



Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda

May 20, 2026
4:30 PM

City Hall

Aspen Room
415 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA

Virtual Meeting Credentials:

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Meeting ID: 220 841 959 653
Passcode: vXa8CB

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Approval of the April PRAC Minutes
3. **Community Forum**

To provide public testimony, please see instructions below.
4. **Workshop**
 - a. Cavaness Acknowledgment
 - b. Officer Appointment
 - c. Vancouver Bee Project Update
 - d. Summer Recreation Updates
 - e. Summer Events & Festivals Update
 - f. Clark County Sustainable Parks Funding Team Update

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Members

Jayne Cavaness, **President**
Angilo Fletcher, **Vice President**

Jeremy Robbins
Stephen Wille
James Luce
Valerie Striplin
AJ Panter, VPS
Cale Piland, EPS
Jenny Thompson, Parks
Foundation

**Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Services Department**
P.O. Box 1995 Vancouver, WA
98668
360-487-8311
TTY: 711
cityofvancouver.us

5. Commission and Staff Reports

- a. Department Director
- b. Commission Chair
- c. Evergreen School District
- d. Vancouver Public School
- e. Parks Foundation

6. Open Discussion & New Business

Adjournment

Community Forum Instructions

The public is invited to speak regarding any issue. Members of the public testifying are asked to limit testimony to three minutes. There are three ways to provide comments:

1. In Writing: Public comments can be submitted in writing (name, address, contact information and comments) via email to parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5 pm on the day before the meeting.
2. Remotely: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8311 or email parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting
3. In Person: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8311 or email parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting or fill out a Public Comment form in person prior to the start of the Community Communications portion of the meeting

City Hall is served by C-TRAN. Route information and schedules are available online at www.c-tran.com. You also may reach C-TRAN at (360) 695-0123 for more information on times, fares, and routes.

Anyone needing language interpretation services or accommodations with a disability at a Vancouver City Council meeting may contact the City Manager's staff at (360) 487-8600 (RELAY: 711). Assistive listening devices and live Closed Captioning are available for the deaf, hard of hearing and general public use. Please notify a staff person if you wish to use one of the devices. Every attempt at reasonable accommodation will be made. To request this agenda in another format, please also contact the phone numbers listed above.

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

4:30 p.m.

Vancouver Innovation Center

Sequoia Room

Commissioners Present:

Cavaness, Thompson, Striplin, Wille, Fletcher, Robbins, Luce

Commissioners Absent:

Piland and Panter

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Cavaness called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) regular meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Sequoia Room at Vancouver Innovation Center and online via Microsoft Teams. Commissioners Piland and Panter were absent.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

PRAC approved March 18, 2026, meeting minutes by consensus with no changes.

Item 3: Public Comment

None Presented

Item 4: Workshops

a. VIC Introduction

Terry Snyder (Park Development Manager, PRCS) shared an overview of the park at Vancouver Innovation Center and its background. North of SE 34th and West of 192nd, the site was acquired in December of 2025 at 14.2 acres; 13.7 acres of forest covenant.

There is an estimated \$3.4 million construction budget for the project.

City staff are collaborating with the developer and consultants as project partners.

Members

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Alicia Nilo | 360-487-8311 | TTY: 711 | parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us

The RFQ process started in November 2025 through February 2026 with 13 firms submitting proposals. Mayer Reed was selected for the project, with City Council awarding the contract on April 13, 2026.

The developer, Rabina and New Blueprint Partners, are creating a 20-minute community on a 179-acre, mixed-use development. Rabina staff have provided input throughout the process to ensure alignment.

Snyder outlined the project tasks and steps to developing the park:

- Technical investigation
- Public engagement
- Design concepts and priorities
- Final master plan; likely phased
- New Park name selection; research by Outdoor History Consulting

Public engagement will include four public meetings: project introduction, park programs and amenities, design concepts and naming, and final design and naming. The key communication tools include a project webpage, email list, mailed postcards, print/digital flyers, social media, on-site signage, site photos, and videos.

Snyder gave an overview of the project timeline:

- April – August 2026
 - Project kickoff and technical investigation
 - Begin public engagement
 - Add Park naming to public engagement
- September – December 2026
 - Complete public engagement
 - Present proposed master plan and name to PRAC
- 2027-2028
 - Present master plan and name to City Council
 - Drawings and permitting
 - Phase 1 construction begins

The floor was opened for discussion among commissioners. Commissioners all expressed enthusiasm for the project. Cavaness added that neighborhood associations and HOAs would be interested in being engaged during the outreach process. The wetlands is a wildlife corridor, which will be a great place for new community access. Robbins asked for technical investigations, and Snyder shared that they will largely be geotechnical investigations to determine the health of the forest. Commissioners thanked Snyder and staff for their work on this project and will be eager to support as needed.

b. Arts Hub Update

Perlick gave an overview of the Vancouver Arts Hub project background and next steps.

The project journey from historic library building to a community arts building was outlined, highlighting the Culture, Arts & Heritage plan adoption in 2028, relocation of the library administration and City building ownership in 2020-2021, building reuse study in 2022, and assessment of critical building repairs. In 2024, the initial building activation was launched with theARTscentered, with budget approval for critical repairs.

The building reuse study involved a broad community survey with over 1,000 responses, stakeholder interviews, community engagement events, exploration of operating plans from other organizations, and creating early

design concepts. Final outcomes of the building reuse study revealed strong community support, a better understanding of needs and opportunities, endorsement from City Council, and funding for critical repairs.

The building assessment, completed by MENG in 2022, showed that the building is in generally good condition, but some deficiencies were identified including a failing roof, hazardous materials, and lack of fire suppression. Based on the findings of the Building Reuse Study, City Council approved limited funding in the 2025-2026 budget to address priority projects including roof replacement and emergency HVAC upgrades. These projects are focused on structural preservation and maintaining building comfort and are not intended to guide or constrain future design.

Goals for initial activation include open space to support current community needs, development of proof of concept for future operations, understanding community needs and capacity to inform future planning, and building excitement and investment in the project.

Initial activation outcomes have shown an established environment that welcomes a wide range of local artists and organizations. We have developed stronger relationships and renewed community trust by providing critical available space for artists and organizations to thrive.

Perlick provided an overview of current and future work:

- Engagement – Hear from building users and the community. This will include building on previous input through targeted outreach, as well as broader community outreach.
- Analysis – Use what we’ve learned to inform future plans to develop an activity profile to inform the building program, conceptual design, and implementation plan.
- Design – Create a phased approach for design and construction.
- Operating – Recommend an operating plan with cost recovery.

