

NEWPORT PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN



DRAFT

IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Newport is currently in the process of updating its Park System Master Plan with the help of a consultant team led by Angelo Planning Group and GreenWorks. Since adopting the current plan in 1993 the city has experienced significant changes, including:

- Population growth;
- Shifts in demographics;
- Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion;
- Upgrades and additions to parklands;
- New construction of a large recreation and aquatic center; and
- Expanded recreational programming.

Newport's population of approximately 10,825 permanent residents is projected to grow to 12,728 by the year 2035 and 15,757 by the year 2067¹. The number of people in the city increases by **XXXX** or more in the summers, during special events, and on holiday weekends. In addition to population growth, the city is undergoing a shift in demographics:

- In 1990, sixteen percent of Newport's population was aged 65 years or older; today this age group makes up around one fourth of the city's population.

¹ Population Forecast for Lincoln County UGB Areas; US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Censuses; Forecast by Population Research Center (PRC)

- In 2008 eight percent of the city’s residents identified as Hispanic or Latino; today that number is around sixteen percent of the total population, and twenty-five percent of Newport’s youth (ages 19 and younger).
- One half of Newport’s households are renters.

Newport’s 2040 Vision identifies development of an integrated multi-use trail system that connects neighborhoods, visitor destinations, open spaces, and natural areas as a top tier priority. The Vision also identifies the need to make recommendations for future new parks and park upgrades, with particular attention paid to implementation and determining sustainable funding streams for maintenance. The updated Park System Master Plan needs to fill identified gaps and meet future needs of the growing and changing permanent population. It also needs to examine the role of the park system in attracting and serving a large number of visitors.

This document summarizes opportunities and makes preliminary recommendations for new facilities and improvements to existing facilities. The recommended improvements are intended to serve current and future residents while acknowledging that the actual use of the City’s parks and open spaces greatly exceeds what is typical for a city the size of Newport due to the large number of seasonal visitors. This report is organized into two major categories of opportunities and improvements:

- Parks (primarily neighborhood and pocket parks, but also some special use facilities) and beach access points
- Trails and other connections

The last section of this report summarizes potential strategies for implementing these recommendations, including local partnerships, maintenance, and funding. All of these topics will be addressed in more detail during the preparation of the draft and final Park System Master Plan.

The recommended improvements identified in this report build on work that has been conducted throughout the plan update process, including the following:

- Inventory of existing park and trail facilities
- Analysis of current park level of service (LOS)
- Identification of park and recreation opportunities and challenges
- Extensive community engagement efforts, including:
 - Meetings of a project Advisory Committee
 - Stakeholder interviews and meetings
 - Community Workshops and Online Surveys



Bay Street Pier



Sam Moore Trail

The following images illustrate the types of amenities and improvements described in the following sections of this report. These photos are not meant to reflect specific design recommendations; rather they are intended to serve as examples of the types of amenities that could be developed. Where possible, the images are of park and trail amenities that are already developed in the City of Newport.



beach access



bench



boardwalk



community garden



picnic table



playground



restroom facility



shelter



signage



hard-surface trail



soft-surface trail



wayfinding



dog amenities



fitness equipment



gateway entrance

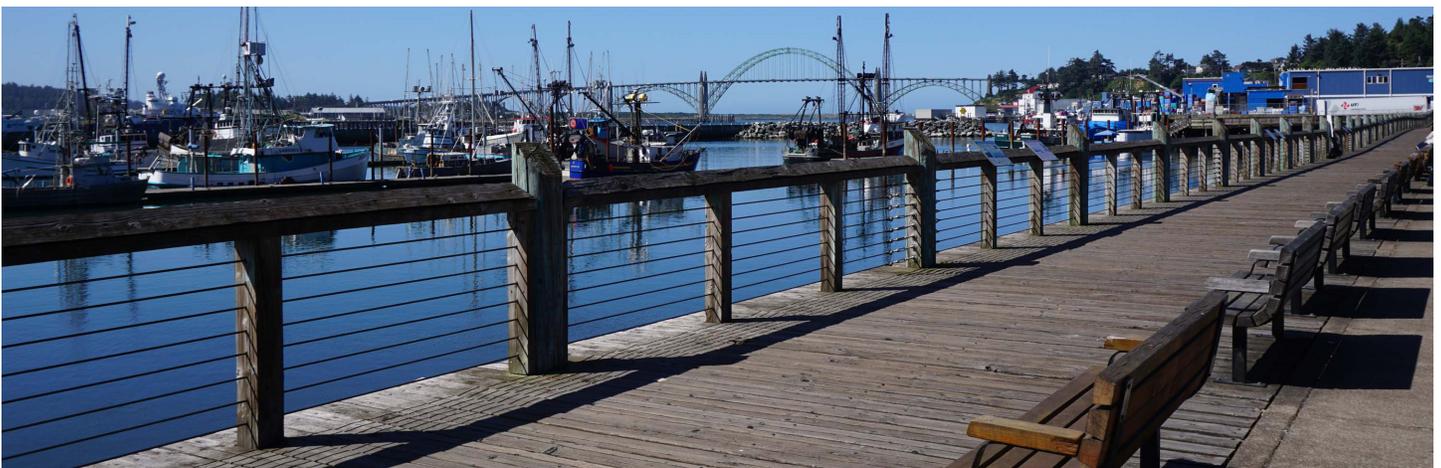


interpretive signage



PARK & BEACH ACCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

The Park System Master Plan update process has identified a variety of opportunities to improve the City’s existing parks. It also has identified areas of the city that are not adequately served by park facilities and where the development of a new park is recommended. Following is a summary of the recommendations for existing and new park facilities and beach access points. Figures 1 and 2 below depict the improvement strategies recommended by the project team, which are discussed in more detail in the following sections.



Bayfront Boardwalk

Figure 1. Park & Beach Improvement Strategies (North)

Park & Beach Improvement Strategies (North)

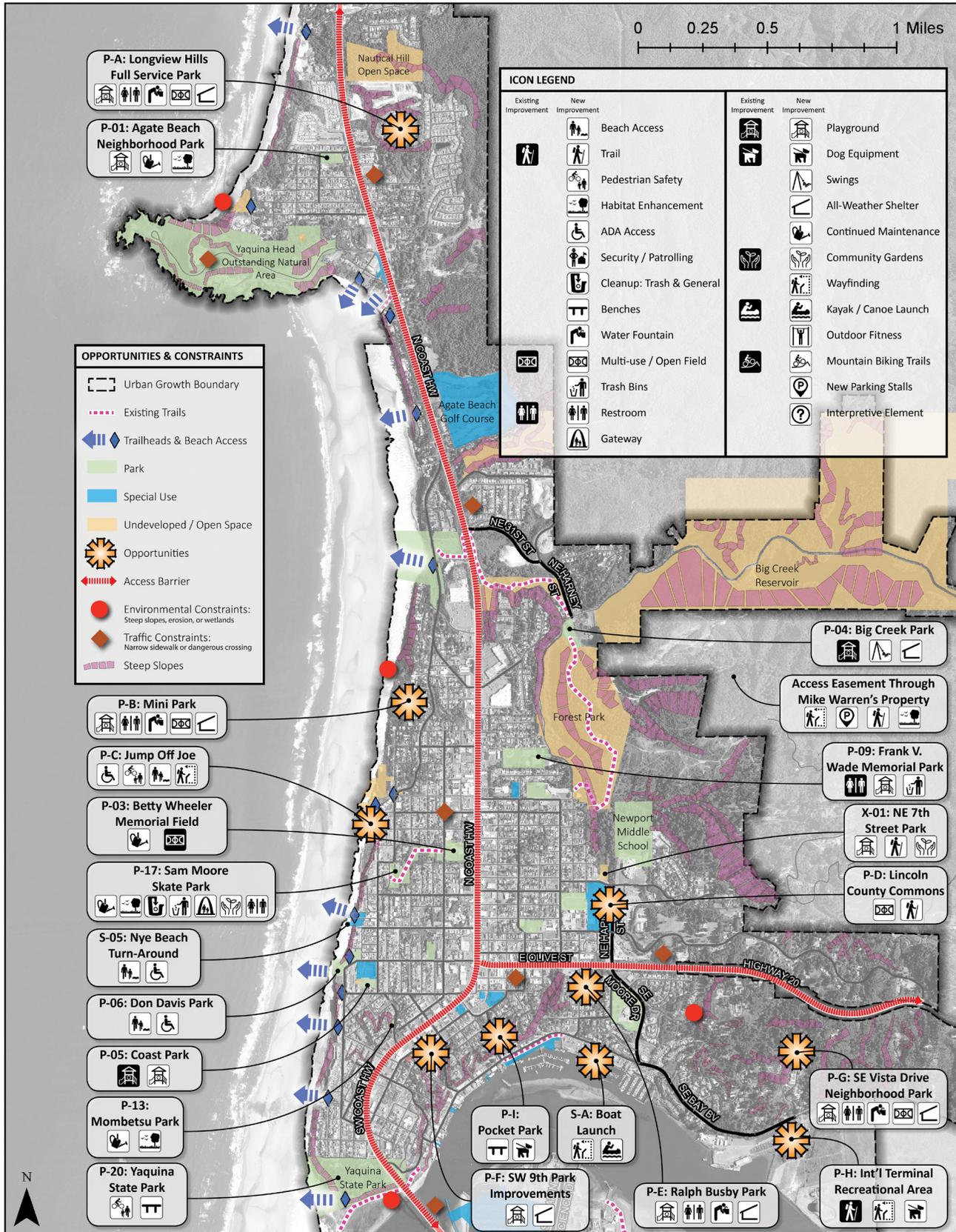
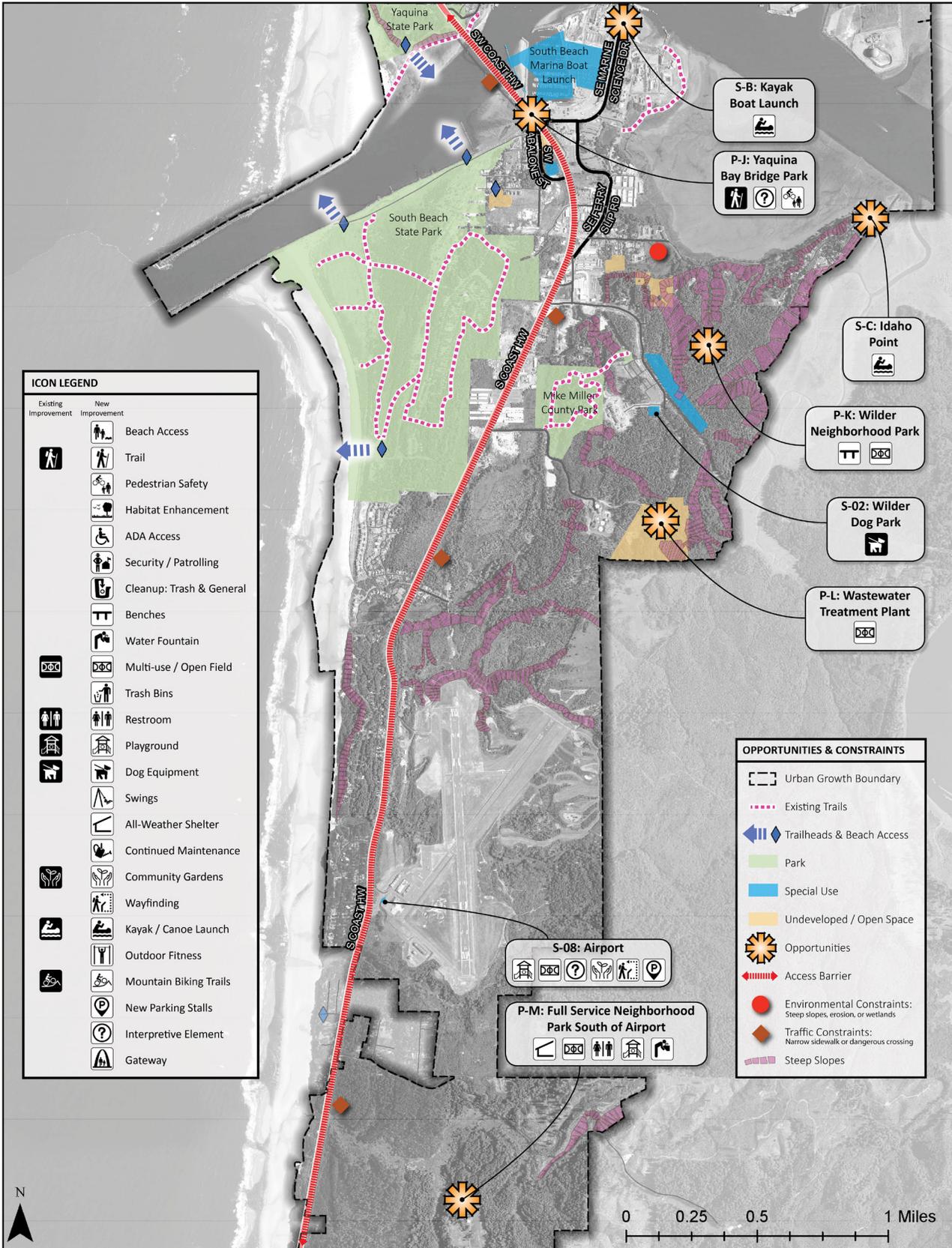


