

7.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The implementation of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive plan sets priorities for parks, trails, and open space improvements as well as identifying funding sources for the installation and maintenance of the enhancements. The following segments of this section will identify priorities and recommendations based on the findings from the previous chapters.

7.2 PROJECT PRIORITIES

The below criteria are recommended for prioritizing projects for submittal to council for approval on the Capital Improvement Plan. Projects that meet one or more of the following criteria will be considered for highest priority.

- **Safety** - The City of Longview strives to provide safe and clean programs and facilities; however survey results show that safety is one of the reasons park patrons choose not to use city services. Projects that enhance safety, such as upgrading restrooms or additional lighting, should be placed as a high priority.
- **Upgrading Existing Parks** - Using current park plans and looking at the recreational needs of the community, projects providing for new features and amenities to existing parks will increase the value in the current system while maximizing already owned facilities.
- **Maintenance & Replacement** - The City has a large investment the parks, facilities, and amenities. When projects arise that allow for maintenance to lengthen the life of an amenity or facility, steps should be taken to protect the assets. Removal and/or replacement of park amenities, such as playgrounds or picnic shelters, should be scheduled, timely, and adhered to so that the safety of the park patrons is ensured. Deferring maintenance or replacement could result in a larger cost in the long run.
- **Trail Development** - The use of trails, for recreation and transportation, is the number one activity for park patrons in the City of Longview. Extending, installing, and connecting a trail network throughout the City would allow for more participation in this highly desired activity as well as create a more active community with a higher quality of place.
- **Park Land Acquisition** - Park land acreage has been proven deficient throughout this document. Locations experiencing rapid growth, underserved neighborhoods, and new developments are critical areas needing park land to provide for future park and recreation needs.
- **Urgency** - Sometimes there are unexpected emergencies, such as a failing roof or foundation, where a project that was not previously planned would need to move forward to protect the investment in the facility.

7.3 CITY FUNDING SOURCES

The tables on the following pages identify potential financing and revenue sources for acquisition, development, and maintenance of facilities, parks, trails, and open space. These sources are listed in no particular order.

GENERAL FUND -	This is the department's main source for operation. The revenues from this fund come from sales tax and taxes levied on property within the city limits.
REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX -	Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) is a tax levied by the City on all real estate sales which is levied against the full value of property. Longview levies (.25%) in addition to the State of Washington tax. These funds can only be used for projects identified on the City's Capital Improvement Program.
GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND -	This is a voter approved type of municipal bond which pledges to level a property tax to meet the debt service requirement. The property tax is usually levied for a specific time frame to allow for repayment. Approval is dependent on a 60% voter approval. Due to the necessity of voter approval and the obligation of interest costs, this funding option does come with additional hurdles.
DONATIONS -	In-kind donation in the form of labor, materials, land, or services and/or monetary donations from service groups, businesses, private entities, or individuals is one way the City has been able to accomplish many projects within the park system.
EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY -	If the City has excess property and a private party is interested in the land, property could be exchanged with the party if their property would allow for additional park lands either as a new park or trail or an extension of either.
JOINT PARTNERSHIPS -	The way this funding source works would be to allow for an agreement to be put into place between the City and a private organization. There are different functions allowed by joint partnerships, an example would be for an entity to allow public access over their property via a trail if the department would agree to maintain the trail.
LIFETIME ESTATES -	This is an agreement between the land owner and the City, whereas the City acquires the property at the time of the agreement but allows the land owner to live on the property even after the title transfers.

- CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION -** This allows for a lease until purchase approach where the City would sell certificates to a lending institution and it is repaid by revenues produced by the facility or out of the operating budget. The City does not gain ownership of the property until the certificates have been paid back in full.
- LAND DEDICATION -** This is a requirement dedicating land to the City in all future plats of residential property that include 25 acres or more to provide parks and recreation facilities for persons who reside within or nearby such platted land.
- SHARED FACILITIES -** Shared facilities would allow for the City and other private utilities or organizations to share the cost of an improvement that would benefit both entities. One example would be a utility or diking corridor where the utility would pay for an access road that would allow for a trail.
- KUNTZ TRUST FUND -** A trust created by the Kuntz family intended to be used for park and/or recreational purposes for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of Longview.
- USER FEES -** User fees can be charged for a wide range of activities, including parks, and special park uses such as corporate picnics, large scale community events, and other special events. While some user fees are implemented to reduce vandalism or control park usage, other fees could generate revenues to implement additional elements of the Comprehensive Plan.
- METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT -** A metropolitan park district is a junior taxing district that can create a levy for the purpose of the management, control, improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of parks, parkways, boulevards, and recreational facilities.
- LEVY LID LIFT -** The City, as a taxing district, can request a Single Year Lid Lift (1 year) or a Multiple Year Lid Lift (up to 6 years). In either case, the voter approved lid lift must occur within 12 months of when it will be imposed. The lift is temporary unless the ballot specifically states the resulting levy will be used for future levy limit calculations.

7.4 OUTSIDE FUNDING SOURCES

The primary outside source for funding for parks and recreation grant funding is the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The RCO is a small state agency that provides leadership and funding to help state partners protect and enhance Washington's natural and recreation resources for current and future generations. They do this with statewide strategic investments through policy development, grant funding, technical assistance, coordination, and advocacy. Their goal is to foster healthy lifestyles and communities, stewardship, and economic prosperity in Washington. Additionally, there are other grants that can be awarded for park and recreation projects. These grant programs are listed in no particular order.

AQUATIC LANDS ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT (ALEA)

The ALEA program is targeted at re-establishing the natural, self-sustaining ecological functions of the waterfront, providing or restoring public access to the water, and increasing public awareness of aquatic lands as a finite natural resource and irreplaceable public heritage. This grant requires a 50% match with 10% coming from non-state and non-federal contributions.

BOATING FACILITIES PROGRAM (BFP)

The BFP program pays for projects that acquire, develop, and renovate facilities for motorized boats and other watercraft, including launching ramps, guest moorage, and support facilities. This grant requires a 25% match with 10% coming from non-state and non-federal contributions.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding to preserve and develop outdoor recreation resources, including parks, trails, and wildlife lands. This grant requires a 50% match with 10% coming from non-state and non-federal contributions.

NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE

The Washington State Legislature created the No Child Left Inside grant program to provide under-served students with quality opportunities to experience the natural world. Grant funds are available for outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural, or other natural resource-based education and recreation programs serving youth. No match is required by strongly encouraged to demonstrate local commitment.

NON-HIGHWAY AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ACTIVITIES (NOVA) PROGRAM

The Non-highway 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 biking, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, motorcycling, and riding all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles. No match is required by strongly encouraged to demonstrate local commitment.

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE RECREATION PROGRAM (WWRP)

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program provides funding for a broad range of land protection and outdoor recreation, including park acquisition and development, habitat conservation, farmland preservation, and construction of outdoor recreation facilities. The WWRP was envisioned as a way for the state to accomplish two goals: Acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands before they were lost to other uses and develop recreation areas

for a growing population. This grant requires a 50% match with 10% coming from non-state and non-federal contributions.

YOUTH ATHLETIC FACILITIES (YAF)

The Youth Athletic Facilities grant program provides money to buy land and renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as ball fields, courts, swimming pools, BMX tracks, and skate parks that serve youth. The program focuses on serving people through the age of 18, who participate in sports and athletics. This grant requires a 50% match with 10% coming from non-state and non-federal contributions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

This federally funded grant program is available for a variety of projects that help address a wide array of unique community development needs. These grant funds tend to be awarded to projects within lower income areas due to the rules for the grant. These grants can be awarded for up to 100% funding for projects.

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issues financial assistance through federal grants and cooperative agreement awards to a variety of entities. The projects usually funded are related to water quality, habitat and watershed management, and wildlife conservation.

7.4 PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

COWLITZ RIVER ACQUISITION - NOT COMPLETED 2010

WWRP - Water Access Grant	\$126,872
Sponsor Match	\$126,872

Longview wanted to use this grant to buy 2.2 acres for a non-motorized, hand launch to the Cowlitz River near downtown Longview. The land was next to existing city parkland and eliminates the risk of incompatible development if sold. The area would have provided the only non-motorized water access along the Cowlitz River on the 16 miles between Castle Rock and the Columbia River.

