

COWLITZ COUNTY

Comprehensive Parks, Habitat and Recreation Plan
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Chapter I: Introduction and Vision/Mission Statement

VISION

Cowlitz County Parks Department is recognized for collaboration among public and private partnerships to build a healthy community, protect the natural environment and support high quality of place for all residents.

MISSION

Meeting community and visitor needs by providing a safe unified system of parks, trails, recreation facilities and natural areas that maintains environmental stewardship and provides diverse recreational programs and opportunities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ❖ Offer open space and park infrastructure that facilitates active lifestyles.
- ❖ Provide an environment that allows a variety of positive social interactions.
- ❖ Develop parks that accentuate and become a portal to the scenic beauty and natural environment of Cowlitz County
- ❖ Practice, promote and preserve the historic and cultural heritage of Cowlitz County resources while being effective stewards of the land and water.
- ❖ Identify and plan for future sustainable recreational stewardship.

Covid Impacts

Consequent to the restrictions placed upon businesses, committees, and organizations, much of the effort to implement the 2017 comprehensive park plan was inhibited. Therefore, segments of the 2017 comprehensive plan remain applicable.

Introduction and Case Statement

Cowlitz County instituted its parks and recreation program in 1965 by establishing a citizen's Park and Recreation Board. From that time forward, the Park and Recreation Board has provided direction in establishing park and recreation resources throughout the County. This update of the Comprehensive Park Plan for Cowlitz County continues a tradition of recognizing the importance of a park system in providing the quality of life desired by our residents.

Cowlitz County has demonstrated its commitment to park and recreation goals by accomplishing and participating in many park and recreation developments. Additionally, during the economic downturn of 2009-2015, the Parks Department struggled to remain open. Rather than shutting down Cowlitz County Parks, partnerships were developed in 2014 with other agencies to assure Willow Grove Park / Boat Launch and County Line remained open to the public.

Cowlitz County, located in Southwest Washington, comprises 1,146 square miles. The Columbia River forms its southwestern boundary. Coast Range Mountains border the County on the west and the Cascade Mountains border on the east. Principal rivers include the Cowlitz River, which bisects the County and the Kalama, Coweeman, Lewis and Toutle Rivers which originate from the Mount St. Helens drainage. The County's varied topography ranges from sea level to approximately 4,000 feet on the flanks of Mount St. Helens and includes three distinctive physiographic regions: the Cascade Mountain Province, Puget Sound Basin Province and the Willapa Hills Province.

This comprehensive park plan update is prepared following guidelines established by the Washington State Recreation Conservation Office (RCO). The plan's purpose is to qualify Cowlitz County to receive grant-in-aid funding for county park projects. It is not the intention of this plan to fulfill any requirements of the Growth Management Act or other land use policies.

The RCO required components for a comprehensive park and recreation plan include: Goals and Objectives, Inventory, Public Involvement, Demand and Need Analysis, Capital Improvement Program, and Adoption of the plan.

This report also reflects the current national standards for recreational parks and facilities as provided by the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA). Recommendations for future action steps are based on the current status of these facilities, accepted standards, population/demographic growth and changes.

Our parks are open to all people. Our programs may be restricted to local community residents. Absolutely no discrimination prohibited in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is condoned or tolerated.



Cowlitz County Historical Overview

Archaeologists believe that people have lived in what is now Cowlitz County for at least 12,000 years. Indian tribe settlements were located along the Columbia River and its tributaries. Indigenous tribes subsisted by hunting/gathering, fishing and trading with tribes of Eastern Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Lewis and Clark expedition traveled the Columbia River through Cowlitz County to now, Astoria Oregon to their second winter encampment. The Hudson's Bay Company was located in the County area and prior to the 1840's engaged primarily in fur animal trapping. Beginning in the early 1850's the "Donation Land Law" authorized the deeding of land to American citizens if those citizens agreed productively to farm and live on the land. The Cowlitz River Valley, the only largely level route from Oregon to the northwest, served as a transportation corridor and provided settlers with flat arable floodplain land.

In 1848, the first lumber mill on the lower Columbia River was established at Oak Point and exploitation of the area's vast timber resources began. In 1870, the Northern Pacific Railroad began construction of a line linking Portland with the Puget Sound. The town of Kalama was established at the point where the railroad met the Columbia River. The construction of the railroad shifted the focus of settlement in the County. Previously, settlements had been located primarily on the west side of the Cowlitz River, i.e., Freeport and Monticello. With the completion of the railroad on the east side of the river several small settlements sprang up around railroad stops.

Prior to 1920, basic economic activity was centered on agriculture and logging with no other significant industries. A small number of sawmills were dispersed throughout the County. In the early 1920's, the Long Bell Company moved a major portion of its operations to the west coast, constructing the largest sawmill in the world and establishing a new town, Longview, to house its employees. In 1929, two other large timber companies, Weyerhaeuser and Longview Fiber (now WestRock Paper and Packaging), established mills in Longview. As a result of this rapid industrialization, the County's population increased almost three-fold between 1920 and 1930, growing from 11,700 to 32,000. The County's economy continued to be dominated by the wood products industries until economic recessions in the late 1970's and early 1990's resulted in some economic diversification.

Since 2016 access to private lands has been limited to fee entry.

Tourism became a larger factor when in late March 1980 new geologic activity began under the 123-year dormant Mount St. Helens. On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens exploded, and the upper north flank of the mountain gave way in an immense landslide, instantaneously relieving the pressure of gas-charged magma exploding outwardly devastating over 150,000 acres of surrounding timber land and sending millions of cubic yards of mud and debris surging down the Toutle and Cowlitz River valleys.

Population Trends

2020 County, Cities, & Unincorporated Areas*

Cowlitz County is home to **110,500** residents.
 Castle Rock2,446
 Kalama2,960
 Kelso12,720
 Longview.....37,818
 Woodland (Cowlitz County portion).....6,447
 Unincorporated Cowlitz County48,339

The 2010 census recorded a county population of 102,410 with projections of growth to 109,000 by 2020. Since the 2010 census, Cowlitz County has experienced a growth rate of approximately 6%. It is estimated that cities in the southern section of the County will grow rapidly as people seeking lower land and housing costs at a commutable distance to their work move north from Vancouver and Portland. Our cities to the North also will have rapid growth due to similar pressures coming from Olympia. As the chart below indicates, our outlying cities show a more rapid growth than the Longview/Kelso area.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% increase in 5 years
Total County	104,280	104,760	106,800	108,673	110,389	111,371	6.8%
Longview	37,130	37,023	37,577	38,025	38,375	37,880	2%
Kelso	11,950	11,971	12,126	12,276	12,393	12,715	6.4%
Woodland (Cowlitz)	5,750	5,934	6,119	6,328	6,439	6,447	12.1%
Castle Rock	2,175	2,200	2,228	2,260	2,294	2,450	12.6%
Kalama	2,500	2,547	2,677	2,707	2,793	2,966	18.6%

**Intercensal Estimate of total population*

Key Issues:

- Due to population trends, there is a steadier growth in our cities outside of the Longview Kelso area, which creates a need for County Parks.
- There are no adequate County parks close to the cities of Kalama and Woodland, which have the largest growth in the county.
- The Port districts play a significant role in creating public recreational opportunities. The Port of Kalama has developed park and recreation areas that benefit all people.

Age

The percentage of Cowlitz County’s population that is under age 18 is roughly the same as the state average. The county’s 18–49-year-old population is smaller, and its population age 50 and older is larger, than the state average.

0-4.....	5.8% (6,395)
5-11	9.0% (9,896)
12-17	7.7% (8,504)
18-34	18.0% (19,881)
35-49	17.1% (18,874)
50-64	20.8% (22,973)
65-79	16.7% (18,434)
80+.....	5.0% (5,543)

Age Group Breakout: The median age for Cowlitz County was 40.2 in the 2010 census, compared to the U.S. median age of 37.2. The median age for Cowlitz County was 40.8 in the 2020 census, compared to US average of 38.8. The 2020 census reported that approximately 22.5% of the population was age 18 or younger, a lower percentage than for the U.S. as a whole (25%). The census reported that the 65 and over population was 19.4% (22,618 persons), compared to 16.8% for the U.S. as a whole.