Figure 2. Park & Beach Improvement Strategies (South)

Park & Beach Improvement Strategies (South)



EXISTING PARKS

Most of Newport’s residents live reasonably close to an existing neighborhood park or other facility that helps meet their everyday recreational needs. However, many of these facilities lack the amenities needed to fully serve residents and visitors. Following is a summary of recommended improvements to existing park and special use facilities, organized by facility type. These recommendations are based on an assessment of existing parks and feedback from community members. The location of improvements and amenities recommended also are shown on Figures 1 and 2.

Parks

P-01 AGATE BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Playground equipment was previously removed due to maintenance issues, and a climbing rock was added in its place. Improvements to this park were mentioned in a number of public comments, as well as in discussions with stakeholders and park maintenance staff. The project team recommends removing the existing rock feature and replacing it with a play structure. This and other structures should be constructed of durable, long-lasting materials that will require minimal maintenance.

- **Opportunities:** Add play structure; implement better maintenance practices; providing more native plantings and less lawn space
- **Challenges:** Removal of existing rock feature; funding and continued maintenance costs

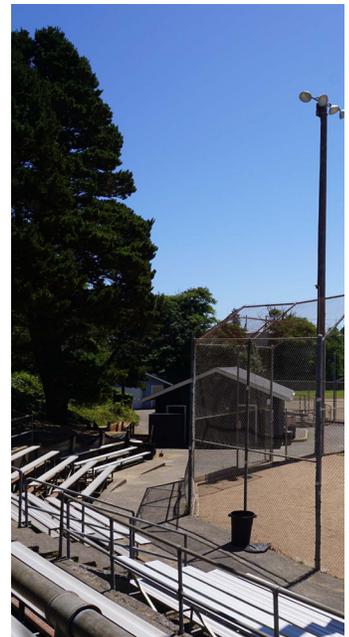
P-03 BETTY WHEELER MEMORIAL FIELD

The City has developed a concept plan for improvements to Betty Wheeler Memorial Field that include improvements to drainage and field conditions, replacing fence materials, installing new retaining walls, and demolishing a storage building. Figure 3 below depicts the planned improvements to the facility.

- **Opportunities:** Multi-use fields; year-round play opportunities; better maintenance
- **Challenges:** Funding and continued maintenance costs

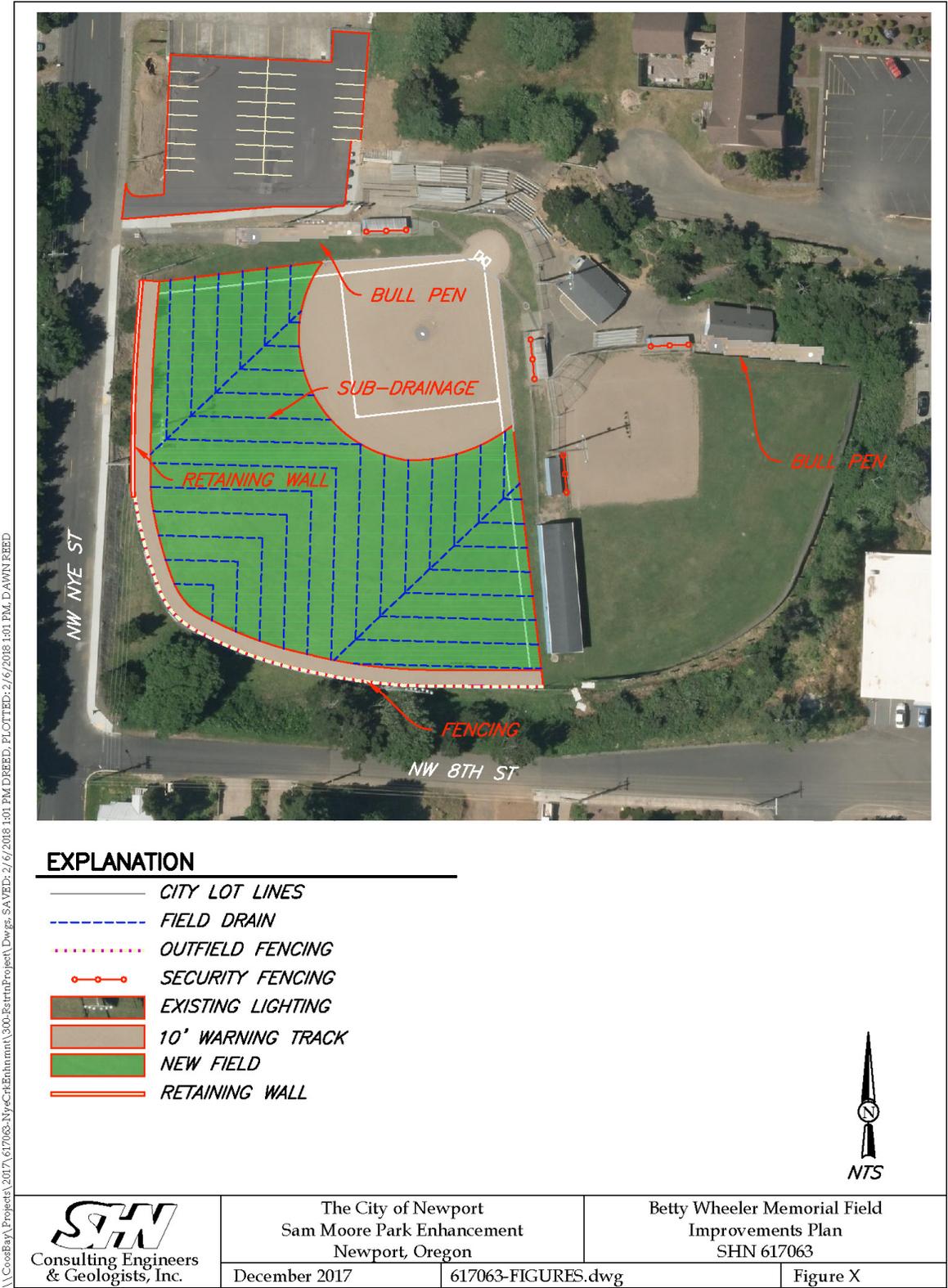


Agate Beach Neighborhood Park



Betty Wheeler Memorial Field

Figure 3. Betty Wheeler Memorial Field Improvements Plan



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P-04 BIG CREEK PARK

Comments received from community members note that the field area floods in winter, that existing park equipment is rusted out, and that the picnic shelter needs to be improved or re-built as an all-weather shelter. Other community member recommendations include the addition of a swing set, as well as restroom facilities. The project team recommends adding a restroom facility and improving or replacing play equipment in poor condition.