The design team is made up of Opsis (conceptual design), AMS (business and operational planning), and Framework (stakeholder and community outreach). Phase 1 Masterplan begins in the spring of 2026 through fall of 2026. Phase 2 will include design and implementation, starting in fall 2026 with phased construction set to begin in fall of 2027.

Commissioners can support this project by attending committee meetings, helping increase community awareness, advocating for continued investment in the project and building community stakeholder support. Commissioners commented on the need for this project and expressed support for the phased construction approach.

Item 5: Commission and Staff Reports

a. Director’s Report

Parks: Construction is underway for improvements at The Downs Park. This 3.2-acre park serves the Bagley Downs neighborhood in central Vancouver and is part of our Naturespaces program. The existing playground is in good condition, so these improvements include a new picnic shelter, half-court basketball, irrigation of the lawn area, and security lighting. We’re expecting the project to be completed in August.

Park restrooms are open for the season. They’ll be open daily through October during regular park hours. Because staff travel between sites to open, clean, and close restrooms, public access may begin up to an hour after parks open and end up to an hour before closing. If someone wants to report an issue with a restroom, they can do it through the Public Works Service Request online, or by calling 360-487-8177.

Recreation: Summer registration opened today for Vancouver residents. It will open for everyone else tomorrow at 7 a.m. I'm happy to report that everything seems to be going smoothly. We'll have an update on how our numbers are looking sometime next week.

Registration for May/June Swim Lessons will open April 22. Thanks to excellent work from our aquatics team, we've recently been able to expand the number of swim lessons we offer, including adding Saturday lessons at Marshall Pool.

Cultural Services: On Saturday you are invited to join the Nez Perce Tribe for their annual Chief Redheart Memorial Ceremony, featuring singing, a drum circle and recognition of veterans. The event is from 10 a.m. to noon at Fort Vancouver and it is open to everyone in the community. Information is on the City web calendar.

Save the date for Spruce the Couve on May 9 from 9-11:30am. Volunteers will be planting flowers in Esther Short Park and working in teams to clean up downtown. You can visit the City's website calendar.

The Renaissance Pointe location had its ribbon cutting ceremony last week with the Parks Foundation. May 9th, water features at our parks will be activated.

The Pollinator Festival will take place on June 20th at Marshall Park.

Farmers markets are open now.

b. Chair Report

Cavaness attended the Battle Ground artists exhibit this month, and it was a huge success. She recommended directing artists and organizations from those events to check out the Vancouver Arts Hub.

Parks Foundation is organizing a work group for Spruce the Couve.

c. Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

d. Vancouver Public School Report

None presented.

e. Parks Foundation Report

- Thompson announced that May 7th is the [PFCC Annual Luncheon](#). The event will take place at the Marriott Hotel.

Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business

No new business.

ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm

WASHINGTON BEE ATLAS - VANCOUVER FINDINGS

May 2026

Kyle Roslund

info@vancouverbeeproject.org



VANCOUVER BEE PROJECT



Bee Atlas Sampling

2023-2025 (2024)

14 Active Volunteers in Clark
County – 150+ Statewide

29 of 39 Counties

4,000+ Volunteer Hours/Year

75 Events/Year



Bee Atlas Sampling

~30,000 specimens/year across the state

Downs Neighborhood Park (~100 specimens)

Campus Community Garden (~200 specimens)

Greenways (~200 specimens)

