# City of Weston, Oregon

## Parks and Recreation 10 Year Master Plan

Adopted February 17, 2016

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#### **Purpose statement**

The purpose of the Weston Parks and Recreation Commission is to act as an arm of the City and Council in planning improvements to the park system in Weston. The Commission has defined a "Park" as any outdoor recreational space (city parks, natural areas, recreational facilities, gardens and trails, including scenic boulevards and streets) within Weston City limits and any buildings on the site (e.g. Elliott Memorial Park has kitchen and bathroom facilities on the property).

This master plan addresses physical improvements to the Weston Parks system, including additional parks, facilities improvements to Elliott Park, the Mini Park (Fountain and Memorial Wall area), the Pocket Park behind City Hall, and other parks areas within the community.

This master plan also addresses recreational opportunities within the City, as well as access to recreational opportunities in conjunction with neighboring communities. This Plan is coordinated with the City's 2015 Water Master Plan, as well as with the City's 2015 Traffic Safety Plan.

#### **Needs statement**

The Commission and City Council find that there are identified needs for improved access for all Parks areas under the Americans With Disabilities criteria, as well as improved access to recreation opportunities within the City.

In addition, the existing Elliott Park kitchen does not meet Oregon State Health Department codes, but is used for multiple community events which must adapt for each event.

Future parks could include a dog park, since many residents must drive outside the community to run their pets. Small parks could also include interpretive centers for historic sites, benches for rest while walking in the community, creek access points, residential pocket parks for recreation and exercise, additional picnic areas, skate and bike park, and public restrooms and shower facilities.

Recreation programs are currently extremely limited. New programs could include family movie nights year-round, access to public swimming pools during the summer, in conjunction with a

School District summer breakfast and lunch program and work with the City of Athena swimming pool and/or the Milton-Freewater public pool. We could provide access to museums in Pendleton and Walla Walla, such as the Umatilla County Historical Society Museum, Tamastslikt Interpretive Center, Fort Walla Walla Museum, Whitman Mission National Historic Site, and the Frenchtown Settlement. This also can include other cultural activities such as concerts, theatre, and sporting events. We can also coordinate transportation and access to carpooling.

#### **Objectives**

- 1) Ensure park and recreational legacy for people and pets.
- 2) Preserve and restore natural resources, including natural environmental beauty.
- 3) Create connected system of trails, paths, and walks with adequate lighting for night uses.
- 4) Develop parks, recreational facilities and services to promote community and health.
- 5) Develop Partnership Plans with schools, library, historical groups, fine and applied arts communities.
- 6) Support placemaking and cultural resources, as well as economic vitality, mobility, and multimodal transportation choices.
- 7) Ensure that facilities meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### Goals for addressing the future of parks and recreation

- 1) Create functional and easy to use parks with attractions that cater to all age ranges in our city.
- 2) Use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design strategies to design safe parks environments.
- 3) Maximize the available parks space.
- 4) Add a water feature or access for children to use during the summer months.
- 5) Explore the possibility of acquiring adjacent properties to expand the park and add new features.
- 6) Ensure proper construction of buildings and equipment that will meet the parks needs for at least 25 years.
- 7) Use technology to address operational issues which will optimize city staff time and prevent some of the juvenile and crime problems.
- 8) Minimize the environmental impact of the parks.
- 9) Provide Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility and adequate lighting is provided for personal safety.
- 10) Plan adequate parking for events.
- 11) Develop partnership plan with schools, library, historical groups, and cultural groups.
- 12) Develop funding plans, both long and short term, to maintain and improve parks, natural resources and recreational services.

- 13) Provide for placemaking and cultural resources, while maintaining economic vitality.
- 14) Develop recreational activities and access, both within and outside the community.
- 15) Provide for multimodal transportation choices, in conjunction with neighboring cities, counties, and the state.

#### **Research Process**

A blind survey was conducted among 100 Athena-Weston Middle School students, using Survey Monkey, where students were asked to rate several statements on a 1-5 scale, with 1 being completely disagree and 5 being completely agree. They also had open-ended questions regarding changes to parks and recreation opportunities that would make Weston a better place to live for them, their families, and their future. The survey, results, and summary are available at Weston City Office.