- Opportunities: Add restroom; improve existing play equipment; add nature, mud, and/or water-based play feature; consider creating pump track east of the water treatment plant fence
- Challenges: Seasonal flooding issues; funding and continued maintenance costs

P-05 COAST PARK

Public comments regarding Coast Park expressed a desire for a major overhaul of the playground equipment, noting that many facilities have been broken for some time. Maintenance staff note that the replacement parts for the specially designed equipment must be ordered from overseas and can take a significant amount of time to obtain. The project team’s recommendation is to develop a plan to phase out chronically broken equipment with more durable equipment that is easier to replace or repair and that can be used by younger children. There also has been discussion of expanding the facility into the area to the north.

- Opportunities: Improve existing play equipment
- Challenges: Availability of equipment parts; funding and continued maintenance costs

P-09: FRANK WADE PARK

Comments received from the public survey note that much of the existing playground equipment is rusted out and likely does not meet safety standards. An additional comment requested that the City re-surface the tennis courts. The project team’s recommendation is to improve or replace existing play equipment, improve maintenance of the restroom facilities and keep them open year-round, and add trash bins to the south side of the park.

- Opportunities: Improve existing play equipment; restroom maintenance; year-round restroom access; add trash bins on south side
- Challenges: Funding and continued maintenance costs

P-13: MOMBETSU PARK

Comments received through the public survey noted that the park appears to be neglected. The project team recommends improved maintenance and upkeep for the facility.



Big Creek Park



Mombetsu Park

- **Opportunities:** Better maintenance
- **Challenges:** Funding and continued maintenance costs

P-17: SAM MOORE PARK

Comments received through the public survey and at advisory committee meetings included the need for vegetation removal, maintenance improvements, opportunities for community gardening, and a possible expansion of the skate park. Additionally, the Lincoln County Juvenile Shelter has proposed a community garden project at the site. The project team’s recommendation is to develop a formalized agreement related to garden upkeep and maintenance, as well as to add waste bins and conduct general park cleanup such as removing graffiti and cleaning up trash. Planning for a community garden should be done with consideration for an improved bicycle and pedestrian accessway from 8th Street. The City of Newport has an existing concept plan for this facility that includes a number of improvements to the park’s layout and facilities, depicted in the site plan below. In addition, local skate park designer and builder Dreamland has recommended preliminary major maintenance activities. They have proposed coordinating volunteer and pro-bono labor to help leverage funds committed by the City.

- **Opportunities:** Add waste bins; general park cleanup; skate park expansion
- **Challenges:** Funding and continued maintenance costs



Sam Moore Parkway

Figure 4. Sam Moore Park Schematic Design



P-20 YAQUINA STATE PARK

Because this is a state-owned facility, the project team recommends coordinating with the Oregon Park and Recreation Department (OPRD) to implement improvement opportunities.

- Opportunities: Fitness course or other recreational improvements at the west end of the park
- Challenges: State-owned facility; archaeologically sensitive area

Special Use Facilities

S-02 WILDER DOG PARK

Comments received in the public survey indicated that the existing equipment at this facility is in poor condition. In addition, the location of this facility may be temporary. The project team recommends identifying a long-term location for the facility; creating a formal partnership agreement with the property owner re: future construction and maintenance of the new facility; and ultimately replacing existing equipment with new dog amenities and infrastructure.

- Opportunities: Replace existing dog amenities
- Challenges: Ownership; permanent location; maintenance agreement

S-08: NEWPORT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Comments received at a meeting with local stakeholders indicated a desire for a community garden at the Newport Municipal Airport. The project team recommends adding a community garden as well as public parking at the site. Planning for future improvements at the airport will need to take the runway protection zone into consideration.

- Opportunities: Add community garden; add parking
- Challenges: Adjacent uses; topography; access

S-A: HISTORIC BAYFRONT BOARDWALKS

Comments received at a meeting with local stakeholders indicated a desire for a non-motorized boat launch for kayaks and canoes at the Historic Bayfront Boardwalks. The project team recommends coordinating with the Port of Newport to add a boat launch east of the boardwalk, as well as adding corresponding signage.

- Opportunities: Add non-motorized boat launch; add signage
- Challenges: Existing infrastructure; safety; adjacent Port uses



Yaquina State Park



Bayfront Boardwalk

S-B: MARINE SCIENCE DRIVE NON-MOTORIZED BOAT LAUNCH

Comments received at a meeting with local stakeholders indicated a desire for a non-motorized boat launch for kayaks and canoes at the end of Marine Science Drive. The project team recommends adding the boat launch to the east of NOAA.

- Opportunities: Add non-motorized boat launch; add signage
- Challenges: NOAA security requirements; long-term maintenance and access

S-C: IDAHO POINT

The project team recommends adding a non-motorized boat launch for kayaks and canoes at Idaho Point. This recommendation was suggested in a comment received through the public survey.

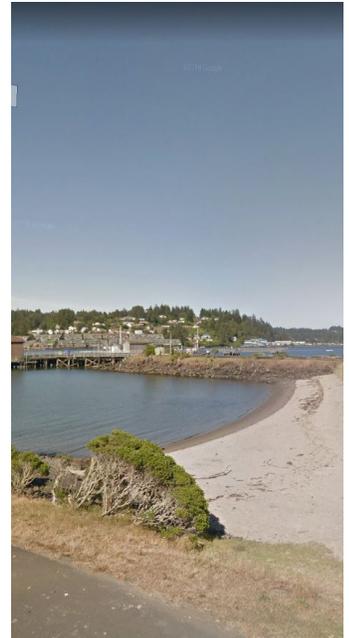
- Opportunities: Add non-motorized boat launch
- Challenges: Ownership; safety; adjacent use by motorized boats

Open Spaces

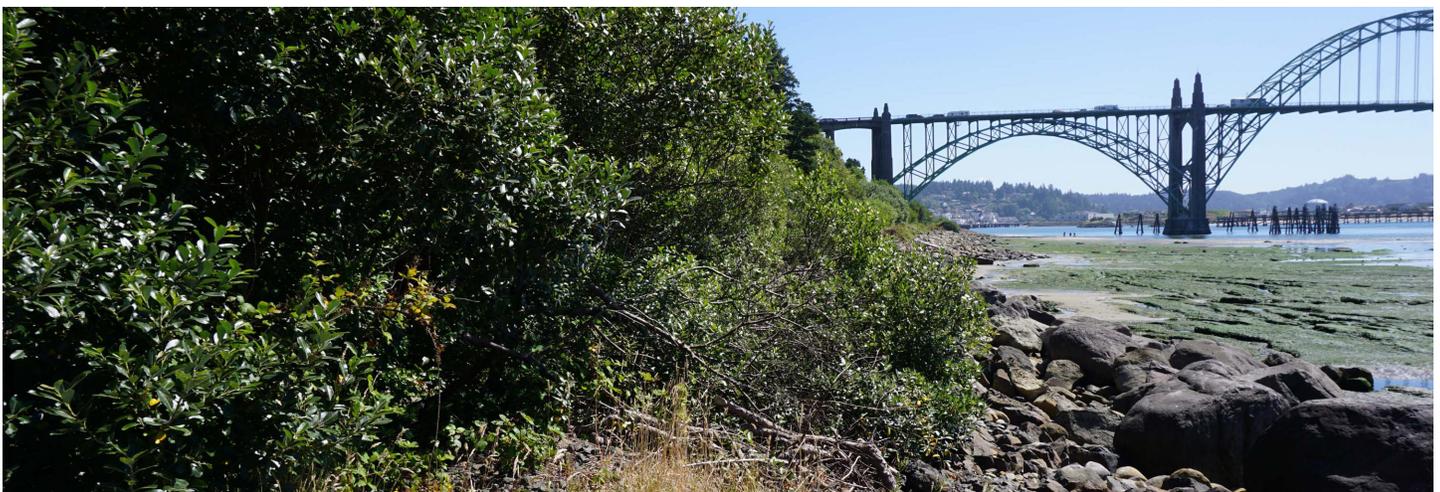
X-01: POCKET PARK ON NE 7TH STREET

The project team recommends improving the parcel in the northeast corner of NE 7th Street and NE Harney Street. A comment received through the public survey noted that the site seems to be underutilized. Suggestions for the facility include a small playground or community garden. Public comments also suggested a trail or sidewalk connecting to the existing Ocean to Bay Trail that runs through Big Creek Park to the north. The property is currently owned by the City.

- Opportunities: Add playground and/or community garden; trail connections
- Challenges: Available land and limited size of site



Marine Science Drive



Coast Guard Trail

NEW PARKS

The Level of Service (LOS) Analysis conducted earlier in this planning effort identified areas of Newport that are not being adequately served by a neighborhood park. These areas are one-half mile or more away from an existing park or recreation facility and/or have physical barriers (such as limited pedestrian infrastructure and non-signalized highway crossings) that make it difficult to access nearby park or recreation facilities. This section of the report identifies proposed facilities, organized by facility type, for areas of the city that were determined to be below the LOS threshold. Locations for most of the proposed new facilities are general, with the exception of areas where the team was able to identify a City-owned property within a given area that represents a specific opportunity site. The project team was also able to identify more specific locations when information was available about the general size and character of the land needed, or related conditions such as the presence of steep slopes, wetlands or riparian areas, surrounding uses, and access.

Target locations for siting new parks may be identified in more detail during the preparation of the draft Park System Master Plan. Preparation of the draft Plan will include land acquisition recommendations for parks, trails, and open spaces as a component of the park system’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The project team will integrate these recommendations into the City’s Development Code as appropriate during the implementation process.