Port of Vancouver/Clark College/Clark Public Utilities



Vancouver Summary

~110 Bee Species Total

8 Bumble Bee Species*

14 Mining Bee Species

~30 Sweat Bee Species

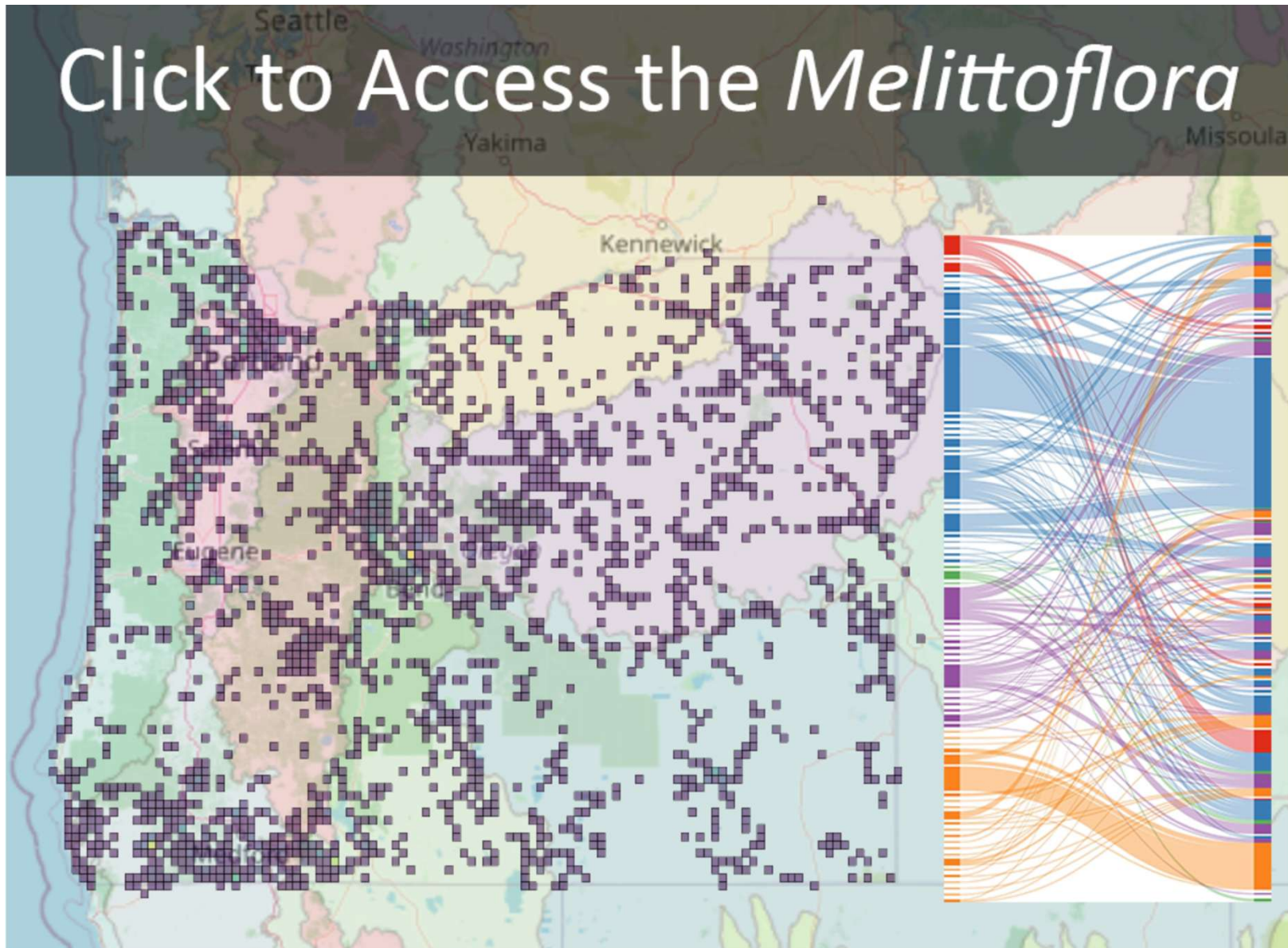
14 Leaf Cutter Bee Species

10 Mason Bee Species

~15 Parasitic Bee Species

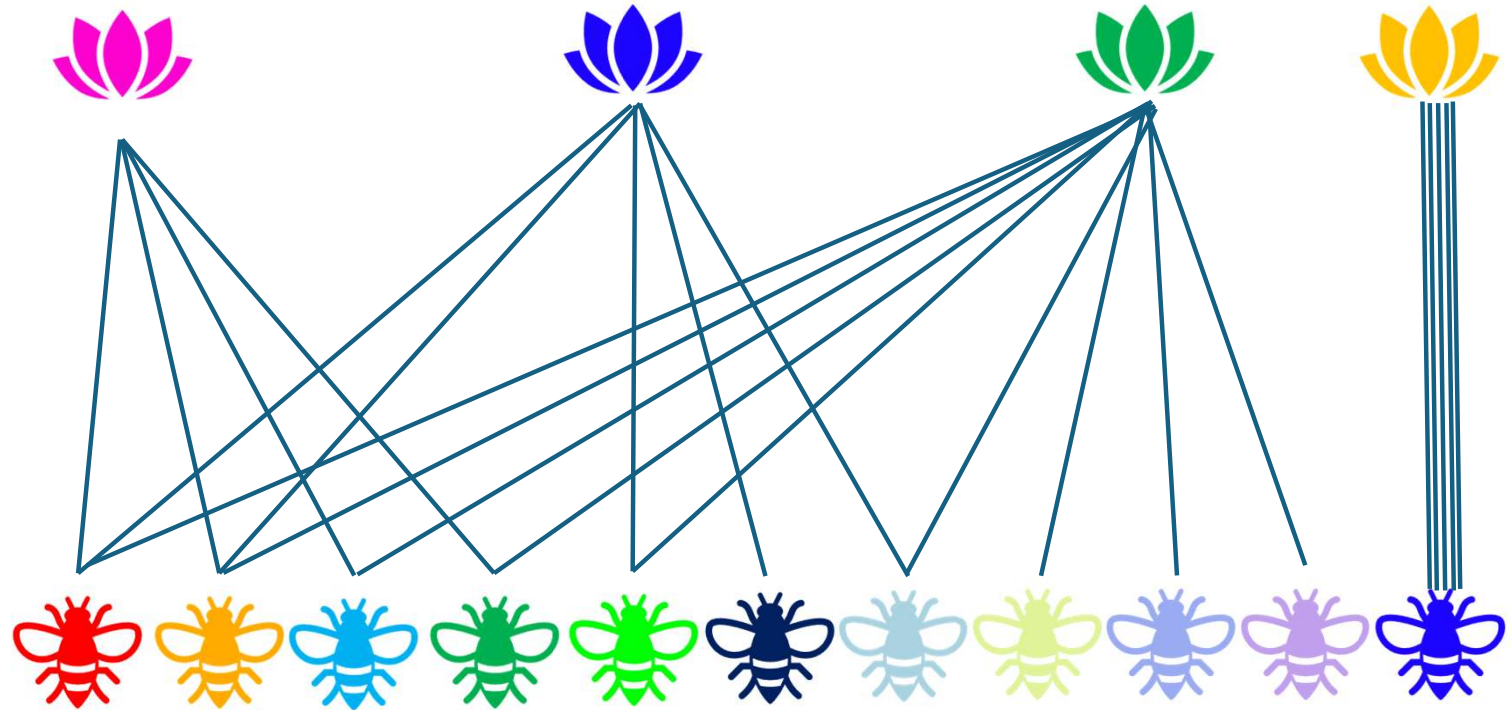


Click to Access the *Melittoflora*

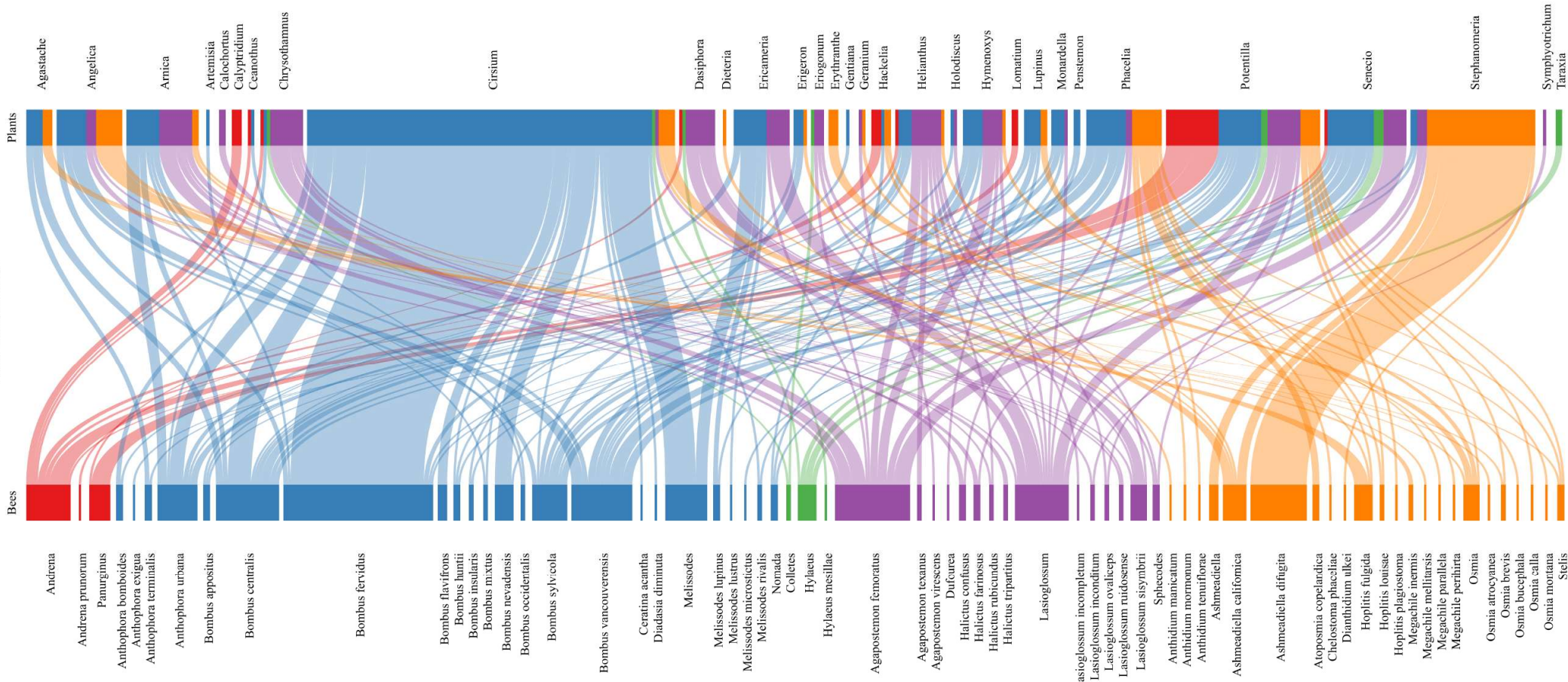


BEE PLANT NETWORK

Plant Species



Bee Species





Bombus vosnesenskii



Bombus caliginosus



Stelis laticincta

NEW
TO
WA

*Pseudoanthidium
nanum*



Common name:
European small woolcarder



Land partners:



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**



NEW
TO
WA

Sphcodes pecosensis



Land partners:



LAST
SEEN
1945

Ceratina micheneri



Land partners:



NEW
TO
WA

Coelioxys apacheorum



Land partners:



NEW
TO
WA

Coelioxys banksi



Land partners:





Saturday June
20, 2026

Dr. Doug
Tallamy
Dr. Olivia
Messinger Carril
Dr. Erica Henry
Steven Clark



Thank you!

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Naturespaces Program

Urban Forestry

Greenways

Water Resources Education Center





COMMUNITY SOLAR ORCHARDS

2



 Welcome to Our
POLLINATOR MEADOW

TEXAS STRIPPED SWIFT BEE
Agripoint.com Texas

Take a Tour!
 Enjoy Pollinator Projects in central Everett and across Clark County and check back for more on this important initiative.

Native pollinators are critical to our local ecosystems. This meadow is carefully designed to attract, nourish and protect hard-working pollinators from butterflies and moths, to bees, bees and hummingbirds. Every Pollinator Project site is different and this Pollinator Meadow is designed to provide resources for birds and beneficial insects at all life stages.

Pollinator Meadows are versatile and include: native grasses as well as flowers. Incorporating plants of different heights with different flower shapes, sizes and colors will attract the greatest diversity of pollinators. Grasses do not provide nectar, however they are vital to the lifecycle of many pollinators. Native bunch grasses give ground-nesting bumble bee queens protected sites to overwinter. And many species of butterfly larvae develop only on grasses.

Fun Fact! While most of our hardest working pollinators are ground-nesters, others nest in cavities like hollow stems of dead plants. Leaving these stems and seeds provides shelter and food to birds and bees!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
