*



Source: Benton County FY 25-27 Revenue Sources

\*\* General Fund includes Habitat Conservation Plan. Beazell Memorial Forest is a Trust Fund sustained by timber revenue and rentals of the Education Center. Started with a land donation and endowment. Campgrounds (3), Adair Clubhouse, Crystal Lake Cemetery are all enterprise accounts.

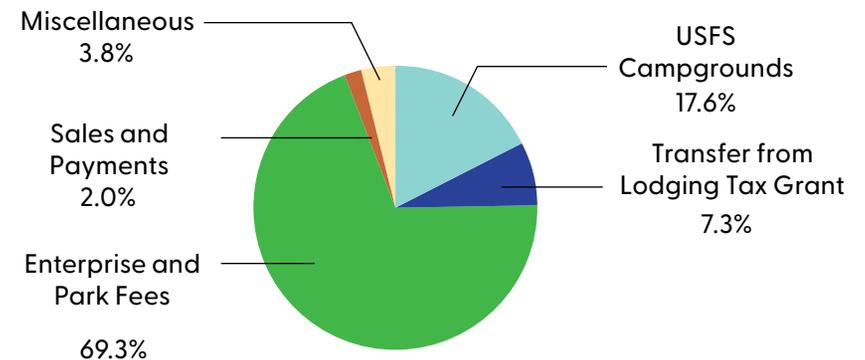
## REVENUE SOURCES BENCHMARKING

Yamhill County operates and maintains a relatively small park system, financed through general fund support, external grants and user fees.

Benton County has a similar blend of revenue sources as Yamhill County. It owns and operates several enterprises that bring in a larger percentage revenue to the total parks fund. There is also a trust fund sustained by timber revenue and rentals of the Education Center worth noting.

Linn County, on the other hand, demonstrates a more self-sustaining model: parks have increasingly turned toward fee-based revenue, with camping income now at the forefront. Notably, Linn County also charges a 3% Transient Lodging Tax, which also support the operation and maintenance of its park system.

FY 24-25 Linn County Parks and Recreation Revenue Summary



Source: Linn County FY 24-25 Budget Book Report. FY 25-26 Report is not available online as of August 2025.



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/ROGERS LANDING



# CHAPTER 3: A 20-YEAR VISION

- A 20-YEAR VISION
- GUIDING THEMES
- VISION FRAMEWORK
- TELLING OUR STORY

# A 20-YEAR VISION

## PLAN VISION

What we want to become in 20 years



**PLAN VISION STATEMENT:** Connect our communities to nature and water, preserve natural resources, and celebrate agricultural legacy by providing distinctive and outstanding parks and recreation that are financially sustainable.

## VISION FRAMEWORK DIAGRAM

Guiding the physical changes of the park system



**CREEK AND RIVER RECREATION**

**DEVELOP DESTINATIONS**

**ENHANCE EXPERIENCES AND ENVIRONMENTS**

**1. DISTINCTIVE PARK LANDS AND EXPERIENCES**

**2. RESPONSIBLE RECREATION AND TOURISM**

**3. RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

**4. SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISM**

**5. EFFECTIVE PARK OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

**6. COMMUNITY BUILDING AND STEWARDSHIP**

## GUIDING THEMES

What aspires us and guides the goals



**UNDER EACH OF THE GUIDING THEME:** There are a series of goal statements articulating clear purposes or desired outcomes.

## GOALS

What we are trying to achieve



## STRATEGIES

How to achieve the goals



**UNDER EACH OF GOAL:** There are a series of strategies explaining the general “How to” for achieving the plan goals. They are not the detailed steps, but are recommended approaches that allow for flexibility in adjusting short-term actions.

## ACTION ITEMS

Specific steps and projects for implementation



**ACTIONABLE STEPS:** Identified specific projects or programs with clear time tables for future implementation. Action items should be updated every five years to reflect changes.

# GUIDING THEMES



## 1. DISTINCTIVE PARK LANDS AND EXPERIENCES

Offer distinctive and welcoming park experiences by enhancing natural, cultural, and historical characters of Yamhill County's parks and open spaces.



## 2. RESPONSIBLE RECREATION AND TOURISM

Increase access to nature and water while balancing recreation and tourism opportunities with environmental resilience.



## 3. RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Protect and restore natural systems within county parks through thoughtful land management, habitat conservation, and climate-adaptive strategies.



## 4. SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISM

Care for the existing park system while investing in future destinations parks through a sustainable funding mechanism.



## 5. EFFECTIVE PARK OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Promote effective operations and maintenance practices ensuring the quality and longevity of the park system.



## 6. COMMUNITY BUILDING AND STEWARDSHIP

Strengthen community connections and improve community quality of life by providing quality parks, recreational opportunities, environmental education, and communication.

# VISION FRAMEWORK

## STRATEGIC LAND OWNERSHIP

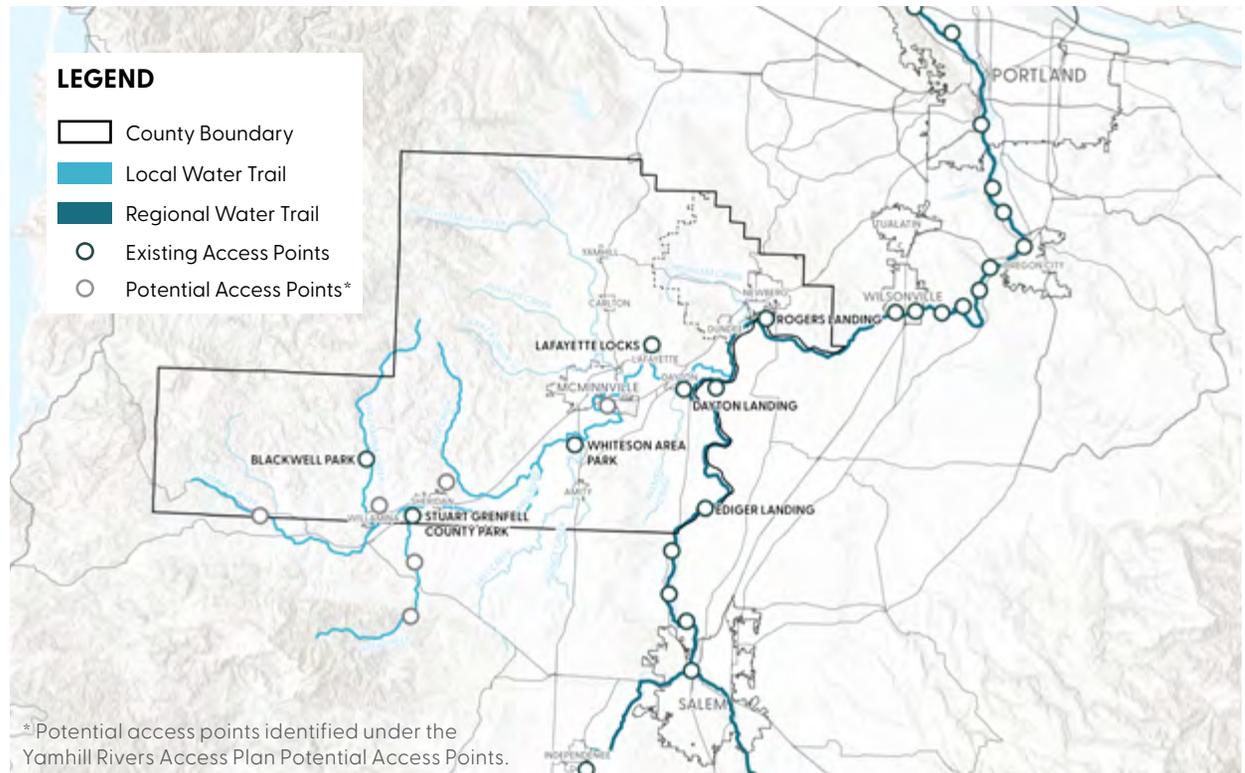
Many park properties were given to the County as donations over the years. Some of these properties are not suitable to be developed as parks and some are more ideal to be managed by other agencies. Throughout the planning process, the community members, stakeholders and staff all expressed the need to consolidate the existing park properties and focus County funding and resources on larger and more suitable park sites. Strategic land ownership emerged as a recommendation for the County to take on as an initial step. The following properties are currently under evaluation by the County:

- Crabtree Park
- Dayton Landing
- Ediger Landing
- Stuart Grenfell Park
- Powerhouse Park
- Renne Equestrian Park
- Wrex Cruse

## VISION FRAMEWORK

Aspirational vision and goals require physical planning to make them a reality. The vision framework diagram on the next page illustrates and guides specific physical changes.

An abundance of rivers, creeks, diverse flora and fauna, and the cultural and historic features make Yamhill County parks special places that can become destinations for both residents



and tourists. These natural systems are not confined by the County boundary. They are well-connected regional systems, which can benefit local and regional municipalities and partners through strategic collaboration. Yamhill County is playing a key role in two on-going collaborative initiatives in the region, the Willamette River Water Trail and the Yamhill Rivers Access Project.

The vision framework ties into the regional systems and highlights the characters and qualities of the County's own park assets.

Three big ideas arise from what we heard from the community and what we learned through the systemwide assessments:

- Creek and River Recreation
- Develop Destinations
- Enhance Experience and Environments

## Map 6: Vision Framework Diagram

### Creek and River Recreation

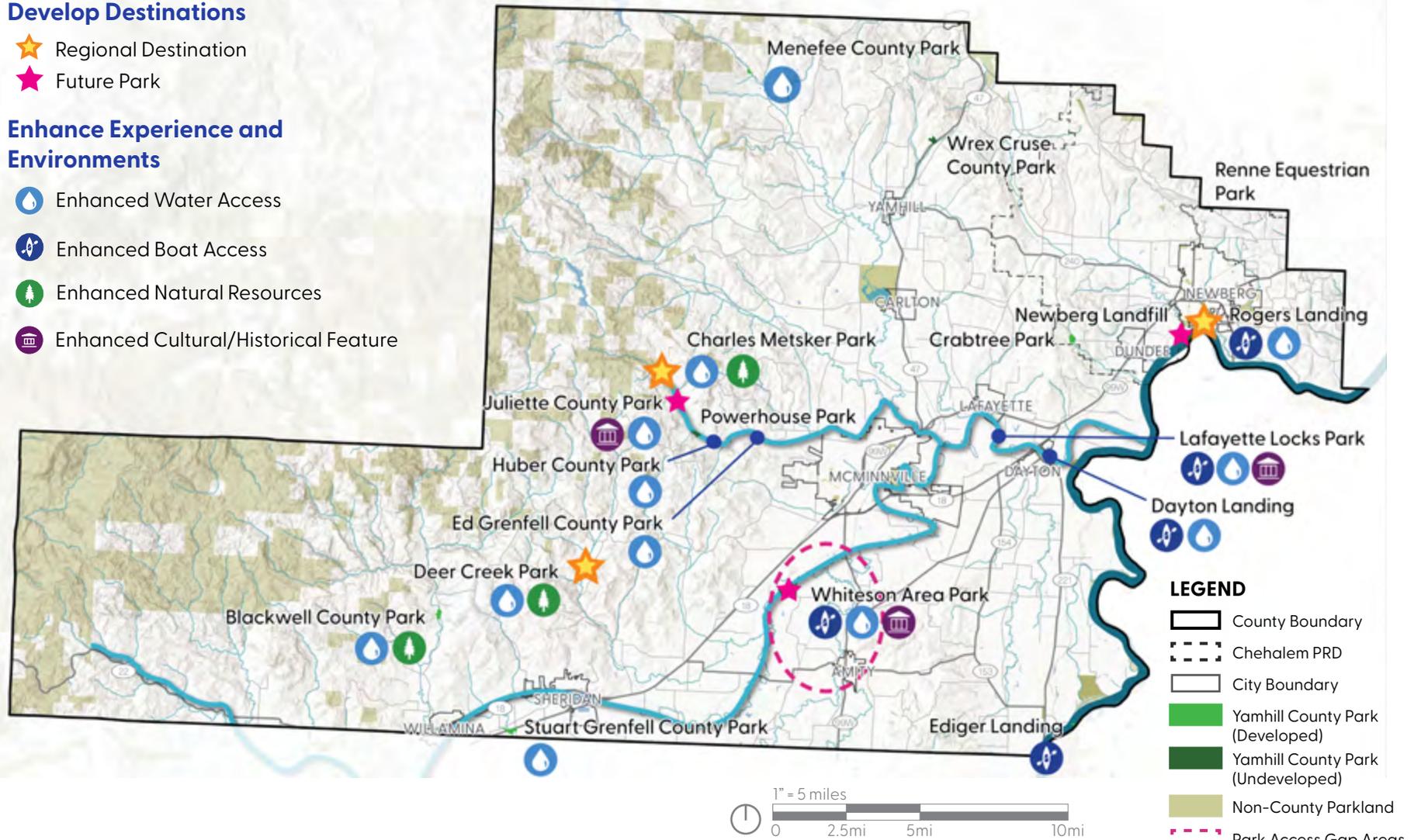
-  Local Water Trail
-  Regional Water Trail

### Develop Destinations

-  Regional Destination
-  Future Park

### Enhance Experience and Environments

-  Enhanced Water Access
-  Enhanced Boat Access
-  Enhanced Natural Resources
-  Enhanced Cultural/Historical Feature



# TELLING OUR STORY

## OUR STORY

The natural wonders, hidden gems, and the rivers and creeks winding through valleys and mountains, connecting them all—these are the destinations you’ll find in our parks.

From kayaking along the river and enjoying a peaceful walk through the woods, to observing nature and wildlife or hosting a celebration outdoors with family and friends, you can experience it all here—in our parks.

Yamhill County parks celebrate our community, culture, and welcome everyone.

### OUR STORY IS BASED ON THREE BIG IDEAS:

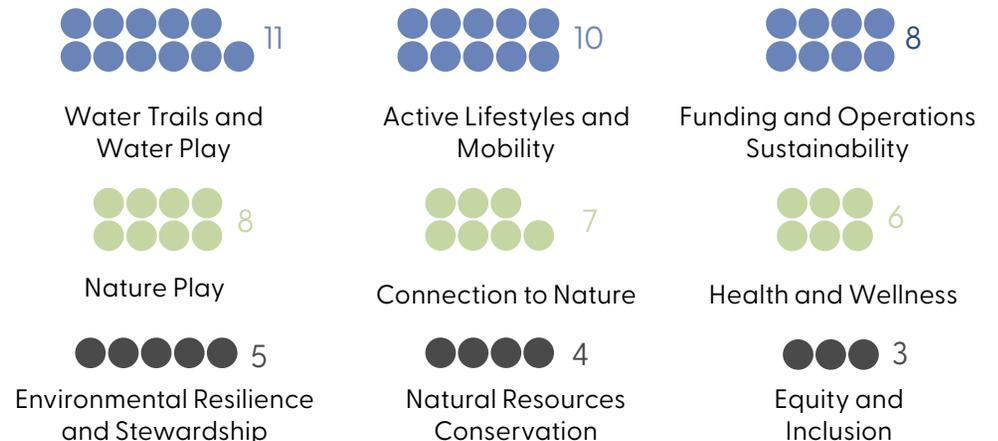
- CREEK AND RIVER RECREATION
- DEVELOP DESTINATIONS
- ENHANCE EXPERIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTS

## COMMUNITY IDEAS ABOUT THE FUTURE

What do you want Yamhill County to be known for when it comes to parks and open space?



What emerging topics for parks and recreation might be an important focus for Yamhill County? (Select all to consider)



Source: Stakeholder Meetings Input

Source: Stakeholder Meetings Input

## CREEK AND RIVER RECREATION

Increase water access and offer water-based recreational opportunities in park sites located along regional and local water trail systems.

### POTENTIAL WATER ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

#### Boat Access - Motorized

- Rogers Landing
- Dayton Landing (ramp in poor condition)
- Ediger Landing

#### Boat Access - Non-motorized

- Rogers Landing
- Lafayette Locks Park
- Blackwell Park
- Whiteson Area Park\*
- Dayton Landing
- Ediger Landing

#### Waterway Access

- Charles Metsker Park
- Deer Creek Park
- Rogers Landing
- Lafayette Locks Park
- Blackwell Park
- Edward Grenfell Park
- Huber Park
- Menefee Park
- Dayton Landing
- Ediger Landing
- Stuart Grenfell Park
- Juliette Park\*
- Newberg Landfill\*
- Whiteson Area Park\*

\* **Undeveloped sites.**



## DEVELOP DESTINATIONS

Transform selected park sites into regional destinations with distinctive experiences and amenities for residents, tourists, as well as wildlife.

### POTENTIAL DESTINATION SITES

**Rogers Landing – 14.1 acres**

**Charles Metsker Park – 35.2 acres**

**Deer Creek Park – 29.4 acres**

**Whiteson Area – 93.0 acres** (Undeveloped)

**Newberg Landfill – 38.8 acres** (Undeveloped)

**Juliette Park – 5.7 acres** (Undeveloped)



## ENHANCE EXPERIENCES AND ENVIRONMENTS

Improve existing park sites with enhanced natural, cultural and historical features to create memorable experiences.

### POTENTIAL EXISTING PARK IMPROVEMENTS

**Lafayette Locks – 7.0 acres**

**Edward Grenfell – 5.2 acres**

**Blackwell Park – 5.8 acres**

**Huber Park – 1.5 acres**

**Menefee Park – 1.0 acre**



# 1. DISTINCTIVE PARK LANDS AND EXPERIENCES

## ASPIRATION

Offer distinctive and welcoming park experiences by enhancing natural, cultural, and historical characters of Yamhill County’s parks and open spaces.

### GOAL A: CELEBRATE THE DISTINCTIVE NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND HISTORICAL QUALITIES OF YAMHILL COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE.

#### STRATEGIES

1. Offer residents and visitors diverse opportunities in experiencing the unique natural, cultural, and historical characters of different county parks.
2. Utilize context sensitive design approach when designing or redesigning park lands to preserve and amplify their intrinsic beauty.
3. Support the efforts of tribal groups and community recreation partners to expand participation in nature-based recreation and education.

### GOAL B: RESHAPE ROLE AS RESOURCE STEWARDS AND CREATE LARGER PARKS WITH MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES.

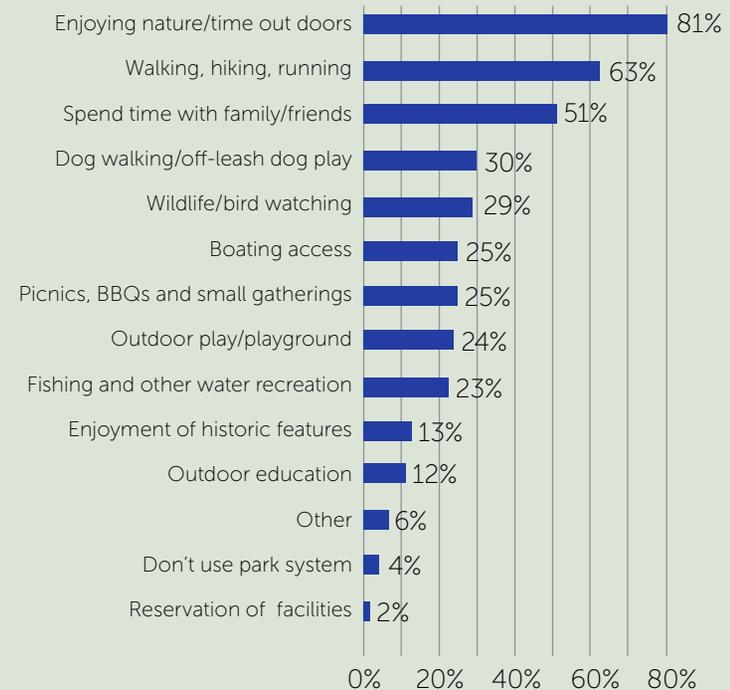
#### STRATEGIES

1. Explore opportunities for strategic land ownership by consolidating some of the small and less suitable county park properties.
2. Invest in park spaces that are in poor condition and fill in the identified countywide park system gaps.
3. Focus funding and resources on larger parks that can serve as regional draws or local community destinations. Prioritize the quality of parks over simply increasing the number of parks.



## SURVEY RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

What are the most common ways you or someone in your household uses Yamhill County’s parks and open space system?



Source: 2024 Yamhill Parks Community Survey

4. Respond to regional and nationwide recreation trends and create meaningful experiences in parks that can attract both local communities and tourists.
5. With additional funding or land donations, consider the County's capabilities to expand a role in conservation and management of natural resources, such as agricultural lands preservation and public education opportunities, and forest and wetland banks.

### **GOAL C: CREATE PARKS AND OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES THAT ARE SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND WELCOMING TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.**

#### **STRATEGIES**

1. Explore options that improve ADA accessibility and incorporate Universal Design Guidelines when replacing park elements that are in poor condition or at the end of their life cycle.
2. Besides driving, work with local and regional partners to provide multimodal transportation to parks.
3. Provide pathways or trails in parks to meet the needs of different trail users (e.g., hiking, biking, mountain bike). Prioritize the use of multi-purpose trails where appropriate.
4. Keep pathways or trails in parks well-maintained and welcoming to all.
5. Work with law enforcement to include routine visits to park properties with the most undesirable behaviors.

#### **STAKEHOLDER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- Charles Metsker Park, Deer Creek Park, Whiteson Area, Stewart Grenfell Park present great opportunities for ecological improvements.
- Lafayette locks Park, Whiteson Area, Charles Metsker Park, and parks near tribal properties present great opportunities for cultural and historic protection or enhancements
- Desire to create criteria for what the County wants in parks to help define what to dispose and what to acquire.
- Desire to reduce the number of small park properties in order to focus resources on larger parks.

# 2. RESPONSIBLE RECREATION AND TOURISM

## ASPIRATION

Increase access to nature and water while balancing recreation and tourism opportunities with environmental resilience.

### GOAL A: IMPROVE WATER ACCESS AND SUPPORT WATER-BASED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

#### STRATEGIES

1. Improve various types of water access (e.g., fishing areas, non-motorized, and motorized boat accesses).
2. Increase programming and services that encourage both passive and active connections with waterways and increases water education and safety.
3. Consider accommodations for adaptive facilities, equipment rental hubs, parking where possible.

### GOAL B: COLLABORATE WITH REGIONAL PARTNERS TO ADVANCE THE WATER TRAIL SYSTEM.

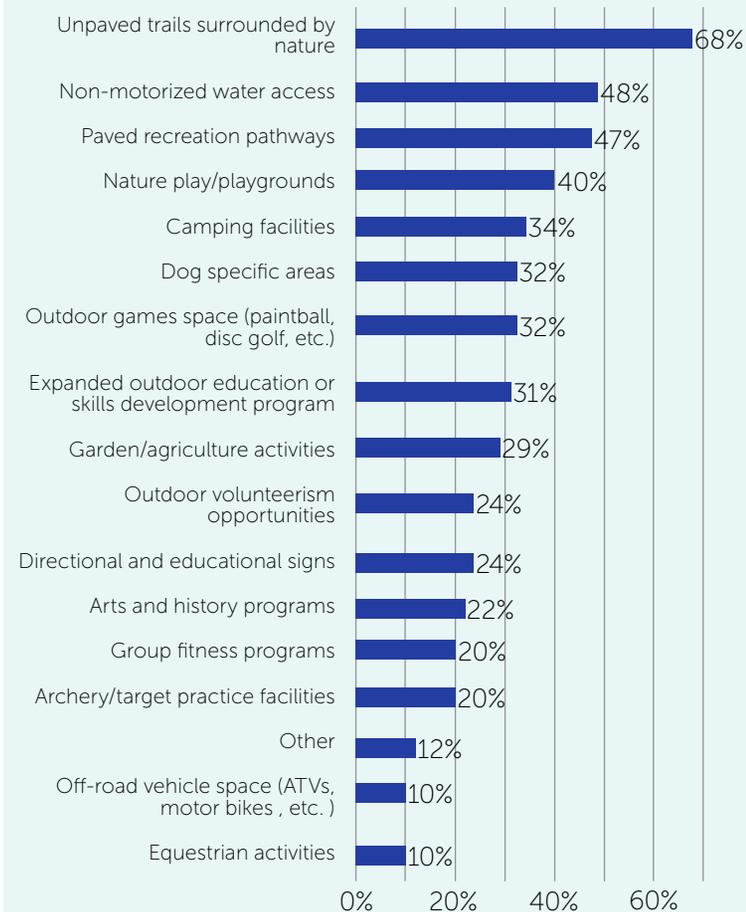
#### STRATEGIES

1. Build upon previous and ongoing regional water trail system planning efforts and enhance connections to Willamette River and Yamhill River.
2. Pursue funding and program opportunities with regional partners.



## SURVEY RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

What new types of recreation opportunities, facilities, or park types would you like to see provided by Yamhill County Park System in the future?



Source: 2024 Yamhill Parks Community Survey

## **GOAL C: ADVANCE THE USE OF PARKS THAT MEET RECREATION TRENDS AND FULFILL COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL NEEDS.**

### **STRATEGIES**

1. When planning park spaces, advocate for recreational amenities that meet current and future recreational trends and align with community interests.
2. Collaborate with local municipalities, Yamhill County Park Advisory Board and Yamhill County Economic Development Department to strategize and prioritize investments in park lands that are most beneficial to both local residents and tourists.
3. Bolster relationships with local recreation providers who provide programming and recreation services, and support opportunities that fill gaps in existing programming options.
4. Promote and support strategically targeted volunteerism to efficiently increase the safe use and enjoyment of park spaces.
5. Strengthen relationship with the school districts to maximize year-round program and education opportunities.

## **GOAL D: DIVERSIFY TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES AND ECONOMIC STRATEGIES THROUGH UNIQUE PARK SPACES AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS.**

### **STRATEGIES**

1. Promote all season, family oriented recreational opportunities, and signature experiences to attract more visitors.
2. Link park recreation to wine tourism and agritourism.
3. Provide tours, rentals, and more lodging options where appropriate to lengthen visitors' time spent and increase dollars infused into the county economy.
4. Increase county-wide communication and building partnerships that encourage each other to share one another's offerings.

## **STAKEHOLDER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- Interest in improving the water trail systems.
- Interest in adding rentals of kayaks and canoes in county parks.
- Interest in bike and boat share program.
- High needs for meaningful outdoor recreation for both locals and visitors.
- Desire for seasonal events and family friendly activities.

# 3. RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS AND LAND MANAGEMENT

## ASPIRATION

Protect and restore natural systems within county parks through thoughtful land management, habitat conservation, and climate-adaptive strategies.

### GOAL A: PRESERVE AND RESTORE IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCES.

#### STRATEGIES

1. Conduct inventory of existing natural resources (e.g., habitat patches and corridors, native flora and fauna, community forest) in collaboration with local and regional partners.
2. Sustain, enhance and restore important habitats patches and corridors with high ecological value through conservation practices.
3. Establish maximum capacity for county parks with high quality and significant natural resources to avoid safety issues and overuse.
4. Coordinate with conservation partners to identify restoration efforts that overlap with county capital improvements projects.

### GOAL B: ENHANCE ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND RESILIENCE.

#### STRATEGIES

1. Promote biodiversity and create habitats. Diversify planting palette for parks to improve resilience to climate change, pests, and diseases.
2. Address natural systems challenges, such as streambank erosion, water quality, weed management, and native species decline.
3. Restoring, designating, re-routing or recategorizing undesignated trails, especially in sensitive habitat areas.
4. Prioritize management and control of invasive species.
5. Evaluate human impacts on natural systems, including working with partners to monitor water quality, to inform property management practices.