P-A: LONGVIEW HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

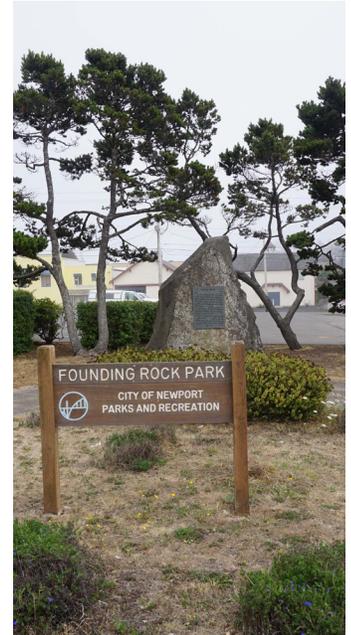
The project team recommends developing a park that is accessible for residents of Longview Hills and other nearby areas where future additional development is projected. Longview Hills is a 55+ manufactured home community on the eastern edge of the city that was identified as deficient in park access through the LOS analysis. No city-owned property has been specifically identified for this facility.

- **Opportunities:** Add playground, restroom, water fountain, picnic shelter and tables, and multi-use fields
- **Challenges:** Slopes; available land; funding and continued maintenance costs

P-B: MINI PARK SOUTH OF AGATE BEACH STATE RECREATION SITE

The project team recommends developing a mini park south of the Agate Beach State Recreation Site, which was an area identified as deficient in park access through the LOS analysis. No city-owned property has been specifically identified for this facility.

- **Opportunities:** Add playground, restroom, water fountain, picnic shelter and tables
- **Challenges:** Slopes; available land; funding and continued maintenance costs



Founding Rock Park



Agate Beach Site (Blocks 09/110)

P-C: JUMP-OFF JOE

Jump-Off Joe was once a 100-foot high sandstone headland that separated Agate Beach from Nye Beach. It earned its name because those walking between the two beaches had to climb up it and jump off the other side. The arch formation has since deteriorated to two small stubs of sandstone. The site also was the location of a previously planned development which did not move forward subsequent to installation of concrete foundations. The project team recommends adding signage and accessible beach access to the site if feasible. However, erosion and safety concerns must first be considered. The recommendation for signage at Jump-Off Joe came from a comment received at the public meeting.

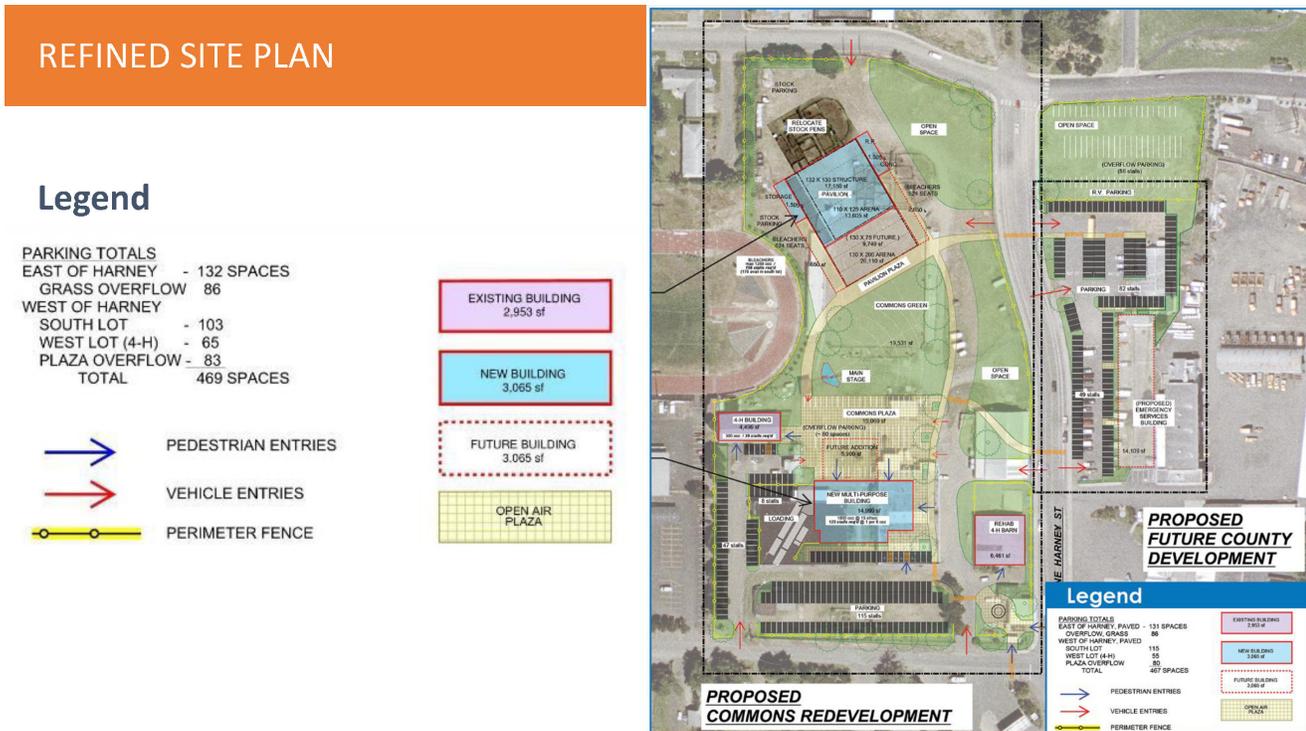
- **Opportunities:** Add signage; accessible beach access
- **Challenges:** Erosion; hazardous zone for building

P-D: LINCOLN COUNTY COMMONS

Lincoln County is currently in the process of preparing a refined master plan for the Lincoln County Commons facilities (formerly known as the Lincoln County Fairgrounds), which is located within Newport’s city limits. The refined site plan for the project is presented in Figure 5 below. The project team recommends that the City partner with the County to add a multi-use field to the site, as well as pathways connecting to surrounding destinations in the city.

- **Opportunities:** Multi-use field; pathways connecting to surrounding destinations
- **Challenges:** Partnership with County; hours of operation

Figure 5. Lincoln County Commons Refined Site Plan



P-E: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 20, WEST OF YAQUINA VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The project team recommends developing a neighborhood park in the area south of Highway 20 and west of Yaquina View Elementary School. This recommendation was proposed at a project advisory committee meeting. No city-owned property has been specifically identified for this facility.

- Opportunities: Add playground, restroom, water fountain, and picnic shelter and tables
- Challenges: Slopes; available land; funding and continued maintenance costs

P-F: POCKET PARK AT SW 9TH STREET PROPERTY

The project team recommends developing a pocket park at a potential site identified on SW 9th Street. This project was originally suggested at the public open house. The 0.23-acre site is zoned Retail and Service Commercial and is surrounded by other commercially-zoned properties. The site is owned by the City.

- Opportunities: Add playground, restroom, water fountain, and picnic shelter and tables
- Challenges: Site acreage; site ownership and zoning; zoning of surrounding properties

P-G: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK ON SE VISTA DRIVE

The project team recommends developing a neighborhood park on SE Vista Drive, which was an area identified as deficient in park access through the LOS analysis. No city-owned property has been specifically identified for this facility.

- Opportunities: Add playground, restroom, water fountain, picnic shelter and tables, and multi-use fields
- Challenges: Slopes; available land; funding and continued maintenance costs

P-H: DOG PARK AT THE INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL RECREATION AREA

The project team recommends developing a dog park at the International Terminal Recreation Area. The project was suggested at an advisory committee meeting. The property is currently privately owned.

- Opportunities: Official dog park; trail improvements; wayfinding
- Challenges: Privately owned; NW Natural security issues



Yaquina View Elementary School



South Beach Crabbing Pier

P-I: POCKET PARK EAST OF HATFIELD BETWEEN THE BAY & SW 10TH STREET

The project team recommends developing a neighborhood park East of Hatfield between the Bay & SW 10th Street. This recommendation originated from a comment received through the community survey. No city-owned property has been specifically identified for this facility.

- **Opportunities:** Add benches, dog amenities, and play equipment
- **Challenges:** Steep slopes; small lots

P-J: POCKET PARK AT SOUTH END OF YAQUINA BAY BRIDGE

The City of Newport has a concept plan for the Yaquina Bay Bridge Park, a small property located under the south end of the bridge. The site plan, presented below, includes pedestrian connection improvements, an interpretive sculptural element, sheltered picnic areas, benches, a basketball court, and an area to host a farmer’s market or other events.

- **Opportunities:** Add benches, picnic shelter and tables, basketball court, and event space; improve pedestrian connections
- **Challenges:** Location and cost; ODOT property



Presbyterian Church Community Garden

Figure 6. Yaquina Bay Bridge Open Space Concept Plan

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Map 3-3. Yaquina Bay Bridge Open Space Concept Plan



COHO/BRANT INFRASTRUCTURE REFINEMENT PLAN | AUGUST 2012 | 37

P-K: WILDER NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

The project team recommends developing an additional neighborhood park in the Wilder neighborhood, which is a new community on the southern edge of the city. As future phases of the community are developed, another neighborhood park will be needed to serve new residents. The recommendation was suggested in a comment received through the public survey. No city-owned property has been specifically identified for this facility; the park would be developed on property owned by Wilder as part of a future development phase.