In the 2020 census, the 18 and under population were 27,475 or 22.5% of the total population and the 60 and over population were 22,618 or 22.1% of the population. This demonstrates the youth population is continuing to grow slowly while the senior population is fairly static.

Key Issues:

- There will be a continuing need for youth services such as day care, family friendly parks, and youth sports opportunities.

Education Levels

Bachelor’s or Higher.....	17%
Associate’s Degree	9.7%
Some College	41.9%
High School Diploma Only	31%
No High School Diploma	8.7%

Income

After accounting for age&, the proportion of Cowlitz County residents living below the poverty level appears to be about 25% higher than the state average.

Residents below the poverty level#.....	13%
Median household income.....	\$58,791

Economic & Social Characteristics: The 2020 census reported that the median household income for the U.S. was \$47,596. The 2020 Census income estimate for Cowlitz County was \$58,791. The median income has increased slowly but may not be keeping up with inflation.

The 2020 census estimate reported that 13% of Cowlitz County families were below the federal poverty level. The average household size was 2.53 and the average family size was 2.99.

Key Issues:

- The affordability of housing relative to major cities within commuting distance will continue to attract middle and low-middle income families who will want access to parks, community facilities, and services.
- The County will need to provide disabled and elderly persons access to facilities, sidewalks, bus stops, etc.
- More sports and athletic facilities for all, particularly children, is a necessary part of combating the problem of obesity and human isolation caused by electronic games and television.

Population Co-horts

Ethnicity: Cowlitz County has had consistency in its demographic make-up. The 2020 census estimate reported the following ethnicity breakdown.

Race/ethnicity	
White.....	82.4% (91,093)
Hispanic.....	9.8% (10,793)
Asian.....	1.8% (2,003)
Native American.....	1.4% (1,502)
Black	0.7% (790)
Pacific Islander	0.3% (366)
Two or more races	3.6% (3,953)
Residents age 5+ who speak a language other than English at home.....	6.6%

Chapter II: Goals and Objective

GOALS

- Create enough playing fields/courts with adequate access for Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Tennis, and Pickleball for all players.
- Build alternative sports structures and access points to facilitate activities such as BMX, mountain biking, bouldering, rock climbing, frisbee golf, horseback riding and other nontraditional recreational activities.
- Build additional playgrounds.
- Create additional camping sites to accommodate increase in recreational camping.
- Improve and expand current campground to accommodate additional visitors.
- Create more event space to accommodate the increase in outdoor events and family gatherings.

Objectives: TARGET PROJECTS for Cowlitz County Parks 2024-2030

Riverside Park

- Add one additional soccer field.
- Create additional ADA/Vehicle access to picnic areas and Pavilion.
- Build a Pump Track
- Build an all-inclusive playground and play area.
- Build competition level softball and baseball fields that may include turf fields, lighting, above ground dug outs, updated concessions, irrigation improvements, drainage.
- Improve restrooms, update plumbing, ADA standards, replace old partitions.
- Build an Off-Leash Dog Park
- Create a multipurpose sports complex (baseball, soccer, basketball, Pickle ball, climbing walls, etc.)
- Resurface the Tennis Court/Pickleball Courts, create dedicated courts for each sport
- Resurface the Basketball Court

Harry Gardner Park

- Add 3 more RV sites
- Build additional event spaces such as Pavilions and Community Center
- Build one shower.
- Build 2 additional trails to the river to improve River Access.
- Build additional walking trails on the Upper section of property overlooking the river.

Coweeman River Park

- Build one covered picnic site.
- Add one concrete vault toilet.
- Install a playground and swing set.

Coal Creek Launch

- Improve and repair the boat launch
- Add one concrete vault toilet

LT-1, Cook Ferry Trails, or future acquisitions

- Create an ATV & Rock Crawling site
- Acquire property or build trail heads to support hiking, biking, horseback riding, or ATV
- Develop a snow Park to include snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding/tubing, snow mobile usage.
- Acquire additional park space in South County

Organizational and Other Projects

- Develop and display a County Wide Recreation event calendar.
- Conduct a Facility Needs Assessment of all Park Property & Buildings.
- Be ready to act on opportunities for general shoreline acquisition.
- Pursue a joint DNR & WDFW recreation plan for Toutle Mountain to Toutle River Valley to include plans for future recreation such as horseback riding, mountain biking, motorized recreation, snowmobile trails, cross-country skiing and camping.
- Complete the Lexington Bridge to Castle Rock trail loop with supporting infrastructure including an equestrian trail/infrastructure development and implementation.
- Implement joint DNR/DWFW/Other Agencies Recreation Plan
 - Develop mountain biking area—beginner to extreme—possibly on State DNR property or privately owned timber property.
 - Develop equestrian facilities, including trails, riding area, and horse camp.
 - Winter use for State lands including snowmobiles, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Projects with Partners or Other Lead Agencies

These important projects are critical to the future of parks and recreation in Cowlitz County, but they are spearheaded by other leaders. Cowlitz Co. is committed to assisting with these projects as a supporter or partner.

- Scot Hill Park and Sports Complex in Woodland / South Cowlitz County.
- Hoffstadt Hills WDFW acquisition.
- Castle Rock to Sequest Park trail.
- LCFE (Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group)-support plans for Toutle confluence upstream and other fish enhancement projects.
- Cougar Area Trail Seekers (CATS)
- Swimming pool located in North County area.
- Create the Six Rivers Bicycle Trail uniting Lewis, Cowlitz and Clark Counties.
- With partners, acquire legal access to the Toutle DNR Forest and WDFW St. Helens Wildlife Area for public recreation and grant eligibility.
- Through partnerships, develop linkage between ATV-friendly trails especially in the Cougar / Mt. St. Helen's area.
- Acquire Patriot Railroad Right of Way and convert to a rail trail to Ostrander Junction.

- Pursue creation Silver Lake Community Forest with the assistance of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Create kayak/canoeing/sculling opportunities at Silver Lake including improved launch, restrooms, parking, and other needed facilities. Improve fishing access at Silver Lake.
- Acquire property to Create a multipurpose indoor sports complex (baseball, soccer, basketball, Pickle ball, climbing walls etc.)
- Austin Point Public Development Project



Chapter III: Inventory

Background on Habitat & Recreation in Cowlitz County

Parks and Recreation services in unincorporated Cowlitz County are provided by the Board of County Commissioners and overseen by the Cowlitz County Public Services Department.

During the past few years, there has been a significant economic downturn that is now affecting the ability of the County to provide park enhancements as well as the temporary reduction of department staffing.

The National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) recommends that a core system of parks (mini, neighborhood, community parks, etc.) be at a minimum of 6.25 acres per 1,000 residents. Using the July 1, 2020 U.S. Census population estimate 110,500 residents as a guide, the County would need 688 acres of developed recreation and parkland.

The current developed recreation acreage in Cowlitz County is approximately 586 acres, with an additional 26 acres planned for Scott Hill Park, meaning overall acreages are below target

for our population. The County has a mixture of park types, with mini and neighborhood parks generally more passive in use, and community parks with several recreational elements (sports courts, sports fields, etc.) Much of our dedicated recreation lands are minimally developed, or in uses such as fishing access, that are outside NRPA scope or guidelines for parks and recreation facilities.

We lack specific facilities like an adequate number of local parks and swimming pools near population centers.

EXISTING COWLITZ COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

See Appendices A (pg. 28) for the Individual Park Roster and Conditions

The County owns 11 Park Facilities and are comprised of 166 Acres total.

- Riverside Park
- Harry Gardner Park
- Woodbrook Park
- Coal Creek Boat Launch
- Catlin Cemetery
- Finn Hall Wayside
- Cougar Wayside
- Cook Ferry Trail
- Public Shooting Range
- Coweeman River Park
- Hog Island Access



Public Recreation and Community Facilities not owned by the Cowlitz County Parks Dept:

In addition to the existing park space, the larger cities operate facilities used for alternative recreation purposes and are not included in the total Park Space calculation. These are identified by indicating not included.