#### **Projects and Activities List**

- Project 1 Northern Gateway and Park
- Project 2 Southern Gateway and Park
- Project 3 Water Street/Main Street Intersection Plaza Enhancement
- Project 4 Downtown Pine Creek Interaction Site
- Project 5 Main Street Bus Stop Enhancements
- Project 6 Elliott Park Kitchen Update
- Project 7 Elliott Park Creek Interaction Site
- Project 8 Elliott Park Pathways, Trees, Landscaping, Lighting, and Seating Project
- Project 9 Water Street Improvements
- Project 10 LED Lighting Conversion
- Project 11 Pets park
- Project 12 Bike/Pedestrian Link to Athena, Pendleton, Milton-Freewater, Elgin
- Project 13 Playground Equipment for Multiple Ages
- Project 14 Pine Creek Interaction Pathway
- Project 15 New Restroom and Shower Facility
- Project 16 Skate and Bike Park
- Project 17 Swales in Elliott Park and elsewhere for Storm Water Treatment and Visual Interest
- Project 18 Oregon Trail Interpretive Site
- Project 19 Saling House Creek Interaction Site
- Project 20 Develop Funding Plan
- Project 21 Increase urban forest on streets and in parks.
- Project 22 Create green connections along Water Street and other main thoroughfares.
- Activity 1 Access to Public Swimming Pool and /or Water Park
- Activity 2 Horseshoe and other Adult Activity Areas
- Activity 3 Summer and Year-round Recreation Program
- Activity 4 Movies and Other Family Activities
- Activity 5 Museums, Concerts, other Cultural Activities
- Activity 6 Multiple Age Activities

#### **Projects Details**

<u>These projects are not in prioritized order.</u>

Reference Figures are in the Weston Traffic Safety Project 2015, Volumes 1 and 2.

#### **Project 1 - Northern Gateway and Park**

Relevance to objectives: High. Supports objectives related to mode choice, place making, economic vitality, and cultural resources

Adequacy of existing facility: Fair. Operates adequately from a motor vehicle capacity perspective, but only has sidewalk in one corner of the intersection.

Estimated Cost: High

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. There may be some concerns about the turning radius for large trucks and truck-trailer combination vehicles. The final design will need to accommodate these vehicles.

*Political Implementation*: Moderate. Right-of-way may be required to fully implement the concept

*Potential Use*: Moderate. The intersection is on the northern edge of town where activity is generally lower than the center of town.

(Reference Figure 3-6, Weston TSP 2015)

#### **Project 2 - Southern Gateway and Park**

*Relevance to objectives*: High. Supports objectives related to mode choice, place making, economic vitality, and cultural resources.

Adequacy of existing facility: Fair. Operates adequately from a motor vehicle capacity perspective, but is lacking pedestrian facilities.

Estimated Cost: Moderate

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. There may be some concerns about the turning radius for large trucks and truck-trailer combination vehicles. The final design will need to accommodate these vehicles. May be more difficult to implement if right-of-way is required. *Political Implementation*: Moderate. Will require coordination with the fire district and Umatilla County, and possibly obtaining right-of-way to fully implement the concept.

Potential Use: Moderate. The intersection is on the southern edge of town where activity is generally lower than the center of town.

(Reference Figure 3-7, Weston TSP 2015)

#### Project 3 - Water Street/Main Street Intersection Plaza Enhancement

Relevance to objectives: High; Supports objectives related to mode choice, place making, economic vitality, and cultural resources

Adequacy of existing facility: Good. There are crosswalks, a mini-park, and café already.

Estimated Cost: Moderate

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. There may be some concerns about the turning radius for large trucks and truck-trailer combination vehicles. The final design will need to accommodate these vehicles.

*Political Implementation*: Moderate. Will require coordination with the adjacent business operators and land owners.

Potential Use: High. The intersection includes the two main commercial streets (Reference Figure 3-5, Weston TSP 2015)

#### **Project 4 - Downtown Pine Creek Interaction Site**

*Relevance to objectives*: Moderate. Supports place making, health, and natural resources objectives, but does not have a significant transportation component.