 1. Include native plants in your meadow to provide nectar and pollen as well as food for caterpillars.
 2. Choose an open site that receives sunlight throughout most of the day.
 3. Avoid using pesticides, especially insecticides, which can make a beautiful garden poisonous.
 4. Talk to your neighbors about hardworking pollinators and how to create healthy habitats.

BE INSPIRED!
 This Pollinator Meadow grows under the Clark Public Utilities Community Solar Project and provides nesting sites and native plants that bees, butterflies and birds need to thrive. This garden has many elements that can be easily incorporated into your own yard and garden. Visit our website for a complete list of Pollinator Project plants as well as techniques used to minimize maintenance.



Clark Public Utilities

POLLINATOR PROJECT
 Clark Public Utilities is committed to environmental stewardship and resources responsibly to foster healthy habitats and support native wildlife. Learn more about the Pollinator StreamTeam, Weed Watchers and ongoing utility efforts to make safe, beautiful and sustainable communities. www.clarkpublicutilities.com

Questions



Thank you!

info@vancouverbeeproject.org

Vancouverbeeproject.org

Pollinatorfestival.org





CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

Summer Recreation

Angela Brosius
Firstenburg Director

Andy Meade
Marshall Director





Summer Recreation Engaging our Community

- Aquatics, water features - Andy
- Fitness, Adults, Seniors – Angela
- Camps, Playgrounds – Andy
- Community Center Use - Angela

Community Value of Summer Recreation

- Free and fee-based programs with scholarships available
- Critical childcare for working families when school is out
- Variety of locations across the city with school partners
- Support public health and safety
- Prioritize programs for vulnerable, underserved populations



Day Camps

Full-day camp programs operated by PRCS staff

- Scholarship eligible
- Payment plans available
- Marshall and Fircrest Youth Day Camps (Ages 6-10)
- Access to Recreation Camp (Ages 13+)



Summer Playgrounds Camps

Free, outdoor camps operated by PRCS staff



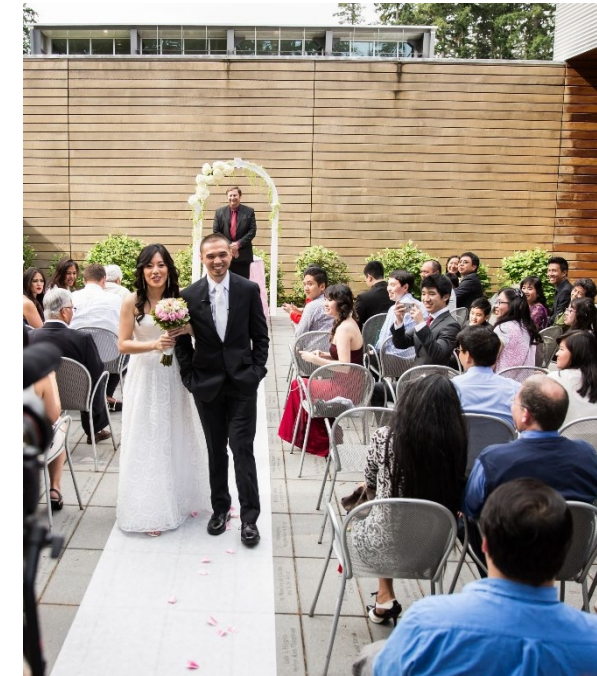
- Hosted at Crestline Elementary School, Evergreen Park and Hough Elementary School
- Provided at no cost to people who live within specified school boundaries
- Lunch provided by the USDA Summer Meal Program
- Camps are open to ages 6-11; lunch is served to ages 18 and under
- Made possible through support from the McClaskey Family Foundation