## SURVEY RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

Top reasons for conserving natural resources and protecting additional lands and water through designating permanent open space.

Wildlife habitat and management and native plant protection

**89%** of respondents rated as essential or important

Outdoor recreation opportunities in nature

**89%** of respondents rated as essential or important

Water resource management and water quality enhancement

**86%** of respondents rated as essential or important

Source: 2024 Yamhill Parks Community Survey

## **GOAL C: ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM EXTREME WEATHERS.**

### **STRATEGIES**

1. When planning park spaces, integrate park amenities (e.g., shelters, drinking fountains, tree canopies) to help people stay safe and comfortable in extreme weather.
2. Use climate adaptive landscape and energy efficient maintenance equipment.
3. Conserve water and apply innovative irrigation systems with anticipation of climate change impacts.
4. Coordinate with hazard and wildlife management planners to consider how County parks can contribute to wildfire breaks, flooding management, and other hazard mitigation.

## **GOAL D: PARTNER WITH THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS.**

### **STRATEGIES**

1. Support farmers and ranchers and value their contributions to Yamhill County's agricultural heritage.
2. Encourage community members and tourists to experience and better understand and appreciate working landscapes.
3. Work with agricultural community and get their input when design and develop park sites near agricultural land.

## **STAKEHOLDER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- Lack of inventory of existing natural resources.
- Desire for identification of restoration opportunities and priorities.
- Concerns about streambank erosion, water quality, weed management, wildfire resilience, decline of native species.
- Concerns about safety issues and overuse of natural resources by visitors.
- More people are trying to access free water, shade, and outdoor spaces with the increased summer heat.
- Weather stress on plants and animals.
- Need to plan parks in the context of urban growth planning.
- Interest in incorporating best management practices for agriculture and forestry.

# 4. SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISM

## ASPIRATION

Care for the existing park system while investing in future destinations parks through a sustainable funding mechanism.

### GOAL A: EXPAND REVENUE GENERATING ACTIVITIES.

#### STRATEGIES

1. Assess and update existing fee structure to accommodate rising operating costs and reduce deficits.
2. Expand revenue generating activities in park spaces by creating a coordinated marketing strategy to promote activities, such as guided tours, event reservations, and rentals.
3. Incorporate additional revenue generating park sites and park amenities, such as RV and camping sites, to increase park revenues. Upfront investment in concept development, construction, and staffing etc. is needed before the sites can start generating revenues.

### GOAL B: PURSUE INCREASED ALLOCATION OF INTERNAL COUNTY GENERAL FUNDING TO PARKS.

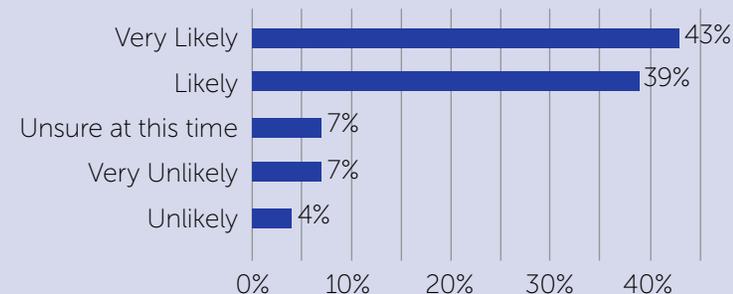
#### STRATEGIES

1. Advocate and gain support for increased allocation of internal County general funding designated to parks by using peer county benchmarking studies.
2. Sustain a higher percentage allocation of internal County general funding to parks ensuring a well-maintained park system.
3. Create a five-year capital investment budget that anticipates replacement and repair costs for significant equipment and facilities.



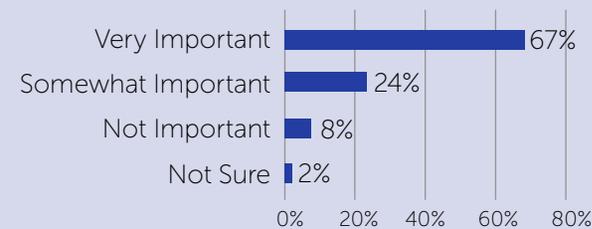
## SURVEY RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

How likely would you be willing to support additional funding and spending for parks and recreation improvements in the future?



Source: 2024 Yamhill Parks Community Survey

Compared to other priorities for Yamhill County, how important do you think it is to fund parks, trails, recreation services and natural areas?



Source: 2024 Yamhill Parks Community Survey

## **GOAL C: DIVERSIFY EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERDEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATION.**

### **STRATEGIES**

1. Collaborate with local municipalities and other county departments to leverage, increase, and diversity funding sources, including local, state, and federal funding opportunities.
2. Explore opportunities to get grant assistance from existing county staffing and resources.
3. Strengthen public and private partnerships.
4. Seek opportunities to collaborate with local and regional foundations, land trusts, and conservation funds.
5. Establish criteria for land donations that are appropriate for parks.
6. Build awareness for the Community Foundation opportunity for fundraising for park improvements, programs, and projects.

### **STAKEHOLDER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- Current funding is insufficient to meet all needs.
- Interest in getting grant writing assistance.
- Interest in establishing partnerships among organizations who have knowledge and resources to provide educational opportunities, plan and implement projects.
- Interest in sharing existing agency and organization resources to minimize overlap and maximize resources.
- Emphasis on the importance of partnerships with Tribal Groups.
- Suggestion to consider a bond or a taxing district to generate revenue for parks and park stewardship, while there is also suggestion to avoid impacts on property taxes.

# 5. EFFECTIVE PARK OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

## ASPIRATION

Promote effective operations and maintenance practices ensuring the quality and longevity of the park system.

**GOAL A: INCREASE THE LEVEL OF STAFFING AND SUPPORT STAFF WITH ADEQUATE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES FOR PARK MAINTENANCE.**

### STRATEGIES

1. Consider adding a staff focusing on natural resources management.
2. Invest in energy efficient and renewable energy infrastructure and equipment within the park system to decrease energy dependence over the long-term when possible.
3. Increase staff for maintenance and volunteer coordination to allow the parks director to direct time to planning, management, and projects.

**GOAL B: PRIORITIZE EXISTING PARK SYSTEM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.**

### STRATEGIES

1. Generate or update a list of deferred maintenance, starting with parks rated as poor condition.
2. Identify and secure funding sources to address the deferred maintenance in existing parks.
3. Prioritize investments in infrastructure repairs or replacements that lower operational costs over time and improve sustainability



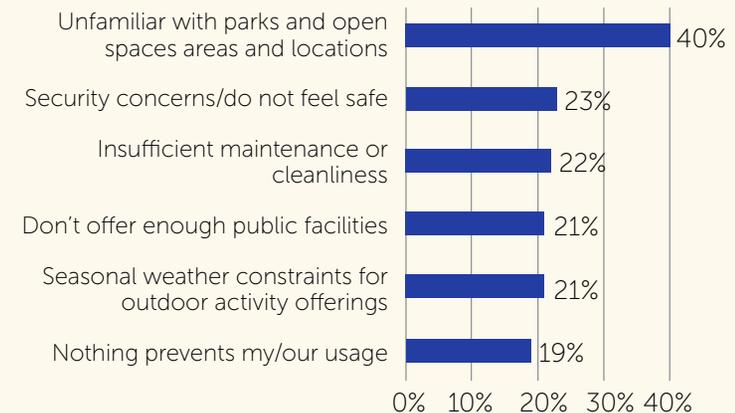
## SURVEY RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

How much of a priority, if any, should it be for the County to invest in the following in the next 5-10 years?

### Highest priorities are:

- Conserving additional open space
- Completing undeveloped parks
- Providing parks closer to where people live
- Increasing resources for park maintenance

What are the top things, if any, that have prevented you or other household members from using Yamhill County's parks or open spaces? (select all that apply ) top 6 options are shown.



Source: 2024 Yamhill Parks Community Survey

## **GOAL C: BALANCE MAINTENANCE, REINVESTMENT, AND NEW CONSTRUCTION OF PARK INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE COMMUNITY NEEDS.**

### **STRATEGIES**

1. Identify, prioritize, and plan for parks capital improvement activities by considering existing conditions, intended uses and amenities, and community priorities against the required resources for routine and on-going capital maintenance.
2. Remove or consolidate amenities where necessary.
3. Collaborate with local partners, environmental groups, and volunteers to support park maintenance efforts.
4. Provide annual or biennial reporting on investments and projects completed to inform the public about progress in the park system.
5. Revisit and update the capital improvement project list every five years to reflect the changing community needs and available funding resources.

## **GOAL D: PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PRACTICES.**

### **STRATEGIES**

1. Utilize park elements with long life cycles and low maintenance requirements wherever possible.
2. Utilize consistent and agreed upon maintenance best practices for tree and landscape care, soil health, weed management etc.
3. Create ecosystem management and maintenance plans based on regional and national best practices.

## **STAKEHOLDER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- Current staff capacity is insufficient to meet all needs.
- Challenge to make parks a priority for the county.
- Staff does maintenance, but no staff resources to offer programs or write grants.
- Ongoing maintenance is hard to keep pace with use and growth.
- Desire to take care of what the County has.
- Needs in maintaining and enhancing riparian areas.
- Desire to reduce use of pesticides in parks.
- Desire to create a county-wide volunteer group/trail group to assist the county.

# 6. COMMUNITY BUILDING AND STEWARDSHIP

## ASPIRATION

Strengthen community connections and improve community quality of life by providing quality parks, recreational opportunities, environmental education, and communication.

### GOAL A: INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

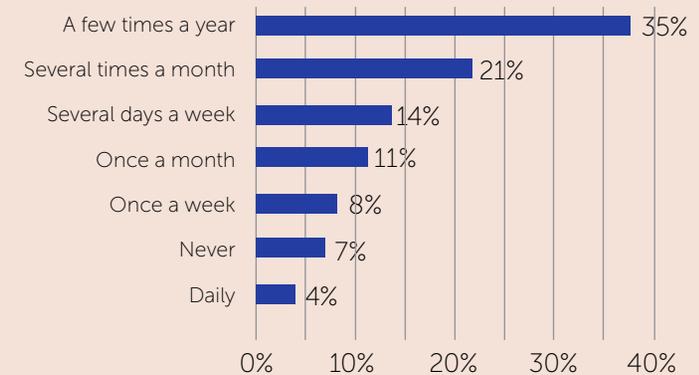
#### STRATEGIES

1. Update and maintain Yamhill County Parks website to be more user-friendly and interactive when searching for park types, amenities, and program opportunities across the system.
2. Encourage visitor navigation and engagement through a consistent and user-friendly system of signage, wayfinding, and interpretive elements.
3. Expand partnerships with community organizations to broaden the reach of public participation.
4. Integrate marketing efforts with community recreation service providers, business communities, and schools to do more targeted outreach.
5. Continue to creatively promote the variety of parks, natural resources, and recreation opportunities.



#### SURVEY RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

How often do you visit Yamhill County parks and/or open spaces?



Source: 2024 Yamhill Parks Community Survey

## **GOAL B: CULTIVATE INCLUSIVE PARK EXPERIENCES AND FOSTER STRONGER COMMUNITY CONNECTION.**

### **STRATEGIES**

1. Engage with tribal groups to enhance park properties that celebrates their culture, land caretaking, and traditional ecological knowledge.
2. Expand engagement of youth and seniors that caters to a wide range of interests and fosters connection across age groups.
3. Provide parks and programs that serve people of all age and abilities.
4. Ensure that diversity is reflected in advertisements of parks and park programming through images and text choice.

## **GOAL C: NURTURE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACE THAT PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF THE COMMUNITY.**

### **STRATEGIES**

1. Create additional shaded areas with by planting more canopy trees and incorporating shade structures where needed to improve human comfort.
2. Expand different types of paths and trails within parks to encourage exercise and more time spent in outdoors.
3. Keep some of the quiet and serene “Hidden Gem” parks for mental health improvement and spirituality.

## **GOAL D: ENHANCE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO NATURE AND ENCOURAGE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.**

### **STRATEGIES**

1. Share existing agency and organization resources to minimize overlap and maximize resources.
2. Partner with schools, universities, and organizations who have knowledge and resources to lead education programs.
3. Support a culture of volunteerism to help take care of the park system.

## **STAKEHOLDER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- Community is lacking awareness about Yamhill County’s current park and open space offerings.
- Desire to map out existing offerings and resources for the community and visitors.
- There is a lack of community commitment to maintain natural resources the County currently has.
- Desire to enhance communications about Yamhill County’s offerings, recreational opportunities.
- Desire to provide environmental education on water quality and water management.
- Interest in more signs with educational information and information regarding what is important in the park.
- Building partnerships that encourage each other to share one another’s offerings.
- Taking advantage of national and international communication organizations.



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/DEER CREEK PARK



# CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION

- IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OVERVIEW
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
- POTENTIAL PROJECT OPPORTUNITY SUMMARY
- POTENTIAL FUNDING MECHANISM
- PARTNERSHIPS

# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OVERVIEW

## PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

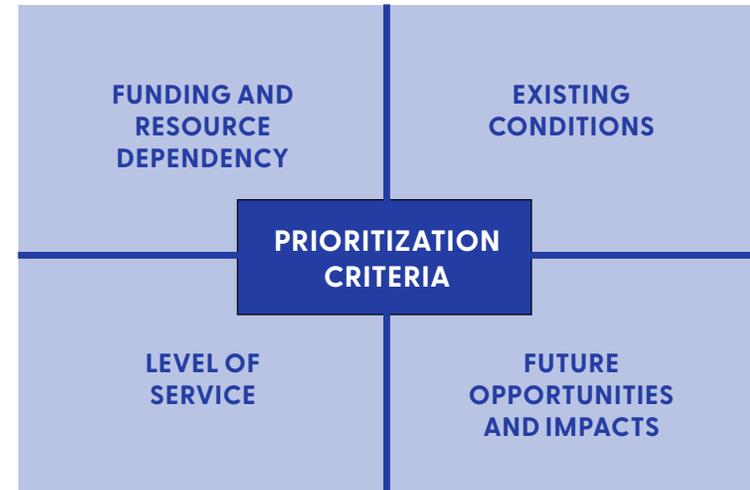
Based on the themes, goals, and strategies outlined in Chapter 3, action items are identified to provide clear and actionable projects and programs for implementation based on community feedback and prioritization criteria. The following factors were considered for developing the prioritization criteria:

- **Funding and Resource Dependency**
  - Are funding and resources available to undertake this project?
  - If additional funding is needed, what funding strategies can the County take to get there?
- **Existing Conditions**
  - Is the park rated as in poor or fair condition?
  - Are there any major urgent replacements or repairs needed in the park?
- **Level of Service**
  - Are there any gaps in the County where parks and recreation opportunities are missing?
- **Future Opportunities and Impacts**
  - Extent: Will the project, program, or action result in large scale impact throughout the County rather than being limited to a singular geography? How many people will be served?
  - Long-term Return: Does this action have the potential to result in significant long-term benefits?
  - Regional Influence: Are there opportunities to collaborate with local and regional partners to find synergies in the action?

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OVERVIEW

The implementation plan includes four sections:

1. Capital Improvement Projects
2. Existing Park Potential Improvement Opportunity
3. Potential Funding Mechanisms
4. Partnerships



- **Capital Improvement Projects**
  - Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) have been organized based on a phased implementation approach including three phases. Since the timeline for each CIP is highly dependent on available funding, no specific time tables were defined.
  - Order of magnitude planning level cost has been assigned to each project.
  - Each project has been tied back to one or multiple established themes.
- **Existing Park Potential Improvement Opportunity**
  - Potential improvement opportunities have been identified for each of the existing developed parks.
- **Potential Funding Mechanism**
  - Potential short-term, mid-term, and long-term funding strategies for the County to consider.
- **Partnerships**
  - Strengthen collaborations with identified key stakeholders and local and regional partners.

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## IMMEDIATE ACTIONS FOR SUFFICIENT FUNDING

Successful implementation of future park improvements is contingent upon an increased budget allocation. To help guide the process, identified actions and projects are organized based on three episodes sequencing with Episode 1 being the most critical for determining the County’s ability to undertake more ambitious projects outlined in Episode 2 and Episode 3. This sequenced approach ensures that improvements are pursued strategically and with the understanding that no future project can move forward without an increased budget and sufficient staff resources to support them.

## IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

**Table 6:** Immediate Actions

ACTION	RELATED THEMES	COST/RESOURCE
Seek percent increase of general fund allocation towards parks and open space, with sufficient amount being allocated towards operations and maintenance	4 5	Staff Resource
Diversify revenue sources through establishing admission-based entrance fees, vehicle parking permit fees, and boat launch fees.	4 5	Staff Resource
Strategic Land Ownership (Land sale/swap/interagency agreements) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Crabtree Park - 12.7 acres</li> <li>· Stuart Grenfell Park - 6.1 acres</li> <li>· Dayton Landing - 2.5 acres</li> <li>· Renne Equestrian Park - 3.0 acres</li> <li>· Wrex Cruse - 6.4 acres</li> <li>· Powerhouse Property - 4.2 acres</li> <li>· Ediger Landing - 0.3 acres</li> </ul>	1 3 5	Staff Resource

### LEGEND

- 1 1. DISTINCTIVE PARK LANDS AND EXPERIENCES
- 2 2. RESPONSIBLE RECREATION AND TOURISM
- 3 3. RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS AND LAND MANAGEMENT
- 4 4. SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISM
- 5 5. EFFECTIVE PARK OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
- 6 6. COMMUNITY BUILDING AND STEWARDSHIP

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

ACTION	RELATED THEMES	COST/RESOURCE
Continue seeking grant funding	4 5	Staff Resource
Continue strengthening partnerships with different municipalities, agencies, local groups, and tribal groups	1 2 3 4 5 6	Staff Resource
Annual or bi-annual reporting to the public	1 5 6	Staff Resource

### LEGEND

- 1. DISTINCTIVE PARK LANDS AND EXPERIENCES
- 2. RESPONSIBLE RECREATION AND TOURISM
- 3. RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS AND LAND MANAGEMENT
- 4. SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISM
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## PHASE 1

Table 7: Phase 1 Improvements

ACTION	RELATED THEMES	COST/RESOURCE
Add one member of staff (natural resource management focus)	3 5	Staff Resource
Establish criteria for land donations	1 3 6	Staff Resource
Explore funding opportunities through local foundations such as the McMinnville Area Community Foundation	4 5	Staff Resource
Website improvement	6	Staff Resource
PROJECT	RELATED THEMES	COST
Deferred Maintenance Projects	1 5 6	\$ to \$\$\$
Park Amenities and Playground Equipment Lifecycle Replacement Program	1 5 6	\$ to \$\$\$

### PLANNING LEVEL COST RANGES

- \$ - 0 to 250,000 dollars
- \$\$ - 250,000 to 500,000 dollars
- \$\$\$ - 500,000 to 1 million dollars
- \$\$\$\$ - 1 million to 3 million dollars
- \$\$\$\$\$ - 3 million + dollars

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

PROJECT	RELATED THEMES	COST
Water Access Improvement Program	1 2 3 5	\$ to \$\$\$
Repair/replace access road for Stuart Grenfell Park	1 5	\$\$
Renovate shelter/lab at Charles Metsker Park	1 5	\$ to \$\$
Dredge Rainbow Lake at Charles Metsker Park	3 5	\$ to \$\$
Replace dock at Charles Metsker Park	3 5	\$ to \$\$
Replace multiple bridges on key trail crossings at Charles Metsker Park	1 3 6	\$ to \$\$\$
Renovate/replace restrooms at Rogers Landing	1 2 6	\$ to \$\$
Repair/renovate irrigation system at Rogers Landing	3 5	\$
Upgrade lighting/electrical systems at Ed Grenfell Park	3 5	\$
Conduct extensive tree work across the park system for safety, tree health, and aesthetics	3 5	\$ to \$\$
Charles Metsker Park Concept Planning Project	1 3 6	\$
Consolidate properties making up Rogers Landing through land use agreements	3 5	\$
Existing Park Amenity Replacement Schedule	1 5	\$
Conduct a campground feasibility, planning, and cost-benefit analysis study	1 3 4	\$ to \$\$
Update and replace all park signage including interpretive and educational signage, wayfinding signage, and directional signage to align with existing County-wide signage and wayfinding standards	1 6	\$\$\$

## LEGEND

- 1 1. DISTINCTIVE PARK LANDS AND EXPERIENCES
- 2 2. RESPONSIBLE RECREATION AND TOURISM
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- 5 5. EFFECTIVE PARK OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
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## PLANNING LEVEL COST RANGES

- \$ - 0 to 250,000 dollars
- \$\$ - 250,000 to 500,000 dollars
- \$\$\$ - 500,000 to 1 million dollars
- \$\$\$\$ - 1 million to 3 million dollars
- \$\$\$\$\$ - 3 million + dollars

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## PHASE 2

**Table 9:** Phase 2 Improvements

ACTION	RELATED THEMES	COST/RESOURCE
Support ongoing county-wide water access improvement efforts through collaboration with local and regional partners	1 2 3 5	Staff Resource
Develop Parks Maintenance Manual and Natural Area Management Plan	1 2 3 5 6	Staff Resource
Establish volunteer program	3 5 6	Staff Resource
PROJECT	RELATED THEMES	COST
Conduct Charles Metsker Park Redevelopment Project Phase 1 Construction	1 3 6	\$\$\$ to \$\$\$\$\$
Rogers Landing Redevelopment Concept Planning Project	1 3 6	\$ to \$\$
Whiteson Area Park Engagement and Market Study	1 3 5 6	\$
Existing Park Improvement Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Lafayette Locks</li> <li>· Deer Creek</li> </ul>	1 3 5 6	\$ to \$\$\$
Juliette Park Concept Planning Project	1 3 6	\$

### LEGEND

- 1** 1. DISTINCTIVE PARK LANDS AND EXPERIENCES
- 2** 2. RESPONSIBLE RECREATION AND TOURISM
- 3** 3. RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS AND LAND MANAGEMENT
- 4** 4. SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISM
- 5** 5. EFFECTIVE PARK OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
- 6** 6. COMMUNITY BUILDING AND STEWARDSHIP

### PLANNING LEVEL COST RANGES

- \$** - 0 to 250,000 dollars
- \$\$** - 250,000 to 500,000 dollars
- \$\$\$** - 500,000 to 1 million dollars
- \$\$\$\$** - 1 million to 3 million dollars
- \$\$\$\$\$** - 3 million + dollars

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## PHASE 3

**Table 10:** Phase 3 Improvements

PROJECT	RELATED THEMES	COST
Whiteson Area Park Phase 1&2 Schematic Design to Construction Documentation	1 3 6	\$\$
Whiteson Area Park Phase 1&2 Development Project	1 3 6	\$\$\$ to \$\$\$\$\$
Whiteson Area Park Phase 3&4 Concept Planning Project	1 3 6	\$ to \$\$
Whiteson Area Park Phase 3&4 Development Project	1 3 6	\$\$\$ to \$\$\$\$\$
Charles Metsker Park Phase 1 Development Project	1 3 6	\$\$\$ to \$\$\$\$\$
Charles Metsker Park Future Phases Development Project	1 3 6	\$\$\$ to \$\$\$\$\$
Rogers Landing Redevelopment Project	1 3 6	\$\$\$ to \$\$\$\$\$
Rogers Landing Expansion Project	1 3 6	\$\$\$ to \$\$\$\$\$
Juliette Park Development Project	1 3 6	\$\$ to \$\$\$\$
Existing Park Improvement Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Huber Park</li> <li>· Blackwell Park</li> </ul>	1 3 5 6	\$ to \$\$\$

### LEGEND

- 1** 1. DISTINCTIVE PARK LANDS AND EXPERIENCES
- 2** 2. RESPONSIBLE RECREATION AND TOURISM
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### PLANNING LEVEL COST RANGES

- \$** - 0 to 250,000 dollars
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- \$\$\$\$\$** - 3 million + dollars

# EXISTING PARK POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITY



Note: Park aerial images are not to scale.

## CHARLES METSKER PARK

### Charles Metsker Park Concept Planning Project

- Implement fee-based reservation system for public use.
- Conduct ecological evaluation to identify critical habitats, invasive species, and restoration opportunities.
- Develop a natural resources management plan.
- Continue working with local educational groups and organizations to advance environmental education component of site.

### Charles Metsker Park Redevelopment Project

- Clear and improve existing trails to enhance accessibility.
- Preserve and restore critical habitats.
- Integrate interpretive signage and wayfinding.
- Provide rentable indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Provide public parking and restrooms.



## DEER CREEK PARK

### Ecological Evaluation

- Conduct ecological evaluation to identify critical habitats, invasive species, and restoration opportunities.

### Deer Creek Park Improvement Project

- Enhance the park's status as a regional destination by exploring the addition of amenities such as reservable pavilions, BBQ grills, picnic areas, and a loop trail to improve accessibility and recreational opportunities.



## ROGERS LANDING

### Rogers Landing Redevelopment Project

- Upgrade kiosks and park signage to align a potential pay-to-park fee structure.
- Enhance existing trails and pathways to meet ADA accessibility standards.
- Add additional pavilions, picnic furniture, and amenities to accommodate large groups.

### Water-Based Program

- Partner with local outfitters and organizations to offer paddling programs and other water-based activities.

### Rogers Landing Expansion Project

- Work with neighboring property owners to establish a connector between Rogers Landing and the Newberg Landfill.
- Design and develop Newberg Landfill as an extension of Rogers Landing.



## BLACKWELL PARK

### Blackwell Park Improvement Project

- Assess feasibility of providing seasonal paddling access.
- Preserve and restore critical habitats.



## CRABTREE PARK

### Strategic Land Ownership

- Potential site for interagency collaboration or change of ownership.



## EDWARD GRENFELL PARK

### Ed Grenfell Park Improvement Project

- Increase number of available reservable pavilions.
- Edward Grenfell Park has water available on site. Install electricity and other infrastructure necessary to support large events.
- Assess creek conditions and explore opportunities for bank stabilization and erosion control to enhance safety for creek recreation.
- Design and develop a nature-based playground.

# EXISTING PARK POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITY



Note: Park aerial images are not to scale.

## LAFAYETTE LOCKS PARK

### Lafayette Locks Improvement Projects

- Remove existing playground and assess potential replacement options.
- Improve internal circulation and accessibility by establishing ADA accessible pathways throughout the park and connecting to Yamhill River.
- Create designated non-motorized boating access point.



## HUBER PARK

### Huber Park Improvement Projects

- Conduct parking lot improvements.
- Improve park accessibility by clearing debris from stairs and reducing entry grade for a more gradual slope.



## MENEFEE PARK

### Menefee Park Improvement Project

- Assess creek conditions and explore opportunities for bank stabilization and erosion control to enhance safety for creek recreation.



## DAYTON LANDING

### Dayton Landing Improvement Project

- Upgrade boat ramp infrastructure for improved access to Yamhill River.

### Strategic Land Ownership

- Potential site for interagency collaboration or change of ownership.



## EDIGER LANDING

### Strategic Land Ownership

- Potential site for interagency collaboration or change of ownership.



## STUART GRENFELL PARK

### Stuart Grenfell Improvement Project

- Conduct a feasibility study exploring alternative uses such as an RV park or campground.

# POTENTIAL FUNDING MECHANISMS

The following are potential funding mechanisms that Yamhill County can explore and build upon over the next 20 years to supplement its current funding sources. These mechanisms are organized into short-term, mid-term, and long-term categories, and together offer a range of opportunities to support park operations, maintenance, and capital improvements. A diverse mix of funding streams, including sources that provide consistent revenue will be essential to creating a sustainable and resilient future for the Yamhill County parks.

