

# Clark County Parks and Open Space Comprehensive Management Plan



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Board of County Councilors Hearing 9/22/15

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# Background

- The Clark County Parks Division was created last year under the Department of Public Works
- The state Growth Management Act requires local parks plans as a component of county master plans (RCW 36.70A.070(8)-Mandatory elements of the comprehensive plan)and is required before the county staff can apply for state parks grant funding
- The Clark County Parks Advisory Board was created last year

# Key master plan elements

- Inventory of parks, sports facilities, and trails-only county facilities
- Needs assessment for parks, recreation, open space and trails
- Results of public outreach effort: Public Demand Chapter of the plan
- Implementation recommendations, including funding strategies
- Parks Capital Facilities Plan- 6 & 20 year list of all county parks, trails, and planning projects

# Outreach results

- More partnerships and collaboration
  - empower volunteers
  - forge stronger & new partnerships to leverage community resources
- Connect the gaps
  - parks
  - trails
  - recreational amenities
- Increase access
  - parks
  - parking
  - trail access
  - outdoor recreation opportunities for children
  - trail amenities such as parking, benches, and restrooms

# Park funding sources

## Maintenance and Operations: Two Primary Funding Sources

- **Metropolitan Parks District (MPD):** Levy approved by the voters in 2005.  
Approximately \$0.22 per \$1,000 of assessed value to fund operations and maintenance of 35 new parks, as well as new sports fields and trails in the urban unincorporated area of Clark County.
- **General Fund Parks (urban & regional):** General Fund is used to support maintenance and operations of all parks not covered by the MPD levy.

# Park funding sources continued

## Park Acquisition and Development: Three Primary Funding Sources

- **Park Impact Fees (PIF):** Only used in the Urban Unincorporated area of Clark County. Current PIF balance 12.5 million. Requires public share support funds.
- **Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET):** Can be used inside or outside the urban unincorporated areas of Clark County.
  - Currently all REET funds have been allocated to debt service payment.
- **Grants:** Local, State and Federal. Typically requires 50% matching funds.

# Plan implementation

Adoption of the parks master plan makes the county eligible for state grant funding

Cost of six-year Capital Facilities Plan: \$108 Million

- Urban Parks System \$38 Mil.
- Regional Parks System \$70 Mil.

Several funding strategies will be necessary to meet plan goals. Grants will play a big role but require matching funds.

- Staffing: additional staffing needed to implement the Capital Facilities Plan
- Specifically- A grant writer will be needed to seek millions of dollars in grant funding.

# Planning Commission recommendation

- The Parks Advisory Board recommended adoption of the Parks Master Plan on July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Planning Commission held a hearing on the Parks Master Plan on August 20<sup>th</sup> and voted 7-0 in favor of the plan
- The Planning Commission recommendation is for the Clark County Councilors to adopt the Clark County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan by resolution
- The parks master plan will be re-adopted by ordinance as part of the 2016 comprehensive plan update as an element of the county comprehensive plan, as required under the state Growth Management Act

# Special Thanks

## *Thank You For Your Support*

**Clark County Parks Advisory Board**

**Clark County Parks Division**

**Conservation Technix Consulting Services**

**Clark County Community Planning**

**Board of County Councilors**

**Citizens of Clark County**