



proud past, promising future

**Planning Commission Recommendations to the  
Clark County Board of Councilors**

FROM: Steve Morasch, Chair  
Ron Barca, Vice-Chair  
Clark County Planning Commission

DATE: September 22, 2015

SUBJECT: **CPZ2015-00001: Clark County Parks, Recreation, and Open  
Space Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION: Approval of adoption of the Clark County Parks,  
Recreation, and Open Space Plan**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan provides guidance for the future priorities of the park system over the next 20 years, qualifies the county park system for eligibility for federal and state grant resources, fulfills the requirement for a parks element within the county comprehensive plan as part of the State of Washington Growth Management Act (GMA), and reflects the guidance from the Parks Advisory Board related to the recreational needs and priorities of the community.

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Vancouver and Clark County had previously run a parks department, called the Vancouver-Clark Parks Department. In 2014, the County created a parks department separate from the City of Vancouver. Vancouver-Clark Parks department no longer exists and the City of Vancouver runs its own parks department. The Greater Clark Parks District is a division of Clark County Public Works. The County also created a Parks Advisory Board (PAB) last year.

The current parks plan is expired and also is no longer relevant because the Clark County Parks is now separate from the City of Vancouver Parks Department and a new plan had to be created to reflect the new entity the County created as a result.

The Growth Management Act requires local parks plans as a component of any county master plan (RCW 36.70A.070(8)-Mandatory elements of the comprehensive plan) and this parks plan will ultimately become a chapter of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update.

Per GMA requirements, the plan has the following components:

- Inventory of parks, sports facilities, and trails-only county facilities;
- Needs assessment for parks, recreation, open space and trails;

- Public outreach effort: The county undertook an extensive public involvement effort for this plan and it is documented in the Public Demand chapter;
- Implementation recommendations, including funding strategies; and
- Parks Capital Facilities Plan- 6 & 20 year list of all county parks, trails, and planning projects.

In addition, the state Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) requires a jurisdiction to have an adopted parks master plan to be able to apply for grant funding. The RCO grant applications are due March of 2016. These grants fund many types of parks efforts such as building trails, restoring habitat conditions, or funding to buy and renovate youth recreational facilities.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Planning Commission voted unanimously **7-0** to recommend approval of the adoption by resolution of the Clark County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. The Planning Commission recommends that the Board of Clark County Councilors:

1. Approve the Clark County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, and
2. Sign the resolution for adopting the plan.

## Exhibits

1. Parks Advisory Board recommendation to adopt the Clark County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan
2. Planning Commission meeting minutes
3. Errata Sheet
4. SEPA
5. Comments table
6. Draft Clark County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Resolution