## SHORT-TERM FUNDING STRATEGIES

### INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF GENERAL FUND DEDICATED TO PARKS

Parks operating cost is projected to increase by 2.5% to 3% per year in the coming years. If the general funding for parks stay stagnant, it will not keep up with the inflation. Increasing the percentage of General Fund dedicated to parks is important to ensure that the county can provide same level of park services. The benchmarking analysis with peer counties also indicates that Yamhill County is lacking county budget dedicated to parks. Yamhill County's percentage of park budget within total county budget is 0.3% in

2024, which is a lot lower than Lin County (2.8%), Benton County (2.1%) and Josephine County (1.6%) for the same year. Quality parks are known for increasing property values, attract new residents and visitation, which all contribute financially to a county's bottom line.

### INCREASE FEES

Currently, the park reservation fees can not cover the staff resources and travel time needed to manage the reservations. There is a \$3 boat launch fee for the use of the boat launch at Rogers Landing while vehicle parking is free. Fee structure needs to be assessed and updated to cover the cost of service and reduce deficits.

### STRATEGIC LAND OWNERSHIP

In the short term, the Parks Division will seek opportunities to generate revenue by selling a few less suitable park properties and use the revenue to create park sites and amenities that can generate future revenues, such as RV sites.

## MID-TERM TO LONG-TERM FUNDING STRATEGIES

### ENTERPRISES, RESERVATIONS, PERMITS, AND RENTALS

- Camping and RV sites
- Picnic Shelter Reservations
- Event Permit Fee
- Parking Fee
- Rentals (kayak, canoe, paddle board etc.)

### GRANT PROGRAMS

#### Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Administered Grant Programs

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/YAMHILL COUNTY PARKS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

- Local Government Grant Program
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- All-Terrain Vehicle Grants

### State Marine Board Administered Funds

- Boat Facility Program
- Small Grant Program
- Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP)
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)
- Clean Vessel Act Grant Program (CVA)
- Let's Go Boating Assistance Grant Program

### Additional Grants and Funds Opportunities

- Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (YSWCD) technical and financial assistance
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - Access and Habitat Program
  - Bird Stamp Program Grant
- Travel Oregon's grant programs
- US Forest Services (Local Office)
- US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Services (Local Office)
- USDA Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Fund
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)
- Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program

### POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND INTERAGENCY COLLABORATIONS

- Franchise and Utility License Fees
- Municipal Services Fees - for Parks and Recreation or Urban Forestry
- Stormwater Management Fee
- System Development Changes (Developer impact fee to support growth)

### SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES (SDCS)

- SDCs is a source of funding that can be used for developing new parks or facilities or expanding existing parks or facilities. But this source of funding is very limited. For example, there was around \$6,500 collected through SDCs in Fiscal Year 23-24.

### LAND TRUSTS AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- Local and Regional Land Trusts
- Local and Regional Conservation Funds
- Friends Groups and Foundations Donation

### TAX OPTIONS

- Transient Lodging Tax
- Levy
- Bond



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/YAMHILL COUNTY PARKS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

# PARTNERSHIPS

## LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Yamhill County has a strong foundation of collaboration with local municipalities, working together to enhance and sustain recreation opportunities throughout the county. These partnerships have been instrumental in past and ongoing initiatives, such as the Yamhill Rivers Access Plan.

By continuing to strengthen these relationships, the county can ensure that parks remain well-funded, sustainably maintained, and thoughtfully planned to serve both current and future generations. Fostering new partnerships with local agencies and jurisdictions will create opportunities for shared resources, streamlined management, and coordinated planning efforts, ultimately leading to a more connected park system.

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERS

Yamhill County benefits from the presence of several regional and national agencies that manage recreation sites within its boundaries, including the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and others. These agencies play a critical role in conservation, sustainable land development, and expanding recreation opportunities across the county. Strengthening partnerships with these organizations will

be essential for securing funding, accessing technical expertise, and coordinating large-scale efforts that enhance the ecological and recreational value of Yamhill County's parks. By deepening collaboration, the county can leverage state and federal resources to protect sensitive habitats, improve public access, and ensure that outdoor spaces continue to thrive.

## RECREATIONAL GROUPS

Outdoor recreation groups, including local outfitters, run clubs, cycling clubs, kayak groups, and others play a vital role in creating an active and engaged community. These groups not

only utilize county parks but also contribute to their vibrancy by organizing events, volunteer efforts, and advocacy initiatives. Building lasting connections with these organizations will support the growth and awareness surrounding county parks, helping to establish greater community engagement and participation while ensuring recreational opportunities continue to evolve with community needs.

## EDUCATIONAL GROUPS

Educational groups have long contributed to outdoor learning opportunities in Yamhill County, helping connect the community to



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/ROGERS LANDING

the natural environment. Organizations like Outdoor Education Adventures frequently utilize Charles Metsker Park, while local sites like Miller Woods, managed by the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, provide hands-on educational resources focused on the county's natural systems. Strengthening partnerships with organizations and groups like these will allow the county to expand environmental education initiatives and incorporate similar programs within its own parks, ensuring future generations gain a deeper understanding of local landscapes and conservation efforts.

## PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Oregon Outdoor School
- Universities and Colleges
- Oregon State University
- Linfield University
- George Fox University
- Chemeketa Community College
- Oregon Department of Park and Recreation
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)
- Oregon Department of Agriculture Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (YSWCD)
- Greater Yamhill Watershed Council
- Yamhelas
- Outdoor Education Adventures
- Oregon Historical Society
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Yamhill Conservation Trust
- Local Land Trusts
- Travel Oregon
- Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB)
- Local kayak groups
- Farmers groups
- Willamette Valley Visitors Association
- Willamette Riverkeeper
- Local parks departments
- Cultural coalition
- Walnut City Music Festival
- Winery associations & AVA groups
- Gray Family Foundation
- Oregon State Forestry
- Foresters
- Adopt a park
- Private timber-Weyerhaeuser, Golden Pond, Starker, Hampton, etc.
- Family sponsorships
- User groups financially support facilities for different rec types.
- Family endowments

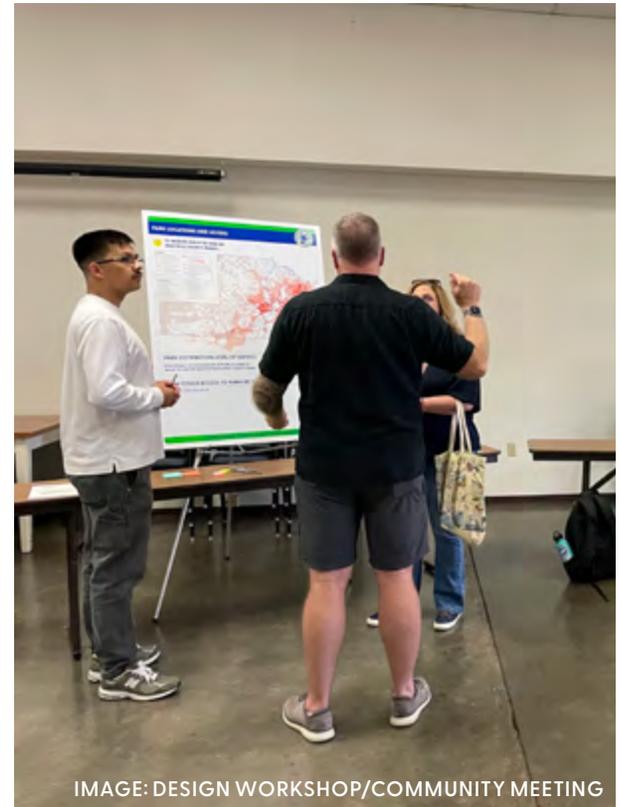


IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/COMMUNITY MEETING



IMAGE: DESIGN WORKSHOP/JULIETTE PARK



# APPENDIX

- **COMMUNITY PROFILE**
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# COMMUNITY PROFILE

## Memorandum Purpose

Evaluation of parks and recreation services requires an understanding of the residents who live in the area and their needs and desires. A community profile provides data for establishing that understanding.

This memo collects the currently available demographic, economic, and housing conditions data that may be referenced in creating the Yamhill County Park System Plan. The memo is intended as an internal data repository resource and will be summarized later within the System Plan document with key information utilized to anticipate future parks level of service. ESRI Business Analyst 2024 data based on U.S. Census data is utilized as a primary source as it allows for use of the Yamhill County boundary.

This memo is organized under the following topics:

1. Key Findings
2. Population and Households
3. Age Distribution
4. Racial/Ethnic Makeup and Distribution
5. Education
6. Employment and Workforce
7. Median Household Income
8. At-risk Population

## 1. Key Findings

### 2024 County-Wide Facts

- Population: 110,325
- Median Age: 40.0
- Median Household Income: \$83,439
- Household Income Less than \$35,000: 20.9%
- Household Percentage Below Poverty: 4%
- Unemployment Rate: 3.5%
- Average Household Size (2024): 2.66
- Percentage Renter Occupied: 29%
- Largest Minority Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino/Spanish 17.9%
- Growth Rate: 0.36% annually

## 2. Population and Households

Yamhill County hosts a population of 110,325 people as of 2024, ranking as the 10th most populous county in the State of Oregon. The County has seen high population growth from 2010 to 2020 of 8.6%, which is just slower than the State of Oregon growth rate of 10.6% during that same period. Yamhill’s growth is anticipated to steadily slowdown in the next few years, with a projected annual growth rate of 0.36% (Figure 3).

Location	Population (2024)	Households (2024)
Yamhill County	110,325	39,483

Figure 1 Population and Number of Households

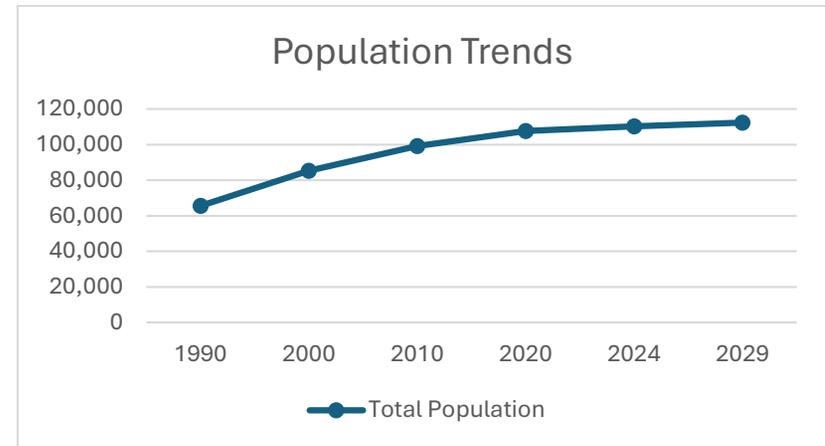


Figure 1 2010-2029 Population Trends Graph. Population numbers are based on current Yamhill County Boundary.

Source: ESRI Demographics 2024

Figure 4 displays a dot density map representing the population density of one dot per 20 people distributed throughout census block groups (note: these are not address points). Yamhill County's highest population density exists in its two largest cities, McMinnville (population 35,015 in 2024) and Newberg (population of 26,266 in 2024) making up a little more than half of the total County population. Smaller cities include Sheridan (6,244 population), Lafayette (4,399 population), Dundee (3,185 population), Dayton (2,677 population), Willamina (2,252 population), Carlton (2,220 population), Amity (1,760 population), and Yamhill (1,150 population). Less dense populations can be found in unincorporated areas throughout the northeastern, southeastern, and southwestern reaches of Yamhill County.

Yamhill County serves around 39,483 households (2024), up from 34,726 in 2010, increasing by 13.7% (Figure 5).

Total Households	Yamhill County
2010	34,726
2020	38,011
<b>2024</b>	<b>39,483</b>
2029	40,929
2024 Average Household Size	2.66

Figure 5 Total Household Summary, 2010-2029. Source: ESRI, Business Analyst

The 2024 average household size in Yamhill County is 2.66 individuals, with two persons per household as the most common household type, followed by one person per household, then three persons per household (Figure 6).

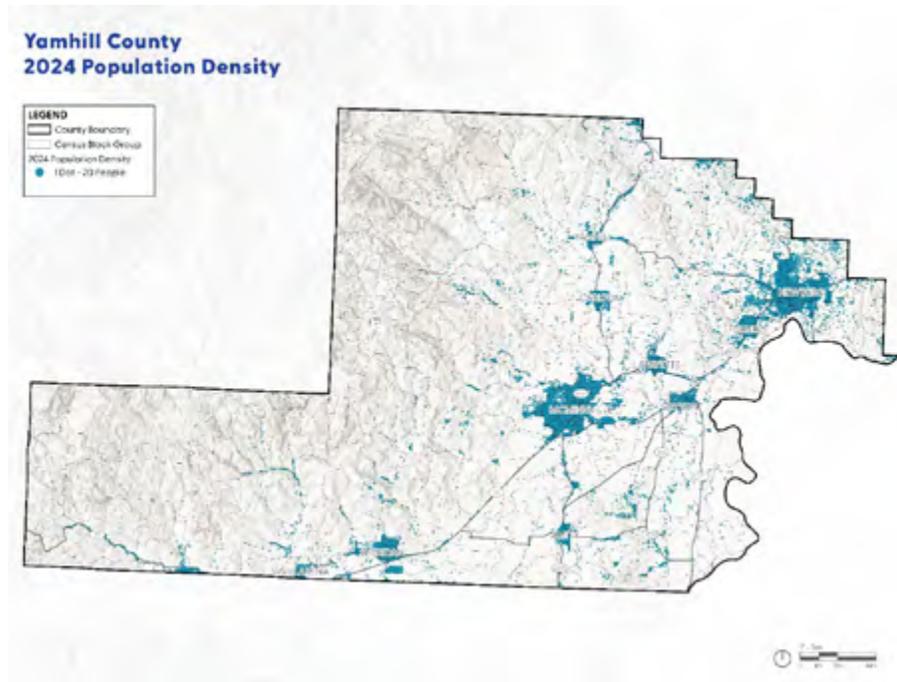


Figure 4 Population Dot Density Map, 2024. Source: Design Workshop, Yamhill County GIS Data, ESRI Demographics

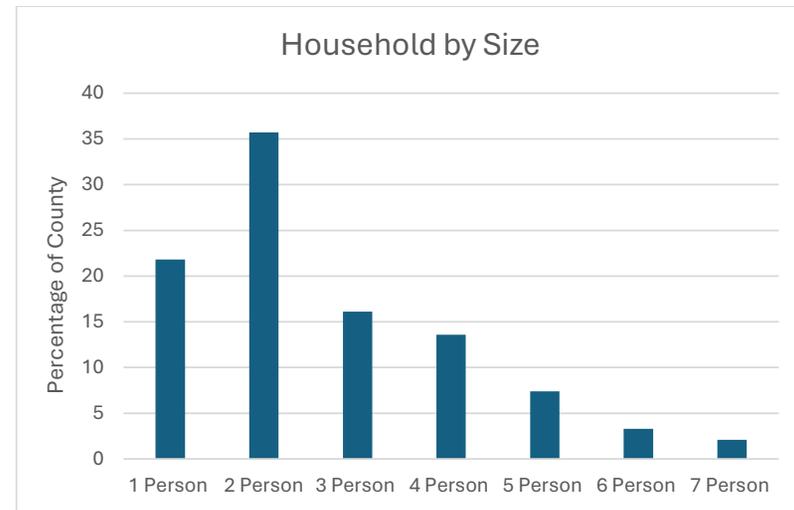


Figure 6 Household Size, 2020. Source: ESRI, Business Analyst

Of the 39,483 housing units (Figure 5), 66% of housing units are owner-occupied, 29% are renter occupied, and 5% are vacant (Figure 7).

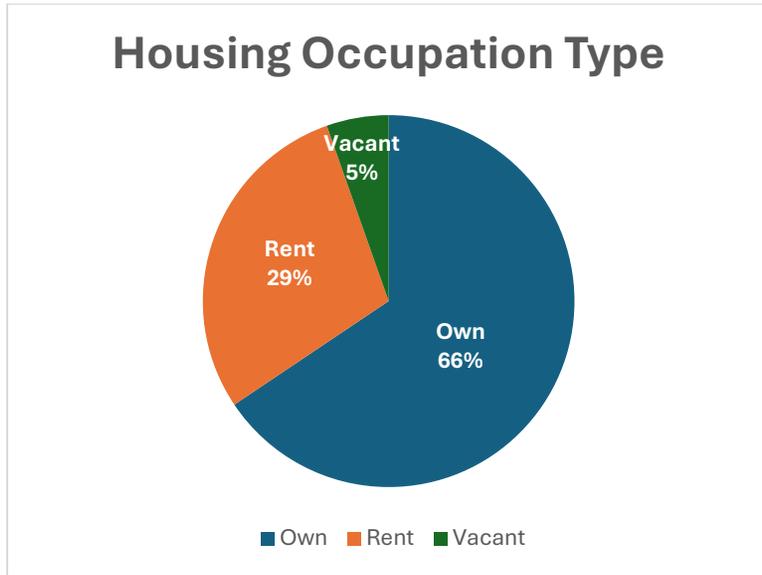


Figure 7 Yamhill County Home Occupation Type, 2020. Source: ESRI, Business Analysis

### 3. Age Distribution

The 2024 Yamhill County median age is 40.0 (Figure 8), which is slightly older than the national average of 38.1. Residents above the age of 45 account for 43.3% of the county's population, highlighting a need to consider aging populations and how recreation focus and needs may change over time.

Residents between the ages of 15 to 44 account for 39.7% of the county's population, and residents under the age of 14 account for only 17% of the county's population. The 15 to 24 year old age group is considerably sized making up 13.9% of the population. Higher education institutions in the county of Chemeketa Community College (enrollment 32,304), George Fox University (enrollment 4,000) and Linfield College (1,700 enrollment) can be attributed for some of this population.

Year	Yamhill County
2010	36.8
2020	39.5
<b>2024</b>	<b>40.0</b>
2029	40.9

Figure 8 Median Age. Source: ESRI, Business Analyst

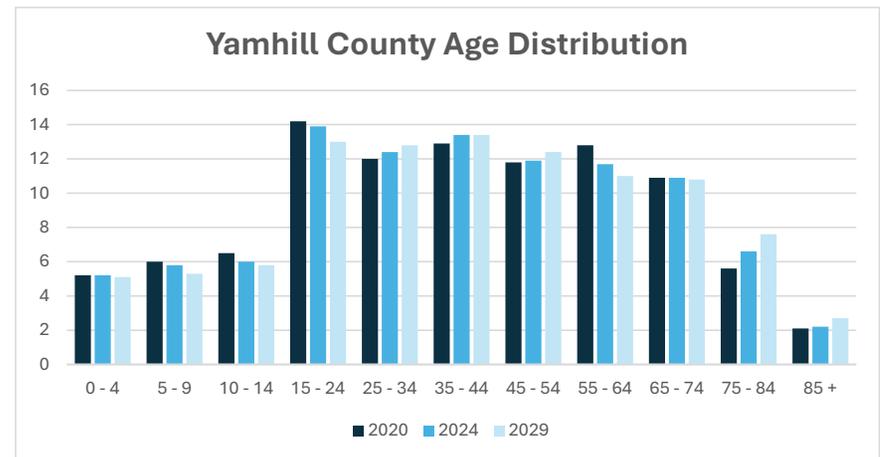
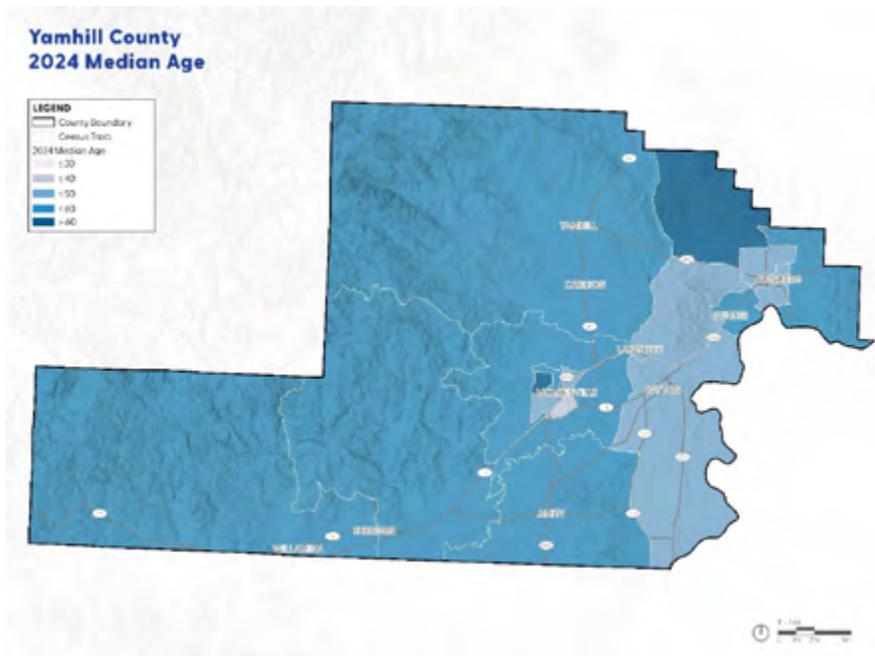


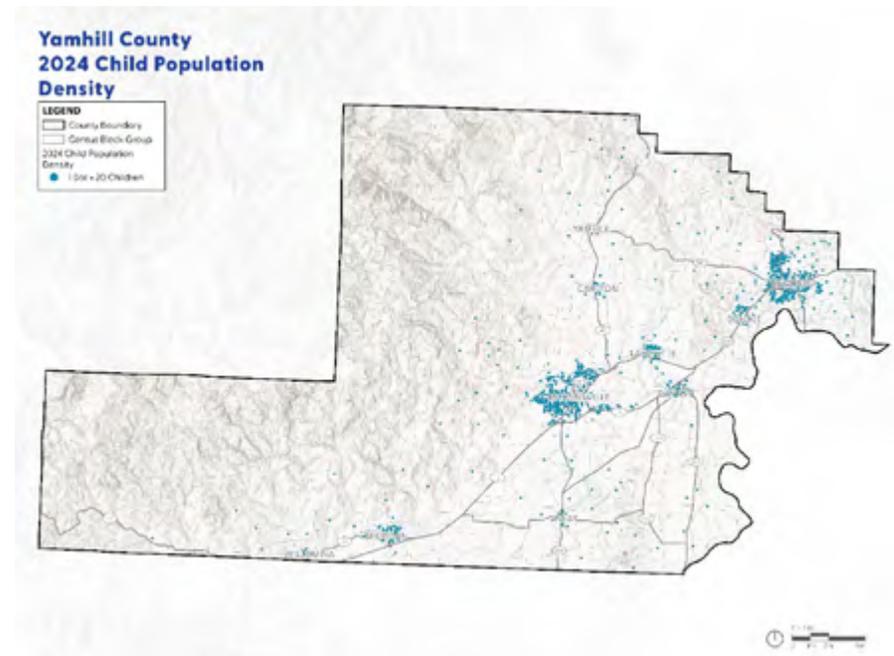
Figure 9 Percentage Age Distribution, Yamhill County. Source: ESRI, Business Analyst

The median age range is from 40 to 49 throughout majority of the county (Figure 10). The City of McMinnville has more variations, hosting 4 different median age groups (20 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, and 50 to 59). The eastern part of the county has a younger median age (30 to 39). There is a census tract on the northeastern side of the county where the median age is above 60.



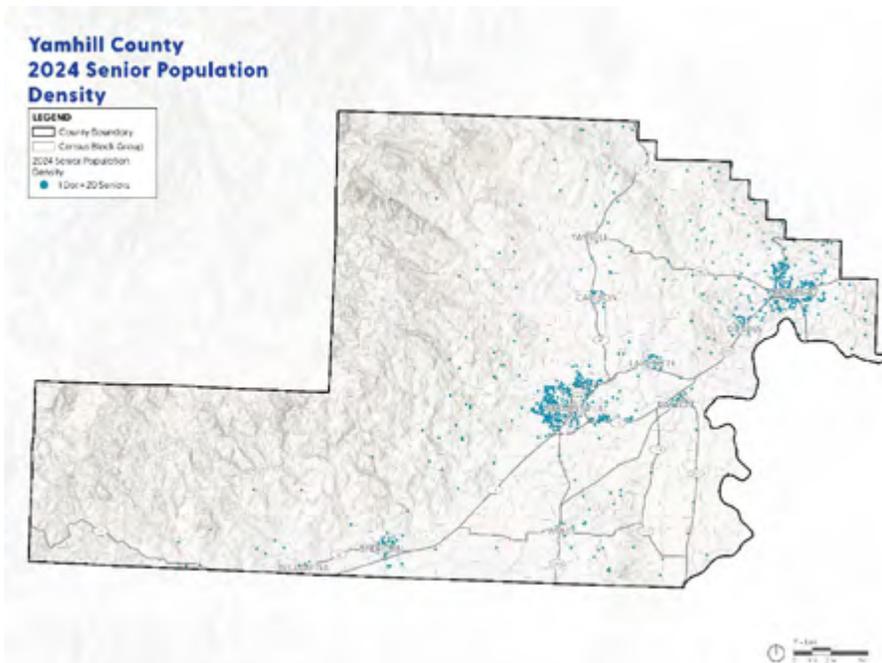
**Figure 10** Age Distribution Map, 2024. Source: Design Workshop, Yamhill County GIS Data, ESRI Demographics

The Child Population Density Map (Figure 11) displays that the highest population of children within the county are located within the cities of McMinnville and Newberg, followed by the cities of Lafayette, Dayton, Dundee, and Sheridan. The remainder of the child population is sparsely distributed across the county, mainly within its southern, central, and northern regions. This distribution suggests that parks surrounding the cities of McMinnville and Newberg may require additional resources and services targeted toward children, such as playgrounds and recreational facilities. Additionally, the spread of child population across the county highlights the need for equitable resource allocation to ensure that children in more rural areas of the county are equally served.



**Figure 11** Child Population Density Map, 2024. Source: Design Workshop, Yamhill County GIS Data, ESRI Demographics

The Senior Population Density Map (Figure 12) illustrates that the highest concentration of seniors within the county is in the cities of McMinnville and Newberg, followed by Sheridan, Lafayette, and Dundee. The remainder of the senior population is also sparsely distributed across the county, particularly west of McMinnville, as well as in the northeastern and southeastern parts of the county.



