



Cowlitz County

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News Release

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Cowlitz County Parks & Recreation to Build Interconnected Legacy Play Area at Riverside Park

Kelso, WA – September 29, 2025 – Cowlitz County Parks & Recreation is pleased to announce a major improvement project at Riverside Park: the development of an interconnected legacy play area designed to serve families and users of all ages and abilities.

Starting Spring of 2026, the project will be carried out in two phases, with a targeted completion by Fall 2027. The project will launch with Phase 1, focusing on the pump track, followed by Phase 2, which will install the playground.

The improvements will include:

- A new pump track for bikes, skateboards, scooters, skates, strider bikes, wheelchairs, and other non-motorized wheeled equipment
- An all-new playground built around elements that encourage gathering, social play, and inclusive interaction
- Accessible (ADA) picnic sites
- ADA-compliant pathways leading to the playground and throughout the facility

A central part of the plan involves community engagement, and the Parks Department will select two different playground model designs and present them to local elementary schools. Students will vote on their preferred design, and the winning model will be installed in 2027.

The pump track will allow riders of all skill levels to participate. From toddlers on strider bikes, to those with wheelchairs, and professional riders, the track is being designed for versatility and broad accessibility. However, motorized equipment will not be permitted on the track.

Funding for this project is supported by a \$500,000 grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office: under the WWRP Recreation Projects – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and \$523,000 from Cowlitz County Rural Development Funds.