

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Work Session

July 13, 2020

Mayor Drotzmann called the work session meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present were Councilors Hardin (arrived at 6:13pm), Gutierrez, Smith (arrived at 6:07pm), Myers, Primmer, Davis, McCarthy, and Barron. Staff members in attendance were City Manager Byron Smith, City Attorney Gary Luisi, Chief Edmiston, Finance Director Mark Krawczyk, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter, Recreation Supervisor Brandon Artz, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter introduced Colin McArthur and Elizabeth Auvil of Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture and Planning who presented the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan findings (PowerPoint Presentation attached); to include: needs assessment, vision, recommendations, costs and funding, and implementation suggestions from the Parks and Recreation Committee, Parks and Recreation Department, Hispanic Advisory Committee, Chamber of Commerce, students of Hermiston High School, Hermiston School District, and surveys presented to the public at large.

After review and discussion, the Council agreed that the content and executive summary should more appropriately line up with information presented and that City administration should work on budgeting for Master Plan implementation.

Mr. McArthur stated they will make edits as suggested.

City Manager Smith stated the City will work on incorporating the master plan into the budget process and have the updated master plan ready for review and adoption at the July 27th City Council meeting.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked the efforts of all those involved who helped and participated in this process.

Councilor Barron thanked Mr. McArthur and Ms. Auvil for their continued outreach to the Latino community.

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the work session at 7:01pm and stated the City Council would take a short break and convene the regular City Council meeting at 7:06pm.

DRAFT

HERMISTON

PARKS, RECREATION
AND OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN
2020



Where Life is Sweet

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HERMISTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jeffrey Kelso
Gary Thompson
Carlisle Harrison
Erica Juarez
Mike Frink
TJ Hansell
Jackie Myers
Lori Davis

HERMISTON PARKS AND RECREATION

Larry Fetter, Parks and Recreation Director
Brandon Artz, Recreation Supervisor
Gina Wicks, Administrative Assistant

HERMISTON HISPANIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mark Gomolski
Jonathan Lopez
Hector Ramirez
Jose Garcia
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HERMISTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

STUDENTS OF HERMISTON HIGH SCHOOL

CAMERON MCCARTHY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

Colin McArthur, AICP
Elizabeth Auvil
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Introduction	01
Planning Process	
Relationship to Other Plans	
Plan Organization	
Parks, Recreation and Open System	09
Regional Context and Planning Area	
Facility Inventory	
Level of Service	
Needs Assessment	23
Community Profile	
Recreation Trends Analysis	
Community Outreach & Involvement	
Recreation Needs	
Facility Needs	
Vision	39
Vision Statement	
Elements of the Vision	
Goals & Actions	
Recommendations	47
Recreation Facility Development	
Park Facility Improvements	
Park Facility Development	
Natural Area Facility Development	
Park Acquisition and Development	
Trail Development	
Recreation Program Recommendations	
Operations and Maintenance Recommendations	
Implementation	77
Prioritization	
Planned Projects	
Funding	
Operations & Maintenance	
Funding Requirements & Strategies	
Conclusion	
Appendices	89

Executive Summary

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) is a guiding vision for the parks and recreation system and provides direction for both short and long range planning. The Plan documents the research, analysis, and public involvement process specifically designed to identify system assets and comment on needs; and, to form resulting goals, policies, recommendations, and implementation measures that guide strategic direction and development of the parks system over the next 20 years. The Plan was prepared in collaboration with City of Hermiston staff, the Hermiston Park and Recreation Committee, and community residents.

The PROS Plan guides future development and management of the parks and recreation system over the next 20 years. Specifically, the Plan includes:

- Inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities owned and operated by the City and the School District, including an assessment of general condition and needed maintenance or improvements;
- Assessment of community needs through identification of key indicators from demographic data, recreation trends, population projections, and community input;
- Long-range planning framework, including a vision, goals, and recommendations;

- 20-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for the PROS system that enables the City to achieve its goals;
- Implementation actions and strategies, including project prioritization and the identification of potential sources and methods for acquiring funding for development, maintenance, operations, and general improvements.

The Executive Summary summarizes highlights from the inventory, needs assessment, vision and goals, recommendations, and implementation components of the Plan.

PROS SYSTEM

Parks, recreation, and open space system planning requires identification and assessment of existing park and recreation facilities and amenities through an inventory process. The inventory process highlights system-wide strengths, needs, opportunities and constraints, and reveals underserved areas and services. The inventory includes all facilities owned by the City, information about other recreation facilities owned by the School District, and other private recreation facilities that are available to residents.