**Figure 12** Senior Population Density Map, 2024. Source: Design Workshop, Yamhill County GIS Data, ESRI

#### 4. Racial/Ethnic Makeup and Distribution

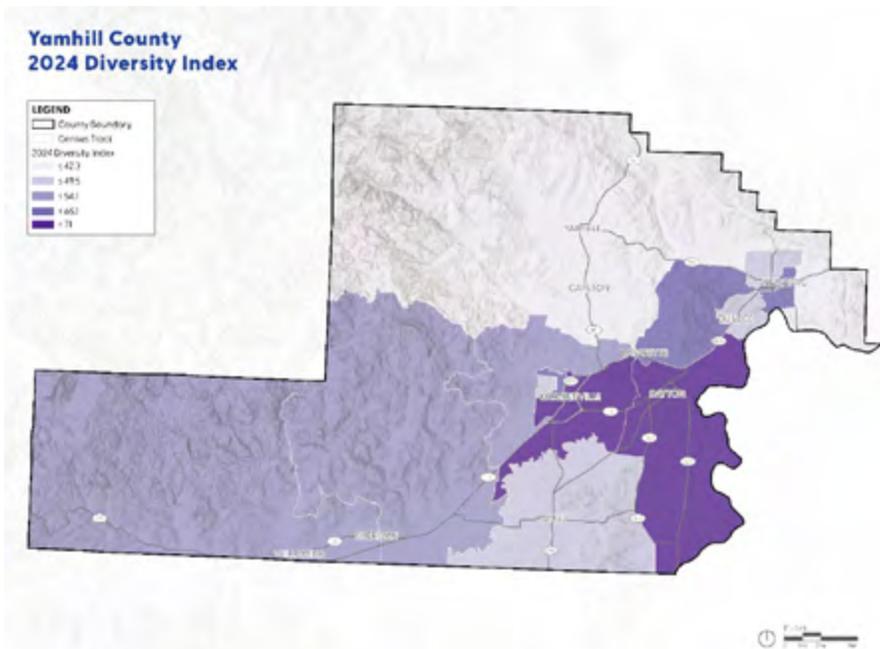
The racial/ethnic makeup of Yamhill County residents is predominantly white non-Hispanic at 76% (2024). The US Census records the racial/ethnic diversity of Yamhill County has increased significantly in the past decade. In 2024, residents of Hispanic/Latino/Spanish origin make up 17.9% of the county. Hispanic/Latino is the largest minority group in the state and has grown faster than the national rate in the past three decades, accounting for nearly 14% of Oregon’s population. Minority racial groups in the county include those identifying with two or more races (11.1%) and residents identifying with some other race alone (8.3%). The following racial groups account for less than 5% of the county, including residents identifying as American Indian (1.8%), Asian (1.6%), Black (0.9%), and Pacific Islander (0.2%).

2024 Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
White Alone	76%
Black Alone	0.9%
American Indian Alone	1.8%
Asian Alone	1.6%
Pacific Islander Alone	0.2%
Some Other Race Alone	8.3%
Two or More Races	11.1%
Hispanic Origin	17.9%

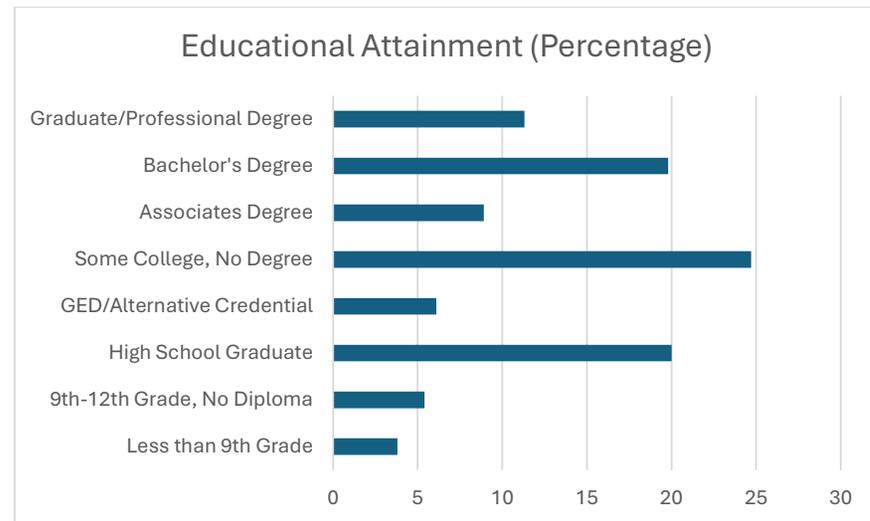
**Figure 13** County Race/Ethnicity, 2024. Source: ESRI, Business Analyst

The ESRI Diversity Index measures the diversity, including race and ethnicity – from 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity). When the population of an area is closer to 100, it indicates that all race groups are represented in an area and have equal shares of the population. The 2024 Diversity Index for Yamhill County is 56.1. ESRI projects that the diversity index for Yamhill County will increase to 60.3, which will surpass the projected 2029 score for the State of Oregon (50.5).

The Diversity Index map (Figure 14) shows that the eastern part of the county, especially areas around McMinnville and Dayton, have a higher diversity index, communicating the presence of diverse populations in those areas. The northern census tracts in the county have the lowest diversity index, suggesting that the white population resides mostly in those areas. A note, the Diversity Index map shows the percentage of a census tract and does not take into account population numbers. Some of the areas indicated in this map have a small total population, such as in the northern part of the county.



**Figure 14** Diversity Index Map, 2024. Source: Design Workshop, Yamhill County GIS Data, ESRI Demographics



**Figure 15** Education Attainment, 2024. Source: ESRI, Business Analyst

## 5. Education

The percentage of residents over the age of 25 in Yamhill County with an Associate's, Bachelor's or Graduate/Professional degree is 40% (Figure 15). 24% of residents have had some level of college, however no degree. The following 36% of the population over 25 do not hold a formal degree or equivalent qualification post-high school diploma, indicating alternative pathways to employment.

## 6. Employment and Workforce

The daytime population for Yamhill County includes 43.5% of daytime workers (including persons who not only live and work in the same area but also those who work in the area but live elsewhere), with more than half of the population as daytime residents (56.5%) (Figure 16). Daytime residents accounts for persons under 16 years of age and working-age persons who are unemployed or not in the labor force (including retirees, homemakers, college students, and miscellaneous noninstitutional and institutional group quarters populations in nursing homes, juvenile detention centers, homeless shelters, and so on).

Yamhill County has a low unemployment rate (3.5%), ranking as the 10th lowest unemployment rate in the State of Oregon. Almost half of the residents employed in Yamhill County (47.1%) work in the services industry (Figure 17). Other sectors with a considerable number of workers include retail trade, manufacturing, and construction (Figure 17). The largest percentage of occupation types is Professional Office Worker (Figure 18).

2024 Daytime Population	Population/Percentage
Total Daytime Population	101,840
Daytime Population Workers	44,259
<b>Daytime Population Workers (%)</b>	<b>43.5%</b>
Daytime Population Residents	57,581
<b>Daytime Population Residents (%)</b>	<b>56.5%</b>
2024 16+ Unemployment Rate	3.5%

Figure 16 Employment Trends, 2024. Source: ESRI

Employment by Occupation (Population 16+)	
Occupation Type	Percentage
Professional Office Worker	55.3%
Management/Business/Financial	17.5%
Professional	20.9%
Sales	7.1%
Administrative Support	9.8%
Services	19.6%
Blue Collar	25.1
Farming/Forestry/Fishing	1.7%
Construction/Extraction	5.7%
Installation/Maintenance/Repair	2.8%
Production	7.6%
Transportation/Material Moving	7.2%

Figure 18 Employment by Occupation, 2024. Source: ESRI, Business Analyst

**ESRI Daytime Population Methodology: 2024 Esri Daytime Population Methodology Statement**

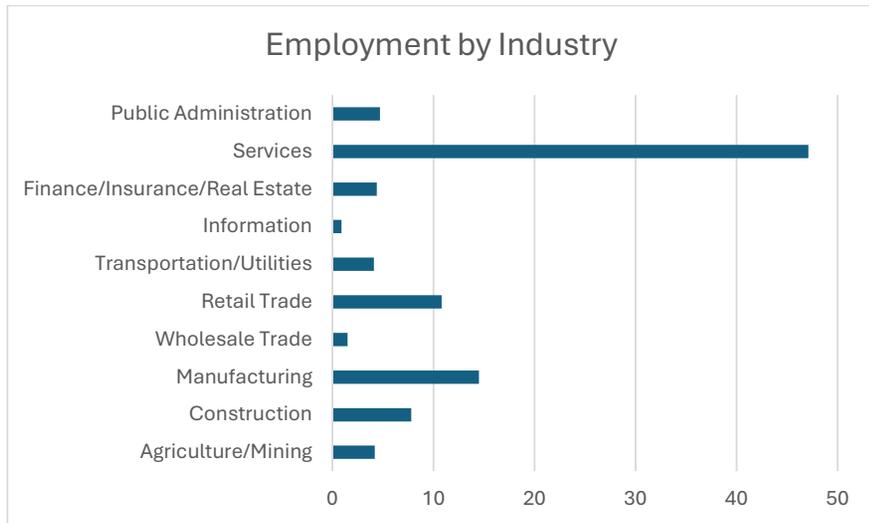


Figure 17 Industry Employment, 2024. Source: ESRI, Business Analyst

**7. Median Household Income**

Yamhill County median household income (MHI) is currently \$83,439 and is estimated to increase by 4.6% annually. By 2029, the median household income is projected to be \$102,448, a significant increase over the next five years (Figure 19). The population's income distribution indicates that 20.9% of the households make less than \$35,000 per year (Figure 20). 43.3% of households earn over \$100,000 annually. The remaining 35.8% of the households earn between \$35,000 and \$100,000 annually. This composition represents significant income disparity throughout the county.

	Year	Yamhill County
Median Household Income (MHI)	2024	\$83,439
	2029	\$102,448
	<b>Annual Growth Rate</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
Per Capita Income	2024	\$41,108
	2029	\$49,218
	<b>% Change</b>	<b>19.7%</b>

Figure 19 Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2024 & 2029

2024 Household Income	Yamhill County
<\$15,000	7.2%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	7.2%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	6.5%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	10%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	14.6%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	11.2%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	20.1%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	11.3%
\$200,000+	11.9%
Average Household Income 2024	<b>\$113,973</b>

Figure 20 Household Income Distribution, 2024. Source: ESRI, Business Analyst

Figure 21 indicates that the highest median household income within Yamhill County is in the northeastern part of the county surrounding the City of Newberg. Areas with lower median household incomes are concentrated in the western areas of the county near Sheridan and Willamina, and along OR-22 further west. The median household income varies between the remaining census tracts in the county, especially within the City of McMinnville where one of the higher earning census tracts is nearly adjacent to one of the lowest earning census tracts.

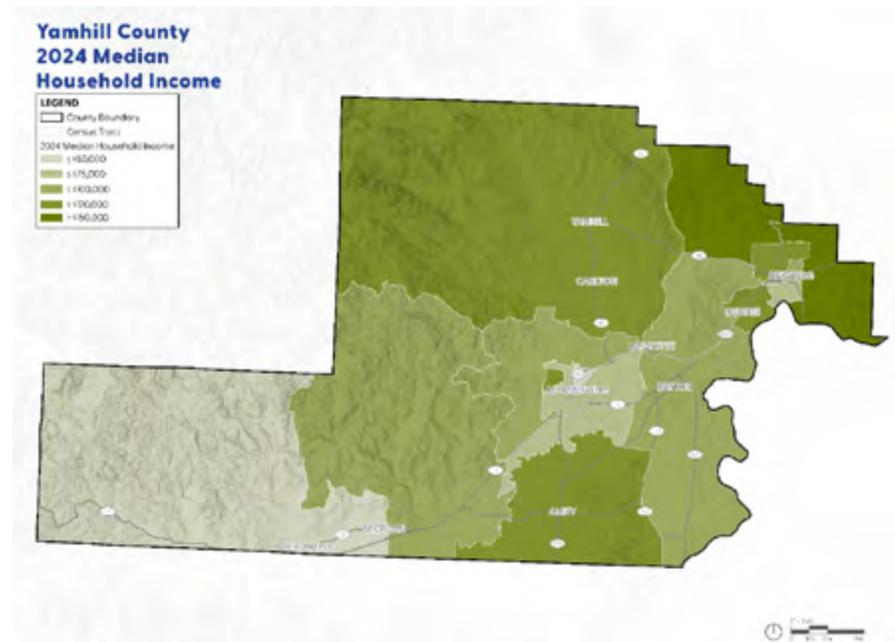


Figure 21 Median Household Income Map, 2024. Source: Design Workshop, Yamhill County GIS Data, ESRI Demographics

## 8. At-risk Population

This section uses data from the 2018-2022 American Community Survey to identify at-risk population data, as shown in Figure 23. ESRI defines at-risk populations as:

- Households below the poverty level
- Households receiving food stamps/ SNAP benefits
- Households with one or more persons with a disability
- Percent of the population 18 to 64 that do not speak English
- Population with no Health Insurance Coverage

	Yamhill County		State of Oregon	
	Total Population: 107,674		Total Population: 4,354,045	
	Population Estimate	%	Population Estimate	%
Households with income in the past 12 months below poverty level	4,292	4%	195,090	12%
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	5,836	5.4%	250,423	15%
Households with 1+ Persons with a Disability	12,788	11.9%	477,663	28%
Population with no Health Insurance Coverage	6,685	6.2%	NA	NA
Population 18 to 64 That Do Not Speak English	2,525	2.3%	27,314	0.6%

**Figure 22** At-Risk Population Factors, 2018-2022. Source: ESRI, Business Analyst, ACS 2018-2022

Yamhill County has a fairly small percentage of the population within these categories of “at-risk” factors compared to the state or nation. The percentage below the poverty level (4%) and households receiving Food Stamps/SNAP (5.4%) is relatively low and corresponds to low unemployment levels.

### Sources:

2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS)

CDC Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

ESRI. Community Profile 2024, Retrieved from ESRI Business Analyst. Source Data

ESRI. Demographic and Income Profile. Retrieved from ESRI Business Analyst. Source Data

ESRI forecasts for 2024 and 2029. U.S. Census Bureau 2000 and 2010 decennial Census data converted by ESRI into 2020 geography.

U.S. Census TIGER 2021 (Census Tract, Yamhill County, Oregon).

U.S. Census TIGER 2021 (Census Block, Yamhill County, Oregon).

# CONDITION AND QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Park Name	Condition 0-4	Condition (normalized)	Level of Development and Number of Amenities 0-2	Level of Development and Number of Amenities (normalized)	Undesirable Use 0-3	Undesirable Use (normalized)	Natural Resources Condition 0-2	Natural Resources Condition (normalized)	Normalized Score	Total Rating Excellent = 90% >, Good = 70% to 89%, Fair = 50% to 69%, Poor: <50%	Park Classification	Ownership	Management	Acres	
<b>Regional Park</b>															
Charles Metsker Park	1	25%	1	50%	3	100%	1	50%	56%	Fair	Regional Park	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	35.2	
Deer Creek Park	3	75%	1	50%	3	100%	2	100%	81%	Good	Regional Park	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	29.4	
Rogers Landing	2	50%	1	50%	2	67%	2	100%	67%	Fair	Regional Park	Baker Family trust, City of Newberg, Hardrock	Yamhill County	14.1	
<b>Community Park</b>															
Blackwell Park	2	50%	1	50%	2	67%	1	50%	54%	Fair	Community Park	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	5.8	
Crabtree Park	2	50%	1	50%	1	33%	0	0%	33%	Poor	Community Park	Yamhill County	Chehalem Park & Rec Dist	12.7	
Edward Grenfell Park	3	75%	2	100%	3	100%	2	100%	94%	Excellent	Community Park	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	5.2	
Huber Park	2	50%	1	50%	2	67%	1	50%	54%	Fair	Community Park	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	1.5	
Lafayette Locks Park	2	50%	1	50%	2	67%	1	50%	54%	Fair	Community Park	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	7.0	
Menefee Park	3	75%	1	50%	3	100%	2	100%	81%	Good	Community Park	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	1.0	
<b>Access Point</b>															
Dayton Landing	1	25%	1	50%	2	67%	2	100%	60%	Fair	Access Point	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	2.5	
Ediger Landing	2	50%	0	0%	3	100%	0	0%	38%	Poor	Access Point	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	0.3	
Stuart Grenfell Park	1	25%	1	50%	0	0%	1	50%	31%	Poor	Access Point	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	6.1	
<b>Undeveloped</b>															
Juliette Park	0	0%	0	0%		0%	1	50%	13%	Poor	Undeveloped	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	5.7	
Newberg Landfill	0	0%	0	0%		0%	0	0%	0%	Poor	Undeveloped	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	38.8	
Powerhouse Park	0	0%	0	0%		0%	2	100%	25%	Poor	Undeveloped	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	4.2	
Renne Equestrian Park	0	0%	0	0%		0%	1	50%	13%	Poor	Undeveloped	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	3.0	
Whiteson Area Park	0	0%	0	0%		0%	2	100%	25%	Poor	Undeveloped	Yamhill County	Yamhill County	93.0	
Wrex Cruse	3	75%	0	0%		0%	2	100%	44%	Poor	Undeveloped	Cove Orchard Sewer Dist	Yamhill County	6.4	

# PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATES FOR THREE COUNTY PARKS



## **CHARLES METSKER PARK - 35 ACRES NATURE PARK**

Phase 1: Environmental Assessment, Site Topo Survey and Natural/Cultural Resources Inventory, Community Engagement, and Conceptual Planning/ Programming (Near future 0-5 years) - \$200,000 to \$550,000

Phase 2: Park Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documentation, and Permitting (Near future 0-5 years) - \$750,000 to \$1,080,000

Phase 3: Construction of the Park (Short term - 6 to 10 years and/or long term 11-20 years) - \$5 Million to \$9 Million

**TOTAL: \$5.95 MILLION TO \$10.63 MILLION**



## **STUART GRENFELL PARK - 6.1 ACRES EXISTING PARK**

Phase 1: Feasibility Study (Near future - 0 to 5 years) - \$5,000 to \$40,000

Future phases are dependent on the outcome from the feasibility study.



## **RODGERS LANDING - 14 ACRES EXISTING PARK + 38.8 ACRES POTENTIAL EXPANSION**

Phase 1: Rodgers Landing Improvements Planning and Design (Near future 0-5 years) - \$150,000 to \$600,000

Phase 2: Rodgers Landing Improvements Construction (Near future 0-5 years) - \$500,000 to \$1,500,000

Phase 3: Rodgers Landing Expansion Planning and Design (Newberg Landfill Property - 38.8 Acres, Short term - 6 to 10 years) - \$800,000 to \$1,500,000

Phase 4: Rodgers Landing Expansion Construction (Newberg Landfill Property - 38.8 Acres, Long term 11-20 years) - \$3 Million to \$14 Million

**TOTAL: \$4.45 MILLION TO \$17.6 MILLION**

Note: cost ranges were developed as a high-level understanding for planning purposes only. Project costs are dependent on additional site data and plan concept development. The budget for these projects will be determined as individual property designs progress.

# RECREATION TRENDS

## Memorandum Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to compile data on outdoor recreation trends relevant to Yamhill County Parks and Recreation. Understanding this data is crucial for recognizing gaps in current services and identifying evolving recreation patterns to inform planning efforts. This memo is a collection of information for internal project team use. Key information will be summarized for the final plan document. This memo addresses the following:

1. Executive Summary
2. Key Demographics for Recreation Trends Understanding
3. Recreation Trends & Popular Outdoor Activities in Yamhill County
4. Recreation Spending in Yamhill County
5. Recreation Trends and Needs in Oregon
6. National Changes in Activities
7. National Emerging Parks and Recreation Topics

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Below is a summary of the key takeaways from the recreation trends study:

- Population growth in some parts of the County will place increased demand on the existing parks and facilities. Proactive measures are essential to address these challenges.
- Aging population, especially older population with disability, will require appropriate accommodations to meet their needs.
- A variety of barriers limit participation for underserved communities. To promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in parks and recreation, different ways should be considered for underserved communities to overcome constraints and increase their level of participation in outdoor recreation.
- The most popular activities for adults in Yamhill County are walking for exercise, hiking, swimming, weightlifting, and bicycling (road).
- The activities with significantly higher percentage participation in Yamhill County than the U.S. population are boating (power), golf, walking for exercise, yoga, Pilates, hiking, canoeing/kayaking, backpacking, and skiing (downhill) .

These interests might be indicative of the access to nature and access to river available in the region.

- Yamhill County's recreation expenditure by activities is slightly higher than the U.S. average. Yamhill County consumer spending on fees for recreational lessons, camping equipment, exercise equipment and gear, game tables, and winter sports equipment stands out as a lot higher than the U.S. average.
- Walking on streets or sidewalks, walking on paved paths or natural trails, and nature immersion are the top 3 most popular activities in their community for Oregonians.
- Traveling to walk/hike on nonlocal paved paths or natural trails, beach activities -ocean, and traveling for nature immersion are the top 3 most popular activities outside their community for Oregonians.
- Lighting and/or security cameras in key areas, children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (logs, water, sand, boulders, hills, trees), sports fields (soccer, baseball, football) were identified as high priority needs in Yamhill County.
- The number and percentage of Americans engaging in sports or fitness activities witnessed growth for the fifth consecutive year. This reflects a fundamental and enduring appreciation for the benefits of physical activity, particularly following the pandemic-induced period of indoor confinement.
- There is need to ensure that participation in physical activity is equitable, irrespective of income. Inactivity rates displayed an inverse correlation with income levels.
- Fitness and outdoor sports emerge as the primary choices across all generations, while team sports hold appeal for Gen Z (born approximately between 1997 and 2012) and Millennials (born approximately between 1981 and 1996).
- In 2022, the outdoor recreation participant demographic saw increased diversity, with rises in participation among Black individuals, Hispanic individuals, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Research suggests the potential effectiveness of family-based nature programming in encouraging children to embrace outdoor activities and sustain active lifestyles into adulthood.
- Proximity to high-quality parks and recreation opportunities consistently ranks as a crucial factor influencing people's decisions regarding where to live.

- Artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots are revolutionizing the responsiveness of local governments to residents' inquiries by significantly enhancing efficiency.
- The shift towards a post-climate change world is becoming increasingly evident, prompting the need for parks and recreation to collectively adapt to this existential challenge. Parks and recreation play a vital role in assisting communities to achieve resilience through flood protection, stormwater retention, implementation of green infrastructure parks, and safeguarding against both short-term weather events and gradual climate changes.
- Parks, trails, and natural spaces serve as vital infrastructure for meeting physical, mental, and emotional needs, as highlighted by the pandemic's emphasis on accessible outdoor recreation.

## 2. KEY DEMOGRAPHICS FOR RECREATION TRENDS UNDERSTANDING

Population Changes Implications: *[See the Community Profile Memo for More Information]*

Yamhill County has a population of 110,325 as of 2024 based on Esri Business Analyst and US Census data (Table 1), with projections anticipating an increase to 112,348 by 2029<sup>1</sup>. If population growth continues to trend upward, it will place increased demand on the existing parks and facilities. Simultaneously, maintenance costs will continue to rise and there will also be rising competition for recreation facilities. Proactive measures are essential to address these challenges and sustain the quality and appeal of Yamhill County's recreational spaces.

### Median Household Income Changes:

The median household income is projected to see a significant rise through this same five-year period from \$83,439 to \$102,448<sup>2</sup>. Higher rates of household income tend to have implications for increased leisure time and recreation expenditures.

### Age Group Changes:

Increasing senior population has been identified as a notable demographic shift in both Oregon and across the nation. Based on Esri Business Analyst and US Census data, individuals ages 65+ (senior population) make up approximately 19.9% of the total Oregon State population in 2024.

<sup>1</sup> ESRI Business Analyst 2024

<sup>2</sup> ESRI Business Analyst 2024

<sup>3</sup> The ESRI Diversity Index Measures the diversity, including race and ethnicity - from 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity). When the population of an area is closer to 100, it indicates that all race groups are represented in an area and have equal shares of the population

Similarly, Yamhill County has approximately 19.6% of its total population age 65+ in 2024. Due to longer life expectancies and the large Boomer generation (born approximately between 1946 and 1964) reaching senior years, the percentage of senior population is expected to rise steadily in the next two decades. Yamhill County park managers need to anticipate a growing number of seniors withdrawing from outdoor recreational activities due to age-related limitations and disabilities unless appropriate accommodations are implemented to address these needs.

17% of Yamhill County's total population fall into age group 14 and under in 2024. The percentage of young residents (age 14 and under) is projected to decrease slightly to 16.2% in 2029.

### Race/Ethnicity Changes:

The racial/ethnic makeup of Yamhill County residents is predominantly white non-Hispanic at 76% (2024). From 2010 to 2024, Yamhill County's diversity index<sup>3</sup> increased from 44.8 (2010) to 57.8 (2024). It is projected to increase more in the next five years (2024 to 2029) from 57.8 (2024) to 60.3 (2029). The increase in diversity index indicates the presence of more diverse population in Yamhill County. In 2024, residents of Hispanic/Latino/Spanish origin make up 17.9% of the County, representing the largest minority group. Participation rates and recreation needs vary across racial/ethnic communities<sup>4</sup>.

Yamhill County Demographic Summary	2024	2029
Population	110,325	112,348
Households	39,483	40,929
Median Age	40.0	40.9
Median Household Income	\$83,439	\$102,448
Diversity Index	57.8	60.3

Table 1 Yamhill County Demographic Summary

Source: ESRI Business Analyst 2024

### Underserved Communities:

Across the United States, a wealth of evidence shows limitations for participation in outdoor recreation for underserved communities, including (but not limited to) Black, Hispanic/Latino/a, Indigenous and Native American, Asian and Pacific Islander persons, and other people of color; people with disabilities; and individuals experiencing poverty<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2029 (Public Review Draft)

<sup>5</sup> Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2029 (Public Review Draft)

### 3. Recreation Trends & Popular Outdoor Activities In Yamhill County

Along with the 2025-2029 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) data (Public Review Draft), this analysis uses the ESRI Business Analyst Sports and Leisure Market Potential Report (Esri forecasts 2024 and 2029) to help identify the most popular outdoor activities within Yamhill County. The Sports and Leisure Market Potential Report is a point of reference for the most popular activities by the number of adults who have participated in them in the past 12 months in Yamhill County<sup>6</sup>.

The Market Potential Index (MPI) shows the likelihood that an adult resident will participate in the identified activities compared to the national average in the past 12 months. The national MPI average is 100; therefore, numbers below 100 represent a lower-than-average participation rate, and numbers above 100 represent a higher-than-average participation rate. MPI data also compares the estimated percentage of the U.S. populations and local populations participating in each activity. High index numbers (100+) are significant because they demonstrate greater potential for residents to participate in programs and a need for related facilities. The MPI and estimated participant numbers are helpful tools for estimating resident participation in identified activities and projecting the need for facilities in the future. However, the number of expected adults is not exact and excludes the youth demographic.

Table 2 compares outdoor activity-based trends and the likelihood that an adult resident within Yamhill County will participate in the identified activities compared to the national average. The Yamhill County activities are defined by four categories: General Sports, Fitness Activities, and Outdoor Activity.

- The top three activities in General Sports (measured by expected number of adults) are golf, basketball, and tennis.
- The top three Fitness Activities (measured by expected number of adults) are walking for exercise, weightlifting, and yoga.
- The top three Outdoor Activities (measured by expected number of adults) are hiking, swimming, and bicycling (road).

Overall, the most popular activities for adults in Yamhill County are walking for exercise (36.3% of the adults), hiking (21.4%), swimming (17.1%), weightlifting (15.5%), and bicycling (road) (11.7%). The activities with significantly higher percentage participation than the U.S. population are boating (power), golf, walking for exercise, yoga, Pilates, hiking, canoeing/kayaking, backpacking, and skiing (downhill). These interests might be indicative of the access to nature and access to river available in the region. Soccer (86 MPI) is the only activity that is below 90 MPI.