Adequacy of existing facility: Good. The creek can be viewed from the existing bridge today. Estimated Cost: Low

*Technical Implementation Complexity*: Low. The proposed design is made up of relatively common engineering features.

*Political Implementation*: Moderate. Will require coordination with the land owner along the east side of the creek.

Potential Use: High. This is in Weston's primary commercial area (Reference Figure 3-14, Weston TSP 2015)

#### **Project 5 - Main Street Bus Stop Enhancements**

*Relevance to objectives*: Moderate. Supports mobility options in Weston and improving the efficiency of the existing network.

Adequacy of existing facility: Poor. The existing stop is not marked and there is no shelter Estimated Cost: Low. Can be supported with Kayak and CTUIR assistance.

Technical Implementation Complexity: Low. Shelter would be a relatively standardized design Political Implementation: Moderate. Will require coordination with CTUIR, but they have indicated a willingness to partner. The location of the spot could be a stumbling point. Potential Use: Low. Ridership is currently not high and it is not clear how much it would increase.

#### Project 6 – Elliott Park Kitchen Update

Relevance to objectives: High. Enhances Park kitchen use.

Adequacy of existing facility: Poor. The existing kitchen does not meet Oregon Health

Department codes for commercial use, which is part of design. Electrical service is inadequate.

Estimated Cost: Low/ Moderate. If building must be replaced, this becomes high cost.

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. This is to be determined, if existing building is salvageable, it is fairly simple.

Political Implementation: Low.

*Potential Use*: High. The kitchen and dining area are currently heavily booked 3 seasons of the year. Improved facilities would increase utilization.

#### **Project 7 – Elliott Park Creek Interaction Site**

*Relevance to objectives*: Moderate. Supports place making, health, and natural resources objectives.

Adequacy of existing facility: Good. The existing City Park is well liked, but is lacking a formal viewing area of Pine Creek

Estimated Cost: Moderate/High. Total is high, but the project can be phased in at more moderate costs for each individual piece.

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. Stream bank considerations and the pedestrian bridge over Pine Creek add potential complexities

*Political Implementation*: Difficult. Requires relocating public works to achieve the full vision for this project.

Potential Use: Moderate. The park is well used today and this could improve park use. (Reference Figure 3-13, Weston TSP 2015)

#### Project 8 – Elliott Park Pathways, Trees, Landscaping, Lighting, and Seating Project.

Relevence to objectives: High. Supports mobility options as well as increased safety in Park. Adequacy of existing facility: Poor. No existing pathways, seating or lighting away from the Kitchen/dining facility. Accessibility is very poor.

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. Layout of pathways, lighting, and seating will need to be integrated with creek bank support, movement of City Maintenance Shop, and additional parking availability.

*Political Implementation*: Moderate. The City owns the site, and movement of the Maintenance Shop is in the short term City plans.

Potential Use: High. The Park is heavily used in good weather, but lacks accessible use, and adequate lighting for evening use.

(Reference Figure 3-13 Weston TSP 2015 as example)

#### **Project 9 - Water Street Improvements**

Relevance to objectives: High. A primary objective of this plan is to improve multimodal travel in Weston, and specifically so on Water Street. Supports other objectives, as well.

Adequacy of existing facility: Fair. Sidewalks are present in some locations, but are in various states of repair. Storm drainage is lacking. Estimated Cost: Moderate/High. Total is high, but the project can be phased in at more moderate costs for each individual piece.

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. May require some specialized engineering expertise to design the swales and evaluate what can be constructed on the southern end near the hillside. Any work will need to be coordinated with the water system master plan.

*Political Implementation*: Moderate. May be more difficult to implement if right-of-way is required. Even if it is not required, if full build-out of the concept will require building sidewalks through what people consider their front yard, which could bring opposition.

*Potential Use*: High. Water Street is the primary road in town connecting Weston residents and businesses to each other and the surrounding regional network.

