

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: December 2, 2025 **Approx. Start Time:** 4:00 p.m. **Approx. Length:** 30 mins

Presentation Title: Clackamas County Parks System Plan Update

Department: Transportation and Development

Presenters: Dan Johnson, Director; Sarah Eckman, Assistant Director – Community Services

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

None – this is an informational update only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Clackamas County Parks has taken the first steps to work with the community to develop a County Parks System Plan to help guide decision-making and planning over the next 10 years for park operations and service levels, maintenance, capital improvement and portfolio management.

The last system-wide plan was developed more than 20 years ago, in 2004. With limited financial, staff and volunteer resources, and a rapidly changing world, it is more important than ever for County Parks to have an updated plan that prioritizes expenditures that reflect the needs of the public.

BACKGROUND

County Parks' 16 public sites host approximately 1.4 million visitors each year who come to camp, fish, hike, swim, picnic and enjoy the outdoors. The County began acquiring park lands in 1905 and began parks development in earnest in the 1960s. Currently the parks system includes 11 parks, four water access properties, one corridor trail, and four undeveloped properties in unincorporated areas of Clackamas County (see attached map for details).

The Parks System is managed and operated with a staff of eight regular employees, with up to 22 seasonal employees and 16 on-site volunteers, and an annual operating budget of \$2.6 million. Funds come from park fees (such as day use parking and overnight camping), the State RV Fund, County Forestry Program timber harvests, and Stone Creek Golf Club and Boones Ferry Marina revenue. No County General Fund is used to fund the parks system.

The system plan will be developed with extensive, comprehensive and meaningful community engagement guided by a community-wide Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), with input from the Parks Advisory Board. The 19-member PAC will be made up of a broad cross-section of community interests including, hopefully, a County Commissioner serving as an ex-officio member.

The final plan, expected by the end of 2026 (see attached timeline), will include community-inspired vision, goals, and objectives as well as clear, measurable evaluation criteria that reflect community priorities, fiscal realities, County goals, staff needs, and best practices. The plan will help elected officials, staff and the community guide County Parks decision-making across land ownership, site improvements, staff time and resource allocation, and maintenance and stewardship practices.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? **X** YES ☐ NO

What is the cost? **\$\$296,000**

What is the funding source? Budgeted Forestry Revenue

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- **How does this item align with your Department's Strategic Business Plan goals?**

This project supports DTD's goal to provide outdoor recreation and camping, and land stewardship.

- **How does this item align with the County's Performance Clackamas goals?**

This project supports the Performance Clackamas goals of Safe, Secure and Livable Communities, Vibrant Economy, Healthy People, and Public Trust in Good Government.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS: All work will be done within appropriate local, regional and state laws, codes and guidelines.

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

The Parks Advisory Board has provided initial input and will continue to have input into the project, a Public Advisory Committee will help guide the project, and the final plan will be based on the results of extensive community outreach and engagement.

OPTIONS: N/A – Informational update only.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A – Information update only.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Map of Clackamas County Parks System
- B. Draft Timeline of County Parks System Plan Project

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Tom Riggs @ 503-742-4345.
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Clackamas County Parks System Plan Project: Draft Timeline

Nov. 19, 2025

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