The City owns or maintains fifteen park and recreation facilities, which comprise 141.48 acres of developed parks, and two trail facilities, which comprise 10.62 miles of trail. In addition, the City owns five undeveloped facilities, which comprise 12.08 acres of undeveloped parkland. Table ES.1. City Facility Inventory Summary contains a list of developed and undeveloped facilities and their associated classifications and size within the PROS system.

TABLE ES.1. CITY FACILITY INVENTORY SUMMARY

EXISTING PARKS	ACRES
Mini Parks	0.11
Greenwood Park	0.11
Neighborhood Parks	21.38
Belt Park	3.15
Harrison Park	2.50
Highland Park	3.00
Hodge Park	1.80
McKenzie Park	2.25
Newport Park	2.70
Sunset Park	0.82
Victory Square Park	5.16
Community Parks	74.87
Butte Park	44.72
Riverfront Park	16.36
Theater Sports Park	13.79
Special Use Parks	44.19
Disc Golf Course	42.09
Community Center	2.10
Linear Parks	0.93
Highway 395 Park	0.93
TOTAL EXISTING PARK ACREAGE	141.48
EXISTING TRAILS	MILES
East Hermiston Loop Trail	3.84
West Hermiston Loop Trail	6.78
TOTAL TRAIL MILES	10.62
UNDEVELOPED	ACRES
Taxlot 4N2809DA05002	0.27
Taxlot 4N2814DA00100	3.66
Taxlot 4N2814DA00102	0.33
Steelhead Park	7.32
Taxlot 4N2811CC02300 (Teen Adventure Park)	0.50
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED ACREAGE	12.08

Hermiston School District is the largest district in Eastern Oregon, exceeding 5,600 students, and continues to experience steady enrollment growth. The School District owns eight developed school facilities that comprise over 232 acres. The School District owns sufficient property for near-term expansion; however, in the long-term additional property will be required assuming enrollment growth continues as projected. Table ES.2. School District Facility Inventory Summary includes a list of all developed and undeveloped School District facilities and their associated size.

TABLE ES.2. SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITY INVENTORY SUMMARY

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES	ACRES
Developed School Facilities	
Hermiston High School	53.14
Armand Larive Middle School	42.73
Sandstone Middle School	67.17
Desert View Elementary School	14.26
Highland Hills Elementary School	5.77
Rocky Heights Elementary School	21.12
Sunset Elementary School	14.82
West Park Elementary School	13.38
TOTAL DEVELOPED SCHOOL ACREAGE	232.39
Other Developed School Facilities	
Field of Dreams	*
Undeveloped School Facilities	
Property at E Theater Lane and NE 10th Street	19.10
Property South of Armand Larive Middle School	11.06
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED SCHOOL ACREAGE	30.16

Table ES.3. Inventory Summary provides a summary of City and School District owned lands, both developed and undeveloped, currently and, for comparison purposes, in 2007 when the last PROS Plan update was completed. Both the City and School District have increased their holdings significantly since 2007.

Hermiston can expect continued population growth during the next 20 years. This growth prompts the need to consider how the existing levels of service benchmarks measured both as the ratio of residents per park, and the acres of park land per 1,000 residents, can continue to at least be maintained at their current level, if not improved. Maintaining the current level of service at 4.60 acres of park land per 1,000 residents for a projected 2040 population of 26,045 residents will require that the City acquire and develop 22.52 acres of park land. The City currently has 12.08 acres of undeveloped land that has the potential to be developed as park land.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The needs assessment is comprised of a community profile, national and state recreation trends analysis, and findings from community outreach and involvement activities, which included stakeholder interviews, targeted conversations, pop-up events, and an online community survey. Together, this data provides a view of community needs and the facilities, programs, and services that should be prioritized in the plan.

The needs assessment included the collection of feedback from public and stakeholders through a community outreach and involvement process. Feedback from parks and recreation users focuses on how the City can better serve residents and visitors in the future. Findings from these processes helps identify and prioritize future capital projects.

TABLE ES.3. INVENTORY SUMMARY

OWNERSHIP	SIZE (ACRES) (2020)	SIZE (ACRES) (2007)
City Facilities	153.46	112
School District Facilities	263.75	194

Recreation Needs

- Park and recreation program options for low-income residents
- Swimming programs targeted to Hispanic/Latinx residents
- Year-round recreation opportunities
- Year-round swimming
- Youth after-school programs
- Increase multilingual communication in parks and recreation facilities
- Expansion of youth organized sports programs
- Programming for parents with children (Programs accompanied with childcare)
- All abilities/Disability inclusive programs

Facility Needs

- Indoor Aquatic and Athletic Facility, Wellness Center
- Universally accessible facilities
- Expanded trail facilities (walking, bicycling)
- Parks in Northeast, specifically, and east generally
- More athletic fields, specifically soccer or multipurpose fields.
- Areas for large group gatherings for extended periods of time



- Restrooms
- Water access
- Skate Park

VISION

The PROS Plan framework includes a vision, goals, and actions established through the planning process. The vision is intended to represent community needs and desires.