Facility	Use	
Cowlitz County Expo Center	Community building that is used for the county fair, community gardens, and various county community meetings. Maximum capacity in building is 2500.	
Longview Senior Center	Located in Longview, the senior center has a membership of approximately 350 serving seniors from Longview, Kelso and surrounding County areas.	
Castle Rock Senior Center	Located in Castle Rock, this center has a membership of approximately 400 serving seniors from Castle Rock and surrounding County areas.	
Kelso Senior Center	Located in West Kelso, this senior center (Catlin building) has a membership of approximately 120 serving seniors from Kelso, Longview and surrounding County areas.	
Public Libraries	There are four separate libraries located in Longview, Kelso, Kalama and Castle Rock. Future plans may include consolidation of library services into a metropolitan library district. Note: Woodland and Yale Libraries are members of Fort Vancouver Library District.	
Port of Kalama	Marine Park is a day use offering pedestrian/bicycle pathway, playgrounds, covered picnic shelter, largest totem pole in the Pacific Northwest	5 acres

Port of Kalama	Haydu Recreational & Sport Complex, day use offering baseball, soccer fields. Basketball, tennis courts. Trails to the Kalama River, horseback riding, Restrooms.	24 acres
Tam O'Shanter Park	Operated by the City of Kelso this park is a community park adjoining the Coweeman River. There are 3 youth baseball fields, 1 multipurpose field, 2 lighted softball fields, 2 pickle ball courts, disc golf, two restrooms, a basketball court, horseshoe pits, and large playground equipment and picnic areas.	38 acres
7 th Avenue Park	Operated by the City of Longview this community park offers playground equipment, picnic tables, covered picnic area, restrooms, and soccer and softball fields and is ADA accessible.	29 acres
Archie Anderson Park	Operated by the City of Longview this park offers baseball field, basketball courts, a playground, and picnic tables and is ADA accessible.	6.38 acres
Bailey Park	Operated by the City of Longview this park has a basketball court, playground, covered picnic area and is ADA accessible.	.75 acres
Cloney Park	Operated by the City of Longview, this neighborhood park has a playground, walking paths/trails, picnic tables, a covered picnic area, restrooms and a skateboard park and is ADA accessible.	5.35 acres
Elks Memorial Building	Located in Lake Sacajawea Park and operated by the City of Longview, this building may be used for community classes and there is a fenced playground area.	Already included
Gerhart Gardens Park	This community park is operated by the City of Longview and includes a boat launch, basketball courts, dog park, fishing, horseshoe pits, playground, picnic tables, restrooms, volleyball courts and is ADA accessible.	14 acres
John Null Park	This lighted community park is operated by the City of Longview and offers baseball fields, playground, pickleball, picnic tables, restrooms, and is ADA accessible.	12 acres
Kellogg Park	This mini park operated by the City of Longview offers a playground, picnic table and is ADA accessible	.50 acres
Lads & Lassies Park	This mini park is operated by City of Kelso offers a playground and picnic tables.	.50 acres
Rotary Park	City of Kelso Park consists of a playground, covered picnic area, restrooms, and open field space	
Lake Sacajawea Park	This large community park is operated by the City of Longview and offers fishing, playground, walking paths/trails, picnic tables, and is ADA accessible, it also has restrooms.	120 acres
Mark Hoehne Park	This partially developed neighborhood park is operated by the City of Longview and offers a playground.	4.1 acres
Kress Lake	This lake is located outside Kalama, WA and is owned by the State of Washington. The lake offers non-motorized boat fishing and includes a rural trail around its circumference.	18 acres

North County Sports Facility	This fully developed sport field complex is owned by the Castle Rock School District. Maintenance and operation of the facility is shared between the school district and North County Recreation Association. Softball, lighted softball and baseball field, baseball fields, soccer fields. A new Pavilion and 6 RV sites. Wrestling facility in development.	65 acres
Seaquest Park	This overnight camping venue is located on Spirit Lake Highway and operated by the State of Washington. Directly across from Silver Lake, and the Silver Lake Mt. St. Helens Visitor Center, provides ample tent and RV sites.	68-Not included in acreage
Horseshoe Lake Park	Located in Woodland, this park offers a boat launch, covered picnic areas, fishing, skatepark and playground	9 acres
Al Helenberg Memorial Boat Launch	Located in Castle Rock, this boat launch offers access to the Cowlitz River.	2 acres
Willow Grove Park & Boat Launch	Located on the Columbia River the park provides beach access, picnicking, trails, Boat Launch facility, three restrooms and is operated by the Port of Longview	60 acres
Skate Parks	There are three skate parks, one in Longview, Kelso, and Woodland.	6 acres
BMX and Mountain Bike Park	Castle Rock operates a BMX and mountain bike skill development and challenge course.	2
YMCA of Longview	Heated swimming pool and indoor recreation facilities	
Youth Baseball	3 youth baseball groups—Kelso, Castle Rock/Toutle, Longview	
Roy Morris Park	Baseball and softball fields, trails and restrooms.	2
Catlin Spray Park	Spray Park, basketball court	.5
Scot Hill Park and Sports Complex *Under Construction*	Woodland volunteers are in process of developing a 26-acre sport and park complex	26
Goerig Park	Provide access to Lewis River, has benches, picnic tables, and small boat launch for Kayakers.	1.5
Hoffman Park	ADA swing set, benches, picnic tables, play structure, spring rider and swings.	1.2
Kenneth Bjur Memorial Park	Picnic tables, play structure, spring rider, swings.	.5
Toteff Park	Located right off I5 Northbound Exit 30, this park provides picnic areas, public restrooms and a preschool size playground (best for ages 2-5 years).Kalama.	1
Kalama Community Center	The Kalama Community Building is an all-occasion meeting place. People from the community and out of town have used this facility for school dances, weddings, graduation parties, banquets, baby showers, retirement parties and baptisms.	.5

	The Community Building was used as a temporary Kalama City Hall after the flood of 1996 and after the most recent flood in December 2015.	
Stepping Stone Park	Neighborhood playground within the Stone Forest Subdivision. Kalama	.25
Horizon Park	Hilltop picnic area with great views of the Columbia River North & South. Kalama	.25
PUBLIC SCHOOLS		
R. A. Long High School	Offers soccer fields and baseball fields.	
Mark Morris High School:	Offers soccer fields, baseball fields, and a swimming pool.	
Kelso High School	Offers soccer fields, baseball fields and a swimming pool	
Longview, Kelso, Woodland, Castle Rock, Kalama, Toutle	Middle and elementary schools' access to their sports fields and/or tracks on a limited basis	

Identified Public Habitat Areas

Many habitat areas within Cowlitz County are owned by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and details, including priority habitats and species, are available on the agency's website <http://wdfw.wa.gov>.

Habitat priorities for Cowlitz County include:

- partnering with other agencies on projects, including acquisition and habitat improvements
- focus on existing habitat areas
- acquiring additional areas of shoreline for habitat and recreational access
- pursuing a Community Forest along the south shore of Silver Lake

Toutle River Valley

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument (USFS)

Set aside in 1982 for research, recreation, and conservation approximately 26,000 acres of the Monument lie in Cowlitz County. Cowlitz County contains the western edge of the Monument stretching from the Lewis County border south toward Clark County. Adjacent Forest Service land is primarily managed as late successional reserve. An area of lava tubes providing unique bat habitat exists in and around the southern portions of the Monument.

Mount Saint Helens and Hoffstadt Units (WDFW)

This 6589-acres in two units is located in Cowlitz County along the North Fork Toutle River lying just west of and adjacent to the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. The Mount St. Helens unit was established in 1990 to protect elk winter range on the North Fork Toutle River mudflow that resulted from the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Extensive efforts have been made to improve elk winter forage, including erosion control, weed control, fertilization and vegetation plantings. Additional acreage was transferred to the WDFW from the DOT, but much of that land is slated for sediment containment projects managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Gardner Unit (WDFW)/Harry Gardner Park

The 43-acre Gardner unit is managed for riparian habitat and fishing access on the South Toutle River. It is located northeast of Silver Lake, adjacent to Cowlitz County's Harry Gardner Park, most of which is undeveloped and currently in the process of being stabilized and improved for fish and wildlife habitat by the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group.