(Reference Figures 3-9, 3-10 Weston TSP, 2015)

#### **Project 10 - LED Lighting Conversion**

Relevance to objectives: Moderate. There are plan objectives related to adequate lighting. Adequacy of existing facility: Good. Weston currently has street lights in key locations, but they are expensive to maintain.

Estimated Cost: TBD. Potential for the City to not have to front the capital costs.

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. Lighting conversion can be complex or simple, depending on the existing system.

*Political Implementation*: Simple. The conversion should save the City money in annual operating and maintenance expenses.

Potential Use: High. Everyone who travels at night benefits from street lights

#### Project 11 – Pets Park

Relevance to objectives: High. Plan objectives include a Pets Park.

Adequacy of existing facility: None

Estimated Cost: TBD

Technical Implementation Complexity: High. This would need to be a fenced area to allow off-leash pets interaction. No site exists, would have to be developed.

*Political Implementation*: High. No site exists, would have to be developed.

*Potential Use*: High. This could provide the community with an approved area to let pets have free run access.

#### Project 12 – Bike/Pedestrian Link to Athena, Pendleton, Milton-Freewater, Elgin

*Relevance to objectives*: High. Plan objectives include Bike/Pedestrian links for transportation and fitness.

Adequacy of existing facility: None

Estimated Cost: TBD

Technical Implementation Complexity: High. No trailways exist, would have to be developed. Political Implementation: High. No trailways exist, would have to be developed in conjunction with Umatilla County, State of Oregon, neighboring cities, and private property owners. Potential Use: High. This has both health and economic impacts for the communities. (Reference Weston TSP 2015 Project 16 and 19, Appendix A)

#### Project 13 – Playground Equipment for Multiple Ages

*Relevance to objectives*: High. Supports objectives related to Recreation, Health, and Family Activities.

Adequacy of existing facility: Fair. Facility is good for ages 5-12, but is inadequate for other ages and lacks ADA accommodations.

Estimated Cost: Moderate

Technical Implementation Complexity: Low. New equipment would have design elements built in.

Political Implementation: Low. Community input for design would be required.

Potential Use: High. This supports additional family use of the Parks.

#### **Project 14 – Pine Creek Interaction Pathway**

*Relevance to objectives*: High. Supports objectives related to Recreation, Health, and Family Activities.

Adequacy of existing facilities: Minimal. No formal facilities exist at this point.

Estimated Cost: Moderate to high, depending on acquisition and development costs.

Technical Implementation Complexity: High. No trailways exist, would have to be developed.

Political Implementation: Low to high, depending on site.

Potential Use: High. This supports recreation, health, and community involvement.

#### Project 15 – New Restroom and Shower Facility

*Relevance to objectives*: High. Supports objectives related to Recreation, Health, and Family Activities.

Adequacy of existing facilities: Minimal. No facilities exist at this point at Northern Gateway area, and minimal facilities exist at Elliott Park.

Estimated Cost: TBD to High, depending on design, but can be supported to large extent by State Parks grants.

*Technical Implementation Complexity*: High. No similar building currently exists, would have to be developed.

*Political Implementation*: Low to moderate.

*Potential Use*: Moderate. This supports recreation, has health and economic impacts for the community and region.

#### Project 16 – Skate and Bike Park

*Relevance to objectives*: High. Plan objectives include Skate and Bike park, recreation, and fitness.

Adequacy of existing facility: Minimal

Estimated Cost: TBD

*Technical Implementation Complexity*: High. No separate park exists, would have to be developed.

Political Implementation: High. No separate park exist, would have to be developed.

*Potential Use*: Moderate. This has both health and economic impacts for the community, but the potential population is small.

### Project 17 – Swales in Elliott Park and Elsewhere for Storm Water Treatment and Visual Interest

Relevance to objectives: High. A primary objective of this plan is to improve multimodal travel in Weston, and specifically so on Water Street. Supports other objectives, as well.

Adequacy of existing facility: Fair. Storm drainage is minimal.

Estimated Cost: Moderate/High. Total is high, but the project can be phased in at more moderate costs for each individual piece.