Goals represent the general end toward which organizational efforts are directed. Actions are specific steps needed to achieve stated goals. Recommendations are the specific steps needed to achieve the Plan goals and implement the vision.

Vision Statement

Hermiston actively provides inviting parks, trails, and programs for all walks of life. We celebrate our unique abilities, values and cultures. Parks and Recreation facilities and programs are the heart of our physical and emotional well-being.

Goals

Accessibility and Distribution

Provide an equitable distribution of park facilities and improve physical access to the PROS system.

Community Health

Increase park and recreation opportunities in order to improve physical and mental health across the community.

Natural Resource Restoration and Conservation

Restore and conserve natural resources in Hermiston in order to sustain and enhance environmental assets.

Diversity

Promote a welcoming atmosphere for all residents and identify and meet the needs of a diverse population.

Maintenance and Facility Upgrades

Operate, maintain, and update park facilities and amenities to provide a safe and accessible environment for all Hermiston residents.

Local and Regional Character

Reinforce continuity across the PROS system to create a recognizable identity that reflects the Hermiston residents and honors the surrounding landscape.

BACKGROUND

Hermiston is now recognized as the largest City in Eastern Oregon. In the last 20 years, Hermiston has improved its position as a regional center for goods and services. While agriculture continues to be a significant economic activity, data centers, and distribution of goods have become large economic contributors.

The Hermiston School District has responded to the steady population growth by adding new facilities and by joining the Washington State Athletic Interscholastic Association. The pressures of a growing community are shared by the City with increasing demand for housing, parks, trail, and recreation facilities.

Prior to the year 2000, Hermiston did not have a Parks and Recreation Department. In the late 1990's, City Council committed to building a new outdoor aquatic center which required the installation of a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in 1998. Soon after, Hermiston hired its first Parks and Recreation Director and a Recreation Manager.

Since this time, the Parks and Recreation programming has expanded to offer year-round opportunities with thousands of participants annually in a broad range of programs centered out of the Hermiston Community Center. A detailed outline of Hermiston's Parks and Recreation Development is available in Appendix E.

Historically, Hermiston has acquired park land through donated land and volunteer park development. As a result, there has been a disproportionate amount of park land available on the west side of HW 395. Approximately 80% of Hermiston's park lands are on the west side of the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This plan proposes to target additional properties on the east side of the City to balance the total park distribution over time.

Other recommendations include system improvements to guide future development and operation of the PROS system. The recommendations result from a thorough analysis of Hermiston's recreation needs based on broad community input, provide a path for strengthening the system, and are aimed at building community capacity while accommodating future growth and adapting to changing needs. Recommendations are organized into categories.

- Recreation facility development recommendations include an Indoor Aquatic and Wellness Center and renovation of the Arc Building
- Park facility improvement recommendations include improvements to a new Funland playground, a new Teen Adventure Park, and Highland Park Phase 2.
- Park facility development recommendations include a new Regional Sports Complex, expansion and renovation of Butte Park, redevelopment of Riverfront Park, the development of a new neighborhood park (Gettman Park), and the development of two new linear parks (Steelhead Park and Field of Dreams Park).
- Natural area facility development recommendation focuses on the development of the City's first natural area park (Baker's Pond Natural Area).



- Park acquisition and development recommendations focus on acquiring land and developing two new neighborhood parks to serve northeast and southeast residential areas.
- Trail development recommendations include an Oxbow Trail Spur connecting to Riverfront Trail, a loop trail surrounding central Hermiston, and a trail from Baker's Pond Park to Theater Sports Park.
- Additional recommendations address recreation programs and operations and maintenance.

IMPLEMENTATION

Planned Projects

Proposed projects included in the PROS Plan and the 2021-2040 Capital Improvement Plan were identified and selected based on information from:

- Quantitative results from the 2020 PROS Plan Needs Assessment;
- Qualitative findings from community input;
- City Council Goal setting;

- Parks and Recreation Committee input;
- City staff input;
- Geospatial analysis;
- 2008-2022 Park Master Plan Report;
- other relevant plans and policies.

Proposed project funding responds to an ongoing assessment of capital assets, as well as assessments of current and future service delivery needs.