Silver Lake

Canal Road (WDFW)

The 121-acre Canal Road unit is managed for wetland/waterfowl habitat. It is located on the east end of Silver Lake.

Hall Road Unit (WDFW)

The Hall Road unit is 132 acres managed for wetland habitat and upland forest. It is located north of Silver Lake.

Seaquest State Park (WA. State Parks)

475 acres with wetlands along Silver Lake and uplands being managed for recreation and habitat.

Carnine Unit (WDFW) 28 acres of upland forest near Silver Lake

Columbia River

Nelson Unit (WDFW)

The 20-acre Nelson unit lies within the Columbia River floodplain and is managed for waterfowl habitat. It is located south of Kelso.

Abernathy Creek (WDFW)

The Abernathy Creek unit is 138 acres managed for riparian and upland forest habitat and fishing access. It is located on Abernathy Creek near the Columbia River.

Fisher Island Unit (WDFW)

The Fisher Island unit is 257 acres primarily maintained as forested floodplain. Columbian white-tailed deer reside on this small island in the Columbia River.

Willow Grove (Columbia Land Trust) 284 acres of riparian habitat along the Columbia River

Germany Creek (Columbia Land Trust) 157 acres of riparian habitat on Germany Creek near where it intersects the Columbia River.

Coweeman River Mitigation Bank

320 Acres along the Coweeman River, a mostly city of Kelso city owned, approved wetland mitigation bank.

Lewis River and Reservoirs

Eagle Island Wildlife area (WDFW)

Recently added 270 acres of WDFW property on the Lewis River east of Woodland that provides key riparian habitat and water access. Extensive rehabilitation of habitat is underway. Part of **Pacificorp**

As part of hydropower relicensing agreements, Pacificorp enacted the Lewis River Wildlife Habitat Management Plan that encompasses 10,300 acres in three counties mostly along the shores of Yale, Merwin, and Swift Reservoirs.

Pacific Power Parks List see Appendix C

Merrill Lake Area

Merrill Lake Wildlife Area (WDFW)

Merrill Lake Wildlife Area is a recent example of the power of a public/private partnership. This 1148-acre habitat rich land was acquired in phases through grants and private donations. It was identified in Cowlitz County's previous park plan and supported by Cowlitz County. The land lies between the Kalama River and Merrill Lake and key features include Kalama Falls, old growth forest, ancient lava formations, and riparian habitat. Hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and some dispersed camping is available.

Merrill Lake Natural Resources Conservation Area (DNR)

114-acre site consists of a forest cover of mixed conifers and hardwoods along a lake at the 1,550-foot elevation. Merrill Lake NRCA is prime habitat for birds of prey, including osprey and bald eagles, and is also home to waterfowl such as bufflehead, common goldeneye, and hooded merganser. A regionally popular catch-and-release fly fishing spot, Merrill Lake has a boat launch for small craft (non-gasoline powered) and a nine-site campground. –

Goat Marsh Research natural Area 1195 acres sits within the National Monument and protects rare habitat and plant communities.

Chapter IV: Public Involvement

Summary of Research, Public Input & Background Materials

The following materials were utilized as background research for this Habitat & Recreation comprehensive plan update:

- Cowlitz Regional Trails Plan (2009)

PUBLIC INPUT

Park Board Member input from each district represented:

District 1(Kalama): Need additional parks in South County. Funding for smaller communities' parks and community centers. More trails.

District 2(Longview): Don't have a representative.

District 3(Castle Rock): More Hiking Access, Fishing Access, Event Space, Ball Fields.

Parks Staff Outreach:

Need Pickle Ball, Horse Trails, ORV/Motorcycle Park, Dog Park, Bike Trails, Off Leash Dog Area, Hiking Trails.

Invision Kalama:

Add Toteff Park to the roster so they can seek funding for the Pavilion.

Online Survey

1. Activities and events the community would like to see.

Brew Fests, Markets, Movies in the Park, Kids Activities, Cook Offs, Fun Runs, Classes.

2. How can the county parks system be improved?

Developing new parks, acquiring natural areas, Building new facilities: such as sports fields or community centers.

3. Community is asking for these new features in order:

Mountain Bike Trails, More Playgrounds, Pump Track, walking trails, hiking trails, rock climbing/bouldering walls, food trucks, covered picnic sites, more camping areas, snow park, equestrian trails.

4. Additional Input: We lack toddler activities and need clear directions to smaller parks.

5. Most visited Parks: Riverside Park, Harry Gardner Park, Coweeman River Park, LT-1, Cook Ferry Trails

Castle Rock Parks Board and Public Meeting

Want more trails for hiking and biking. Asking if there will be any Hog Island development in the future. Discussions regarding future grants and funding sources.

City of Kalama Parks Board

Add City of Kalama Parks to Inventory, grant funding options for the future, plan adoption for the city if wanted. Looking for funding for their aging community center.

Chapter V: Demand and Need Analysis



KEY FINDINGS and NEEDS

Efficiency

Facilities should be maintained and operated within reasonable funding limits, generate revenues to offset costs, or promote tourism and economic activity. Larger facilities are a maintenance challenge for Cowlitz County, and creative funding mechanisms should be explored. Preventing vandalism of recreational equipment, buildings and trails is key to keeping costs down.

Quality of Life

While Cowlitz County faces many challenges including sustained growth, economic development, and economic stability, it also faces the opportunity to transform itself into a community that has a dynamic quality of life. Among the most important quality of life issues that most residents want are attractive, well-maintained parks, good community facilities, a sense of connection to the community, and good programs and services.

Shorelines and Habitat

Citizens greatly value access to our rivers and lakes, and shoreline access and acquisition are key for recreation as well as habitat needs. Wherever possible, shoreline areas should be expanded for public use, and additional shoreline access areas should be secured. Habitat areas should focus on unique habitats and expand existing areas, especially along rivers and lakes.

Land Access

Recent changes in private timberland policies have greatly limited public access to private forests. Access to public lands is also limited, with much of the state land in the county without legal access for recreation activities. A community forest and several public acquisitions are proposed and should provide multiple uses.

Partnerships

Pacific Power & Light Company (PP&L) reservoirs provide extensive and valuable recreation facilities and water access. Partnerships with cities, private business, non-profits and other agencies will be necessary for development of many future projects.

Mount St Helens

The Mount St. Helens area is a major recreation and tourism draw. Visitor centers along SR 504 are serving as the main destination points, but more activities are needed, such as a winter recreation, expanded trails, trail linkage, and overnight camping. Partnership with the USFS and State parks could improve the recreation and visitor experience. SR 503 offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including campgrounds, trails and boating.

Trails

Walking, jogging, equestrian and biking trails should be expanded, and additional trails should be added to accommodate a growing active population and improve county health outcomes. Emerging opportunities to create long-distance rail-trail, ATV and bicycle routes could help meet this need. Trails should connect towns to recreation areas and other trails.

Facilities

Much of the county lacks safe areas for swimming, including public pools, and communities often cite the need for a pool. Outdoor fields, especially soccer fields, along with multi-sport indoor complex are long-term goals. The Longview senior center while currently meeting basic needs, requires refurbishing and will likely need to be expanded to accommodate aging population. Equestrian and motorized recreation facilities and opportunities are lacking.

Winter Recreation

An oft-cited need is a snow park and snow play area on the Spirit Lake Highway. The runaway truck ramp on SR 504 acts as a de-facto Snowpark, although it was never designed for the use it receives. Snowpark's along SR 503 are extremely popular.

Accessibility

Cowlitz County needs to close the current gap in developed park acreage and improve the service area radius for park and recreation facilities. Low cost or no-cost options for recreation should be available to people of all ages and abilities. Park programs and community events complement and enhance the region.

Issues That Need Addressing: In reviewing County-owned facilities, trails, other public facilities, and existing programs, there are several issues that need to be addressed:

Needs: The community is in need of additional traditional sports courts including but not limited to Soccer, Baseball, Soft Ball, Fast Pitch, Basketball, Pickleball. Additional event space for gatherings for all types of weather, year around. Snow park and access to winter sports activities.

Park Staff Need Analysis of Current County Facility Space

These projects have been added due to staff observations during public outreach inside the parks.