Community Centers

Our facilities are important resources in the community

- Ongoing memberships
- Drop-in visitors
- Summer Youth Passes
- Family events
- Climbing wall
- Senior clubs and hikes
- Graduation parties and private rentals



Recreation Discussion





2026 Community Events & Festivals

Erik Miletich
Special Events Supervisor
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services



Vancouver Arts and Music Festival

- Esther Short Park
- August 7-9, 2026
- 2025 Snapshot
 - 40+ performing artist
 - 160+ visual artist
 - 70+ volunteers
 - 40,000+ attendees



The logo for Washington State, featuring the words "WASHINGTON" and "STATE" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The text is set against a light blue background that includes a faint map of the state of Washington. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a 3D appearance as if they are floating above the map.The logo for America's 250th anniversary, featuring the text "AMERICA'S 250TH" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is contained within a blue, wavy banner that has a yellow shadow underneath, giving it a sense of depth and movement.

OFFICIAL 2026 PARTNER

America 250

- July 3rd at Fort Vancouver Parade Grounds
 - Live music, games, activities, tours, and movie in the park
- Visit Vancouver America 250 event listings





Waterfront Concert Series

- July 9, 16, 23, 30
- Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm
- Attendance: 1,500-2,500





Sunday Sounds Concert Series

- July 12 – August 16
- 6 Concerts
- Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm
- Attendance: 3,500





Cultural Partner Events

- Juneteenth Freedom Celebration
 - Esther Short Park
 - June 20th 10am-3pm
- Dia de Muertos
 - Esther Short Park
 - October 17th





Vendors

- 40 food vendors applied to participate in our summer events and festivals
- 20 different food vendors selected

Sponsors

- 10 business sponsors
- Sponsorship revenue has remained steady
- Sponsorship revenue currently covers core direct costs (talent, audio services, movie licenses)



Thank You





Regional Parks Funding

Draft Task Team Report

April 2026



Clark County Public Works - Parks & Nature Division
1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA 98660
www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/clark-county-parks

Acknowledgements – Regional Funding Task Team

Clark County Council Representatives:

Glen Yung
Alt: Matt Little

Vancouver City Council Representative:

Diana Perez

Camas City Council Representative:

Tim Hein

Battle Ground City Council Representatives:

Jeanie Kuypers
Alt: Victoria Ferrer

Washougal City Council Representatives:

Michelle Wagner
Alt: David Fritz
Alt: Molly Coston

Ridgefield City Council Representative:

Rian Davis

Introduction

Clark County Parks and Nature Division has grown into a large, developed park system over decades. As the County population continues to grow, the funding sources for parks operations and maintenance budgets have not kept pace with rising costs and growing community needs. Without a new source for operations and maintenance, the County will not be able to develop new parks. And eventually will have to make difficult decisions to close parks where safe and clean conditions cannot be maintained.

In 2025, Clark County Council directed the formation of a regional parks task team to tackle current and future challenges presented by lack of adequate park funding options. The regional task team is made up of city council representatives and staff from: Vancouver, Ridgefield, Battle Ground, Camas, Washougal and La Center as well as representatives from Clark County. The task team set out to understand the needs of each local park system and evaluate dedicated park funding options for the Clark County region based on a review of models in other regions throughout the Country. The team convened a total of nine meetings between October 2025 to March 2026 and developed this report summarizing the information discussed during that time.

Clark County's urgent need

Clark County's Parks and Nature Division funds park operations and maintenance from three main sources: 1) The Greater Clark Parks District (GCPD); 2) park-generated revenue from paid parking, shelter reservations, and sport field rentals; and 3) the County's general fund. These funding sources have generally not kept pace with expenses. The costs of utilities, labor, materials and supplies are increasing rapidly. This is due to many factors including inflation and changes in the labor market. Additionally, because of constraints on funding sources, some of Clark County's park properties are getting more attention than others, which has caused an imbalance within the system.

Revenue Sources

The Greater Clark Park District (GCPD) is a voter-approved Metropolitan Park District (MPD) created in 2005. The district is not County-wide, rather it encompasses just the unincorporated urban growth area of Vancouver, that at the time had grown quite rapidly and had few developed park properties. Generally, funding generated within the park boundary can only be used for parks within the boundary. The formation of the GCPD along with its funding mechanisms enabled the County to build 30 new parks and operate and maintain those parks over the last 20 years. The levy is a stable and parks-dedicated

funding source. The main challenge is that these funds cannot be used outside of the GCPD.

There are eight large, Regional Parks outside of the GCPD that rely only on general funds and park-generated revenue. These Regional Parks are: Lewisville, Daybreak, Lucia Falls, Moulton Falls, Lacamas, Whipple Creek, Vancouver Lake, and Frenchman’s Bar. Not only are these the most heavily used parks in the County system, but also are some of the oldest, largest, and most remote parks. They require more staff time for operations and maintenance to keep the parks safe and clean. Unfortunately, the funding sources for these parks have become limited over time. Currently, park-generated revenue only covers about 12% of operating expenses, and the general fund only covers about 23% (see Figure 1).

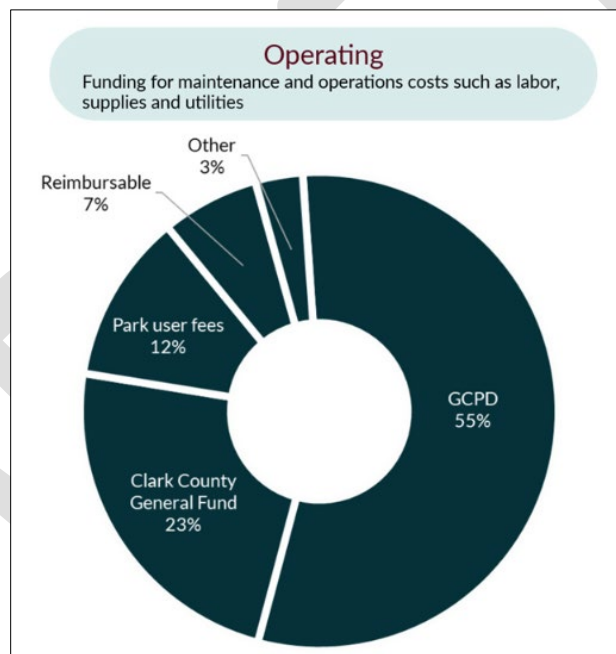


Figure 1: Clark County Parks Operations and Maintenance funding sources.