\*MPI Measures probable demand for the adult market compared to the national average

Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of adults	Percent	MPI*
<b>General Sports</b>			
Golf	7,791	8.9%	111
Basketball	4,407	5.0%	92
Tennis	3,481	4.0%	105
Ping Pong	3,362	3.8%	102
Baseball	2,499	2.9%	99
Soccer	2,356	2.7%	86
Football	2,261	2.6%	101
Pickleball	2,247	2.6%	103
Volleyball	2,003	2.3%	92
Softball	1,595	1.8%	105
<b>Fitness Activities</b>			
Walking for exercise	31,714	36.3%	111
Weightlifting	13,520	15.5%	103
Yoga	9,753	11.2%	111
Jogging/running	9,421	10.8%	104
Aerobics	6,817	7.8%	102
Pilates	2,665	3.0%	111
<b>Outdoor Activities</b>			
Hiking	18,723	21.4%	111
Swimming	14,965	17.1%	109
Bicycling (road)	10,231	11.7%	106
Fishing (fresh water)	8,267	9.5%	96
Canoeing/kayaking	7,169	8.2%	111
Boating (power)	4,478	5.1%	114
Backpacking	3,324	3.8%	111
Bicycling (mountain)	3,041	3.5%	105
Hunting w/Rifle	2,967	3.4%	102
Frisbee	2,947	3.4%	102
Skiing (downhill)	2,554	2.9%	111
Archery	2,148	2.5%	99
Hunting w/Shotgun	2,088	2.4%	98
Horseback Riding	1,733	2.0%	97

Table 2 Yamhill County Participatory Market Potential (Partial List)

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Sports + Leisure Market Potential Report and Recreation Expenditures Report (Esri forecasts 2024 and 2029)

<sup>6</sup> These data are based upon national propensities to use various products and services, applied to local demographic composition (This is not an actual reflection of local variations in recreation trends). Usage and consumer attitudes data were collected by MRI-Simmons in a nationally representative survey of U.S. households. Esri forecasts for 2024 and 2029.

#### 4. Recreation Spending in Yamhill County

Yamhill County consumer recreation spending pattern is similar to the U.S. average. Table 5 outlines Yamhill County’s consumer behavior regarding spending on sports and recreational equipment across different expenditure brackets. Yamhill County consumer spending \$250+ on sports/rec equip (105 MPI) stands out as higher than the U.S. average.

Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of adults	Percent	MPI
\$250+ on sports/rec equip	8,969	10.3%	105
\$100-\$249 on sports/rec equip	5,619	6.4%	102
\$1-99 on sports/rec equip	5,869	6.7%	100

Table 5 Yamhill County Sports/Recreation Spending on Equipment

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Sports + Leisure Market Potential Report and Recreation Expenditures Report

The ESRI Business Analyst Recreation Expenditures Report looks at the annual spending potential for seven categories. Entertainment/Recreation Fees and Admissions, Recreational Vehicles and Fees, Sports, and Recreation and Exercise Equipment are the three categories that are relevant to the Yamhill County Park System Plan development (Table 6). Table 6 shows the relevant detailed expenditures falling under each of the three categories.

Yamhill County’s recreation expenditure by activities (based on the three relevant categories) is slightly higher than the U.S. average. Yamhill County consumer spending on fees for recreational lessons (108 SPI), camping equipment (108 SPI), exercise equipment and gear, game tables (111 SPI), and winter sports equipment (113 SPI) stands out as a lot higher than the U.S. average.

Activity	Spending Potential Index (SPI)	Average Amount Spent	Total
<b>Entertainment/Recreation Fees and Admissions</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>\$852.57</b>	<b>\$33,662,070</b>
Admission to Sporting Events, excl. Trips	97	\$76.67	\$3,027,068
Fees for Participant Sports, excl. Trips	106	\$141.72	\$5,595,512
Fees for Recreational Lessons	108	\$186.14	\$7,349,397
Membership Fees for Social/Recreation/Health Clubs	100	\$301.80	\$11,915,861
<b>Recreational Vehicles and Fees</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>\$201.57</b>	<b>\$7,958,765</b>
Docking and Landing Fees for Boats and Planes	106	\$21.05	\$831,072
Camp Fees	95	\$53.24	\$2,102,238
Payments on Boats/Trailers/Campers/RVs	107	\$85.52	\$3,376,641
Rental of Boats/Trailers/Campers/RVs	101	\$41.76	\$1,648,814
<b>Sports, Recreation and Exercise Equipment</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>\$321.50</b>	<b>\$12,693,625</b>
Exercise Equipment and Gear, Game Tables	111	\$118.23	\$4,668,103
Bicycles	106	\$85.12	\$3,360,744
Camping Equipment	108	\$18.10	\$714,498
Hunting and Fishing Equipment	95	\$58.47	\$2,308,605
Winter Sports Equipment	113	\$14.56	\$574,800
Water Sports Equipment	102	\$12.80	\$505,537
Other Sports Equipment	96	\$10.25	\$404,812
Rental/Repair of Sports/Recreation/Exercise Equipment	101	\$2.96	\$116,955

Table 4 Yamhill County Recreation Expenditures

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Recreation Expenditures. Esri forecasts for 2024 and 2029; Consumer Spending data are derived from the 2021 and 2022 Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### 5. Recreational Trends and Needs in Oregon

##### Popular Recreation Activities Within the State:

Based on survey results from 2025-2029 Oregon SCORP, 95% Oregonians participated in at least one outdoor recreation activity in Oregon during the past year<sup>7</sup>.

These activity trends in their community (Figure 1) vs outside their community (Figure 2) provide valuable insights into the recreational preferences of Oregonians, guiding decisions related to resource allocation and infrastructure development to meet the diverse needs of outdoor enthusiasts across the state.

<sup>7</sup>Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2029 (Public Review Draft)

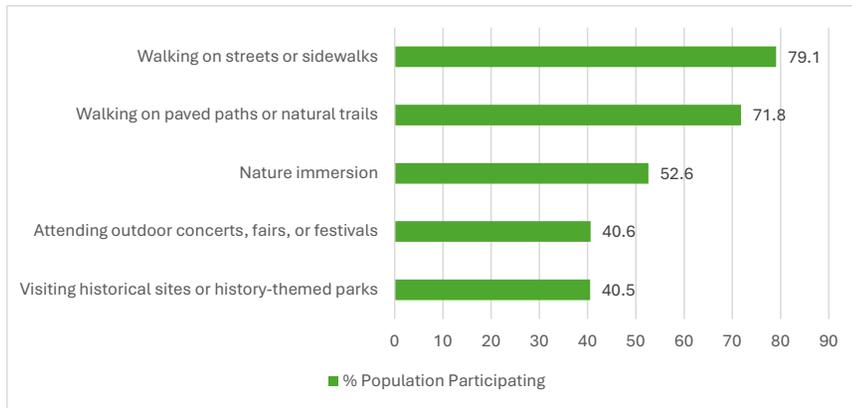


Figure 3 Top Five Activities for Oregon Residents in Their Community, 2022  
 Source: 2025-2029 Oregon SCORP (Public Review Draft)

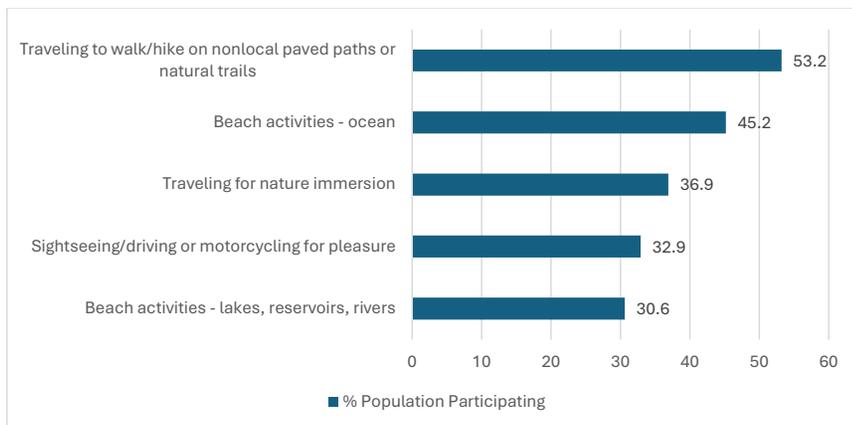


Figure 4 Top Five Activities for Oregon Residents in Their Community, 2022  
 Source: 2025-2029 Oregon SCORP (Public Review Draft)

**Statewide Need:**

The following statewide needs were identified based on the statewide survey of Oregon public recreation providers.

Close-to-home priorities	Dispersed-area priorities
Lighting and/or security cameras in key areas	Law enforcement officers
Restrooms	Accessibility and opportunities for people with disabilities (i.e., trails for hand cycles or trail chairs)
Community trail system	Restrooms
Accessibility and opportunities for people with disabilities (i.e., trails for hand cycles or trail chairs)	Lighting and/or security cameras in key areas
Law enforcement officers	Connecting trails into larger trail systems

**Yamhill County Need:**

The following Yamhill County needs were identified based on the statewide survey of Oregon public recreation providers.

Close-to-home priorities	Dispersed-area priorities
Lighting and/or security cameras in key areas	Outdoor swimming pool/spray park
Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (logs, water, sand, boulders, hills, trees)	Visitor center and program facilities
Sports fields (soccer, baseball, football)	Cabins or yurts with heat, lights, bathroom and kitchen

**Underserved Communities Need:**

Engaging with underserved communities in outdoor recreation efforts was identified as one of the three important priorities facing outdoor recreation providers in the 2025-2029 Oregon SCORP. To support all Oregonians in pursuing outdoor recreation and its benefits and promote participation amongst underrepresented communities, sample surveys were conducted for a series of demographic groups by race/ethnicity, income, and disability. Below are some highlights:

**Low Income Residents Community Recreation Program Need Highest Priorities**

1. Farmers' markets
2. Community Gardens
3. Outdoor concerts and movies
4. Educational Activities (e.g., environmental, health, computer, orienteering and geocaching, historical tours)

## Households with Disabilities Community Recreation Program Need Highest Priorities

1. Farmers’ markets
2. Community Gardens
3. Outdoor concerts and movies
4. Educational Activities (e.g., environmental, health, computer, orienteering and geocaching, historical tours)

### Top “In Your Community” Program Need by Race/Ethnicity Populations:

Asian	Farmers’ markets
	Community gardens
	Outdoor sports (youth and adult)
	Quiet zones for reading, meditating, or games (e.g., chess, cards)
Black/African American	Educational activities (e.g., environmental, health, computer, orienteering and geocaching, historical tours)
	Farmers’ markets
	Community gardens
	Functional strength training (training the body for activities performed in daily life)
Hispanic	Farmers’ markets
	Educational activities (e.g., environmental, health, computer, orienteering and geocaching, historical tours)
	Community gardens
	Outdoor sports (youth and adult)
Mixed Race	Farmers’ markets
	Community gardens
	Outdoor concerts and movies
	Educational activities (e.g., environmental, health, computer, orienteering and geocaching, historical tours)
White	Farmers’ markets
	Community gardens
	Outdoor sports (youth and adult)
	Outdoor concerts and movies

## 5. National Changes in Activities

### Popular Recreation Activities Within the State:

An examination of national recreation trends proves invaluable for comprehending evolving needs and guiding decisions regarding activities requiring potential future accommodations.

### Impact on Participation – Overall Trends

According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association’s (SFIA) 2022 Topline Report’s 2021 data collection on Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities, the number and percentage of Americans engaging in sports or fitness activities witnessed growth for the fifth consecutive year. 77.6% of all Americans (ages six and above) participated in at least one activity, marking a 9.2% increase from 2017 and a 1.9% rise from 2021<sup>8</sup>. This reflects a fundamental and enduring appreciation for the benefits of physical activity, particularly following the pandemic-induced period of indoor confinement.

In 2022 the National Park System received 312 million recreation visits, marking a 5% increase from 2021<sup>9</sup>. This rise was primarily attributed to service-wide visitation recovering to pre-pandemic levels despite some parks operating under limited capacities or indoor space restrictions due to COVID-19 precautions, particularly in the early months of 2022. Visitors to national parks contributed an estimated \$23.9 billion to local gateway regions, reflecting a 16% increase from 2021<sup>10</sup>.

### Impact on Participation - Income Structure

The SFIA report highlights a reduction in inactivity across every income bracket in the United States for the first time. In 2022, merely 13.6% of households earning over \$ 100k were inactive, in contrast to 39.4% of households earning less than \$25k<sup>11</sup>. This underscores the need to ensure that participation in physical activity is equitable, irrespective of income. Inactivity rates displayed an inverse correlation with income levels, as per Figure 3.

<sup>8</sup>Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA). 2022 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation

<sup>9</sup>National Parks Service 2022

<sup>10</sup>ibid

<sup>11</sup>Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA). 2022 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation

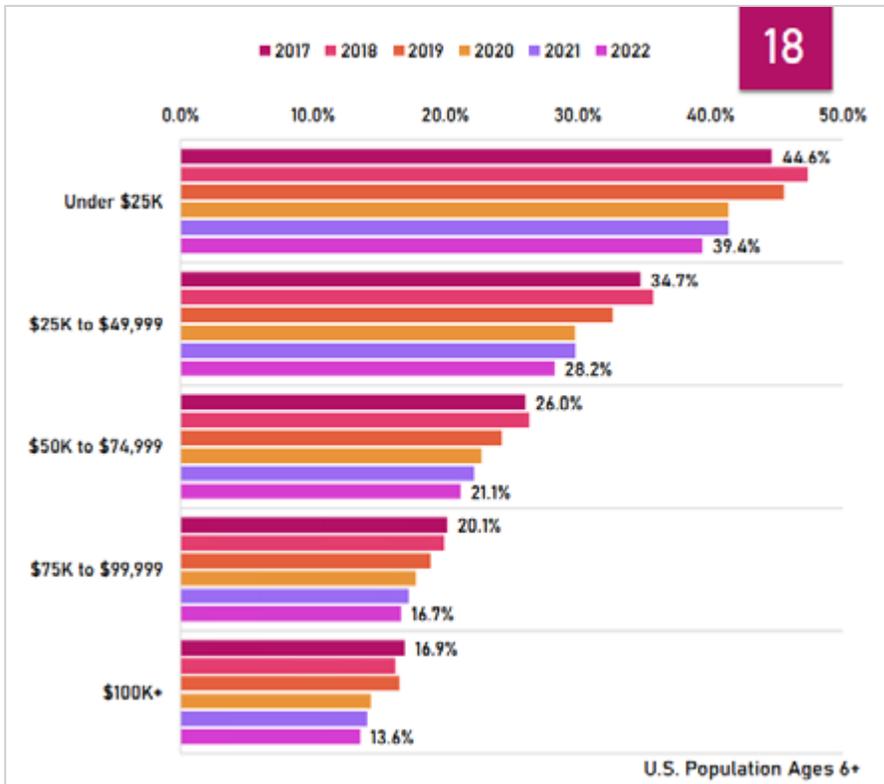


Figure 5 2017 - 2022 Inactivity by Income  
Source: Physical Activity Council

## 5. National Changes in Activities

### Impact on Participation - Age & Generation Demographics

Fitness and outdoor sports emerge as the primary choices across all generations, while team sports hold appeal for Gen Z (born approximately between 1997 and 2012) and Millennials (born approximately between 1981 and 1996), as evidenced in Figure 4. Gen Z shows significantly lower participation rates in fitness compared to other generations, potentially reflecting evolving interests or lifestyle preferences among younger individuals. Conversely, Boomers (born approximately between 1946 and 1964) exhibit a consistent increase in fitness activity over three years (2019 to 2022), suggesting a growing awareness of health and wellness concerns in this demographic. According to the 2023 Physical Activity Council report, youth display high activity levels in outdoor, fitness, and team sports, with

Gen Z leading in participation across categories except for winter and water sports. This trend may be influenced by increased access to sports facilities and organized activities for younger generations. However, despite this active participation, inactivity rates among the 6 to 17 age group remain at around 14.1% in 2022, indicating potential challenges in promoting consistent physical activity among youth. Millennials aged 20 to 40 demonstrate significant engagement in fitness sports, followed by outdoor and individual sports, reflecting a generation that values diverse fitness experiences and individualized activities tailored to personal preferences. These trends highlight the evolving preferences and habits in sports participation across different age groups, with implications for various industries and organizations within the sports and fitness sector.

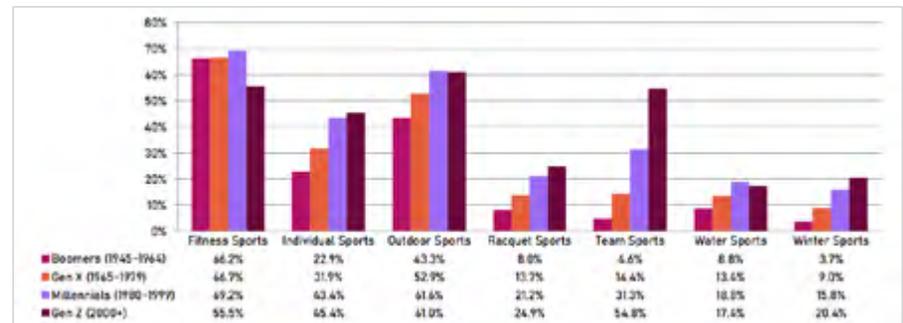


Figure 6 2022 Participation by Generation  
Source: Physical Activity Council

The analysis by age indicates a distinct pattern in sports participation. Among the 6-12 age group, outdoor and team sports are predominant, while by the age of 14, fitness activities take precedence. There is a significant decrease in team sports participation between the ages of 15 to 19. The Physical Activity Council's 2023 annual study on sports, fitness, and recreation participation highlights trends in Americans' engagement with various activities in 2022. Fitness, outdoor, and individual sports boasted participation rates of 67.4 percent, 55 percent, and 41.3 percent, respectively. However, team sports' popularity varied significantly across generations, with a participation rate of 54.8 percent among individuals under 20, dropping to 31.3 percent for millennials and as low as 4.6 percent for those aged 55 and older.

CCCN (Cities Connecting Children to Nature) has identified four primary pathways for communities to integrate nature into children’s lives effectively, focusing on meeting children where they live, work, and play. These pathways include enhancing parks and public spaces with natural elements such as boulders, logs, and paths; incorporating nature into outdoor areas at early childhood centers, preschools, and family-based childcare settings; integrating nature-based programming into city facilities like libraries and recreation centers; and supporting nature preschools that utilize outdoor learning strategies to deliver diverse curriculum content<sup>12</sup>. CCCN’s report highlights a record level of family participation in outdoor recreation activities, with most adults who frequently engage in outdoor recreation having initiated these activities during childhood. This emphasizes the potential effectiveness of family-based nature programming in encouraging children to embrace outdoor activities and sustain active lifestyles into adulthood.

### Impact on Participation - Race and Ethnicity

In 2022, the outdoor recreation participant demographic saw increased diversity, with rises in participation among Black individuals, Hispanic individuals, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community (Figure 5). In 2022, the outdoor participant base experienced a diversification, reflecting a deliberate embrace of diversity and inclusion. Participation rates for Black, Hispanic, and white individuals all saw increases, contrasting with a slight decline in Asian participation. Among Black participants, the participation rate reached 40.7% in 2022, marking a consistent upward trend over the past three years despite maintaining the lowest overall participation rate<sup>13</sup>. Hispanic participation witnessed a significant jump of 9.2% to reach 55.8%, boasting the highest average annual growth rate of 5.5% among all demographic groups over the same period. Meanwhile, participation among white individuals also grew, with 57.3% of all white individuals aged six and older in America engaging in outdoor recreation, marking a 1.3% increase from the previous year<sup>14</sup>. These shifts underscore a concerted effort toward fostering inclusivity and broadening access to outdoor activities across diverse communities.



Figure 5 2022 Participation by Ethnicity  
Source: Outdoor Industry Association

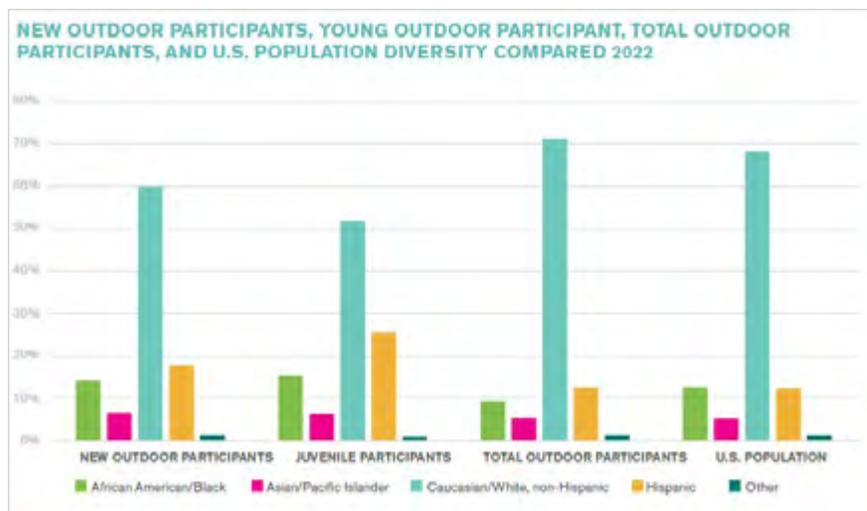


Figure 6 2022 Participation by Ethnicity  
Source: Outdoor Industry Association

<sup>12</sup>CCCN (Cities Connecting Children to Nature)

<sup>13</sup>Outdoor Industry Association Report 2022

<sup>14</sup>ibid

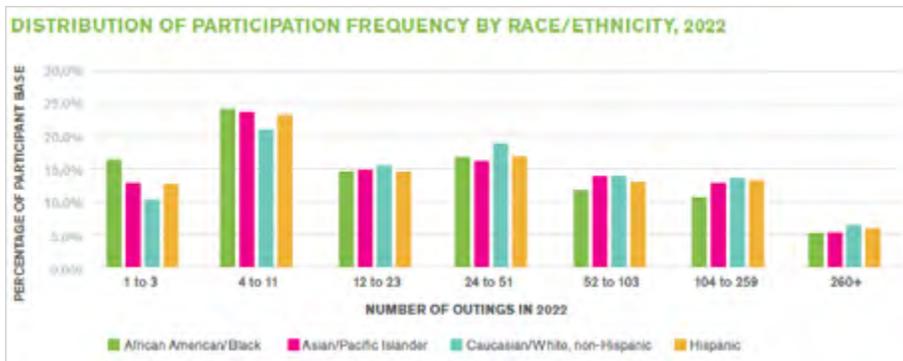


Figure 7 2017 - 2022 Inactivity by Ethnicity and Age  
 Source: Outdoor Industry Association



Figure 8 2017-2022 Participation by Sports Category Trends (Percentage of Participants)  
 Source: Physical Activity Council

**Impact on Participation – Sport Type**

According to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association 2023 Topline Report, participation in group fitness-based activities struggled but exhibited signs of recovery in 2022 (Figure 8). Participation in bootcamp style training, cardio kickboxing, and group stationary cycling increased, but remained below 2019 levels. The report also indicates that trail running and day hiking saw a continued increase in total participation for the fifth consecutive year (Figure 9). Camping, fishing, and bicycling activities recovered to 2020 participation levels after slight decreases in 2021. Additionally, golf and tennis maintained momentum, with golf (on or off-course) increasing by 9.7% and tennis by 4.3% in 2022<sup>15</sup>. Notably, basketball, outdoor soccer, flag football, and tackle football all posted significant three-year total participation increases exceeding 4.5, with basketball recording the highest increase of 13.0%<sup>16</sup>. Moreover, every racquet sport recorded a % increase in total participation in 2022 compared to the previous year, a milestone not observed since 2015.



Figure 9 Hottest Outdoor Recreation Activities  
 Source: Outdoor Industry Association

<sup>15</sup>ibid

<sup>16</sup>ibid

Table 7 shows the most popular team sports in the U.S. and the 3-year percentage change from 2019 to 2022. This information can be used to anticipate local trends and adjust for fluctuations in interest. It shows that basketball, baseball, and soccer have the most participants out of all team sports.

Team Sport	2022 Number of Participants (Millions)	3-Year Change (2019 to 2023)
Baseball	15.5	-2.1%
Basketball	28.1	13.0%
Cheerleading	3.5	-6.5%
Football (Flag)	7.1	4.7%
Football (Tackle)	5.4	6.5%
Football (Touch)	4.8	-6.3%
Gymnastics	4.6	-2.8%
Ice Hockey	2.3	-3.4%
Lacrosse	1.9	-11.4%
Paintball	2.6	-10.0%
Roller Hockey	1.4	-15.3%
Rugby	1.2	-16.2%
Soccer (Indoor)	5.5	3.0%
Soccer (Outdoor)	13.0	9.3%
Softball (Fast-Pitch)	2.1	-4.3%
Softball (Slow-Pitch)	6.0	-14.6%
Swimming on a Team	2.9	2.9%
Track and Field	3.7	-10.8%
Ultimate Frisbee	2.1	-6.5%
Volleyball (Beach/Sand)	4.1	-6.2%
Volleyball (Court)	6.1	-6.1%
Volleyball (Grass)	2.8	-9.8%
Wrestling	2.0	4.7%

Figure 7 Team Sports Participation U.S. Population Age 6+  
Source: SFIA Topline Participation Report 2023

## 7. National Emerging Parks and Recreation Topics

Proximity to high-quality parks and recreation opportunities consistently ranks as a crucial factor influencing people’s decisions regarding where to live. Approximately nine out of 10 U.S. adults acknowledge the significance of parks and recreation as an essential service their local government provides.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) monitors emerging topics and trends that may become focal points for parks and recreation departments in various localities, highlighting these elements in the annual Top Trends in Parks and Recreation Report. The 2023 edition of this report encompasses several intriguing topics that could apply to Yamhill County, offering valuable insights for future planning and development.

### AI-Based Changes

Artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots are revolutionizing the responsiveness of local governments to residents’ inquiries by significantly enhancing efficiency. Through AI algorithms, information processing occurs at a pace far surpassing human capabilities, facilitating expedited decision-making and improved public services. AI-assisted analytics further contributes to streamlining operations by optimizing traffic flow, monitoring community health, and enhancing public safety, enabling staff to allocate their time and efforts to other tasks. Anticipating disruptive innovation in parks and recreation, agencies may consider acquiring location-aware data to gain insights into park usage patterns, visitor origins, and pre-and post-visit activities. A six-year retrospective analysis window offers agencies, local governments, nonprofits, and businesses unprecedented opportunities to analyze geolocated devices, such as tracking park visitation rates, monitoring traffic flow to parks, and assessing time spent within park premises. Investments in parks often yield economic benefits for local communities and are frequently overlooked. This highlights the potential of data analysis to demonstrate the positive impact of investing in parks on the economy.

### Climate Change Impacts

The shift towards a post-climate change world is becoming increasingly evident, prompting the need for parks and recreation to collectively adapt to this existential challenge. A recent survey conducted by the Pew Research Center reveals that most Americans perceive climate change as a threat, with expectations of worsening conditions during their lifetimes. Additionally, nearly three-quarters of Americans express concerns about significant environmental harm, including wildlife extinction, due to climate change. A crucial strategy for communities to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change involves enhancing self-protection measures, with resilience to both extreme weather events and long-term climate shifts being paramount. Parks and recreation play a vital role in

assisting communities to achieve resilience through flood protection, stormwater retention, implementation of green infrastructure parks, and safeguarding against both short-term weather events and gradual climate changes.

This correlation between parks and climate resiliency is poised to become one of the most enduring proofs of the essential nature of parks in all communities. Parks, regardless of size, will increasingly serve as key components in mitigating urban heat-island effects, preventing the adverse impacts of stormwater and flooding, tangibly improving air quality in cities and densely populated urban areas, and enhancing community health, livability, and sustainability in the years ahead, including 2024 and beyond.

#### Pandemic-Based Changes & increasing emphasis on health & well-being.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a complex shift in recreational behaviors, with increased utilization of parks and trails alongside a significant decline in walking activity nationwide. According to a recent report from Streetlight Data, walking activity across the country has decreased by an average of 36 percent since 2019. This paradox underscores the need for proactive measures to promote physical activity and capitalize on the heightened awareness of its health benefits. Recreation programmers, health staff, and trail managers have a unique opportunity in 2024 to lead initiatives that encourage walking through guided and self-guided activities tailored to various demographics. Family engagement activities, outdoor youth programs, and senior walks are particularly well-suited for parks and recreation to foster community well-being and promote healthy lifestyles.