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. May require some specialized engineering expertise to design the swales and evaluate what can be constructed on the southern end near the hillside. Any work will need to be coordinated with the water system master plan.

Political Implementation: Moderate. May be more difficult to implement if right-of-way is required. Even if it is not required, if full build-out of the concept will require building sidewalks through what people consider their front yard, which could bring opposition.

*Potential Use*: High. Water Street is the primary road in town connecting Weston residents and businesses to each other and the surrounding regional network, and these swales primarily mitigate storm water treatment and enhance visual interest.

#### **Project 18 – Oregon Trail Interpretive Site**

*Relevance to objectives*: High. Supports objectives related to mode choice, place making, economic vitality, and cultural resources.

Adequacy of existing facility: Fair. Operates adequately from a motor vehicle capacity perspective, but has no sidewalk, nor interpretive component. Could be tied into Northern Gateway project

Estimated Cost: TBD, probably High, can be supported with State Historic and Parks grants, as well as foundation grants.

Technical Implementation Complexity: High. Design will need to incorporate ADA and parking design, as well as interpretive and security designs.

*Political Implementation*: Moderate. Right-of-way and property would need to be acquired to fully implement the concept

Potential Use: High. The site is on the northern edge of town where activity is generally lower than the center of town, but where access from Highways 11 and 204 is simple.

#### **Project 19 – Saling House Creek Interaction Site**

Relevance to objectives: High. Supports place making, health, and natural resources objectives. Adequacy of existing facility: Poor. The existing Saling House site is well liked, but is lacking a formal viewing area of Pine Creek

Estimated Cost: Low/Moderate. The project can be phased in at moderate costs, by sharing costs with the Saling House Committee.

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. Stream bank considerations and non-profit ownership of Saling House add potential complexities.

*Political Implementation*: Low/Moderate. Co-operation with Saling House Restoration Committee would make this a fairly simple project.

Potential Use: Moderate. The park is well used today and this could improve park use.

#### **Project 20 – Develop Funding Plan**

Relevance to objectives: High. This would establish Long and Short term funding plans to maintain and improve parks, natural resources and recreational services for the community. Adequacy of existing foundation: None, would have to be established Estimated Cost: TBD.

Technical Implementation Complexity: Low, may require IRS 501c3 or similar incorporation. Political Implementation: Low. Could require Foundation, Commission, and Council interaction, similar to Weston Library Board, Friends of Weston Library, and Council.

Potential Use: High. This would allow bequests and grants not otherwise available under current system.

#### Project 21- Increase urban forest on Streets and in Parks

Relevance to objectives: High. This would provide additional trees, shrubs, flowers, and swales, thus improving parks, natural resources and recreational services for the community.

Adequacy of existing facilities: Very good to non-existent.

Estimated Cost: TBD.

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. Finding street friendly and weather-resistant vegetation has proven difficult.

Political Implementation: Low/Moderate. Where City already owns property, this is simple.

Where private ownership occurs, requires coordination with property owner.

*Potential Use*: High. This would make streets and parks more inviting, particularly where sidewalks are involved.

#### **Project 22 – Create green connections along Water Street and other main thoroughfares**

*Relevance to objectives*: High. This would provide additional trees, shrubs, flowers, and swales, thus improving parks, natural resources and recreational services for the community.

Adequacy of existing facilities: Very good to non-existent.

Estimated Cost: TBD.

*Technical Implementation Complexity*: Moderate. Finding street friendly and weather-resistant vegetation has proven difficult.

Political Implementation: Low/Moderate. Where City already owns property, this is simple.

Where private ownership occurs, requires coordination with property owner.

*Potential Use*: High. This would make streets and parks more inviting, particularly where sidewalks are involved.

(Reference Weston TSP 2015 multiple pages)

#### **Recreation Activities**

These activities are not in prioritized order.

#### Activity 1 - Access to Public Swimming Pool and/or Water Park

Relevance to objectives: High. Plan objectives include recreation and fitness.

Adequacy of existing facility: None

Estimated Cost: TBD

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. No program exists, would have to be

developed.