Expenses

Over the years, Clark County has taken many measures to reduce costs, including reducing staffing levels. Currently, the County employs 37 operations and maintenance staff to 7,166 acres of park land. Compared to other parks agencies of similar size, this level of staffing is 80% less than the national median. Compared to other park agencies, regardless of size, the County’s staffing level is 92% less than the national median (see Figure 2). Figure 2 shows the ratio of full-time employees (FTEs) per 10,000 residents based on data collected by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) in 2024.

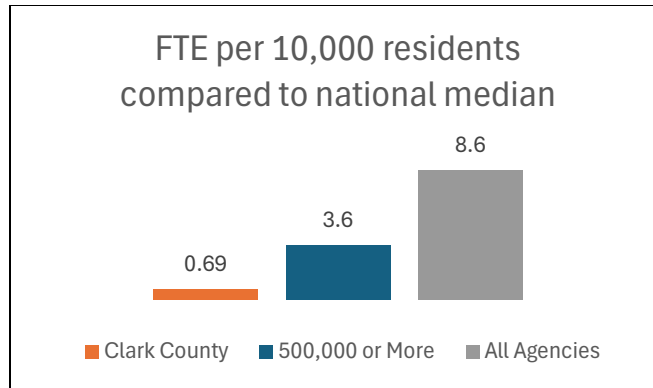


Figure 2: Comparison of staffing ratio to residents for park system reported in the 2024 NRPA database.

Staffing levels are lower, but the usage of County parks has increased with the rapidly expanding residential population. Increased usage means more garbage, more vandalism, and more wear and tear on facilities. Using task tracking software, the County has documented that 33% of daily tasks assigned to staff cannot be completed and only the most urgent maintenance and repairs are being done. Graffiti and vandalism can't be addressed as quickly, if at all. Bathrooms must be closed more frequently due to damage or disrepair. And the list of deferred repairs continues to grow; and overtime becomes more costly to repair.

For the last six years, the County has had to dip into reserve funds to cover the gap between regional park's available funding and their actual operational costs (see Figure 3).

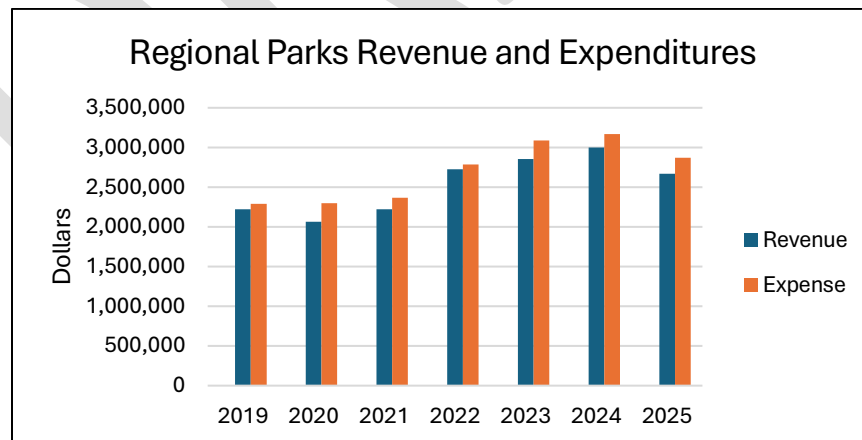


Figure 3: Regional Parks revenue and expenditures between 2019 and 2025, without the Council-approved subsidy from reserve funds.

Efforts to reduce costs and increase revenue

With an already lean staff, the County has had to turn to other measures to try to reduce the budget deficit. In 2025, county council approved a resolution to increase park user fees, such as parking fees and picnic shelter reservation fees, which had not increased since 2010. Additionally, starting in July 2025, Park Management reduced irrigation of natural turf areas in Clark County-owned and operated. The effort reduced water usage by about 40% and saved about \$116,000. Furthermore, in 2026, Council also approved the creation of a new partnerships position for the Parks and Nature Division. This position is solely focused on new contracts with park partner organizations to produce revenue and offset operating expenditures.

These measures have helped to reduce the budget deficit in the meantime, but they will not address the needs of future growth and expansion.

Cities and County data evaluation

To better understand the status quo of the other regional park providers in the County, the task team learned about each agency's unique park system. Together, the task team members compiled data from each of their park systems to benchmark against national metrics. Benchmarking metrics were pulled from the National Recreation and Parks Association 2024 Annual Report. Each park system compared their metrics to the national median for communities of their size.

One shared strength of our region is the amount of open spaces and natural resources. The amount of park-owned properties, including open spaces or natural areas, is high compared to national levels. Figure 4 shows little to no gap existing for the metric of total parkland per 1,000 residents. For Clark County and the City of Camas, their metrics are significantly above national median levels.

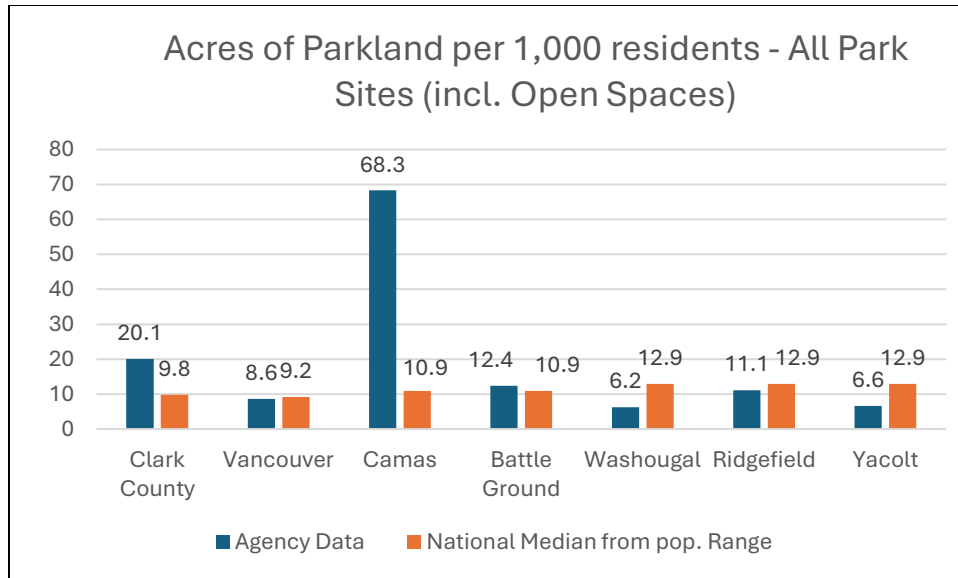


Figure 4: The comparison between agency data and national median data (based on population size) for acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Other metrics varied widely between agencies, depending on the size of the agencies, the size and number of parks each agency maintains and the level of development within the City. One thing all the park agencies in Clark County have in common is that they are **funded and staffed below the National Median for agencies of their size.**