<i>Riverside Park</i>	<i>Public Requests</i>	<i>Why</i>
	Soccer Fields	Need more fields, turning teams away due to lack of space.
	Baseball Fields	Need more fields, turning teams away due to lack of space.
	Have one covered Pavilion, not enough Covered event space	Pavilion reservations fill months in advance for weekends. Turning people away due to lack of space.
	Off Leash Dog Area in Lexington	Rule enforcement problem for off-leash dogs. County does not provide an off-leash area in Lexington.
	Road to Pavilion	People drive on grass because they cannot carry all items. Leave parked cars on trail in-front of Pavilion. Safety concern for children playing in grass, damaging turf, and curbs.
<i>Harry Gardner Park</i>	Additional RV sites	RV sites are constantly full during the summer and must turn people away.
	Not enough covered event space	Pavilion reservations fill month in advance for weekends. Turning people away due to lack of space.
<i>Other Areas</i>	ATV/UTV space	Constantly removing ATVs from regular parks, need ATV park for them to use.

Chapter VI: Capital Improvement

Table below lists projects to be started from 2024-2029 and the funding options.

Project Name	Funding Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Riverside Asphalt Pump Track	LWCF, ARPA, YAF	Match: \$250,000 RCO: \$250,000	Continue	Complete			
Riverside ADA/Vehicle Access to Pavilion	Parks Budget		\$15,000	\$15,000			
Riverside All-inclusive Play Area	LWCF, ARPA	Match: \$250,000 RCO: \$250,000	Continue	Complete			
Riverside Soccer Field	Parks Budget/Donations from Clubs			\$20,000			\$20,000
Riverside Softball Fields	Parks Budget/Donations from Clubs/ YAF			Match: \$80,000 RCO YAF: \$80,000	Continue	Complete	
Riverside Off-Leash Dog Park	Parks Budget, Donations					\$5,000	\$5,000
Riverside Pavilion and Playground restroom remodel	RCO LPM (no match)	RCO: \$80,000					
Harry Gardner Phase 3- additional RV, showers, pavilions, shades for tent sites	RCO WWRP, Friends of HGP fund, Parks Budget			Match: In kind labor, \$, HGP fund \$100,000 RCO: \$100,000	Continue	Complete	
Harry Gardner Community Center	RCO, Friends of HGP fund, Parks Budget					Match: In kind labor, \$, HGP fund \$100,000 RCO: \$100,000	Continue
Harry Gardner Additional walking trails (Toutle Bridge to Fiest Road)	Paths and Trails Fund		\$50,000				
New Park	Donations, Partnership						

Acquire additional park space in South County						
Trail Partnership Build trail heads for existing trails thru partnerships	Donations, Partnership RCO RTP	Match (20%): \$40,000 RCO RTP: \$160,000		Match (20%): \$40,000 RCO RTP: \$160,000		Match (20%): \$40,000 RCO RTP: \$160,000
Coweeman Playground, restroom, landscaping	Local business grants (WGF), ARPA, Parks Budget	WGF: \$10,000 Parks ARPA: \$50,000	WGF: \$10,000	WGF: \$10,000		
LT-1 or Cook Ferry Develop ATV Park	RCO NOVA	No match RCO: \$200,000		No match RCO: \$200,000		No match RCO: \$200,000



Funding Options

Grant Opportunities

- RCO LWCF: The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding to preserve and develop outdoor recreation resources, including parks, trails, and wildlife lands. There are two separate LWCF programs:
 State Program: Congress created the fund in 1965 with the passage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to states for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas. All communities may compete for funding in this program.

Legacy Program: In 2014, Congress established the Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program, which provides grants to help urban communities with 30,000 or more people buy or develop land to create or reinvigorate public parks and other outdoor recreation spaces. Priority is given to projects in economically disadvantaged areas that lack outdoor recreation opportunities.

- RCO NOVA Trails: The Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities program provides funding to develop and manage recreation opportunities for such activities as cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain bicycling, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, motorcycling, and riding all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles.
- RCO LPM: The Washington State Legislature provided one-time funding in the operating budget to help local parks departments maintain their working facilities to meet the needs of their residents. This program will focus on helping communities in need address maintenance backlogs for key local parks facilities and capital improvements. Accessed through a simple application process, grants can be used for general maintenance of things such as trails, restrooms, picnic sites, playgrounds, signs, and kiosks.
- RCO YAF: The Youth Athletic Facilities program provides grants to buy land and develop or renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as ball fields, courts, swimming pools, mountain bike tracks, and skate parks that serve youth through the age of 18.
- RCO WWRP: The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program provides funding for a broad range of land protection and outdoor recreation, including local and state parks, trails, water access, and the conservation and restoration of state land.
- Local Club Partnerships: CYSA, Devils Fastpitch, Castle Rock/Toutle Baseball,
- Business Donations: Partnering with local businesses who wish to donate to the park system.

Parks Budget

- General Annual Parks Budget

Revenue generated from selling Dredge Spoils from Cook Ferry or LT-1:

- Cowlitz County has a rare opportunity to generate money for its parks by selling dredge spoils on two park properties. The revenue generated is required to be used for recreational facilities and can be used to improve and maintain its Parks facilities.
- **RCW 47.04.230 Dredge spoils—Cowlitz County.**

The legislature finds and declares that the December 19, 1991, Washington state conveyance of the Mt. St. Helens Recovery Program, LT-1 and Cook Ferry Road Sites, to Cowlitz County, should be amended to enable Cowlitz County to use dredge spoils revenues for recreational purposes throughout the county.

The legislature further declares that the department of transportation shall execute sufficient legal release to accomplish the following:

(1) Dredge spoil revenues from either the LT-1 or Cook Ferry Road Site must be dedicated for recreational facilities and recreational administration costs throughout the county.

(2) Any mining excavation must meet the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act of 1971 as identified in chapter **90.58** RCW.

(3) Both the LT-1 and Cook Ferry Road Site must be preserved as a long-term dredging facility.

(4) All other requirements in the December 19, 1991, conveyance between the state of Washington and Cowlitz County will remain in effect; and

(5) The LT-1 and Cook Ferry Road Site remains subject to any agreements with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies of the federal government.

Create a Foundation

Currently the County doesn't have a way to accept donations. By creating a Foundation citizens could donate money thru a will or living trust. Citizens can also make a tax-deductible contribution to the parks with cash, stocks, mutual fund shares, or donor-advised funds for operating support, capital project support, or commemorative gifts for memorials.

APPENDICES A
Park Inventory owned by Cowlitz County

Riverside Park, 58 Acres

Address: 1820 Westside Hwy, Kelso, WA 98626

Acquired by the County in 1965, this is the “cornerstone” of the county park system. Located on the Cowlitz River in the unincorporated community of Lexington, facilities include youth baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, open play areas, restrooms, picnic facilities, play equipment, 9-hole disc golf course, basketball and tennis. Riverside Park is used extensively by groups and families for picnics, recreational activities for children from the Lexington area and people seeking a safe route for fitness walking. Part of the park is boarded with a dike and there is no official river access for fishing or boat launching.



Parks Conditions

The 5–12-year-old playground is aging and coming close to end-of-life expectancy. 2 of 4 bathrooms haven't been updated since 1980's, field space limited, curbs and roads showing age.

Harry Gardner Park,

17 acres (66.7 un-developed acres)

Address: 121 Fiest Road, Toutle WA

Seventeen acres of this property has been redeveloped through a partnership with the Friends of Harry Gardner Park. The developed acres include overnight camping sites, a covered pavilion, dump station, fire pits, picnic tables, swings, and barbecues. Water and power hook ups are available. There is approximately 500 feet of Toutle River access. The park is located off of South Toutle Road in Toutle.



Parks Conditions

Newer facilities would benefit from further development to bring additional recreational opportunities. Room for more additional event space and additional RV sites.

Woodbrook Park, 5 Acres

Located in Rollingwood Neighborhood off of Ostrander Road, Kelso WA
Neighborhood Park, playground equipment, open space.



Parks Conditions

Playground has passed its life expectancy and should be replaced in coming years.
Room for additional development such as a trails, event space.