- Opportunities: Add playground, picnic shelter and tables, and a multi-use field
- Challenges: Slopes; ownership; logging; funding and continued maintenance costs

P-L: WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

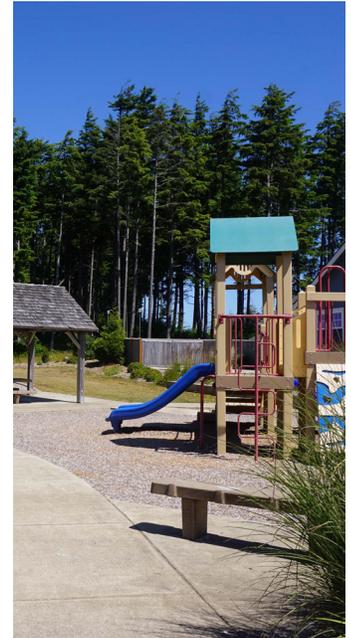
The project team recommends considering development of a multi-use field at the water treatment plant site. The recommendation was a suggestion from a stakeholder meeting conducted by project staff. This site represents a strong opportunity in terms of city ownership of the facility. However, it is not centrally located for Newport residents and use of the field would need to be coordinated with access to and operations at the treatment plant.

- Opportunities: Add multi-use field
- Challenges: Access to site; location of flat, available land; coordination with treatment plant operations

P-M: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SOUTH OF NEWPORT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

The project team recommends developing a neighborhood park south of the Newport Municipal Airport, which was an area identified as deficient in park access through the LOS analysis. No city-owned property has been specifically identified for this facility. This new facility would be constructed in conjunction with development of the Wolf Tree Destination Resort.

- Opportunities: Add playground, restroom, water fountain, picnic shelter and tables, and multi-use fields
- Challenges: Slopes; available land; funding and continued maintenance costs



Wilder Twin Park



Literacy Park

BEACH ACCESS

Beaches provide a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, and beach access represents an important recreational asset for the City of Newport. There are approximately 11 beach access points located within the city, and all residents of Newport live within a reasonable driving distance of 3 miles or less from an existing beach access point. In fact, the majority of residents live much closer than 3 miles to the nearest access point. However, the city has some gaps in walkable beach access, which is defined as access points that are located within one-half mile of a residence and do not require crossing pedestrian barriers. On the city's west side there is a noticeable gap between NW 12th and NW 20th Streets. Many residents located in the east side of the city also lack walkable access due to having to cross US 101—a major pedestrian barrier—to reach the beach.

In addition to gaps in access, there are only a small number of beach access points in the city that are accessible for people with limited mobility. Erosion, hydrological shifts, and storm surges pose challenges for maintaining safe and accessible beach access from year to year. The ADA-accessible interpretive boardwalk at South Beach State Park is the only beach access in the city that is currently universally accessible.

Gaps and Opportunity Areas

As noted above, there are several areas within the city that lack walkable beach access. These are areas where residents are located more than one-half mile from an access point, or where they would need to cross a non-signalized pedestrian barrier such as US 101 to access the beach. Long-term goals for the City should be to acquire land or easements to create beach access points in areas where there are currently gaps, and to improve existing access that is in poor condition. However, given high land values, the City does not anticipate actively acquiring privately-owned developable property for beach access in the near future. Rather, the City plans to target undeveloped ROW and/or City-owned properties to create new beach access points, where feasible. The City could also seek opportunities to acquire property through a foreclosure process, depending on the location, cost of access, and physical conditions or constraints of the subject property.

There is a notable gap in access on the west side of the city between NW 12th Street and NW 20th Street. There was previously a beach access point located at the intersection of NW Spring Street and 13th Street that encroached onto private property and was removed by the land owner in 2017. The City is currently working with the property owner and other persons in the neighborhood on plans to restore the beach access such that it is contained on public property. This project is discussed in more detail in the trail connections section of this report.



Agate Beach Wayside



Nye Beach Turnaround

Improvements to Existing Access

This section of the report identifies opportunities and recommendations for improving existing beach access for people with mobility limitations. Although ADA-accessible beach access continues to pose a challenge due to natural constraints such as erosion, hydrological shifts, and storm surges, the following recommendations are considered to be physically feasible and not extraordinarily costly.

P-06: DON DAVIS PARK

The project team recommends improving the trail alignment for beach access at Don Davis Park to make it more accessible for people with limited mobility.

- Opportunities: Accessible beach access
- Challenges: Steep slopes

S-05: NYE BEACH TURNAROUND

The project team recommends partnering with Surfrider to achieve ADA-compliant beach access at the Nye Beach Turnaround..

- Opportunities: Accessible beach access; Beach wheelchair rentals
- Challenges: Limited Accesible Parking



South Beach State Park



TRAIL & CONNECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout Oregon, walking and bicycling are consistently rated as some of the highest-priority recreational activities for people in almost all age groups, and this is true for Newport community members as well. Although walking and biking can occur on local streets and sidewalks, there is value in residents living in close proximity to off-street trails as well. Newport already has many existing off-street trails in natural areas and throughout the city. This section of the report makes recommendations about key opportunities for trail expansions and connections, with an emphasis on partnering with community organizations for implementation.



Coast Guard Trail

Figure 7. Trail Improvement Strategies (North)

Trail Improvement Strategies (North)

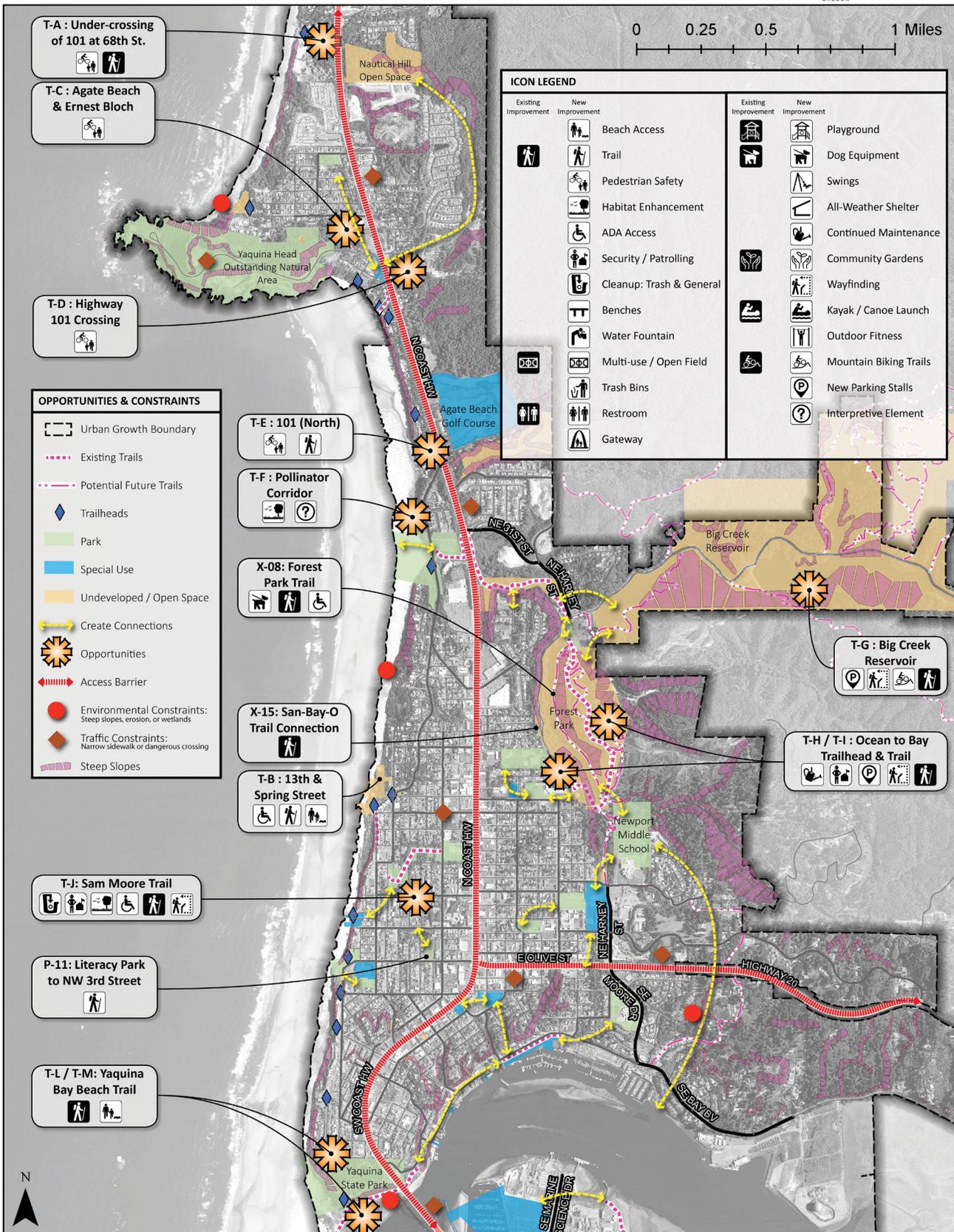
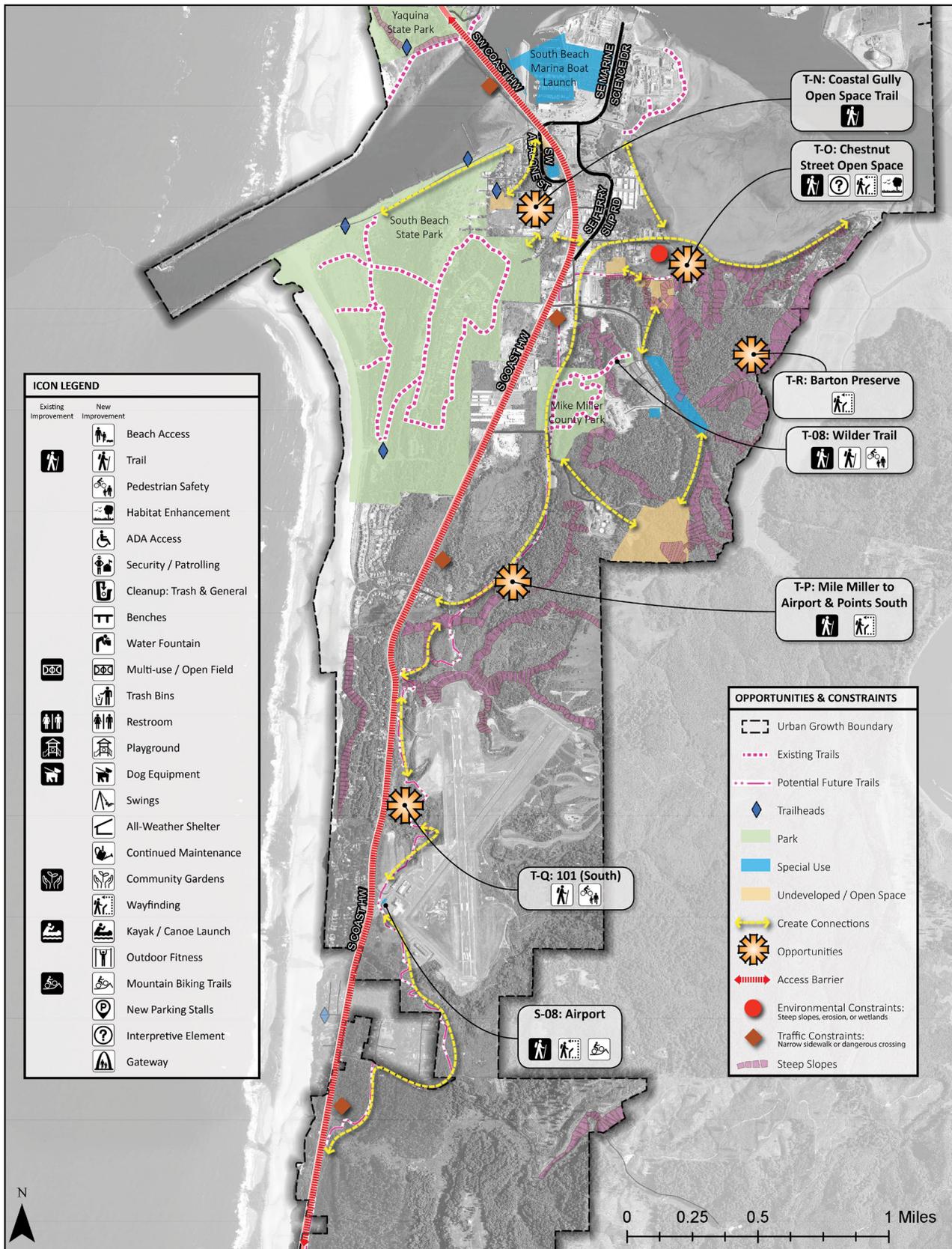