The figures prepared below are part of a gap analysis conducted using the national median benchmarking. Park system data are plotted in orange and the gap to meet the national median is plotted in blue. The vertical scale is zero to 100 percent, with 100 percent representing the national median value. For example, if the national median value is 100 parks facilities per agency and the City of Vancouver’s count was 50 parks, then the chart would show the City of Vancouver at 50% and the gap at 50%.

As shown on Figure 5, all the task team’s park systems are below national median levels for operating expenditures from regions with similar populations. Since some of the park system providers in Clark County don’t provide recreation programming, the Figure 5 comparisons do not include recreational programming costs.

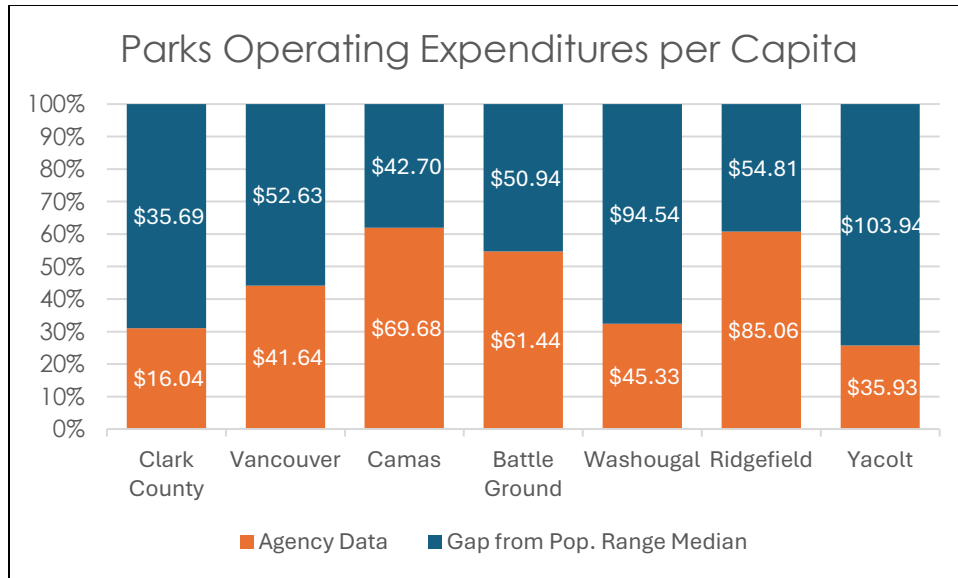


Figure 5: The percentage gap between agency data and the national median data (based on population size) for operating expenditures per capita for parks only (does not include recreation expenses)

In addition to operating expenditures, **staffing levels are also all below national median levels.** As shown in Figure 6, the ratio of full-time park employees (FTE) per 10,000 residents in each agency is below the national median for similar populations. Again, this comparison does not factor recreation programming staff into the comparison.

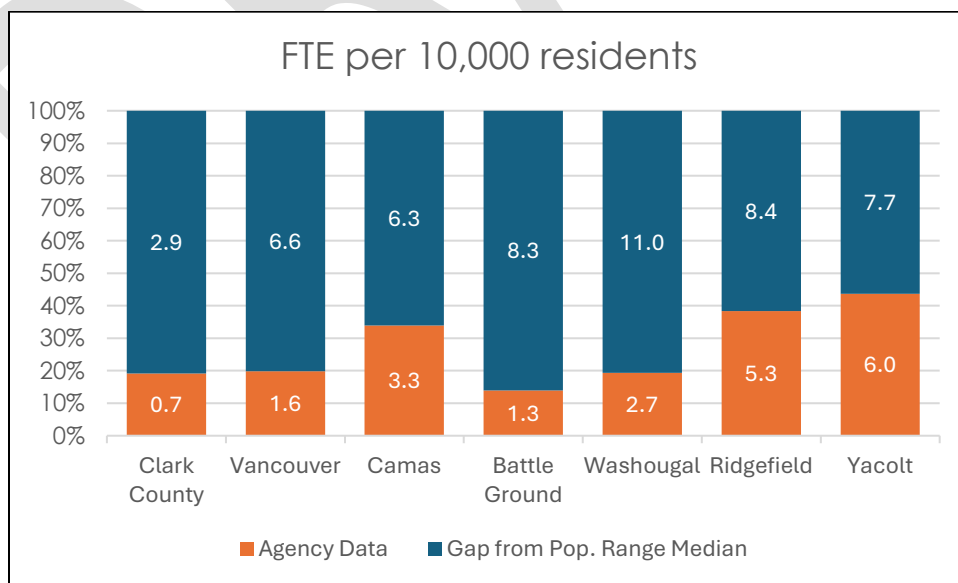


Figure 6: The percentage gap between agency data and the national median data (based on population size) for full-time employees (FTE) per 10,000 residents for parks only (does not include recreational programming staff)

The current data illustrates the realities of rapidly growing communities that as time goes on, will continue to provide services to more and more people. Based on State growth projections, the county will see a projected population growth of 34% over the next 20 years. That equates to about 154,854 more residents by 2045, which is similar to adding another city the size of Vancouver (current population of 202,600) to the County. This massive growth will require investment in park systems or drastic reductions in the level of service and numbers of parks in Clark County.

Given the demand for parks and open space access, each provider agrees that reduction is not a viable path forward.

Models and Case Studies

The task team narrowed their focus to explore two types of viable funding models: a **Metropolitan Park District (MPD)** and a **Regional Levy**. Either of these models would allow for the County to share part of the tax revenue with cities. This section summarizes each type of model and discusses the potential implications if either model were implemented for Clark County.