Coal Creek Boat Launch,

2 Acres 6050 Ocean Beach Hwy, Longview WA

A one-lane launch for small boats and gravel parking area allow access to Coal Creek Slough. The primary use is for bank fishing and small craft launching.



Parks Conditions

Original boat ramp that is aging with gravel parking lot.

Catlin Cemetery, 2 Acres

Corner of Columbia Heights Rd and Fishers Lane, Longview

The cemetery was deeded to Cowlitz County in 1864 and is now a County Historic Site located on the Longview/Kelso border. Some of the earliest grave's date from 1863. Many early grave markers were made of wood and have since decayed.



Parks Conditions

Aging historical site in need of tombstone repair and plot restoration

Finn Hall Wayside, 4 Acres

Located between Finn Hall Road and Lewis River Road, Woodland

Located three miles east of Woodland on Lewis River Road and Finn Hall Road, this site commemorates the early Finnish settlers in Cowlitz County. A roadside picnic site has been established.



Parks Conditions

Open space with little to offer. Road and parking need updated.

Cougar Wayside and Statue,

.2 Acres Along Lewis Road Road in Cougar, WA

Rest area across the road with picnic tables and restroom. Cougar Statue in front of 16842 LEWIS RIVER RD, Cougar.

Parks Conditions

Open space with little to offer. Road and parking need updated.

Cook Ferry Trails, 25 Acres

240 COOK FERRY RD CASTLE ROCK

Located 9.2 miles North on Westside Hwy. Currently a dredge spoil depository. A new 2.5-mile trail runs along the Cowlitz River with three trail heads & parking lots. The center parking area provides restroom facilities. Three rest areas are included in the trail, featuring interpretive signs picnic tables and barbecues.



Parks Conditions

Space is covered in scotch broom. Citizens use site to illegally use ATV and ORV

Public Shooting Range, 50 Acres

1000 Toutle Park Rd, Castle Rock

Located on Park property known as LT-1. The range is used for rifle, pistol, archery, and shotgun. A training and education building. The range is operated by Cowlitz Game & Anglers.



Parks Conditions

Room for growth by adding additional facilities/activities.

Coweeman River Park, 12 Acres

Located on the Coweeman River the 12-acre site in one of the few access points to the shorelines of the river. The property was transferred from the Roads when a realignment project was completed. The site can be developed to provide access to the Coweeman River and help in meeting the Service Radius Area of local residence. Small parking lot has been created with future improvements to come.



Parks Conditions

Only offers open space and river access. Playground would benefit county and local community.

Hog Island Access, 3 Acres

Along Westside Hwy across from Casey Road, Castle Rock

This is a primitive Cowlitz River shoreline access site located six miles north of Castle Rock on West Side Highway. A small 3-acre upland area with primitive road. This site is used primarily for bank fishing access and kayak/ small boat launching.



Parks Conditions

No parking lot with very little shoreline access

APPENDICES B

PARK PROJECTS COMPLETED OR ASSISTED BY COWLITZ COUNTY 1986 – 2022

1986

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Visitor Center – Silver Lake

A U.S. Forest Service project with a partnership funding assistance from Cowlitz County, Washington State Parks, Washington State Department of transportation and F.E.M.A. The \$5 million facility received \$100,000 of funding assistance from Cowlitz County with an additional \$296,664 from F.E.M.A disaster recovery assistance transferred from the County to help fund this project.

1986

Expansion Seaquest State Park Camping and Picnic Facilities

A state park expansion project with partnership funding from Cowlitz County and F.E.M.A of \$491,861. Cowlitz County transferred its eligibility to receive F.E.M.A disaster recovery aid from Harry Gardner Park to Seaquest State Park when it was determined that Harry Gardner Park could not be safely rebuilt in its old location. F.E.M.A. rules required that a replacement park be built in order to receive any aid.

1986

County Line Park – Erosion Control

A Cowlitz County project with funding assistance from Flood Control Assistance Account Program (F.C.A.A.P.) Department of Ecology. \$10,000 from the Department of Ecology and \$10,000 Cowlitz County Funding.

1986

Coal Creek Boat Ramp Improvements

A Cowlitz County project to renovate the boat launch. Total cost to the County was \$5,000.

1987

Willow Grove Beach Acquisition

Cowlitz County acquired the land for \$238,000.

1988

SRS Viewpoint

Cowlitz County and the Corps of Engineers constructed parking area, trails, and safety fence and picnic sites at a cost of \$59,400. The land was leased at no cost.

1988 – 1992

Willow Grove Beach Day Use Facilities

A Cowlitz County phased project with funding assistance in 1991 from I.A. /C. (WWRP monies), County funds \$507,000 plus I.A.C. funds of \$211,900. Completed Phase I day use facilities including restrooms, group shelter, family shelters, trails, roads and parking.

1989

Hog Island – acquisition

Cowlitz County acquired one acre of land adjacent to Hog Island for \$1,000.

1990 – 1991

Gerhart Gardens – renovation

A City of Longview project with partnership funding from Cowlitz County, City of Kelso and I.A.C. Cowlitz County contributed \$80,000 toward this \$750,000 project.

1991

County Line Park

Installation of an RV dump station, paving to provide RV turning radius around the restroom and water system modification, and “Park Host” trailer site. Twelve camp sites have been identified to bring County Line Park into compliance with Health District regulations (\$17,000).

1992

Coldwater Lake

Contributed \$500,000 to the U.S. Forest Service as a partnership to build boating and picnic facilities at Coldwater Lake.

1992 – 1993

Hoffstadt Bluffs

Acquired from the Washington State Department of Transportation (\$54,000). Initiated construction of a viewpoint facility with site grading, access road, utilities, and wells. (\$350,000) Federal ISTEA funding (\$486,000) for parking facilities.

1994

Hoffstadt Bluffs

Constructed public service building, water system, sewage system, site work, and paving RV lot (\$2,300,000).

1998-1999

Willow Grove Boat Launch

Before the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens, Columbia River boaters could launch at Gerhart Gardens near the mouth of the Cowlitz River. Since then, however, boat launchings have been hindered by volcanic silt in the Cowlitz River. The only other boat launch for Longview/Kelso residents has been at the Kalama Marina and the Weyerhaeuser Boat dock in Longview. Weyerhaeuser closed their launch on Sunday, August 1, 1999.

The Willow Grove Boat Launch has 4 lanes and a large parking lot. On Monday, August 2, 1999, there were already 10 trucks and trailers in the parking lot. The new launch will fill a much-needed launch access to the Columbia River for Cowlitz County Residents. (\$2,000,000)

2008 - 2009

Hoffstadt Bluffs

Complete remodel of the exterior & interior of the building. (\$500,000)

2009

Catlin Cemetery

Installed granite monument identifying pioneers buried within the property. (\$4,900)

2009-2010

Harry Gardner Park

The Park was reactivated in 2009 and an additional 50 acres adjacent to the existing park was purchased for \$20,000. The Park Board agreed to the installation of swing set(s), picnic areas, toilets and a loop trail. (\$110,000)

2011-2015

Harry Gardner Park Upgrades

The park was upgraded to include RV and Tent sites. Additional restrooms have been added, along with a large, covered pavilion. Both water, electrical, and RV dump station were added. The park has a year-round full-time camp host. The County provided \$425,000, the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Department granted \$106,000, and hundreds of hours donated by the volunteers from the Friends Harry Gardner Park Committee.



2009-2010

Cook Ferry Property

The property supports a 2.5-mile pedestrian and equestrian trail along the Cowlitz River. The trail offers restrooms, 3-trail heads & parking, 3-rest areas, with interpretative displays, picnic tables, benches and barbecue pits. (\$375,000)

2011-2015**Public Shooting Range**

The Public Shooting Range located at the end of Toutle Park Road offers a 300-meter rifle range, 50-yard pistol range, shot gun range, archery range and a club house that is used for training and large events. Cowlitz Game and Anglers built the range using thousands of hours donated labor from its members. Many local companies donated material and supplies.

2014-2015**County Line Park**

Due to budgetary constraints Cowlitz County Commissioners and the County Park Advisory Board collaborated with the Port District #2 of Wahkiakum County to transfer ownership and operation of County Line Park to the Port District # 2. The transfer was completed in late 2015.