Political Implementation: High. No program exists, would have to be developed in conjunction

with Athena-Weston School District, neighboring cities.

Potential Use: High. This has recreational, health and economic impacts for the communities.

#### Activity 2 – Horseshoe and other adult activity areas

Relevance to objectives: High. Plan objectives include recreation and fitness.

Adequacy of existing facility: Minimal

Estimated Cost: TBD

Technical Implementation Complexity: Low. No program exists, would have to be developed.

Political Implementation: Low. No program exists, would have to be developed.

Potential Use: High. This has recreational, health and economic impacts for the community.

#### Activity 3 – Summer and year-round Recreation Program

Relevance to objectives: High. Plan objectives include recreation and multi-age activities.

Adequacy of existing activities: Minimal, except through Library program

Estimated Cost: TBD, can be subsidized through State and Federal programs

Technical Implementation Complexity: Moderate. No program exists, would have to be

developed.

*Political Implementation*: Moderate. No program exists, would have to be developed. *Potential Use*: High. This has recreational and economic impacts for the community.

#### Activity 4 - Movies and other Family Activities

Relevance to objectives: High. Plan objectives include recreation and fitness.

Adequacy of existing Activities: Minimal

Estimated Cost: TBD

Technical Implementation Complexity: Low. No program exists, would have to be developed.

Political Implementation: Low. No program exists, would have to be developed.

Potential Use: High. This has recreational, health and economic impacts for the community.

#### Activity 5 – Museums, Concerts, Theater, other Cultural Activities

Relevance to objectives: High. Plan objectives include recreation and mental agility.

Adequacy of existing facility: Minimal

Estimated Cost: TBD

*Technical Implementation Complexity*: Low. No program exists, would have to be developed.

Political Implementation: Low. No program exists, would have to be developed.

Potential Use: High. This has recreational, health and economic impacts for the community.

#### **Activity 6 – Multiple Age Activities**

Relevance to objectives: High. Plan objectives include recreation and multi-age activities.

Adequacy of existing activities: Minimal

Estimated Cost: Minimal

Technical Implementation Complexity: Low. No program exists, would have to be developed.

Political Implementation: Low. No program exists, would have to be developed.

Potential Use: High. This has recreational impacts for the community.

#### **Summary**

This master plan addresses physical improvements to the Weston Parks system, including additional parks, facilities improvements to Elliott Park, the Mini Park (Fountain and Memorial Wall area), the Pocket Park behind City Hall, and other parks areas within the community.

This master plan also addresses recreational opportunities within the City, as well as access to recreational opportunities in conjunction with neighboring communities. This Plan is coordinated with the City's 2014 Water Master Plan, as well as with the City's 2015 Traffic Safety Plan, both of which are available at the City Office.

The Commission and City Council find that there are identified needs for improved access for all Parks areas under the Americans With Disabilities criteria, as well as improved access to recreation opportunities within the City.

In addition, the existing Elliott Park kitchen does not meet Oregon State Health Department codes, but is used for multiple community events which must adapt for each event.

Future parks could include a dog park, since many residents must drive outside the community to run their pets. Small parks could also include interpretive centers for historic sites, benches for rest while walking in the community, creek access points, residential pocket parks for recreation and exercise, additional picnic areas, skate and bike park, and public restrooms and shower facilities.

Recreation programs are currently extremely limited. New programs could include family movie nights year-round, access to public swimming pools during the summer, in conjunction with a School District summer breakfast and lunch program and work with the City of Athena swimming pool and/or the Milton-Freewater public pool. We could provide access to museums in Pendleton and Walla Walla, such as the Umatilla County Historical Society Museum, Tamastslikt Interpretive Center, Fort Walla Walla Museum, Whitman Mission National Historic Site, and the Frenchtown Settlement. This also can include other cultural activities such as concerts, theatre, and sporting events. We can also coordinate transportation and access to carpooling.

Some priority orders are based on availability of grants, co-ordination with other projects, such as bridges replacement and water system upgrades, and emergent needs. These will necessarily be developed to match available resources.

This Master Plan addresses multiple identified needs within the community.