Parks, trails, and natural spaces serve as vital infrastructure for meeting physical, mental, and emotional needs, as highlighted by the pandemic's emphasis on accessible outdoor recreation. There is a growing recognition of the importance of these public spaces in encouraging a deeper connection between people and nature. Highlighting the importance of public space, outdoor public spaces should offer flexible and adaptive programming that meets community needs while minimizing overcrowding issues. Expanding resources in high-demand areas and providing innovative programming can further enhance the accessibility and appeal of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Park and recreation staff observations nationwide reveal several hot program trends for 2024, including family engagement nights, seasonal festivals, fitness programming, and partnerships with libraries. The surge in dog ownership during the pandemic has also highlighted the demand for dog parks, presenting opportunities and challenges in meeting this need. Dog parks remain in high demand, with off-leash dog parks experiencing the fastest growth.

The Healthy Aging in Parks Survey conducted by the NRPA underscores the extensive programming park and recreation agencies offer to promote physical and mental well-being. In-person and virtual fitness programs, arts and theater initiatives, family engagement opportunities, mental health initiatives, and nutritional health programs are among the diverse offerings aimed at addressing community needs. Collaboration with community-based organizations, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders is instrumental in delivering comprehensive and impactful programming that enhances community well-being. By leveraging partnerships and resources, park and recreation agencies can continue to play a vital role in promoting healthy lifestyles and fostering vibrant communities.

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# ONLINE SURVEY

## MEMORANDUM PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to summarize the results of the Yamhill County Parks Online Survey conducted from July 30th, 2024 to September 30th, 2024. The survey is comprised of 13 questions related to the Yamhill County park system and 9 questions related to demographics. The feedback received from the survey will help guide Yamhill County in planning for the next 20 years of enhancing, maintaining, and adding to the County's 18 parks and open spaces.

## INTRODUCTION

Over a span of 2 months, the online survey received a total of 626 total responses, exceeding the anticipated 383 sample size<sup>1</sup> for a county with a population of 110,325. The response rate equated to 0.57% of the County's total population. Most survey respondents (68%) live within an incorporated city or town in Yamhill County, with 34% of respondents residing in Zone 4 (McMinnville), 32% residing in Zone 3 (Newberg), and 13% residing in Zone 1 (Carlton & Yamhill).

The Healthy Aging in Parks Survey conducted by the NRPA underscores the extensive programming park and recreation agencies offer to promote physical and mental well-being. In-person and virtual fitness programs, arts and theater initiatives, family engagement opportunities, mental health initiatives, and nutritional health programs are among the diverse offerings aimed at addressing community needs. Collaboration with community-based organizations, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders is instrumental in delivering comprehensive and impactful programming that enhances community well-being. By leveraging partnerships and resources, park and recreation agencies can continue to play a vital role in promoting healthy lifestyles and fostering vibrant communities.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### Usage of Current Yamhill County Parks and Facilities

- Park visitation is largely occasional, with 35% of respondents visiting only a few times a year. Moderate visitation is also notable, with respondents of 21% of respondents visiting several times a month and 14% visiting several days a week.
- 75% of respondents are open to longer travel times to access Yamhill County parks, with 53% open to a 30-minute drive and 22% willing to drive one hour or more.

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<sup>1</sup>Based on sample size calculator from Survey Monkey, for a population size of 110,325, a confidence level of 95%, and a margin of error of 5%, a minimum of 383 sample size is anticipated for the survey.

- Respondents have visited the following parks the most in the last 12 months:
  1. Rogers Landing (51% - 230 visitors)
  2. Ed Grenfell County Park (42% - 190 visitors)
  3. Lafayette Locks Park (33% - 149 visitors)
  4. Stuart Grenfell County Park (33% - 148 visitors)
  5. Dayton Landing (27% - 121 visitors)
- Respondents have visited the following parks the least in the last 12 months:
  1. Wrex Cruz County Park (4% - 18 visitors)
  2. Ediger Landing (4% - 19 visitors)
  3. Charles Metsker Park (6% - 28 visitors)
  4. Menefee County Park (10% - 44 visitors)
  5. Huber County Park (10% - 44 visitors)
- The most common activities among respondents were enjoying nature/outdoor time (81%), walking/hiking/running (63%), and spending time with family/friends (51%). These far exceeded other activities like dog walking/off-leash play (30%), wildlife/bird watching (29%), and boating access (25%).
- Besides the options listed, respondents also mentioned partaking in other forms of recreation including cycling, mountain biking, and kayaking/swimming at Yamhill County parks.

### Quality and Quantity of Current Yamhill County Parks and Facilities

- A substantial 81% of respondents rated Yamhill County parks as either in good or fair, with only 4% considering them to be in excellent condition, highlighting room for improvement in maintenance and cleanliness.
- Respondents felt that several amenities, particularly restroom facilities, river access facilities, and recreation areas were among the most lacking. Parking and trees were viewed as sufficient.

### Barriers Preventing People from Using Yamhill County Parks and Facilities

- The most significant barrier preventing park use is unfamiliarity with parks and open spaces (40%), followed by a lack of feeling welcome or belonging

(23%). Other notable factors include insufficient maintenance or cleanliness (22%), a lack of public facilities (21%), and seasonal weather constraints for outdoor activity offerings (21%).

- Respondents also cited lack of trails (hiking, biking, and cycling), safety and cleanliness, and inconvenient access and location as reasons for not visiting Yamhill County parks.

#### Future Improvements to Yamhill County’s Park System

- Unpaved trails surrounded by nature (68%) were identified as the most desired future recreational opportunity in Yamhill County, with non-motorized water access (48%), paved recreation pathways (47%), and nature play/playgrounds (40%) trailing behind. Camping facilities (34%) and dog specific areas (32%) are also worth noting.
- Across multiple questions, survey respondents expressed a strong desire for trails of various types, including biking trails, mountain biking trails, walking/running trails, and hiking trails.

#### Funding and Priorities

- 82% of the respondents expressed willingness to support additional funding and spending for parks and recreation improvements, with only 11% of respondents expressing otherwise. This figure is nearly aligned with the 91% of respondents who expressed it is important to fund parks, trails, recreation services and natural areas in Yamhill County.
- 62% of respondents rated water resource management and water quality enhancement as essential, the highest among the 11 categories. Wildlife habitat and native plant protection followed with 60% of respondents rating it as essential. Other high-ranking priorities include preserving scenic areas and views, resiliency for natural hazards, and restoration and ecology enhancement projects, all of which had over 50% of respondents marking them as essential.

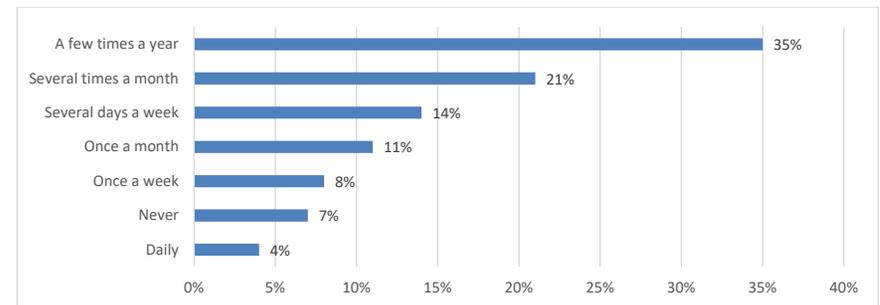
#### Survey Demographics

- Hispanic/Latino/Spanish (4%) and Black or African American (0%—2 responses) groups are underrepresented, making up nearly 18% and 0.9% of the county’s population, respectively. White/Caucasian respondents made up 80% of survey respondents, compared to the 76% of the county’s population who identify as White Alone in 2024.

- 68% of all respondents live in incorporated cities or towns within the county. Zone 3 (McMinnville) and Zone 4 (Newberg-Dundee) make up 66% of the survey respondents.
- 49% of survey respondents have lived in Yamhill County for more than 20 years, with an additional 38% having lived in Yamhill County for more than 5 years.
- The largest group of respondents are aged 35 to 44 and 45 to 54, each representing 23% of the survey respondents.
- 23% of survey respondents reported that a member of their family has a disability, which is consistent with the national figure of 25.7% of U.S families having at least one member with a disability (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019).

### **PARK SYSTEM QUESTIONS**

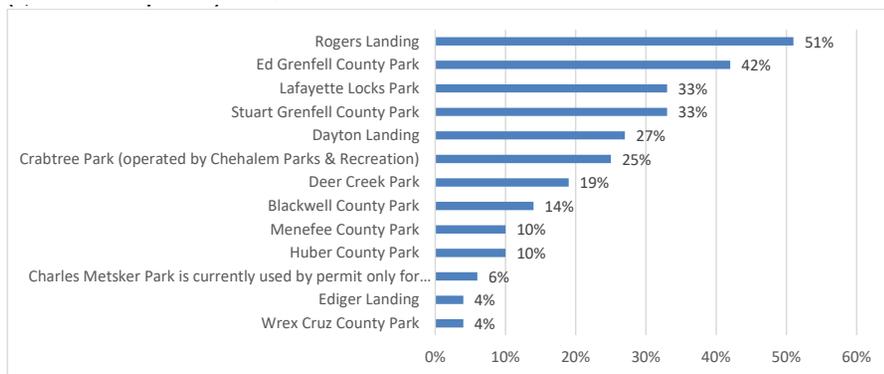
#### **Q1. How often do you visit Yamhill County parks and/or open spaces? (510 total responses)**



#### **Takeaways**

Park visitation is largely occasional, with 35% of respondents visiting only a few times a year. Moderate visitation is also notable, with respondents of 21% of respondents visiting several times a month and 14% visiting several days a week.

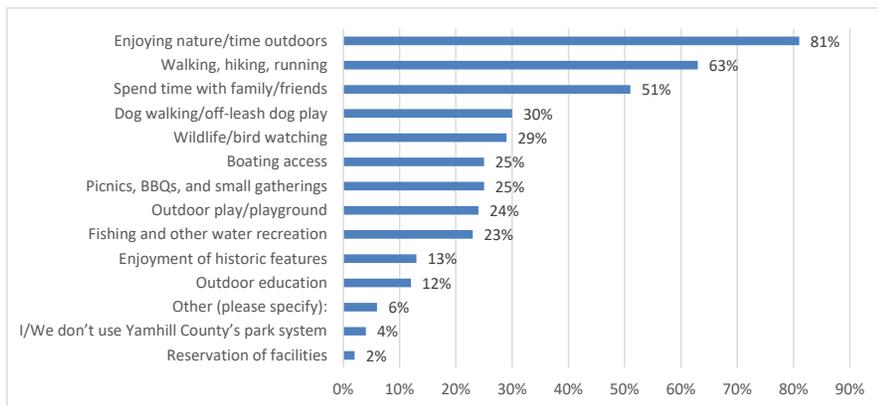
**Q2. Which Yamhill County parks and open spaces have you visited in the past 12 months? (1,252 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

Rogers Landing (51%), Ed Grenfell County Park (42%), Stuart Grenfell County Park (33%), and Lafayette Locks Park (33%) being among the most visited parks in the last 12 months. The least visited parks in the county include Wrex Cruz County Park (4%), Ediger Landing (4%), Charles Metsker Park (6%), and Menefee Park (10%), which are some of the most remotely located parks in the county or with limited access.

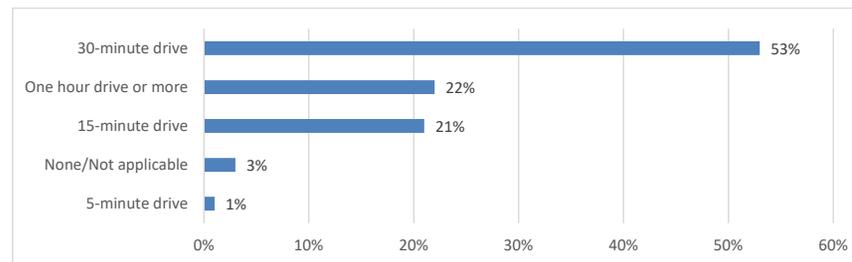
**Q3. What are the most common ways you or someone in your household uses Yamhill County's parks and open space system? (1,945 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

The most common activities among respondents were enjoying nature/outdoor time (81%), walking/hiking/running (63%), and spending time with family/friends (51%). These far exceeded other activities like dog walking/off-leash play (30%), wildlife/bird watching (29%), and boating access (25%). Reservation of spaces (2%), outdoor education (12%), and enjoyment of historic features (13%) were among the least popular activities in parks.

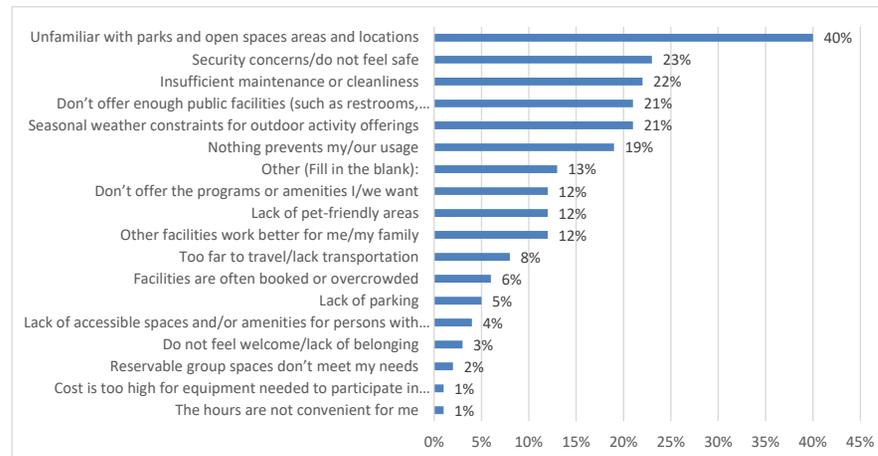
**Q4. What is the maximum distance you are willing to drive to a Yamhill County park? (492 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

75% of respondents are open to longer travel times to access Yamhill County parks, with 53% open to a 30-minute drive and 22% willing to drive one hour or more.

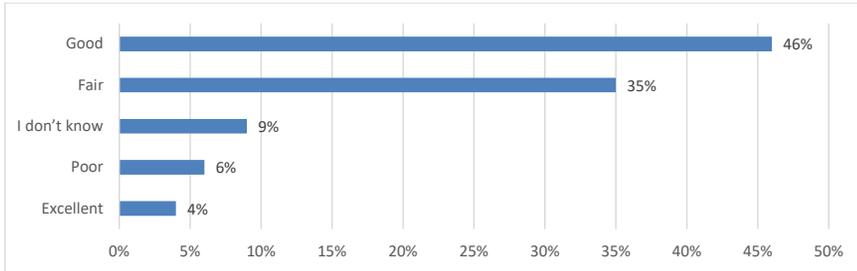
**Q5. What are the top things, if any, that have prevented you or other household members from using Yamhill County's parks or open spaces? (1,095 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

40% of survey respondents expressed being unfamiliar with parks and open space areas and locations, highlighting a need to improve community awareness to Yamhill County parks. Security concerns/not feeling safe (23%), insufficient maintenance or cleanliness (22%), and lack of public facilities (21%) are also notable as they highlight areas for improvement.

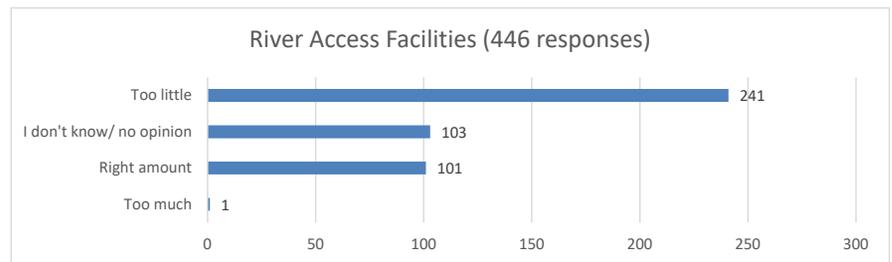
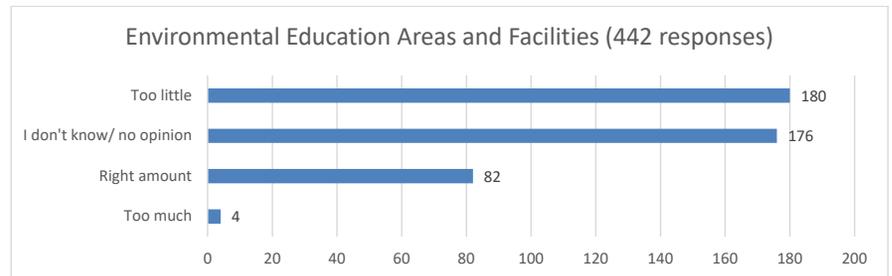
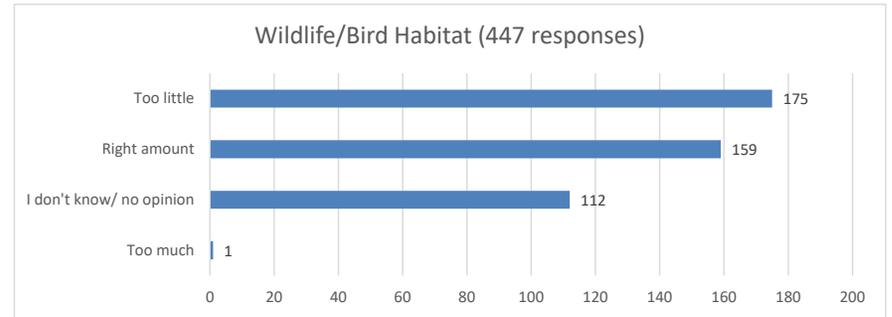
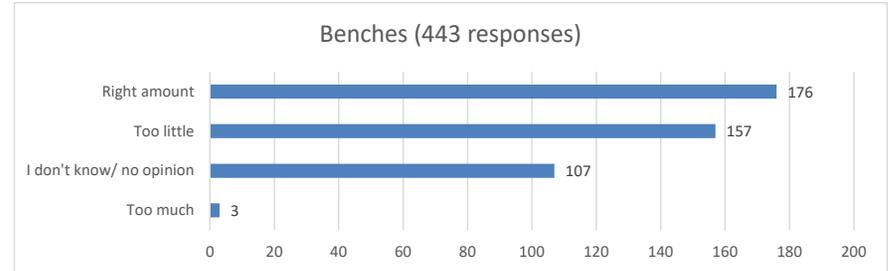
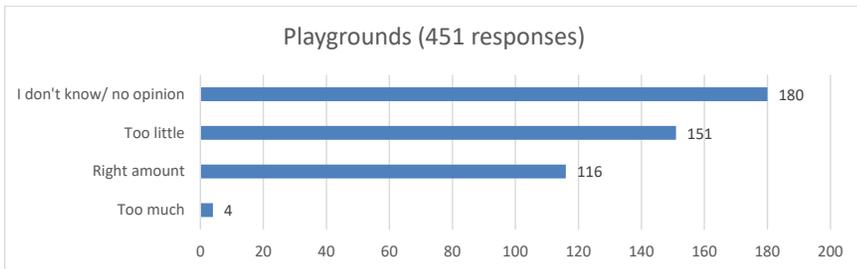
**Q6. Please rate the overall maintenance and cleanliness of Yamhill County's parks. (495 total responses)**

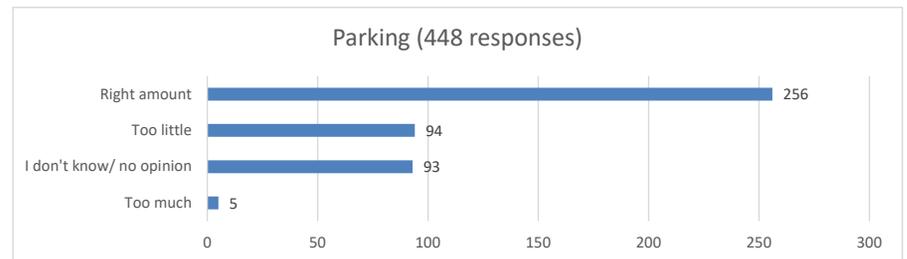
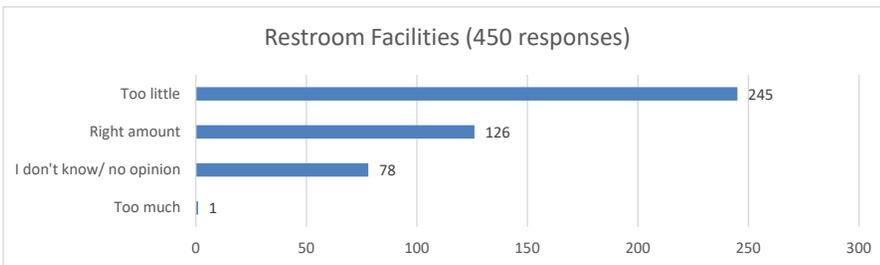
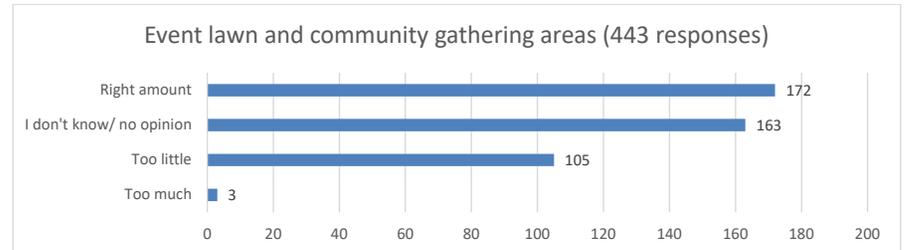
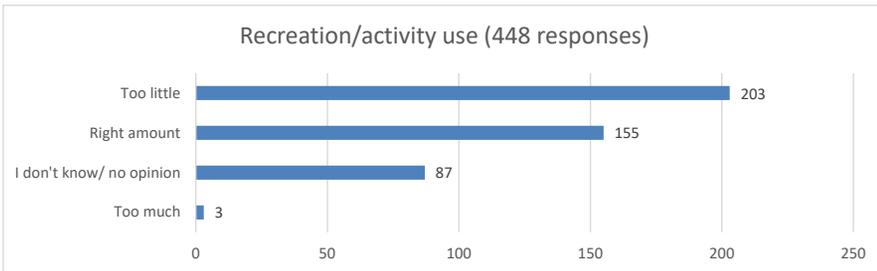
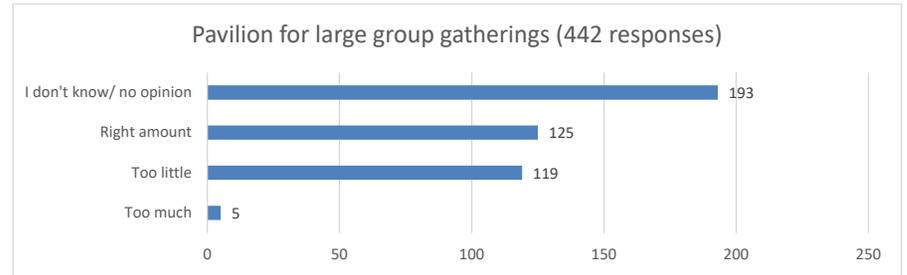
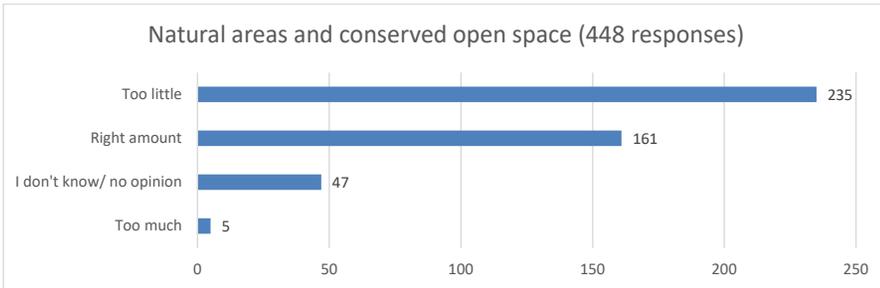
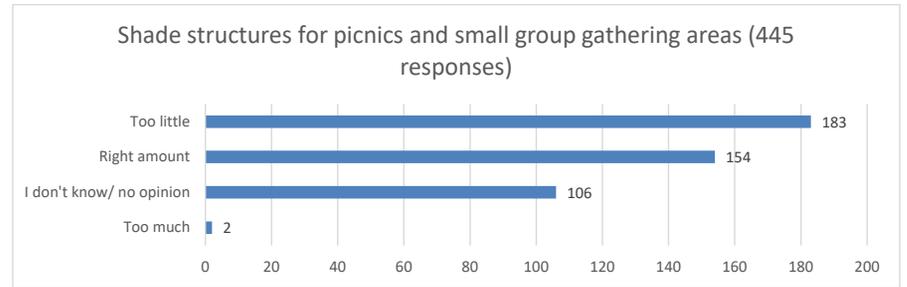
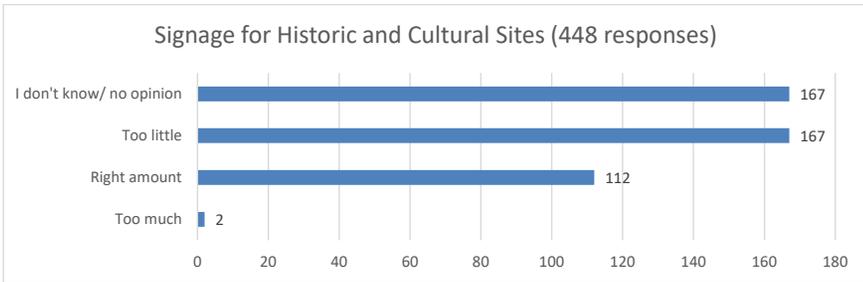


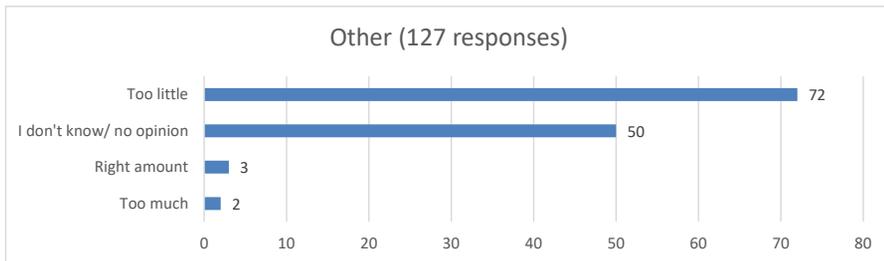
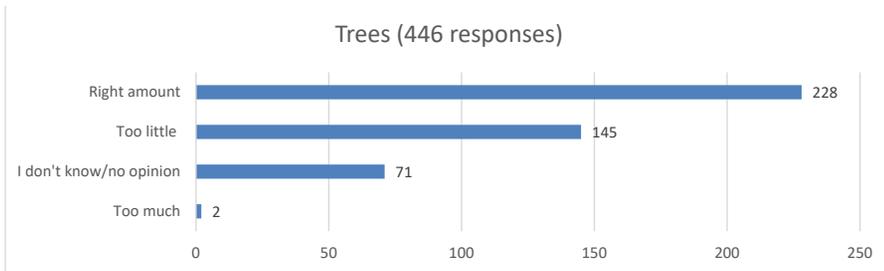
**Takeaways**

Survey respondents' perception of park maintenance and cleanliness is mostly positive with a combined 81% rating Yamhill County parks as either Good (46%) or Fair (35%), although there is still room for improvement with only a small number of respondents (4%) rating the conditions as Excellent.