Figure 8. Trail Improvement Strategies (South)

Trail Improvement Strategies (South)



IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING TRAIL CONNECTIONS

During the planning process, community members have identified potential improvements to the City’s existing trail facilities. The following recommendations range from improving the trails themselves to adding amenities such as wayfinding signage and trailhead facilities.

S-08: NEWPORT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

There is already an existing network of trails in the natural areas surrounding the Newport Municipal Airport. During a visit to the site, the airport manager suggested expanding the system and adding wayfinding and trailhead amenities to support the expansion. The project team recommends adding new trails and trail connections in the area, as well as wayfinding signage, and a skills course or pump track for bicyclists. To the extent possible, tree clearing and brushing on airport property outside of the runway protection zone should be coordinated with trail expansion opportunities.

- **Opportunities:** New trail connections; wayfinding and signage; add pump track
- **Challenges:** Trails interfering with Airport activities; challenges to create connections across adjacent private property to other nearby trails and destinations

T-08: WILDER TRAIL

The project team recommends making trail improvements and improving trail maintenance along the trail connection to Mike Miller Park. The need for these improvements was identified by a comment received through the public survey.

- **Opportunities:** Improve trail connections; improve maintenance
- **Challenges:** Continued logging operations

T-J: SAM MOORE TRAIL

Comments about this existing trail received through the survey indicated possible public safety concerns along the trail associated with homeless and illegal camping activities. The project team recommends adding wayfinding signage at both ends of trail, adding lighting for safety, cleaning up existing trash and debris, pruning trees and shrubs, and adding an accessible trail connection from the skate park. The conceptual plan for improvements to Sam Moore Park described earlier in this report also includes plans to construct new stormwater management facilities adjacent to the trail.



Sam Moore Trail



Coast Street Trail

- **Opportunities:** Add wayfinding signage; add lighting; prune trees and shrubs; clean up trash; add new accessible trail connection; partnership with skate park users
- **Challenges:** Steep slopes; funding; continued maintenance costs and patrolling

T-O: CHESTNUT STREET OPEN SPACE

The project team recommends adding a nature walk with interpretive signage along the west side of the existing trail by the wetland, including wildlife viewing opportunities and habitat enhancements.

- **Opportunities:** Trail improvement; add nature walk with interpretive signage; add wildlife viewing opportunity; habitat enhancement
- **Challenges:** Funding for boardwalk

X-08: FOREST PARK TRAIL

Comments received through the public survey indicated that the existing trail is steep and rocky and not accessible for people with limited mobilities. The project team recommends improving the trail to make it accessible for all ages and abilities, as well as adding dog amenities.

- **Opportunities:** Add accessible trails for all abilities; add dog amenities
- **Challenges:** Trail is steep and rocky



Ocean to Bay Trail



Forest Park

NEW TRAIL CONNECTIONS

This section of the report recommends general locations for connections between parks, recreation facilities, neighborhoods, and activity centers. In some cases, the recommended locations indicate specific alignments identified by City staff or community stakeholders, and in other cases the recommendations are more general.

P-11: LITERACY PARK TO NW 3RD STREET

The project team recommends creating a new trail connection between Literacy Park and NW 3rd Street. The need for this trail connection was identified in a comment from the public survey.

- Opportunities: New trail connection
- Challenges: Steep slopes; dense vegetation

T-A: US 101 UNDERCROSSING AT NW 68TH STREET

The need for a safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing under US 101 at NW 68th Street is identified in the City’s Transportation System Plan (TSP) and was noted in several comments received by community members through the public survey and at the public meeting. The project team recommends developing a trail connection under US 101 at NW 68th Street, consistent with the TSP.

- Opportunities: New trail connection
- Challenges: Funding; coordination with ODOT

T-B: 13TH STREET AND SPRING STREET

As noted previously in the report, there was once a beach access point located at the intersection of NW Spring Street and 13th Street that encroached onto private property and was removed by the land owner in 2017. The City is currently working with the property owner and other persons in the neighborhood on plans to restore the beach access such that it is contained on public property. The project team recommends creating a new trail connection to the beach in this location. Because 13th Street is currently undeveloped there may be an opportunity for a trail in the undeveloped ROW.

- Opportunities: Accessible beach access; new trail connection
- Challenges: Ownership

T-C: AGATE BEACH & ERNEST BLOCH PLACE

The project team recommends creating new trail connections between the Ernest Bloch Memorial Wayside and the Agate Beach neighborhood on the west side of Highway 101.



Cooper Ridge Trail



Ernest Bloch

This project should be addressed in the City’s updated TSP.

- Opportunities: New trail connection
- Challenges: Funding and continued maintenance; limited area for bike shoulder and sidewalk

T-D: US 101 BY ERNEST BLOCH MEMORIAL WAYSIDE

The project team recommends developing a safe bicycle and pedestrian crossing of US 101 at the southern end of the Ernest Bloch Memorial Wayside and better bicycle and pedestrian access between the signalized crossing at Lighthouse Drive and the Wayside. These projects should be addressed in the City’s updated TSP.

- Opportunities: Create safe pedestrian and bicycle connections
- Challenges: Funding; coordination with ODOT

T-E: WEST SIDE OF US 101 NORTH

Comments received at the public meeting and advisory committee meetings indicated in the desire for a trail along the west side of US 101. The original comments suggested partnering with the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. The City should also explore the possibility of developing the trail in the ROW along US 101, which will require coordination with ODOT.

- Opportunities: Create new trail connection
- Challenges: Funding and continued maintenance costs; partnering with different ownerships

T-F: NORTH OF AGATE BEACH STATE RECREATION SITE

The Pollinator Restoration Project: Central Oregon Coast is a citizen group working with Lincoln County and ODOT to help restore the pollinator habitat along the US 101 corridor from Yachats to Newport. The project team recommends creating habitat and an aesthetic pollinator corridor north of Agate Beach State Recreation Site along the west side of US 101.

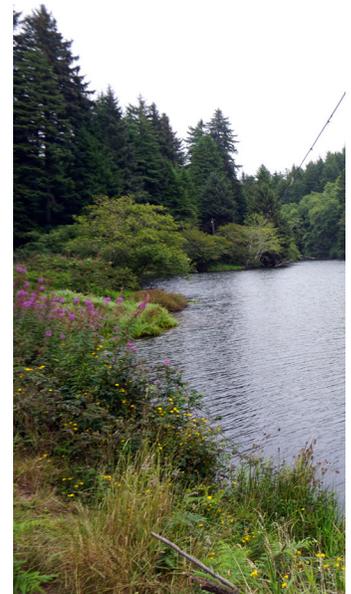
- Opportunities: Habitat enhancement; pollinator corridor
- Challenges: Funding and continued maintenance costs; coordination with ODOT

T-G: BIG CREEK RESERVOIR

Local trails advocates have identified plans for a system of trails in Big Creek Reservoir. The project team recommends adding hiking, walking, and mountain biking trails consistent with their suggestions, as well as adding trailhead signage, parking, and



Mike Miller to Wilder Twin Trail



Big Creek Reservoir

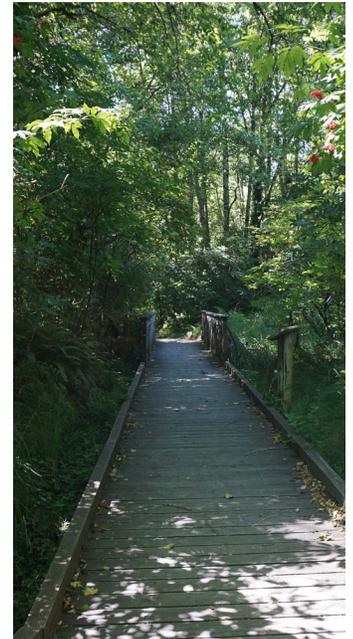
wayfinding signage to support the concept. It is also recommended that the City develop partnerships with bicycle advocacy groups in addition to trail advocacy groups to implement this recommendation. A preliminary map of proposed trails in this area will be included in subsequent Park System Master Plan documents.