Prioritization

Projects included in the plan were evaluated based on consideration of the following information sources to determine a prioritization schedule:

- Planning documents and tools
- Level of Service (LOS)
- Geographic Distribution
- Parks and Recreation Committee prioritization
- Maintaining existing facilities
- SDC fees
- Grants

Each project is prioritized based on a High, Medium, and Low prioritization schedule.

- High priority projects are planned for the first 7-year planning period, through 2027;
- Medium priority projects are planned for the second 7-year planning period, through 2034;
- Low priority projects are planned for the third 6-year planning period, which begins in 2035 and extends to 2040.

Project Costs

Detailed cost estimates were developed for each project. Additional detail is provided in the 2021-2040 Capital Improvements Plan. The operations and maintenance section includes estimated costs for the operation and maintenance of additional parkland as it is added to the system.

The PROS system will increase in acreage over the planning period. In order to maintain the current level of service and number of facilities per resident benchmarks the City will need to acquire and develop approximately four new park facilities and 23 acres of parkland by 2040.

TABLE ES.4. PLANNED PROJECTS & PRIORITIZATION SCHEDULE

FACILITY ID	PROJECT TITLE	HIGH FY 2021- 2027	MEDIUM FY 2028- 2034	LOW FY 2035- 2040
R1	Health, Wellness, and Aquatic Center	\$35,000,000	\$-	\$-
R2	Hermiston Family Aquatic Center	\$40,000	\$-	\$-
R3	Arc Building Renovation	\$800,000	\$-	\$-
P1	Funland Playground	\$1,500,000	\$-	\$-
P2	Teen Adventure Park	\$1,088,000	\$-	\$-
P3	Highland Park	\$-	\$-	\$285,000
P4	Regional Sports Complex	\$5,083,800	\$3,877,300	\$2,170,000
P5	Butte Park	\$982,200	\$455,500	\$-
P6	Riverfront Park	\$1,076,800	\$-	\$-
P7	Steelhead Park	\$-	\$739,500	\$-
P8	Gettman Park	\$-	\$-	\$1,129,700
P9	Field of Dreams Park	\$-	\$-	\$2,443,600
O1	Baker's Pond Natural Area	\$-	\$1,154,600	\$-
A1	Future NE Neighborhood Park	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
A2	Future E Neighborhood Park	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
A3	Future SW Neighborhood Park	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
A4	Future Cimarron Park	\$-	\$750,000	\$500,000
A5	Future Monte Vista Park	\$300,000	\$-	\$-
T1	Oxbow Trail Spur	\$-	\$739,200	\$-
T2	Hermiston Loop Trail	\$-	\$-	\$500,000
T3	Canal Trail	\$-	\$1,201,200	\$-
T4	Baker's Pond Trail	\$-	\$-	\$1,386,000
	TOTAL	\$47,370,800	\$11,167,300	\$9,914,300

Table ES.4. presents a summary of the proposed projects categorized by site and priority level. Total costs for planned projects are estimated to be approximately \$65,152,400. The plan includes:

- \$46,570,800 in funding for High Priority projects (2021-2027)
- \$9,667,300 in funding for Medium Priority projects (2028-2034)
- \$8,914,300 in funding for Low Priority projects (2035-2040)

Funding

Park system improvement actions have been historically funded from General Fund and Special Fund expenditures. These funds consist of revenue from SDCs, recreation programs, and parks services. The Plan discusses anticipated funding sources as well as associated recommendations for leveraging resources, including:

- System Development Charges
- Grants
- Local Improvement Districts
- General Obligation Bonds
- Partnerships
- Relationships
- Performance Measures

Conclusion

The 2020 Hermiston PROS Plan is an aspirational document based on a community vision for maintaining and improving the quality of life for Hermiston residents through parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. The PROS Plan is a synthesis of guiding vision, actions, recommendations, and specific projects designed to be implemented over a 20+ year planning period.

The City recognizes that parks and recreation facilities and programs are integral to the physical and mental health of Hermiston residents and the PROS system is the heart of a healthy community. The planning framework ensures that the future PROS system will provide accessible and welcoming facilities and programs that support the needs of an increasingly diverse and expanding community.

Proposed Park System

MAP ES.1

LEGEND

-  Urban Growth Boundary
-  City Limits
- EXISTING FACILITIES**
 -  Bureau of Reclamation
 -  Bureau of Land Management
 -  School District Facility
 -  Vacant School District Facility
 -  Private Facility
 -  Existing Trail
- PROPOSED FACILITIES**
 -  Recreation Facility Development
 -  City Property
 -  Proposed Park Use
 -  Park Acquisition and Development Area
 -  Trail Development
 -  Umatilla Regional Trail
 -  Park Facility Improvement
 -  Park Facility Development