**Q7. For each type of amenity please indicate if there is too much, too little, or the right amount to serve the community needs. (6,374 total responses)**



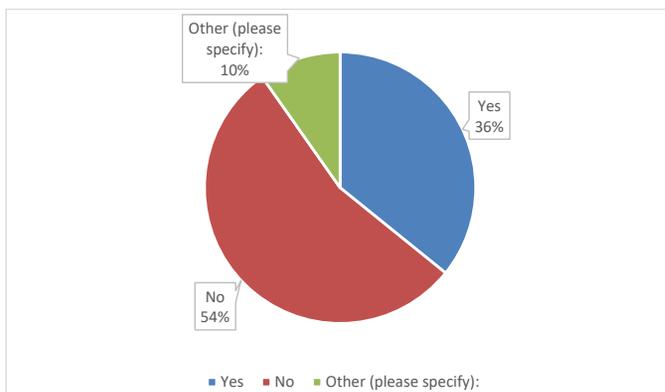




**Takeaways**

Respondents felt that several of the amenities listed, particularly restroom facilities, river access facilities, and recreation areas were lacking. This trend is in alignment with responses from previous questions, further emphasizing the need to expand and/or enhance these types of facilities. Parking and trees were amenities viewed as sufficient.

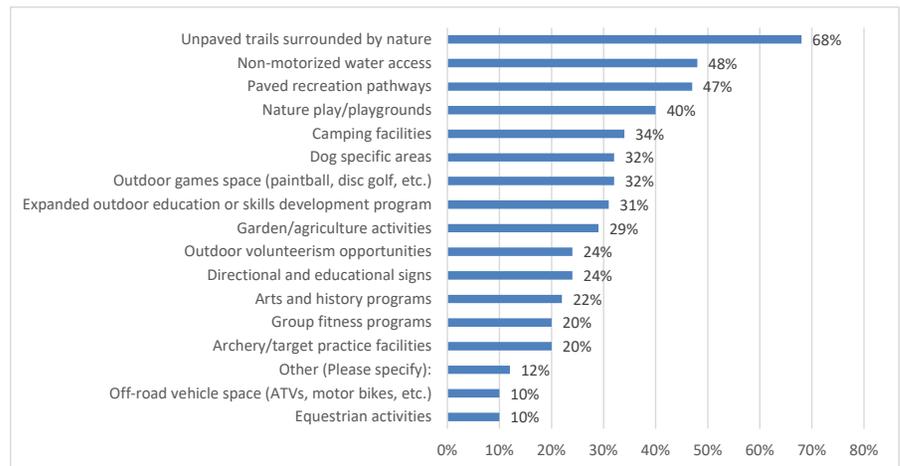
**Q8. The County currently has three parks with reservation opportunities (Ed Grenfell Park’s picnic shelter, Lafayette Locks’ picnic shelter, and Charles Metsker Park organized youth and nature group access). Do you see the need to have more reservable space? (430 responses)**



**Takeaways**

36% of respondents expressed the need for additional reservation opportunities, which indicates that the demand for more reservable spaces is relatively low. Of the 42 “other” responses, many expressed uncertainty or indifference towards reservable spaces. A few respondents provided suggestions such as expanding options due to population growth, enhanced outdoor education, or specific park improvements like adding a structure/pavilion at Blackwell County Park.

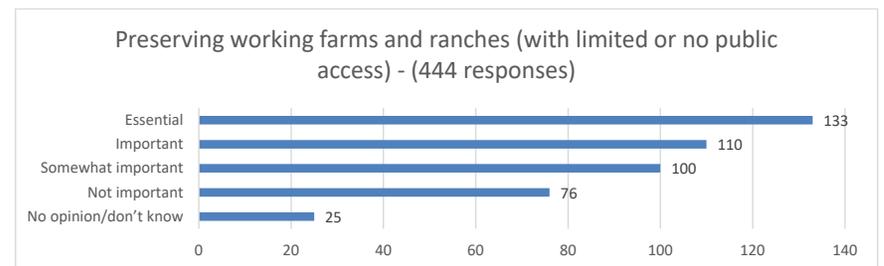
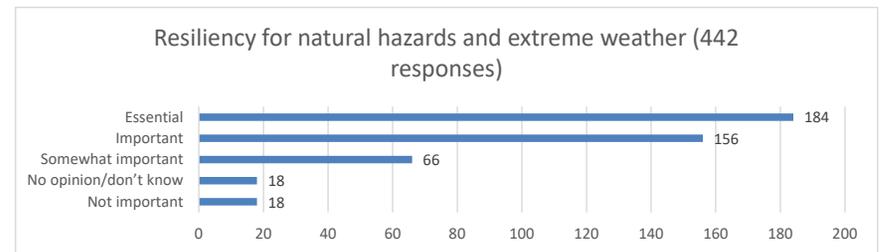
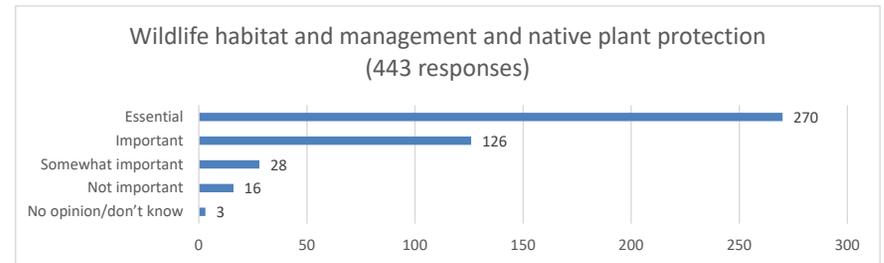
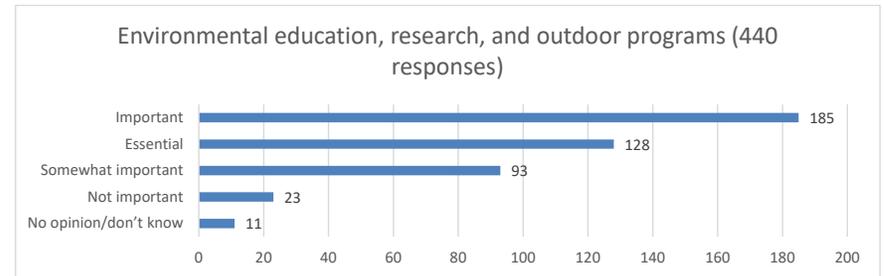
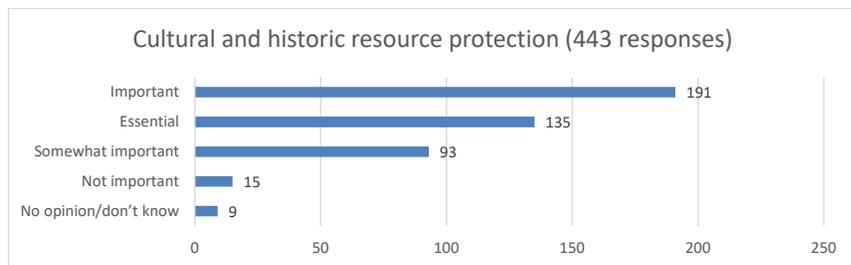
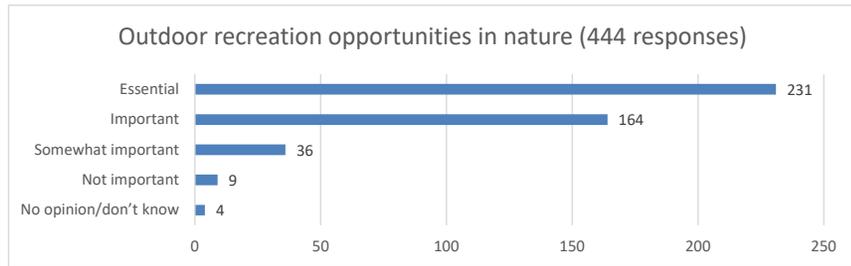
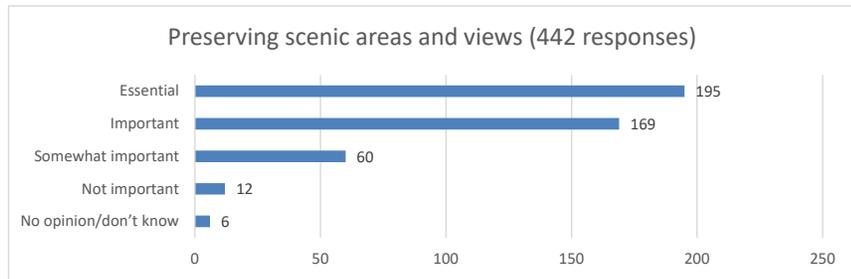
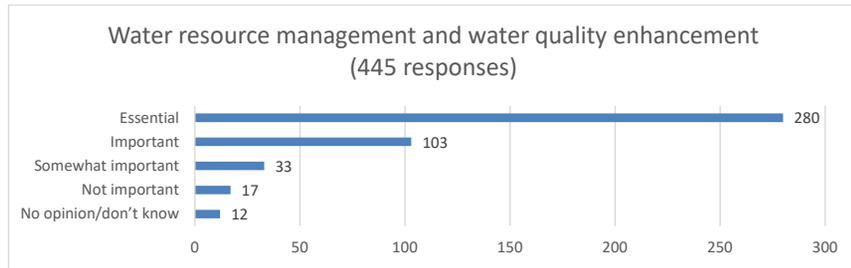
**Q9. What new types of recreation opportunities, facilities, or park types would you like to see provided by Yamhill County Park System in the future? (2,217 total responses)**

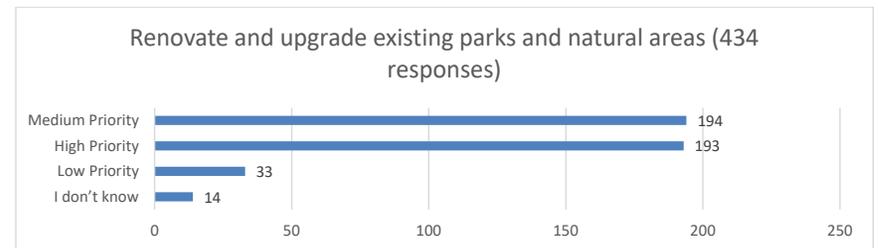
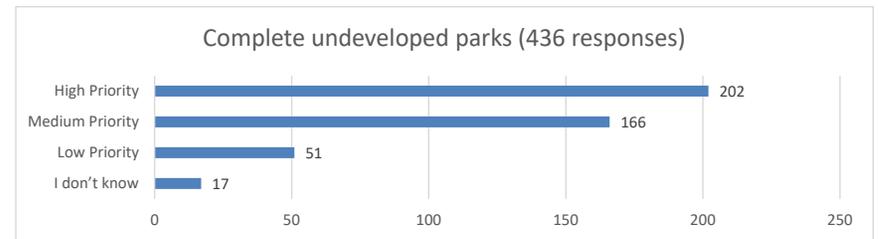
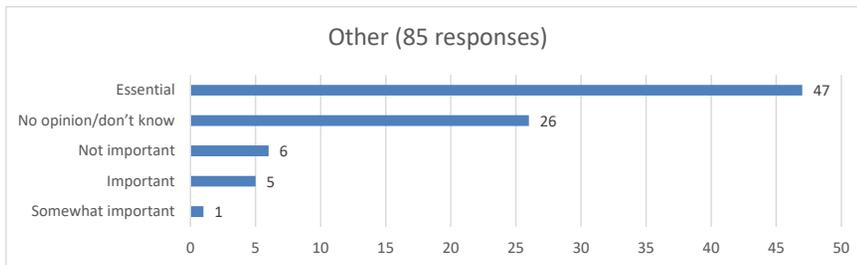
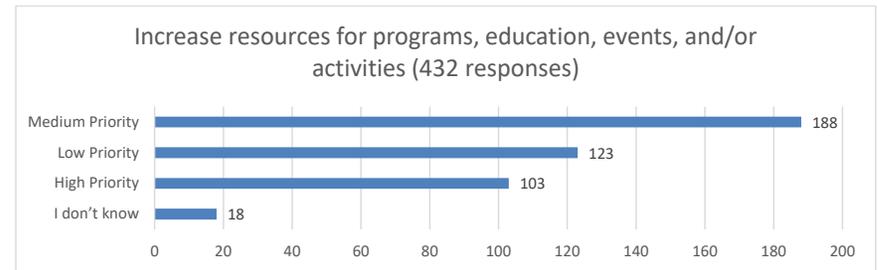
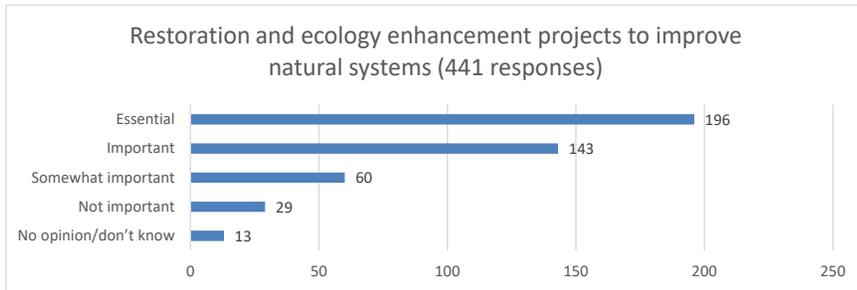
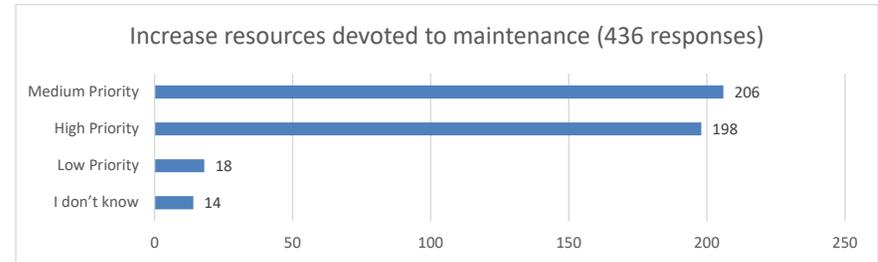
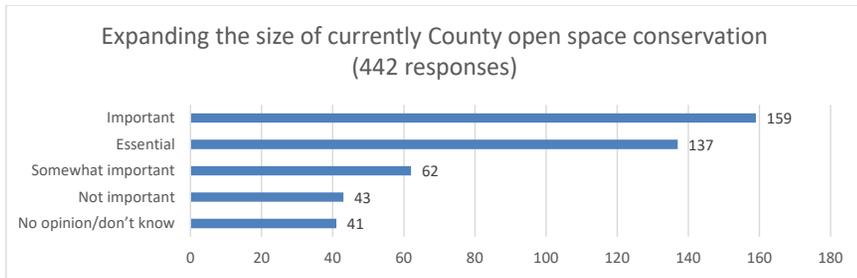


**Takeaways**

Unpaved trails surrounded by nature (68%) were identified as the most desired future recreational opportunity in Yamhill County, with non-motorized water access (48%), paved recreation pathways (47%), and nature play/playgrounds (40%) trailing behind. Camping facilities (34%) and dog specific areas (32%) are also worth noting. In the “other” section of the question, most respondents expressed the desire for bike trails, specifically mountain biking trails. River access points for activities like kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and swimming were also mentioned.

**Q10. How important to you, if at all, are each of the following reasons for conserving natural resources and protecting additional lands and water through designating permanent open space? (4,511 total responses)**

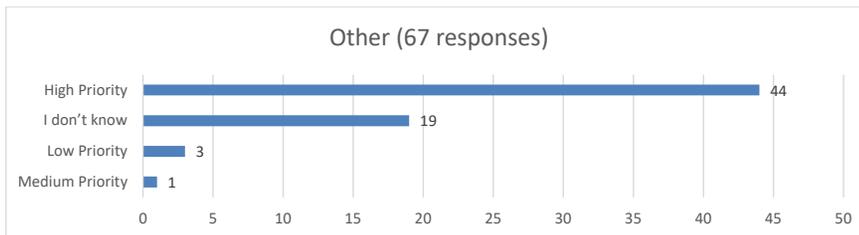
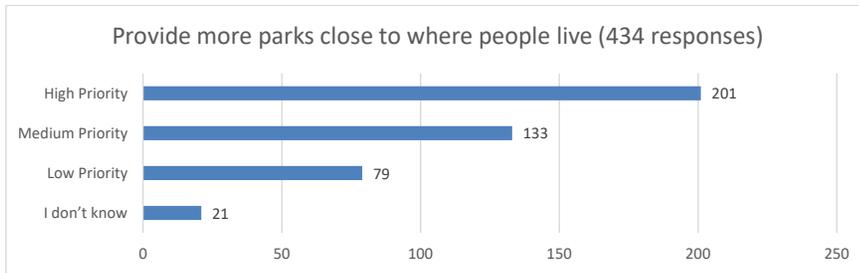
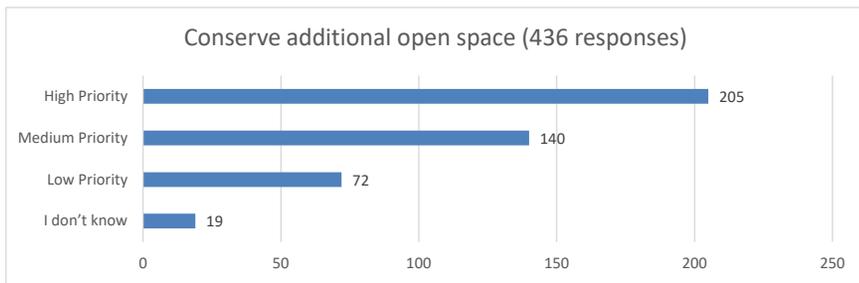
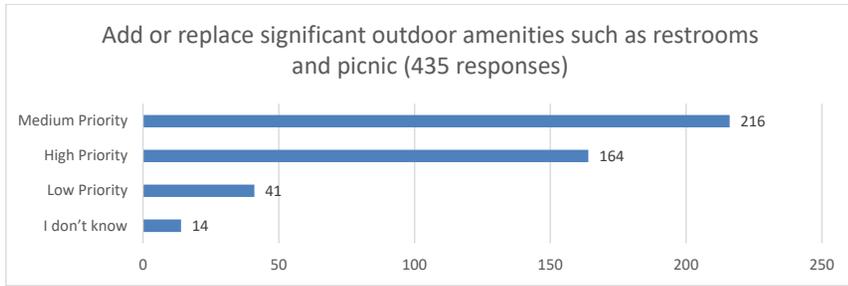




**Takeaways**

89.3% of respondents rated wildlife habitat and native plant protection as essential or important, the highest among the 11 categories. Outdoor recreation opportunities in nature followed with 89.0% of respondents rating it as essential or important. Other high-ranking priorities include water resource management and water quality enhancement, preserving scenic areas and views, resiliency for natural hazards, and restoration and ecology enhancement projects.

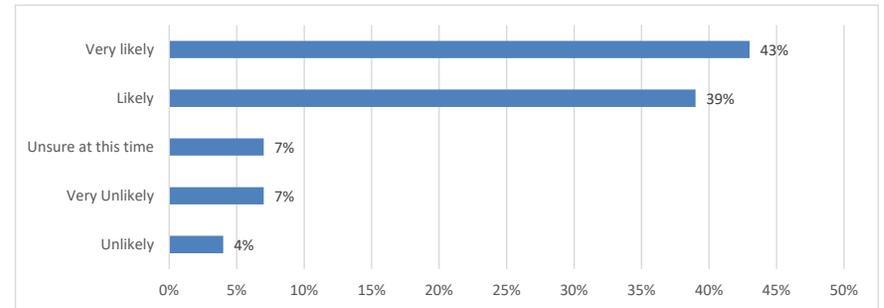
**Q11. How much of a priority, if any, should it be for the County to invest in the following in the next 5-10 years? (3,110 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

While most categories received strong support, the highest priorities revolved around conserving additional open space, completing undeveloped parks, providing parks closer to where people live, and increasing resources for park maintenance. Increasing resources for programs, education, events and activities were less of a priority for respondents.

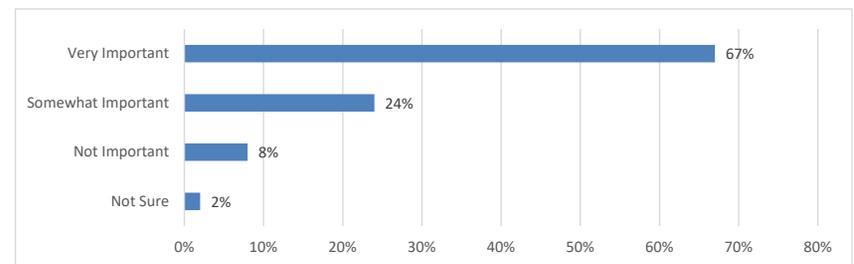
**Q12. How likely would you be willing to support additional funding and spending for parks and recreation improvements in the future? (435 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

82% of the respondents expressed that they are very likely or likely to support additional funding and spending for parks and recreation improvements. This figure is nearly aligned with the 91% of respondents who expressed it is important to fund parks, trails, recreation services and natural areas in Yamhill County. See below.

**Q13. Compared to other priorities for Yamhill County, how important do you think it is to fund parks, trails, recreation services and natural areas? (438 total responses)**

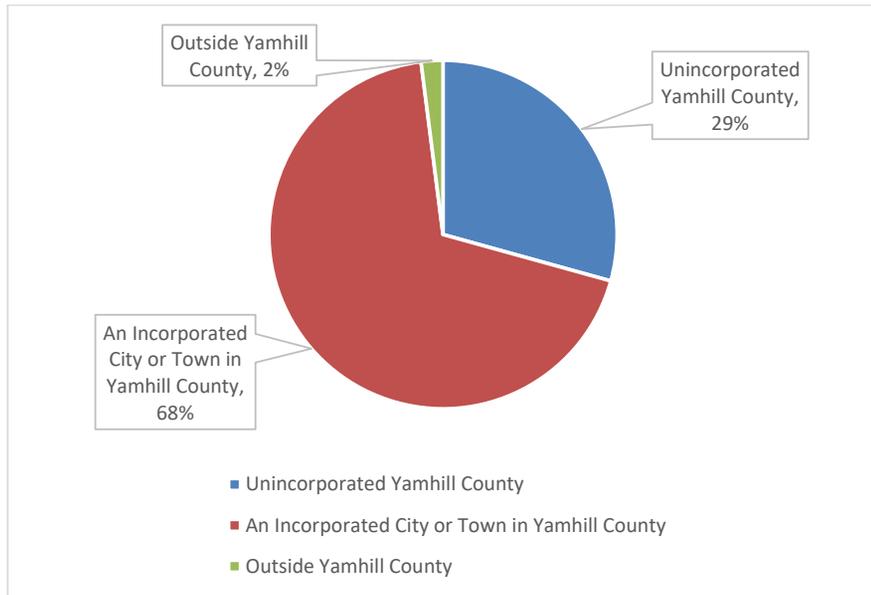


**Takeaways**

91% of survey respondents believe funding for future parks, trails, and recreation service and natural areas is very important or somewhat important, with a strong 67% saying it is very important to Yamhill County.

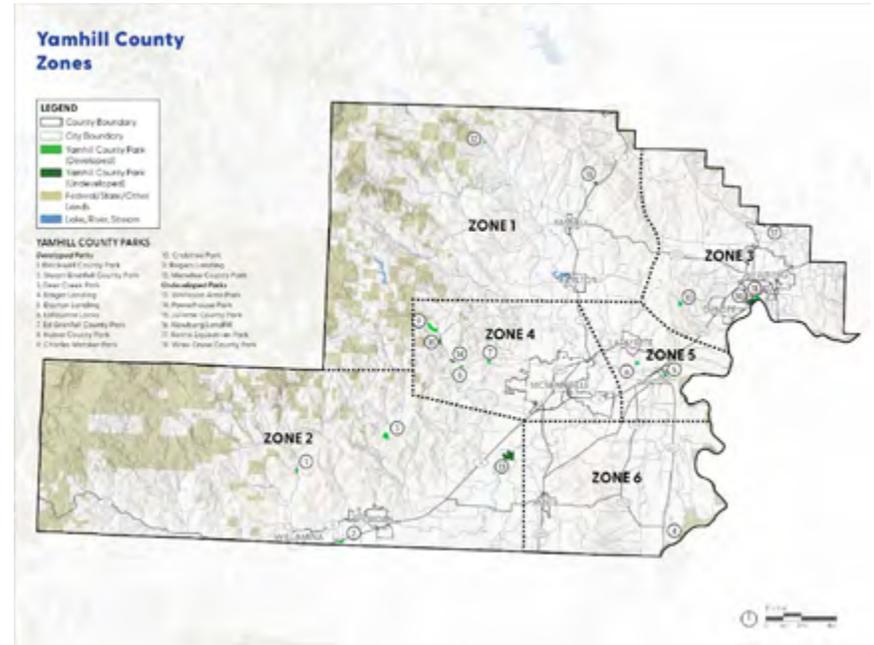
**DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS**

**Q1. Where do you live? (421 total responses)**

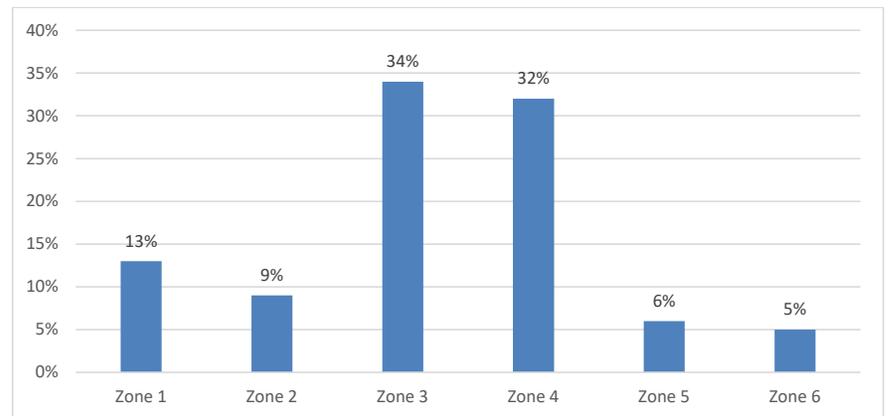


**Takeaways**

68% of all respondents live in incorporated cities or towns within the county, indicating that most of the feedback most likely reflects the experience of those in Zones 3 and 4 who make up 66% of the survey respondents. See Q2.



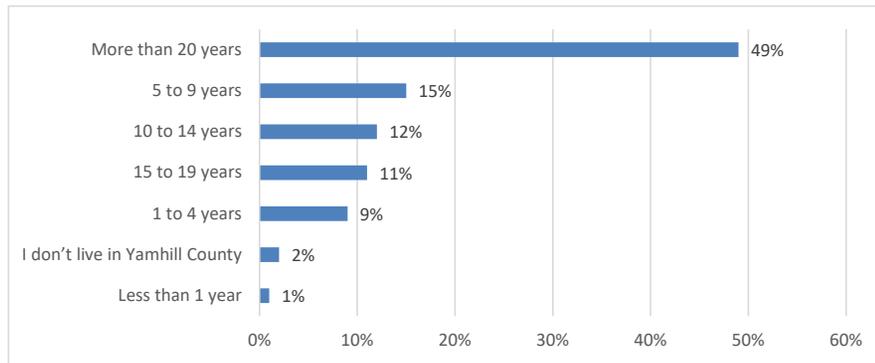
**Q2. Referring to the map provided, please indicate what zone of Yamhill County your residence is located in. (412 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

A combined 66% of survey respondents reside in Zone 3 (34%, Newberg-Dundee) and Zone 4 (32%, McMinnville), the two zones with the highest concentration of county parks. Of the nine parks in these zones, six are developed and three are undeveloped. Zone 1, despite having the third-largest population, contains only one developed county park (Menefee Park), which is also one of the least visited parks. Zone 2, Zone 5, and Zone 6 received fewer responses. These three zones also have lower concentrations of population and county parks.