2014-2016**Willow Grove Park and Boat Launch.**

Due to budgetary constraints Cowlitz County Commissioners and the County Park Advisory Board collaborated with the Port of Longview to transfer ownership and operation of the Boat Launch and Park at Willow Grove to the Port of Longview. The transfer was completed in late April 2016

2019-2022**Riverside Park Soccer Fields**

With the help of a RCO YAF grant, the Soccer Fields at Riverside Park were restored. Some of the work included leveling, re-seeding, fixing drainage issues, and irrigation repairs. A safety fence was added to the perimeter of the fields to keep young kids and soccer balls from entering the roadway. The two bathrooms utilized by the soccer field patrons were updated and brought up to current ADA standards. (\$172,288)

2021-**Cowlitz Public Shooting Range Phase 3**

With assistance from the RCO FARR grant the gun range is in the process of adding two trap facilities at its Cowlitz Public Shooting Range. Project will include chip sealing and widening roads and parking lots to accommodate increase in traffic to the facility. (\$287,986)

2022-2023**Riverside Park Disc Golf**

A 9-hole disc golf course was added to Riverside Park with funding from ARPA (\$10,000)

Appendices C

PUBLIC PARKS PROVIDED BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY/Partnerships

Merwin Reservoir

Merwin Park (PP & L)

Located at the west end of Merwin Reservoir, ten miles east of Woodland along Lewis River Road (SR 503), this park is the largest day use facility on the Lewis River. Developments include swimming beach, restrooms with showers, picnic and group picnic accommodations and ball fields.

Speelyai Bay (PP & L)

At the east end of Merwin Reservoir, 20 miles from Woodland along SR 504, this park includes facilities for swimming, picnicking, boating, fishing and restrooms.

Cresep Bay (PP & L)

Opened in 1992 the park provides day use, picnic, swimming, shoreline and boating access, marina and overnight camping facilities, trails and group shelters.

Yale Reservoir

Saddle Dam (PP & L)

This park is on the north wing of Saddle Dam which forms Yale Reservoir, 27 miles east of Woodland. Developed facilities at this day use park include picnicking, restrooms with showers, swimming, boating and fishing, and scenic views of Mount St. Helens.

Yale Park (PP & L)

Located on Yale Reservoir, 26 miles from Woodland and two miles from Cougar. This day use park has picnicking, boating, restrooms, swimming, fishing and a trailer dump station. Additionally, the U.S. Forest service has placed a visitor information booth at the park to provide information to people touring the Mount St. Helens area.

Cougar Park and Cougar Camp (PP & L)

Adjacent to the community of Cougar, 33 miles from Woodland on Yale Reservoir, these two parks provide day use and campground facilities including 45 campsites, picnic areas, boating, swimming, fishing, boat docks and restrooms with showers.

Beaver Bay (PP & L)

Located three miles east of Cougar, 35 miles from Woodland on Yale Reservoir. Providing camping and some day-use facilities, this park includes 63 campsites, picnicking areas, boating, swimming, fishing and restroom with showers.

Spirit Lake Highway (SR 504)

Mount St. Helens – Forest Learning Center at North Fork Ridge (Weyerhaeuser Company)

Located at milepost 33 on Spirit Lake Highway. Providing an interpretive facility focused on forest impacts by the Mt. St. Helens eruption and regeneration of new forest, restrooms, playground and viewpoint. Cooperative effort with the Washington State department of Transportation and Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation.

Weyerhaeuser Company has implemented a lease and permit recreational access fee to all of its Saint Helens tree farm. The fee-based system allows for access including overnight camping in selected areas. The fee for a family is \$300 per year and the number of permits is limited. Due to the fee-based system many low-income families no longer recreate on lands once free to the public.

Appendices D

MAP IDENTIFYING ALL COWLITZ COUNTY RECREATION LOCATIONS

Cowlitz County Parks

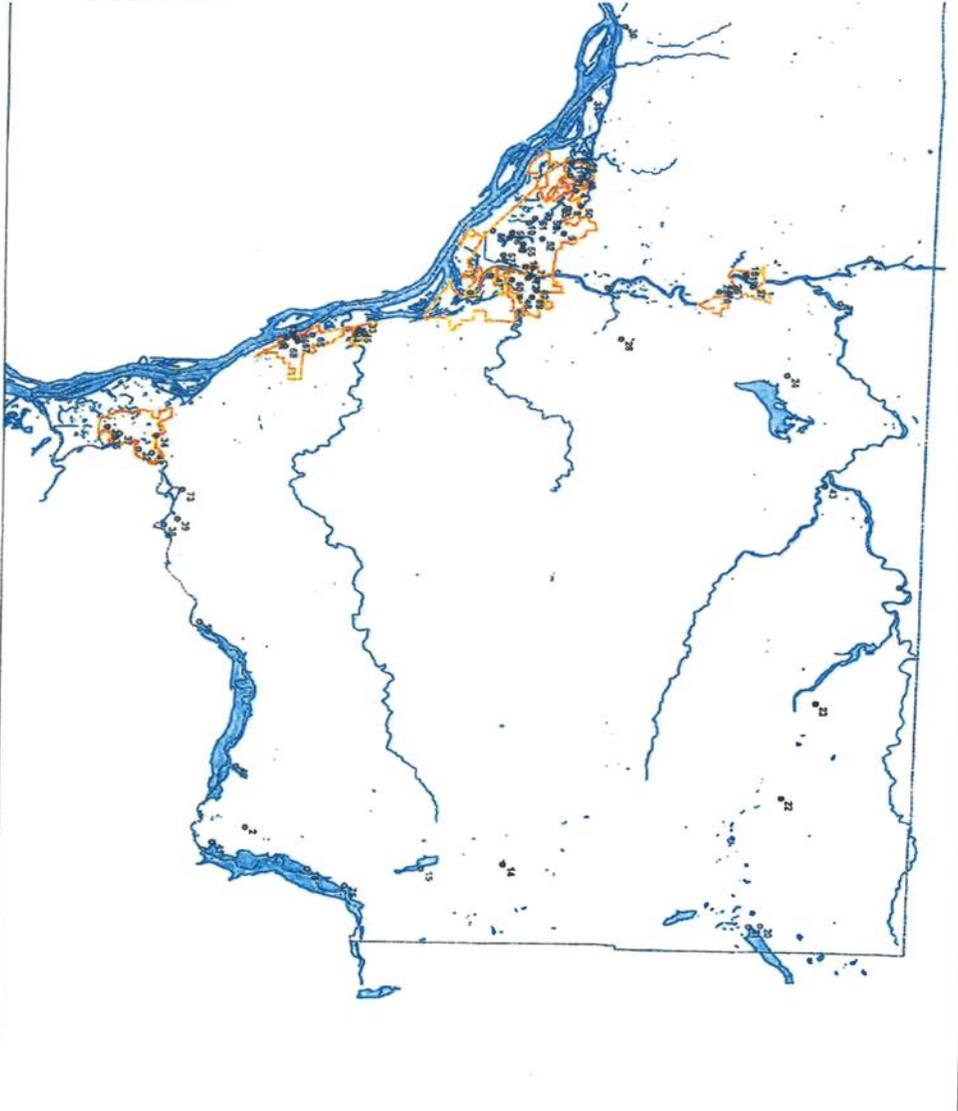
Comprehensive Habitat and Recreation Update