- **Opportunities:** Add hiking, walking, and mountain biking trails; add signage; create new partnerships with bicycle advocacy groups
- **Challenges:** Funding and continued maintenance costs

T-H / T-I / T-K: OCEAN TO BAY TRAIL COMPLETION

A proposed alignment for completing the Ocean to Bay Trail has already been mapped; however, the City has not obtained the easements needed to complete the trail. The recommendation for completing this trail system includes adding trail wayfinding and signage, non-slip materials for boardwalks, lighting, and parking, as well as improved maintenance and patrolling.

- **Opportunities:** Add wayfinding and signage; improve trail maintenance; add non-slip materials to boardwalks; add lighting; add Parking
- **Challenges:** Funding and continued maintenance and patrolling; obtaining easements



Ocean to Bay Trail

T-L / T-M: YAQUINA BAY BEACH (COAST GUARD) TRAIL

The project team recommends completing trail access to the beach, which would require a joint agreement with the State parks department, as well as the Army Corps that controls the jetty. A comment received through the public survey noted that the trail is currently not complete.

- **Opportunities:** New trail connection
- **Challenges:** Required partnership with State Parks and Army Corps; jetty controlled by Army Corps

T-N: COASTAL GULLY OPEN SPACE TRAIL

The Coastal Gully Open Space Trail is a planned component of the Coho/Brant Infrastructure Refinement Plan and includes a new trail system and boardwalk. The preferred site plan for the concept is presented below.

- **Opportunities:** New trail connection and boardwalk
- **Challenges:** Funding



Coast Guard Trail

Figure 6. Coastal Gully Open Space Concept Plan



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
Map 3-2. Coastal Gully Open Space Concept Plan

36 | AUGUST 2012 | COHO/BRANT INFRASTRUCTURE REFINEMENT PLAN

T-P: TRAIL CONNECTIONS FROM MIKE MILLER PARK TO NEWPORT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AND AREAS TO THE SOUTH

The project team recommends adding a new trail connection from Mike Miller Park to the Newport Municipal Airport and areas to the south, as well as improving existing trails in the park. Comments received during the advisory committee meetings, at the public meeting, and from the Trails Advisory Group expressed a desire for this connection, and also indicated that there are currently tripping hazards on existing trails in Mike Miller Park due to erosion and root structures.

- **Opportunities:** New trail connection; trail improvements and improved maintenance
- **Challenges:** Funding and continued maintenance costs; easements and partnerships

T-Q: ALONG US 101 SOUTH

The project team recommends developing a pedestrian and bicycle trail connection along the abandoned rail line parallel to northbound US 101. This City should address

this project in the updated TSP and should consider partnering with the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to implement this concept.

- Opportunities: New trail connection
- Challenges: Funding and continued maintenance costs; partnering with different ownerships

T-R: BARTON PRESERVE

Based on conversations with stakeholders, the project team recommends adding a new trail and water trail connection to the Barton Preserve property, including wayfinding and signage to support the concept. Because the Barton Preserve is outside the city limits, this project will require cooperation and coordination with the County and the Barton Preserve property owner.

- Opportunities: New trail connection; wayfinding and signage
- Challenges: Funding and continued maintenance costs; slopes; available land

X-15: SAN-BAY-O TRAIL CONNECTION

The project team recommends adding a pedestrian and bicycle trail connection between Northeast San-Bay-O Circle and Big Creek Road.

- Opportunities: New pedestrian and bicycle connection
- Challenges: Steep slopes



South Beach Jetty Trail



OTHER KEY STRATEGIES

In order to implement the recommendations described in the previous sections, several types of strategies will be essential, including:

- Maintain and strengthen relationships with community partner organizations and individuals
- Improve maintenance protocols for existing and future parks
- Use existing and potential new funding strategies to pay for capital improvements and long-term operation and maintenance of park facilities and programs



Newport Farmer's Market

PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

The City of Newport is fortunate to have a variety of community partners who are instrumental in helping provide and maintain park and recreation facilities, programs and services to Newport residents and visitors. Maintaining and enhancing these partnerships will be critical to the ability to successfully implement improvements to and maintenance of park and recreation facilities and activities in Newport. Key partnerships and associated strategies include the following:

Lincoln County School District

The City has a joint use agreement with the District which allows community members to access and use school facilities for recreation, primarily during non-school hours. School playgrounds, playing fields and other facilities are essential components of the local park and recreational system. Many of them essentially serve as neighborhood parks. Absent the use of school facilities, many neighborhoods would not be adequately served by park facilities. Continuing to maintain and strengthen this agreement is vital to the community. Specific strategies for partnering with the School District include:

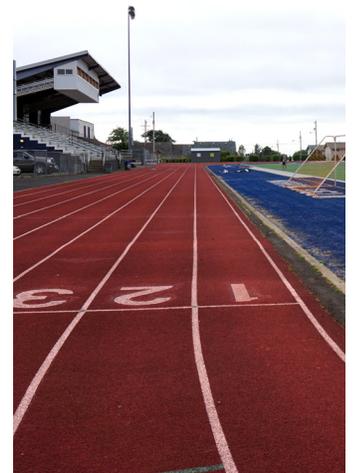
- Regularly review and update joint use agreement.
- Partner in funding improvements that benefit both parties.
- Work together to schedule school and community use of playing fields and facilities in an equitable, efficient manner.
- Cooperate and coordinate in long-range planning for enhancements to facilities that are jointly used.
- Partner with School District on use of expertise, labor and equipment in making improvements to City fields.

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)

Newport is fortunate to have several OPRD facilities within or in close proximity to the city, including the Agate Beach and Yaquina Bay Recreation Sites and South Beach State Park. In addition, OPRD is responsible for maintaining a number of additional beach access sites in Newport. While OPRD facilities are primarily intended for use by visitors to Newport, they represent an outstanding opportunity for residents as well, including for hiking, beach access, picnicking, surfing, outdoor education and a variety of other activities. Continued cooperation, coordination and support of OPRD in managing and improving these facilities is very important. Specific strategies include:



Newport Middle School



Newport High School

- Cooperate and coordinate in long-range planning for enhancements to park and trail facilities that are jointly used by residents and visitors.
- Facilitate community participation in OPRD programs and activities within the parks.
- Partner in acquiring land for or constructing facilities intended for community use within or adjacent to OPRD facilities.

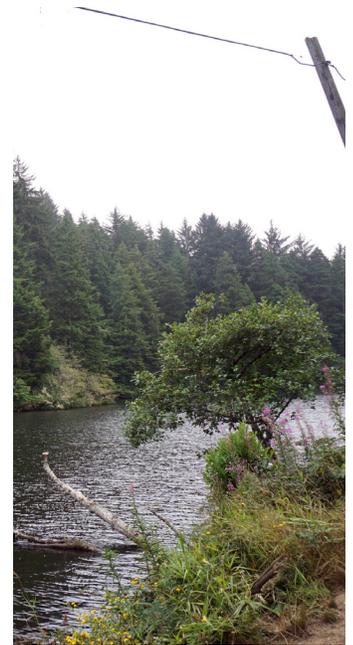
Newport Municipal Airport

There are several key recreational opportunities associated with the Newport Municipal Airport property, including plans for location of a new community garden, historic use of trails for mountain biking events, and more informal use of trails on the property for walking, hiking and bicycling. In addition, existing or potential future trails on the property provide opportunities to connect to trails in adjacent areas and expand the City's trail system. Current airport management staff are open to and supportive of continued community use of these facilities, providing an excellent opportunity to continue to expand recreational opportunities in the southern portion of Newport. Specific strategies include:

- Work with Airport staff to identify, map and further describe opportunities for community use of trails and other facilities on airport property.
- Develop a more formal agreement regarding community use of and future improvements to these trails.
- Work with other community members who can provide volunteer support for future improvements and maintenance of facilities.
- Partner in securing access across intervening properties between the airport and existing or planned trails and other recreational facilities.
- Coordinate tree clearing and brushing outside the runway protection zone with potential trail expansion opportunities.

Landwaves/Wilder Community

Several important recreational facilities are located in the Wilder development, including the Wilder Twin Neighborhood Park, Wilder Dog Park, Wilder Disc Golf Course, Mike Miller Park to Wilder Twin Park Trail, and other hiking and mountain biking trails on the property. The Landwaves company has been an excellent community partner in developing and providing opportunities for community use of these facilities. Continued coordination with Landwaves to maintain these facilities and provide and maintain additional facilities as the area continues to grow and develop is essential. Specific strategies include:



Big Creek Reservoir



Wilder Disc Golf Course

- Coordinate on plans for any potential changes in location to the Wilder Dog Park and strategies for making that location permanent; identify opportunities for the City to partner in maintenance of the facility.
- Provide information about use of Wilder property trails on the City’s website or via other City informational venues.
- As future phases of the Wilder property develop, work with Landwaves to ensure development of additional park and recreational facilities that meet residents’ needs and are consistent with the Vision and Goals of the Parks and Recreation System Plan.