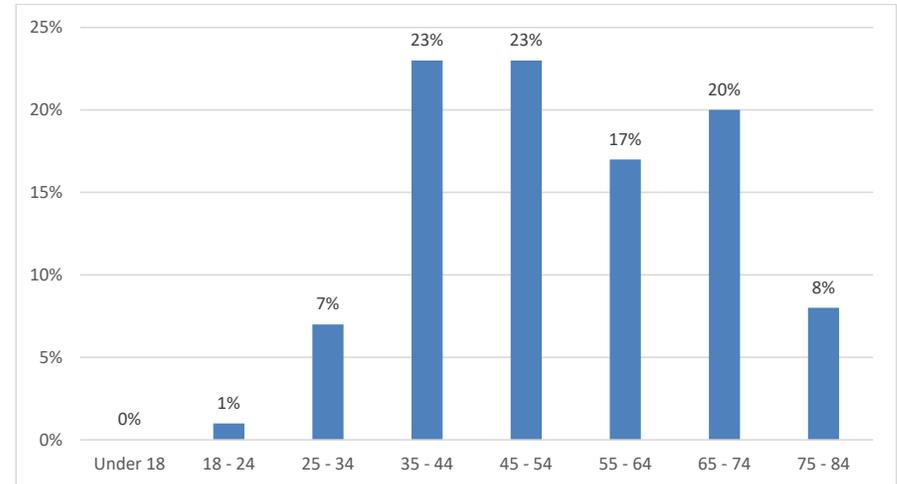
**Q3. How long have you lived in Yamhill County? (424 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

Nearly half of all survey respondents have lived in Yamhill County for more than 20 years, suggesting feedback is largely informed by longtime residents of the county. An additional 38% have lived in Yamhill County for more than 5 years.

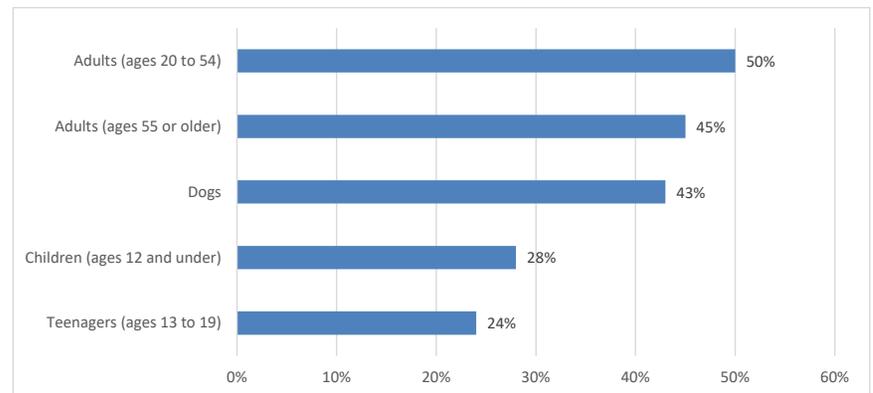
**Q4. Which best describes your age? (424 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

The largest pool of survey respondents was from the 45-54 age group (23%), followed by the 35-44 age group (23%) and the 65-73 age group (20%). A combined 7 respondents (1%) were respondents less than the age of 24, indicating a lack of participation from younger people.

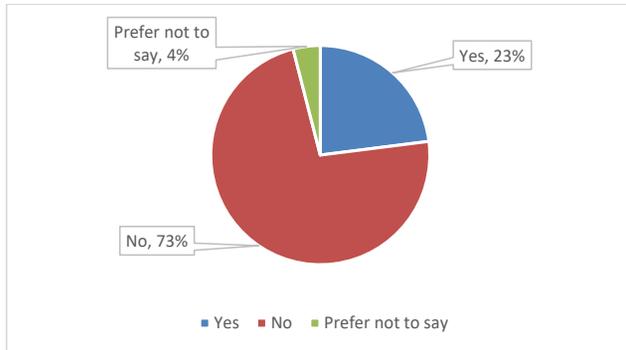
**Q5. Do any of the following live in your household? (780 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

Households are predominantly composed of adults aged 20 to 54 (50%) and adults aged 55 or older (45%). An additional 28% have children aged 12 and under and 24% have teenagers aged 13 to 19. A significant 43% of respondents report having dogs in their households, consistent with the national average of 44.5%.

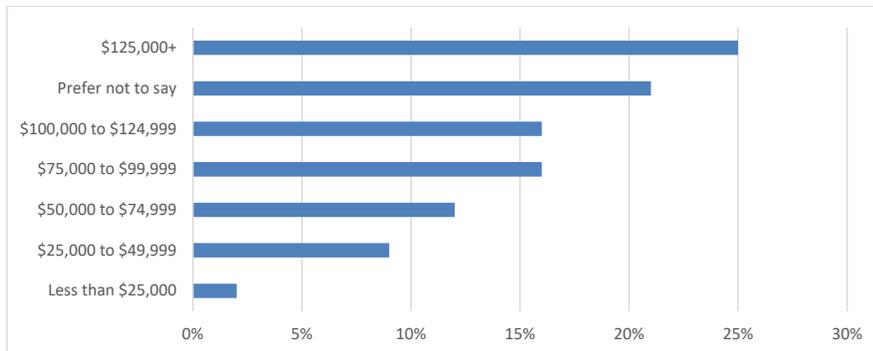
**Q6. Do any of your family members have a disability? (426 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

23% of survey respondents reported that a member of their family has a disability, which is consistent with the national figure of 25.7% of U.S families having at least one member with a disability (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019).

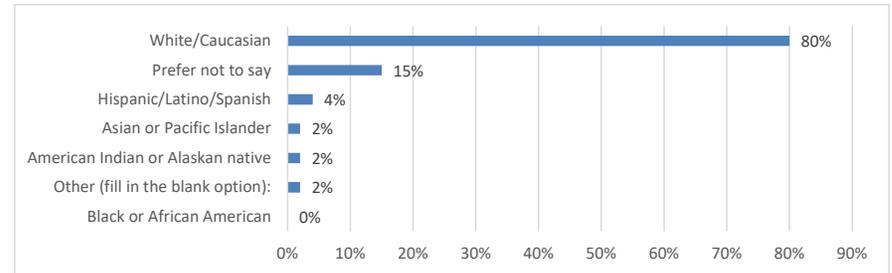
**Q7. Please describe your annual household income. (423 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

25% of respondents reported an annual household income greater than \$125,000, followed by 21% who preferred not to respond. Annual household incomes from \$100,000 to \$124,999 (16%) and \$75,000 to \$99,999 (16%) combined for a total of 32%.

**Q8. Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with? (452 total responses)**



**Takeaways**

The survey results show a strong representation of individuals identifying as White/Caucasian (80%), compared to 76% of the county population identifying as “White Alone” in 2024. Notably, 15% of respondents chose not to disclose their racial or ethnic identity. Additionally, Hispanic/Latino/Spanish (4%) and Black or African American (0%—2 responses) groups are underrepresented, making up nearly 18% and 0.9% of the county’s population, respectively. Responses for Asian or Pacific Islander (2%) and American Indian or Alaskan Native (2%) closely align with 2024 population figures (1.8% and 1.6%, respectively).

# COMMUNITY MEETING

## 240910 Community Meeting Boards

### Station 2: Vision Board Notes

Summary: Participants expressed a desire for improvements to Yamhill County's parks, recreation, and programming. Issues like poorly maintained facilities and furniture, the incomplete Yamhelas Trail, lack of camping options, and lack of funding were expressed. Better signage in both English and Spanish, publicity, and outreach, including improved access for disabled individuals would enhance accessibility and awareness of county parks. A dedicated bike path along Baker Creek Road and an integrated trail system both on land and river were ideas expressed to improve connectivity to county parks. Increased funding, collaboration with stakeholders, and a focus on outdoor recreation as an economic development opportunity were also noted as vital steps towards creating a stronger economic framework for county parks. Improved river access, especially at Joe Dancer Park (McMinnville PRD) and Dayton Landing, along with integrated land and river trail systems, would further enhance the county's recreational offerings, especially for residents and tourists alike.

### Station 3: Driveshed Notes

Summary: Establishing clear minimal standards for a park to be considered "developed" was a point of emphasis during the meeting. Participants felt that the "developed" designation for certain parks did not reflect their experiences. Making parks more ADA accessible, clearing access, and providing well mapped walking and trail opportunities were also noted as opportunities for improving park accessibility. Improvements at Dayton Landing, such as vault toilets above the flood line, fixing the boat ramp, and better lighting, would enhance access and security. It was also noted that proximity alone doesn't equate to accessibility, as places like Dayton Landing, despite being a key river access point, feel unwelcoming and inaccessible. Better integration between parks, more bike trails, and increased advertising would also raise awareness and improve overall access to county parks.

### Station 4: Park Specific Notes

Summary: Participants expressed noteworthy comments for each Yamhill County developed park ranging from suggestions for improvement, ownership changes, and highlighting opportunities. Rogers Landing received the most positive feedback and noted the park has strong community support. Ed Grenfell also received only positive feedback, although participants commented that the park could benefit from a connector trail to the nearby county property. Deer Creek Park received similar positive feedback, with suggestions for the park including completing the trail loop and adding more interpretive signage.

Dayton Landing and Stuart Grenfell County Park received the most "Needs Improvement" feedback, with Dayton Landing receiving comments citing safety concerns, drug use, and inadequate facilities like the boat ramp and restrooms. Participants also noted security concerns for Stuart Grenfell County Park, as well as the possibility for transferring the site to State of Oregon as a wayside park. Crabtree Park received similar comments surrounding property management as participants expressed the property should be transferred/sold to Chehalis Parks and Recreation District (CPRD).

## 20 YEAR VISION



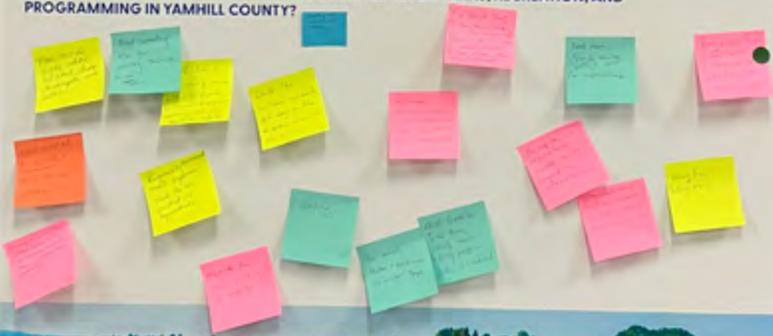
PLEASE STICK YOUR IDEAS BELOW

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YAMHILL COUNTY'S PARK AND RECREATION TODAY?



PLEASE STICK YOUR IDEAS BELOW

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGE OR IMPROVE FOR PARKS, RECREATION, AND PROGRAMMING IN YAMHILL COUNTY?



[HTTPS://WWW.YAMHILLCOUNTY.GOV/302/PARKS](https://www.yamhillcounty.gov/302/PARKS)

## PARK LOCATIONS AND ACCESS

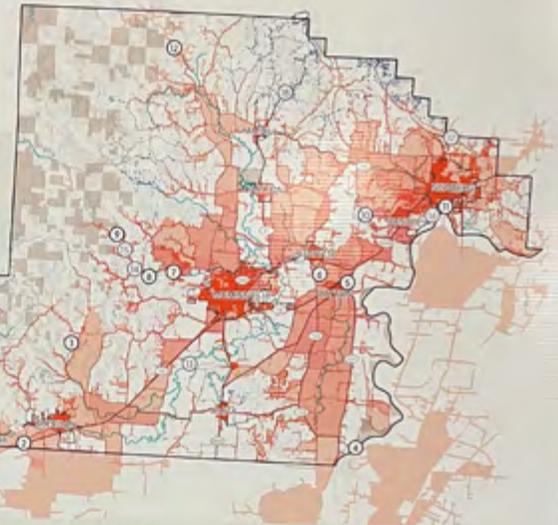


**15-MINUTE DRIVE TO ONE OR MULTIPLE COUNTY PARKS**

**LEGEND**

- County Boundary
- Chatham Park and Recreation District
- City Boundary
- Yamhill County Park (Developed)
- Yamhill County Park (Underdevelopment)
- Non-County Parkland
- 15 Minute Drive to County Parks
- Residential Address within Diversional of a County Park
- Residential Address outside Diversional of a County Park
- Water/Water Creek Corridor
- Major Roads

- Developed Parks**
1. Woodhill County Park
  2. Green Garden County Park
  3. Deer Creek Park
  4. Edgar Landing
  5. Steyer Landing
  6. Lathrop Locks
  7. Elk Garden County Park
  8. Huber County Park
  9. Charles McKean Park
  10. Crabtree Park
  11. Rogers Landing
  12. Wheeler County Park
  13. Whitson Area Park
  14. Providence Park
  15. Jubilee County Park
  16. Reading Landing
  17. Renee Stephens Park
  18. Wines Creek County Park



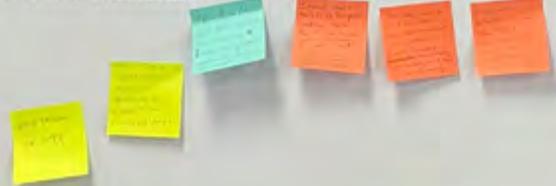
### PARK DISTRIBUTION LEVEL OF SERVICE

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHIN A 15-MINUTE DRIVE TO ONE OR MULTIPLE DEVELOPED COUNTY PARKS **96%**



### HOW COULD ACCESS TO PARKS BE IMPROVED?

PLEASE STICK YOUR IDEAS BELOW



[HTTPS://WWW.YAMHILLCOUNTY.GOV/302/PARKS](https://www.yamhillcounty.gov/302/PARKS)

**OUR CURRENT PARKS**

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE CURRENT YAMHILL COUNTY DEVELOPED PARKS**

**1. Blackwell County Park**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

**2. Stuart Grenfell County Park**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

**3. Deer Creek Park**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

**4. Ediger Landing**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

**5. Dayton Landing**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

**6. Lafayette Locks**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

<https://www.yamhillco.org/302/PARKS>

**OUR CURRENT PARKS**

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE CURRENT YAMHILL COUNTY DEVELOPED PARKS**

**7. Ed Grenfell County Park**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

**8. Huber County Park**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

**9. Charles Metsker Park**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

**10. Crabtree Park**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

**11. Rogers Landing**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

**12. Menefee County Park**

I LIKE

NEED IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENTS

<https://www.yamhillco.org/302/PARKS>

# STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

## Memo: Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Design Workshop (DW) and Yamhill County (YC) conducted a series of topical based stakeholder meetings. These discussions, held from November 18 to November 19, 2024, were instrumental in understanding the County's park system needs. The topics were carefully chosen to comprehensively understand diverse interests, concerns, opportunities, values, and needs. Around 30 participants, including subject matter experts, key stakeholders, county staff, representatives from surrounding municipalities, and community members, contributed via virtual meetings.

During the stakeholder meetings, the Design Workshop team gave a brief presentation describing the project overview, purpose, and next steps. The stakeholders were also asked to participate in open-ended and multiple-choice questions via the online presentation/survey interface, Mentimeter. The questions focused on a series of discussion topics to get a better understanding of opportunities and challenges in each of the three topic areas:

1. Natural Resources, Land Management, and Agricultural Interests
2. Recreational Interests and Tourism
3. Parkland Management, Economic Vitality, and Future Growth

Below are the key overarching insights from each stakeholder meeting. When summarizing feedback, the statements made by the participants are generally used without any editing.

### Common Themes

- Preserve and enhance natural resources.
- Balance recreation, resilience, and agriculture.
- Plan and design parks and facilities that can best showcase the natural, cultural, and historical characters of each property.
- Consolidate the assets and create larger parks with meaningful experiences.
- Integrate more hiking trails, biking trails, water trails, and provide alternative transportation modes to the parks other than driving.
- Improve access to water, motorized and non-motorized boat accesses.
- Provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

- Provide recreational opportunities for both local communities and tourists.
- Diversify the outdoor activities and provide more seasonal events for tourists.
- Provide tours, rentals, more lodging options to encourage repeated visitors and more out of state and international visitors.
- Increase community awareness and outdoor environmental education.
- Take care what the county has.
- Pursue additional internal and external funding sources and grant opportunities.
- Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with stakeholders.

### Overall Takeaways

- Natural Resources and Open Spaces
- There is a lack of inventory of existing natural resources.
- Desire for identification of restoration opportunities and priorities.
- Concerns about streambank erosion, water quality, weed management, wildfire resilience, decline of native species, Emerald Ash Borer.
- Concerns about safety issues and overuse of natural resources by visitors.
- Interest in developing a community forest for Yamhill County.
- Desire for more covered areas for weather protection.
- More people are trying to access free water, shade, and outdoor spaces with the increased summer heat.
- Weather stress on plants and animals.
- Water availability will reduce rural development and winery buildings.

### Land Management and Conservation

- Desire for riparian zone repairs.
- Desire to create mitigation sites for sensitive species.

- Interest in working with private property owners.
- Plan parks in the context of urban growth planning.
- Interest in sensitive road and trail system development.
- Interest in incorporating best management practices for agriculture and forestry.

### **Parks and Facilities**

- Charles Metsker Park, Deer Creek Park, Whiteson Area, Stewart Grenfell Park present great opportunities for ecological improvements.
- Lafayette locks Park, Whiteson Area, Charles Metsker Park, and parks near tribal properties present great opportunities for cultural and historic protection or enhancements
- Desire to create criteria for what the County wants in parks to help define what to get rid of and what to acquire.
- Desire to reduce the number of small park properties in order to focus resources on larger parks.

### **Recreation**

- There are demands to increase land and access for additional outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Desire to improve the water trail system.
- Desire to have rental of kayaks or canoes.
- Desire to have camping sites in Yamhill County.
- Interest in bike and boat share program.
- Interest in road cycling.
- Planned events at parks focusing on natural resources.
- Interest in having Yamhill County’s parks become pockets of climate resilience with diverse native plants and animals.

- Large need for meaningful outdoor recreation for both locals and visitors.
- Observed trend in a huge increase in non-motorized boating as kayaks and paddles board.
- Observed trend in picking mushrooms and edible plants.
- Desire to provide recreational opportunities for all ages.
- Desire for more group recreation classes in low cost.

### **Connectivity, Accessibility and Inclusivity**

- The County currently has limited trails and bike paths.
- High demands in hiking trails, bike trails and greenway corridors.
- Interest in providing multilingual signage and wayfinding to improve accessibility of the parks and facilities.
- Improvements for people in wheelchairs or parents with strollers.
- Diversify boater access. Develop separate motor and non-motor access sites.
- Demands to have alternative transportation modes to parks other than driving.
- Desire for connectivity between habitats for wildlife.
- Many assisted living organizations are located in the area, both for elder care and special needs care.
- Design to provide more culturally specific programming and land acknowledgements

### **Tourism**

- Desire for seasonal events and improvements on seasonality.
- Observed increased family travel to wine country. Need for family friendly activities.
- Develop signature experiences.
- Observed more out of state or international visitors.

- Tourism trends: camping, cycling, non-motorized water craft.
- More lodging opportunities.
- Linkage to wine tourism.

### **Community Awareness and Environmental Education**

- Community is lacking awareness about Yamhill County’s current park and open space offerings.
- Desire to map out existing offerings and resources for the community and visitors.
- There is a lack of community commitment to maintain natural resources the County currently has.
- Desire to enhance communications about Yamhill County’s offerings, recreational opportunities.
- Desire to provide environmental education on water quality and water management.
- Interest in more signs with educational information and information regarding what is important in the park.
- Building partnerships that encourage each other to share one another’s offerings.
- Taking advantage of national and international communication organizations.
- Online presence on many platforms.

### **Economic Vitality and Future Development**

- Guided tours
- Rentals
- Tourists eating out
- Extend the stay of visitors with more recreational opportunities
- Lodging tax and spending at local businesses

- Advertising and making park information easily available to encourage repeat visitors
- Diverse reasons to come here create more interest.
- Several cities are looking at expanding out into Urban Growth Boundary areas, which puts them in closer proximity to some county parks.
- Impact of the new FEMA rules.
- No anticipated enrollment growth in school districts.
- Anticipated growth in several local municipalities.

### **Operations and Maintenance**

- Current staff capacity is insufficient to meet all needs.
- Challenge to make parks a priority for the county.
- Some pushbacks from farming community on land use.
- Staff does maintenance, but no staff to offer programs or write grants.
- Vocal minority’s resistance.
- Safety issue with water use.
- Ongoing maintenance to keep pace with use and growth
- Desire to take care of what the County has.
- Needs in maintaining and enhancing riparian areas.
- Desire to reduce use of pesticides in parks.
- Create a county-wide volunteer group/trail group to assist the county.

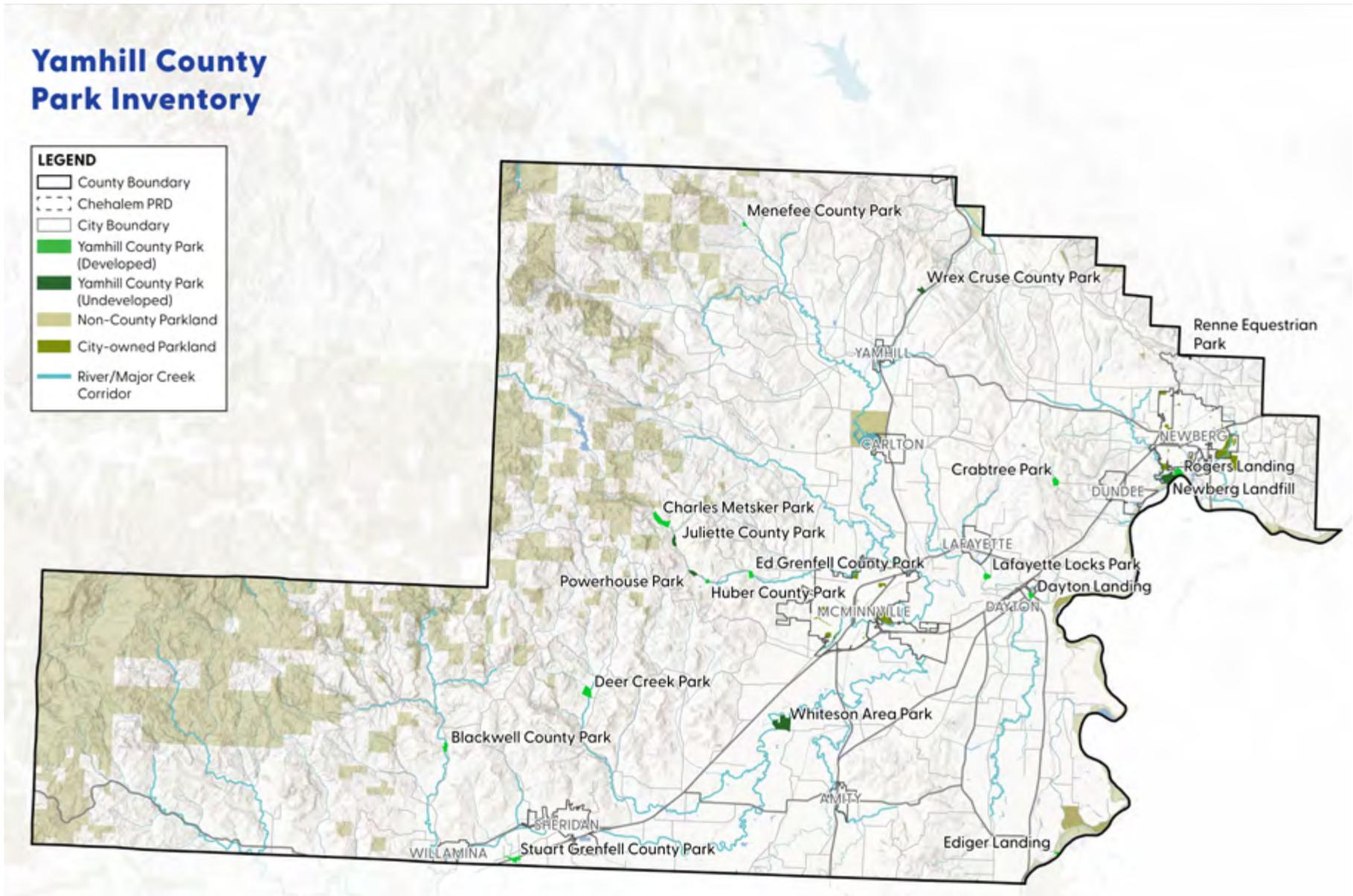
### **Funding and Partnerships**

- Current funding is insufficient to meet all needs.
- Interest in getting grant writing assistance.

- Interest in establishing partnerships among organizations who have knowledge and resources to provide educational opportunities, plan and implement projects for drinking water source protection, water retention and infiltration, erosion control, and public and private implementation of conservation practices.
- Interest in sharing existing agency and organization resources to minimize overlap and maximize resources.
- Emphasis on the importance of partnerships with Tribal Groups.
- Suggestion to consider a bond or a taxing district to generate revenue for parks and park stewardship, while there is also suggestion to avoid impacts on property taxes.
- Partnerships opportunities:
  - Oregon Outdoor School
  - Universities and Colleges
    - Oregon State University
    - Linfield University
    - George Fox University
    - Chemeketa Community College
  - Oregon Department of Park and Recreation
  - Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)
  - Oregon Department of Agriculture Soil and Water Conservation Districts
  - Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (YSWCD)
  - Greater Yamhill Watershed Council
  - Yamhill County Community Corrections Division
  - Yamhelas
  - Outdoor Education Adventures
  - Oregon Historical Society
  - Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
  - Yamhill Conservation Trust
  - Local Land Trusts
- Travel Oregon
- Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB)
- Local kayak groups
- Farmers groups
- Willamette Valley Visitors Association
- Willamette Riverkeeper
- Local parks departments
- Cultural coalition
- Walnut City Music Festival
- Winery associations & AVA groups
- Gray Family Foundation
- Oregon State Forestry
- Foresters
- Adopt a park
- Private timber-Weyerhaeuser, Golden Pond, Starker, Hampton, etc.
- Family sponsorships
- User groups financially support facilities for different rec types.
- Family endowments
- Funding and grants opportunities:
  - Oregon Travel Grants
  - Oregon State Park and Recreation Grants
  - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Grants
  - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - Travel Oregon Grants
  - Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) Grants
  - Recreational Trails Program (A federally funded grant program administrated by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department)
  - Spirit Mountain Community Fund
  - DEQ, Biz Oregon

- McMinnville Area Community Foundation
- Bass Pro Shop Outdoor Fund
- AARP Community Challenge
- Craig Nelson Foundation
- Hydro flask - Parks for All
- VA Adaptive Sports Program
- Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation - Quality of Life Grants Program

# YAMHILL COUNTY PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY MAP (DETAILED)



\*Note: Charles Metsker Park is deed-restricted to chaperoned, organized youth or school groups only.