CLONEY SKATE PARK RESTORATION - 2005

Youth Athletic Field Improvement Grant	\$83,505
Sponsor Match	\$83,505

The Longview/Kelso Parks and Recreation Department in Cowlitz County restored the skate park by replacing the existing ramps with newly designed ramps that will reduce the ongoing maintenance, will increase safety, and will have an extended life expectancy. In 1997 a double tennis court surface was converted into a skate ramp park at Cloney Park. Through a survey and a youth design team, ramps were designed and constructed of treated lumber with metal surfaces. Over the years, rails and additional ramps were added to the park. Due to heavy use, repairs are a constant occurrence and have reached the point that the metal surfaces are no longer repairable. The scope of this project was a complete replacement of the existing ramps and resurfacing of the park with a new asphalt overlayment and color surface coating. This project will eliminate the problems with standing water and surface cracks.

BABE RUTH BALL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS - 2001

Youth Athletic Field Improvement Grant	\$26,883
Sponsor Match	\$26,883

This grant enabled Babe Ruth to improve drainage and turf conditions as well as construct dugouts.

7TH AVENUE PARK - 1982

Land and Water Conservation Grant \$393,188
Sponsor Match \$131,063

This grant allowed for the acquisition of 35.64 acres of level land located on the south side of Longview. The park was planned to provide active and passive recreational needs for the entire service area as well as serve as a neighborhood and community facility.

ROY MORSE PARK #2 - 1980

Recreation and Conservation Office Grant \$114,000
Sponsor Match \$114,045

This proposal was for the completion of Roy Morse Park. The first phase of the project was funded by the IAC in 1970. The improvements will include ball fields, multipurpose field, additional picnic areas, pond areas, restrooms, play area, archery range, and tennis courts.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAIL - 1976

Land and Water Conservation \$197,269
Sponsor Match \$65,756

This grant was awarded for the development of approximately 2.5 miles of bicycle and pedestrian trail around the lakeshore of Lake Sacajawea. This trail is 2.5 miles of one lane trail, six feet wide, and was to include landscaping, benches, rip-rap, shelters, trail lighting, and paved rest areas.

BAKER'S CORNER DEVELOPMENT - 1973

Land and Water Conservation \$225,000
Sponsor Match \$75,000

This project was set out to develop 20 acres of the 60 acre site at Roy Morse Park. The park was previously acquired with a Recreation Conservation Office Grant in 1970 to provide for facilities for softball, baseball, parking, access and internal park roads, children's play area, picnic area, comfort station and landscaping.

LONGVIEW PARK - 1970

Recreation Conservation Office Grant \$116,250
Sponsor Match \$38,750

This project was for the acquisition of 60 acres of land located in West Longview approximately three miles west of downtown, what is now called Roy Morse Park. This site is located directly in the path of the expanding residential area of Longview. This site was slated for a major urban park, with a sports complex development.



7.5 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

In order to forecast requirements for land acquisition, facility and building development, and asset protection, the Parks and Recreation Department has to consider capital needs over a multi-year period. The list (Appendix D) is proposed by the Parks and Recreation Board, Mint Valley Golf Course Advisory Committee, and staff to be reviewed on a biannual basis in order to present projects for funding within the city's budget process. Projects suggested for CIP consideration must satisfy various criteria, which include the goals and standards, needs and demands, recommendations by citizens, urgency, level of service, growth trends, finances, maximization of facilities, protection of assets, safety, and potential for reduced maintenance.

City departments submit their capital projects on a biennial basis to then be considered for funding based on the project priorities in Section 7.2 and the following city wide criteria:



1. Preservation of public health and safety
2. Improvements required as a result of court action or federal or state regulation, or to prevent court action.
3. Reduction of current maintenance expenditures and avoidance of costly future rehabilitation
4. Preservation of existing facilities
5. Importance for gaining or retaining industry and jobs
6. Positive impacts (social, political, etc.) on city residents
7. Grant/loan secured or leveraging of private funds
8. Grant/loan available
9. Protection of vital links in providing services to residents
10. Demonstration that project can proceed to construction promptly