Metropolitan Parks District

An MPD is a special-purpose local government entity established by voter approval under Washington's statute RCW 35.61 to fund a defined district that can cross multiple governmental jurisdictions. The MPD funds can be used to acquire, develop, maintain, and operate parks, trails, recreational facilities and other related amenities or programming. Establishment of an MPD allows for a permanent property tax levy that does not require periodic renewal votes from the public. Once created, the MPD is governed by a board or legislative authority, who would control the property tax levy rate on an annual basis.

Currently, Clark County contains one MPD, the GCPD, which generally has a boundary limited to Vancouver's unincorporated urban growth area (as defined in 2005 when the MPD was formed). The GCPD was established with a property tax levy cap of 27 cents per \$1,000 of assessed home value and County Council was designated as the governing body. The rate of the levy has decreased over time and as of 2026 is approximately 14 cents. The

levy rate can be increased by Clark County Council by one percent annually without voter approval.

One viable option would be an expansion of the GCPD boundary into a County-wide district. This would allow money generated by the MPD to be used throughout the County, including Regional Parks. And, the County could share portions of the tax revenue with cities utilizing intergovernmental agreements. At approximately 14 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, a County-wide MPD would generate an estimated \$15 million dollars annually.

To initiate a ballot measure for expansion of the GCPD, petitions within each jurisdiction must be signed first. In accordance with RCW 35.61.020, a petition for a new city to join an MPD must be signed by 20 percent of the registered voters residing within the territory proposed to be annexed (into the MPD). If the petition effort is successful, then annexation requires a simple majority to be approved by voters.

Regional Parks Levy

A county-wide property tax dedicated to parks, if approved by voters, could be levied for a six-year period, per RCW 36.68.525. Washington's statute limits the levy amount to 60 cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed value of property and requires a voter approval rate of at least 60 percent. Levy revenues may be used to acquire, build, operate, maintain, or regulate parks, trails, recreational facilities and other related amenities or programming. The levy would be governed by County Council, who would be allowed to increase the rate up to one percent annually without voter approval.

The levy provides more flexibility to cities that might consider a city-wide MPD in the future. The levy's six-year term limit might be more palatable to tax-sensitive voters, but would not provide a permanent solution for the problems facing parks systems. Additionally, levy renewals would likely require some level of investment in public education every 6 years. If a County-wide levy were established, it would not change the currently existing GCPD tax rate (and boundary). Many task team members brought up an equity concern regarding overlaying a parks-levy on top of the GCPD. The GCPD populus would be paying two property taxes dedicated to parks, while the rest of the County population would only be paying one. Without additional benefits within the GCPD, this approach may be seen as inequitable by some taxpayers within the GCPD.

Conclusion

Based on the information presented herein, the task team developed the following facts and findings:

Park Systems Value:

- 1) The benefits of parks, trails, natural areas, and recreational facilities extend beyond the land, helping to strengthen the local economy, make our region more desirable for businesses, workers, families, individuals, and visitors, as well as supporting public health and wellness and creating spaces that reflect the needs of all residents.ⁱ
- 2) Community members across our region place high value on parks, trails, and recreation. Parks, natural areas and trails are consistently ranked among the most important public infrastructure in our region.ⁱⁱ

Challenges:

- 1) Every park system in our region is funded below the national median of peer agencies of similar population size.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 2) Communities throughout our region are projected to see continued rapid population growth.^{iv} Currently funding sources are limited and insufficient to meet present needs.^v Due to the continued rapid population growth coupled with existing gaps, agencies across the region will not be able to meet future needs without a new approach and additional funding.
- 3) Clark County has valuable recreational trails, but lacks an interconnected regional trail system, which contributes to our area's health, wellness and future economic development goals.^{vi}

Findings and Next Steps

City- and County- owned parks serve all community members, regardless of their residential location. The Regional Funding Task team finds that it is important to consider a regional funding source to fund all park and recreation systems in our region. Similar regional funding models are utilized around the country.^{vii}

Recommended Actions

The task team reviewed models that might meet this future funding need and identified impacts and implications for proposing each model in Clark County. The task team recommends that County Council take the next steps to explore these funding models further and how revenue could be shared with interested cities, by;

1. **Conducting market research** to provide the data, feasibility evaluations, and other preparatory work needed for County Council to make a decision on a potential future ballot measure.
2. **Developing a framework for revenue sharing** by directing county staff to continue to work with city representatives so that city park providers can also benefit from a potential revenue source dedicated to parks.

Process for Decision-Making

The potential next steps of this process of outlined below:

- County Council consideration of Recommended Actions
- Present public information on need and benefits of funding dedicated to parks
- Market research prior to potential ballot measure, with the following outcomes:
 - Ballot measure feasibility
 - Levy price sensitivity
 - Community values and motivations toward parks, trails, and recreation
 - Strategic timing of a ballot measure
 - Accountability benchmarking and baseline data for future evaluations of levy success
- Cities and County staff work to develop a framework for revenue sharing and draft the terms of interlocal agreements (ILA), including:
 - Mechanics of revenue sharing
 - Calculation of revenue share
 - Clarification of intended use of funds
 - Articulation of autonomy within a shared purpose
 - Specific mutual investment (regional parks, regional trails)
 - Synchronization with City goals from County investment
 - County commitments to cities
- Draft interlocal agreements are presented to City Councils for consideration
- Possible ballot measure in Fall 2027

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- ⁱ Washington State Parks Economic Impact Report: [Economic Benefits of Parks | Washington State Parks](#)
Earth Economics Report: [Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State](#)
Trust for Public Land Report: [The Power of Parks to Promote Health - Trust for Public Land](#)
UW Report: <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/HealthBenefitsofNature.pdf>
- ⁱⁱ City of Camas: [findingsreport_camasma24120624.pdf](#)
City of Battle Ground: [2025-Battle-Ground-Survey-Findings-Report](#)
- ⁱⁱⁱ Regional Funding Task Team, Data Summary Infographic
- ^{iv} Washington State Office of Financial Management, Growth Projections: [gma_2022_5yr.xlsx](#)
- ^v Clark County Council Meeting, 3/26/25: [032625-sustainable-future-parks-and-nature_0.pdf](#)
- ^{vi} Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan: [Clark Cover OCT](#)
Regional Transportation Council, Active Transportation Plan: [RAPT2021-Report.pdf](#)
- ^{vii} King County Parks Levy: [Parks Levy - King County, Washington](#)
Sonoma County Parks Levy: [Measure M FAQ](#)

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