



# CITY OF SWEET HOME PARKS AND TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA

July 17, 2024, 8:30 AM  
Santiam Conference Room  
3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386

WIFI Passcode: guestwifi

PLEASE silence all cell phones – Anyone who wishes to speak, please sign in.

## Mission Statement

The City of Sweet Home will work to build an economically strong community with an efficient and effective local government that will provide infrastructure and essential services to the citizens we serve. As efficient stewards of the valuable assets available, we will be responsive to the community while planning and preparing for the future.

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## Meeting Information

The City of Sweet Home is streaming the meeting via the Microsoft Teams platform and asks the public to consider this option. There will be opportunity for public input via the live stream. To view the meeting live, online visit <http://live.sweethomeor.gov>. If you don't have access to the internet you can call in to 971-203-2871, choose option #1 and enter the meeting ID to be logged in to the call. Meeting ID: #278 852 022 483

## Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

## Roll Call of Park and Tree Committee Members:

## Time Reports

## Meeting Minutes

- a) [2024-06-19 Park and Tree Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

**Public Comment.** This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Park and Tree Committee on topics that are not listed on the agenda.

## Old Business

- a) Health Fair
- b) Harvest Festival Duties

## New Business

- a) Cut the Gut Report
- b) 42nd and Osage
- c) [Sweet Home Park System Plan- Draft](#)

## Adjournment

The Sweet Home Park and Tree Committee welcomes your interest in these agenda items. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, this agenda includes a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting; however, the Committee may consider additional subjects as well. This meeting is open to the public and interested citizens are invited to attend.

If you have questions, please contact the Community and Economic Development Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 367-8113.

## SHMC 1.10 CITY COMMITTEES

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*The location of the meeting is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, advanced notice is requested by notifying the City Manager's Office at 541-367-8969.*

**§ 2.10.050 POWERS AND DUTIES.**

A. Park and Tree Committee. The powers and duties of the Park And Tree Committee shall be as follows:

1. To conduct an inventory of existing street trees, including historical trees and public properties in need of beautification and plantings and present a written report to the City Council of its findings;
2. To develop and recommend to the City Council, for its adoption, a master list of trees suitable for planting within the city. The list shall be reviewed annually, a copy of which shall be kept on file in the office of the City Recorder for public information;
3. To develop and recommend to the City Council, for its adoption, ordinances and policies for the planting, care, maintenance, replacement and protection of trees throughout the city;
4. To act in an advisory capacity to the Planning Commission with respect to landscape design, suitable plantings, protection of natural vegetation and street tree requirements;
5. To submit recommendations to the City Council regarding the beautification of public properties and rights-of-way;
6. To promote public knowledge and acceptance of the value of tree planting and maintenance programs and requirements;
7. To develop a capital development program for each fiscal year, to include acquisition of new land and/or development of existing property for parks and other recreation areas;
8. To recommend recreation programing needs to be produced by the city;
9. To recommend an operating budget to carry out the recreation program as outlined for the forthcoming fiscal year; and
10. To preform additional duties and studies as may be required from time to time by the City Council.
11. To meet a minimum of four meetings a year, beginning with the month of December, which meeting should be devoted to the development of the next year's capital and recreation programs.

(Ord. 1263, § 1, 2017)



# CITY OF SWEET HOME PARKS AND TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 19, 2024, 8:30 AM  
Santiam Conference Room  
3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386

WIFI Passcode: guestwifi

PLEASE silence all cell phones – Anyone who wishes to speak, please sign in.

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## Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

## Roll Call of Park and Tree Committee Members:

### PRESENT

Matthew Bechtel  
Lena Tucker  
Bob Dalton  
Wally Shreves  
Nancy Patton  
Debra Sue Northern  
Councilor Trask

### STAFF

Kelcey Young, City Manager  
Greg Springman, Interim Public Works Director  
Angela Clegg, Tourism and Economic Development Coordinator  
Adam Leisinger, Communications Manager  
Diane Golden, Associate Planner

## Time Reports

Wally reported time minutes to Angela and Diane from the Safety Fair. Any unreported times will be reported.

## Meeting Minutes

2024-05-15 Park and Tree Committee Meeting Minutes: Debra Northern noticed a discrepancy in the minutes with the Cut the Gut checkpoint. Angela noted that the information for Cut the Gut in May will be null and void and updated. Debra Northern made a motion to approve. Lena Tucker seconded.

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*The location of the meeting is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, advanced notice is requested by notifying the City Manager's Office at 541-367-8969.*

Yay: 6

Nay: 0

**Public Comment.** This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Park and Tree Committee on topics that are not listed on the agenda.

None.