September 23, 2016 update

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Appendices D

MAP IDENTIFYING ALL COWLITZ COUNTY RECREATION LOCATIONS



ParkID	Park Name	STATUS	Facilities	Address
1	Kid Valley Store And Campground	developed	CAMPGROUND	9360 SPIRIT LAKE HWY TO
2	Volcano View Campground	developed	CAMPGROUND	438 YALE BRIDGE RD AR
3	7th Avenue Park	developed	PLAYGROUND/BALL FIELDS	920 7th AVE LV
4	Windemere Park	developed	PLAYGROUND/PICNIC/OPENSACE	2437 48th AVE LV
5	Rotary Park	undeveloped	PLAYGROUND/TENNIS	4100 ROSEWOOD ST LV
6	Lake Sacajawea	developed	PLAYGROUNDS/PICNIC/TRAILS	2121 KESSLER BLVD LV
7	Gerhart Gardens Park	developed	PLAYGROUND/BOAT LAUNCH/DOG PARK	200 FREEDOM RD LV
8	Mint Valley Golf Co.	developed	GOLF/TENNIS/RACKETBALL	4002 PENNSYLVANIA ST LV
9	Longview County Club	developed	GOLF	41 COUNTRY CLUB DR LV
10	32nd Avenue Park	undeveloped	Community Garden	32nd AVE LV
11	Mt Solo Park	undeveloped	PLAYGROUND/BASKETBALL	1900 BRANCH CREEK DR LV
12	Riverside Park	developed	SPORTS FIELDS/PLAYGROUND/PICNIC	1820 WESTSIDE HWY KE
13	Cowlitz County Fairgrounds	developed	FAIRGROUNDS	1900 7th AVE LV
14	Kalama Horse Camp	developed	CAMPGROUND PRIMITIVE	USFS 81
15	Merrill Lake Campground	undeveloped	CAMPGROUND	1579 LAKE MERRILL RD CO
16	Yale Park	developed	BOAT LAUNCH/OPEN SPACE	15429 LEWIS RIVER RD AR
17	Merwin Park	developed	PICNIC/PARKING/FISHING ACCESS	111 MERWIN HATCHERY CT
18	Castle Rock Fairgrounds	developed	FAIRGROUNDS/RACETRACK	120 FAIR LN CR
19	Mt. St. Helens Motorcycle Club	developed	RACETRACK	120 FAIR LN CR
20	Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center	developed	VISITOR CENTER	19000 SPIRIT LAKE HWY
21	Coldwater Lake Facilities	developed	BOAT LAUNCH/PICNIC/TRAILS	MP 45 SPIRIT LAKE HWY
22	Mt. St. Helens Forest Learning	developed	TOURISM	MP 33 SPIRIT LAKE HWY TO
23	Hoffstadt Bluffs VISITOR CENTER	developed	TOURISM	15000 SPIRIT LAKE HWY TO
24	Sequest State Park	developed	OPEN SPACE	3030 SPIRIT LAKE HWY CR
25	The Rock Community Park	developed	TRAILS/OPEN SPACE	1511 S HUNTINGTON AVE S CR
26	Lions Pride Community Park	developed	PICNIC/TRAILS	1500 S HUNTINGTON AVE
27	Magnason Park	developed	OPENSACE/PARKING	500 HUNTINGTON AVE CR
28	Woodbrook Park	developed	PLAYGROUND/OPEN SPACE	1435 OSTRANDER RD KE
29	Coal Creek BOAT LAUNCH Site	undeveloped	BOAT LAUNCH SITE	6050 OCEAN BEACH HWY LV
30	Abernathy Site	undeveloped	FISHING ACCESS	100 ABERNATHY CREEK RD LV
31	WILLOW GROVE PARK & BOAT LAUNCH	developed	BOAT LAUNCH/PLAYGROUND/OPEN SPACE	7141 WILLOW GROVE RD LV
32	Lewis River Park Project	undeveloped	OPENSACE/NONE	1900 LEWIS RIVER RD WD
33	Kress Lake	developed	FISHING ACCESS/TRAILS	4900 OLD PACIFIC HWY S KA
34	Lewis River Little League Park	developed	BASEBALL FIELDS	7055 GREEN MOUNTAIN RD WD
35	Horseshoe Lake Park	developed	PLAYGROUND/SKATE/FISHING ACCESS	100 PARK RD WD
36	Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens	developed	GARDEN DISPLAY	115 S PEKIN RD WD
37	Hoffman Park	developed	PLAYGROUND	700 PARK ST WD
38	Lewis River Golf Course	developed	GOLF	3209 LEWIS RIVER RD WD
39	Lewis River Motorcycle Track	developed	MX TRACK	3236 LEWIS RIVER RD WD
40	Speelai Bay Park	developed	BOAT LAUNCH/PICNIC/OPEN SPACE	11001 LEWIS RIVER RD AR
41	Saddle Dam Park	developed	PICNIC/OPEN SPACE	500 FRASIER RD AR
42	Kenneth Bjur Park	developed	PLAYGROUND	2000 SPRUCE AVE WD
43	Harry Gardner Park	undeveloped	SEE CAMPGROUNDS	121 FIEST RD TO
44	Kalama Community Fairgrounds	developed	FAIRGROUNDS	4800 OLD PACIFIC HWY S KA
45	Lions Club Field	developed	SQCCER FIELDS	4800 OLD PACIFIC HWY S KA
47	Three Rivers Golf Course	developed	GOLF	2222 S RIVER RD KE
48	Tam O Shanter Park	developed	SPORTS FIELDS/PICNIC/PLAYGROUND	2115 TAM O SHANTER WAY KE
49	Mark Hoehne Park	undeveloped	PLAYGROUND	2200 ROBBINS ST LV
50	Pennsylvania St. Park	undeveloped	OPEN SPACE/NONE	4404 PENNSYLVANIA ST LV
51	Kellogg Park	developed	PLAYGROUND	1970 DOROTHY AVE LV
52	John Null Park	developed	PLAYGROUND/BALLFIELDS/TENNIS	2656 PACIFIC WAY LV
53	Library Grounds	developed	OPENSACE	1700 OLYMPIA WAY LV
54	R.A. Long Park	developed	OPEN SPACE	1601 LOUISIANA ST LV
55	Vandercook Park	developed	PLAYGROUND/TENNIS/OPEN SPACE	1401 20th AVE LV
56	Highland Park	developed	PLAYGROUND/BALLCOURT/BALLFIELDS	274 22nd AVE LV
57	Victoria Freeman Park	developed	SPORTS FIELDS/PLAYGROUND/PICNIC	950 DOUGLAS ST LV
58	Cloney Park	developed	PLAYGROUND/BMX/SKATE	705 30th AVE LV
59	Bailey Park	developed	PLAYGROUND HALF COURT	3356 OLYMPIA WAY LV
60	Lads and Lassies Park	developed	PLAYGROUND	706 ELM ST KE
61	Roy Morse Park	developed	SPORTS FIELDS/OPEN SPACE	373 REG SMITH DR LV
62	Rotary Park	developed	SKATE/PICNIC/OPEN SPACE	1310 BURCHAM ST KE
63	Marina	developed	BOAT LAUNCH/PARKING	380 W MARINE DR KA
64	Marine Park	developed	PLAYGROUND/PICNIC/TENNIS/TRAILS	380 W MARINE DR KA
65	North Park	developed	PICNIC/PARKING	900 E FRONTAGE RD KA
66	Toteff Park	developed	OPEN SPACE	49 ELM ST KA
67	Elm Street Rest Stop	developed	OPEN SPACE	200 ELM ST KA
68	Vern Long Little League Ball Park	developed	BASEBALL FIELD	195 CLOVERDALE RD KA
69	Scott Hollow Park	undeveloped	OPEN SPACE	600 N 19th AVE KE
70	Rhodendron Park	developed	OPEN SPACE	700 N PACIFIC AVE KE
71	Cowlitz And Main	developed	OPEN SPACE/NONE	600 W COWLITZ WAY KE
72	Kelso Commons	developed	OPEN SPACE/SEATING	200 OAK ST KE
73	Finn Hall WAYSIDE	developed	HISTORICAL MARKER/PARKING	200 FINN HALL RD WD
74	HOG ISLAND ACCESS	undeveloped	FISHING ACCESS/PARKING	7400 WESTSIDE HWY CR
75	COUGAR WAYSIDE	DEVELOPED	RESTROOMS/PARKING	MP 36 LEWIS RIVER RD AR
76	COOK-FERRY	DEVELOPED	TRAILS/FISHING ACCESS	240 - 800 COOK FERRY RD CR
77	LT-1 TOUTLE PARK	DEVELOPED	GUN RANGE/TRAILS	1000 TOUTLE PARK RD CR

Appendices E

MAP OF COWLITZ COUNTY RURAL RECREATIONAL LOCATIONS

Cowlitz County Parks
Comprehensive Habitat and Recreation Update
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