Trail Users and Advocates

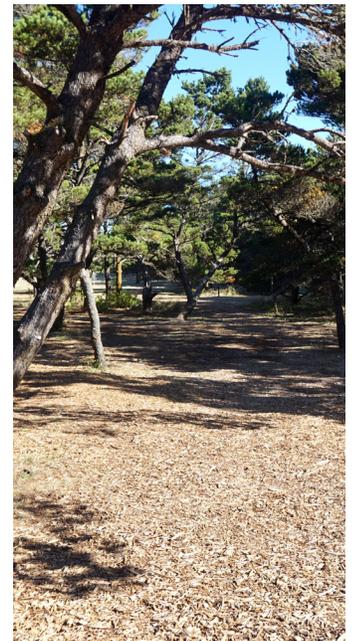
Newport is lucky to be the home of a dedicated group of off-road trail enthusiasts who are highly motivated and willing and able to help expand opportunities for new multi-purpose trails in Newport, including proposals for a trail system within the Big Creek Reservoir natural area. Specific strategies include:

- Coordinate with community groups on proposed plans for development and maintenance of trails in the Big Creek Reservoir area and/or other areas.
- Identify the need for trailhead facilities (e.g., parking areas, wayfinding signage, trash receptacles, etc.) and a plan for partnering in their development.
- Prioritize trail alignments based on existing topography and natural barriers/features.
- Identify areas within the city for pedestrian connections where no safe pedestrian connections currently exist.
- Implement an agreement regarding future maintenance of such trails and associated facilities.

Lincoln County

Lincoln County owns and operates a number of facilities that provide key opportunities for current and future recreational use, including Mike Miller Park, the Lincoln County Commons and Jump-Off Joe. In particular, recent discussions have revolved around potential use of a portion of the County Commons property for development and community use of multi-purpose sports fields, something that has been identified as a high priority gap and need in Newport. Specific strategies include:

- Coordinate with the County and local youth and adult sports leagues regarding future development and use of County Commons.



Cooper Ridge Trail



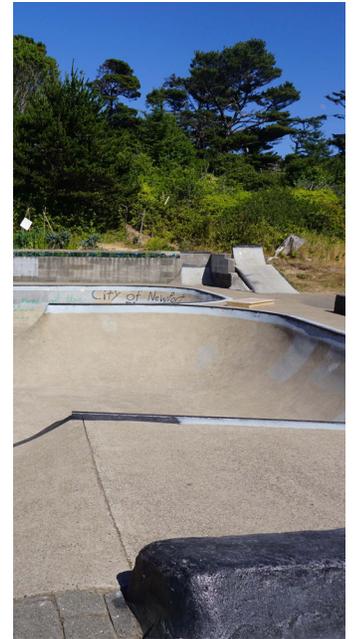
Coast Guard Trail

- Coordinate with County regarding future development of a playground at County Commons.
- Evaluate Transient Lodging Tax and other options for fundings.
- Create partnership with County to utilize County Commons for larger City events planned outside the fair.

Skateboard Users and Advocates, including Dreamland

The community includes a dedicated group of skateboarders who are willing to help with efforts to maintain and improve the Sam Moore Skatepark and surrounding park. In addition, Dreamland, a nationally renowned skatepark designer and builder, has proposed a program to repair and improve the Skate Park with funding assistance from the City. Continued partnership with Dreamland and local skateboarders represents a great opportunity to maintain this facility in a cost-effective, collaborative manner. Specific strategies include:

- Coordinate with Dreamland, local skate park users and other community members and businesses to repair and enhance the skate park, adjacent Sam Moore Park and surrounding property.
- Integrate plans for skate park improvements in the conceptual and detailed plans for other improvements to the Sam Moore Park and Trail.



Sam Moore Skate Park

Youth and Adult Sports Organizations

Several local organizations help maintain playing fields, schedule games, and organize teams and tournaments in Newport. Groups include Central Coast Soccer, Newport Baseball and Softball Association, Newport Parks and Recreation, The Newport Boosters Club and the Newport Baseball & Softball Association. These groups use a variety of facilities owned by the City of Newport, Lincoln County School District and others for these activities. They will continue to be important partners in helping meet local recreational needs, particularly for youth. Specific strategies include:

- Take an active role in coordinating with these groups to help develop and implement a coordinated, holistic approach to scheduling, use and improvement of local playing fields.
- Support local organizations in their commitment of labor and resources to help improve and maintain playing fields.
- Provide technical support in determining the most cost-effective design for future improvements to existing fields or new fields.
- Partner in seeking grant or other funding for field improvements.



Betty Wheeler Memorial Field

- Support potential plans for development and use of multi-purpose playing fields at the County Commons site.

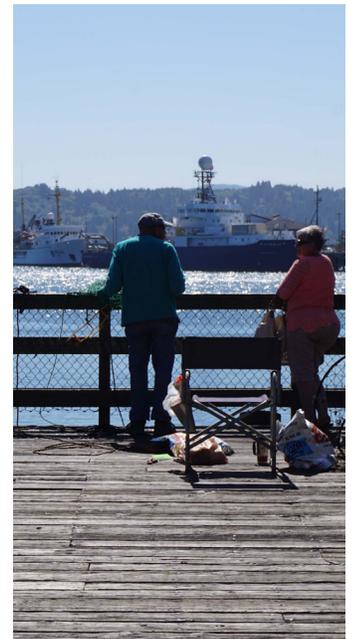
60+ Center Board and Volunteers

The 60+ Center provides essential facilities and programs for older Newport residents and is already financially supported by the City. The City will need to continue to coordinate and collaborate with 60+ Center staff, board members and volunteers to assess future facility improvement and programming needs and help identify strategies for meeting them.

Additional Partnerships

In addition to the key partnerships described above, a number of other partnering opportunities should be pursued, including the following:

- Newport Beautification Committee. Develop standards for wayfinding, landscaping and planting to ensure City-owned properties are planted with species that will thrive in Newport's coastal environment and signage is consistent throughout the city. Coordinate with Newport Beautification Committee as part of such efforts.
- Surfrider. Partner with Surfrider on accessibility enhancements and informational signage around beaches.
- Newport Chamber of Commerce. Collaborate on promoting and implementing park clean-ups or other projects, as well as assessing visitors' recreation needs and desires and providing information about park and recreation facilities and activities.
- Select climate-appropriate, maintenance friendly play equipment and park site furnishings, including powered coated features rather than wood.



Abbey Street Pier

MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT NEEDS

A key theme of the park planning process is the need for better management and maintenance of Newport’s parks, trails, and open spaces. The park and recreation system has received significant past support from the community through improvements to existing parks and construction of new facilities. This has included the recent expansion and improvement of the City’s recreation and aquatic center, as well as collaboration with the Lincoln County School District and other community partners to make their facilities available for public use and to maintain and improve existing facilities.

Continued maintenance of parks and recreation facilities is crucial. A problem faced by jurisdictions across the country is that new parks, trails and facilities are not generally accompanied by commensurate increases in the budget for staff and maintenance. In addition, maintenance responsibilities are often spread between park and recreation facilities and other public facilities such as public restrooms. In Newport, two full-time maintenance staff and a small number of seasonal employees are available to maintain parks and recreation facilities but are also responsible for maintaining a variety of other municipal facilities. While parks system development charges (SDCs) and other revenue sources can be used to build new facilities, they cannot be allocated for maintenance of those or other existing facilities. The City should make sure that the parks budget and maintenance staff are and continue to be sufficient to keep facilities safe and attractive.

To meet parks and recreation system needs over the next 20 years, the City should consider:

- Establishing an appropriate level of staffing for maintenance of the parks and recreation system based on past experience in Newport and guidelines, ratios or best practices used by similar cities in Oregon;
- Adopting parks, trails, and open space maintenance standards and tools to assess how well such standards are being met;
- Continuing to use and strengthen public/private and volunteer partnerships for maintenance of facilities;
- Adding innovative funding sources for parks management and maintenance staffing; and
- Identifying and implementing methods to minimize required maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

The draft Park System Master Plan will include more specific tools and actionable suggestions for these implementation strategies.



Hatfield Marine Science Center



Lucky Gap Trail

FUNDING STRATEGIES

A variety of sources may be used to fund planning, construction, repair, maintenance or programming of existing or future park, trail, open space and recreational facilities. They are listed below briefly and will be described and assessed in more detail in the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan prepared later in this process.

Funding Mechanism	Source	Capital Projects	Repair & Maintenance	Programs & Events
System Development Charges (SDCs)	City			
General Fund	City	✓	✓	
General Obligation, Revenue or Other Bonds	City	✓		
Ticket Sales, Admissions	City		✓	✓
Membership and Season Pass Sales	City		✓	✓
Program Independent Contractor Fees	City		✓	✓
Community Partnerships	Public/Private		✓	✓
Philanthropic Programs	Private	✓	✓	✓
Friends Associations	Private	✓	✓	
Volunteer Programs	Private	✓	✓	✓
Grants	State, Foundations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Purpose or Operating Grants • Planning Grants • Facilities and Equipment Grants • Matching Grants • Management or Technical Assistance Grants 		✓	✓	✓
Program-Related Investments (PRIs)	Foundations	✓		
Transient Room Tax	County	✓	✓	
Food or Beverage Tax	City	✓	✓	✓
Corporate Sponsorships	Private	✓	✓	✓

PRIORITIES

The draft and final Park System Master Plan will include conceptual diagrams for “priority improvements.” Following is a preliminary list of potential high priority projects, based on initial feedback City staff, project Advisory Committee members, the first Community Workshop and online survey. These potential priorities will be discussed and refined with members of the project Advisory Committee member and others in the community as part of the next steps in this process.

- Agate Beach Neighborhood Park
- Sam Moore Park and Trail improvements
- Longview Hills Neighborhood Park*
- New pocket park between Bay and SW10th and East of Hatfield
- Airport property improvements
- NE 7th Street pocket park
- Big Creek Reservoir trail improvements
- Frank Wade Park improvements*
- New kayak launch (east of Bayfront boardwalk or north of South Beach Marina boat launch)

** The City does not plan to prepare a conceptual plan for this park, but does consider it a high priority for improvements.*



Photo Credit: Jim Bauer