### **Old Business**

Cut the Gut : Location for Cut the Gut has changed. It will now be at City Hall and the Committee will be working with the Police Department and the Community Foundation on Friday, July 12 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The Park and Tree Committee will bring their swag. Angela asked how the flyers should be. Debra suggested a quarter sheet handout. Angela suggested a large flyer as well as quarter sheets. Wally wants the QR code to focus on the community center, but the QR code for multiple donations. Nancy will bring a donation can. Wally suggested a car quiz handout at Cut the Gut. Wally will not be in attendance for Cut the Gut or the next meeting.

Ivy Removal: Ivy removal was done at the south end of Sankey Park to the stream. Wally reported that a spray needs to be on the ivy. Greg Springman noted that fall is the best time for the spray.

### **New Business**

Safety Fair Report: Wally reported on the Safety Fair on June 15 from 9-12. Almost all the stickers were given away. Wally emphasized that the tree is the safety aspect of the Safety Fair. It was noted that the high attendance was partially due to being at Sankey Park as well as the ribbon cutting for the swing sets. Debra noted that the Safety Fair was much safer than it had been in years' past due to being at the park.

Health Fair: Bob mentioned the Health Fair is Saturday, August 17th from 9-2 p.m. in front of the high school. Health benefits to neighborhood parks will be reported at the Health Fair. Wally noted that a U.S. Surgeon General report in 2023 talked about park benefits include loneliness, heart health, and mental health. Kelcey Young stated that the number of parks have a direct correlation with livability and overall happiness with and parks per capita. Sweet Home is currently has very low livability. Parks help most notably for people with disabilities and autistic children. Lena Tucker and Bob Dalton will be in attendance. Debra Northern is tentative. Tucker stated that the swag should be restocked.

Harvest Festival Duties: Wally confirmed the Park and Tree Committee will return to hold the pie bake-off. Angela stated a few things will change but nothing confirmed yet. Wally will work on recruiting judges. It will be the first Saturday in October. The Harvest Festival had 68 booths last year.

Harper's Playground Training Report: Wally reported on the training event. Wally visited a \$4.3 million playground in Vancouver, and noted that everyone's reports of childhood memories did not include playgrounds, but interactions with nature. The fundraiser was created initially by a bake sale. There were play structures made from trees. The park was accessible for all, had musical and art structures. The Harper's Park foundation helps build parks or give guidance and workshops.

### **Round Table Discussions (Committee comments about topics not listed on the agenda)**

Kelcey mentioned the new dais and benches. The wood was donated to the city and the furniture was crafted in-house, which saved tens of thousands of dollars. It is a potential revenue stream and to reuse the trees that are required to fell for safety reasons, as well as paying tribute to the local timber industry in town. Kelcey noted that the bench in front of City Hall can be used as a prototype for future picnic tables and benches in town.

Wally asked to confirm if the boat take out was getting closed down at the Pleasant Valley Bridge. Greg reported that it has not been confirmed yet.

Kelcey reported that her and Angela have been working on setting up the park at 42nd and Osage. There is a park in San Antonio called Morgan's Wonderland where all the rides and amusements are accessible. Kelcey set up a visual of the ideas for 42nd of Osage. Phase 1 includes a bench swing, a slide, an 8 foot high climbing wall, a balance board, and a sensory cove. Phase 2 would include more inclusive aspects like a wheelchair swing, a beach volleyball court and a walking trail. Bob Dalton noted that most of the parks in Germany were natural and simple. The overall park goal would be to install an inclusive play structure at every park.

Nancy noted that the Park and Tree Committee needs new polo shirts. Angela will check the budget.



## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

The Sweet Home Park and Tree Committee welcomes your interest in these agenda items. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, this agenda includes a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting; however, the Committee may consider additional subjects as well. This meeting is open to the public and interested citizens are invited to attend.

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(Ord. 1263, § 1, 2017)



# Park System Plan

## City of Sweet Home

July 10, 2024  
DRAFT

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Sankey Park



# 01 Introduction



# Vision Statement

- *Sweet Home provides a range of park and recreation experiences that welcome residents and visitors. Park experiences are accessible to all ages and abilities, unique with regional character, and are intertwined with Sweet Home's flourishing community.*

## Planning Process

The Park System Plan was developed in collaboration with City staff and local residents. The Plan and its appendices document the research, public involvement process, and analysis that supported the planning process and the resulting needs and recommendations. The process follows the approach and standards set by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The Park System Plan provides a framework to guide the park and recreation system over the next 20 years by illustrating the system's needs and providing recommendations to meet those needs.



*I love the natural beauty of our parks and the trees and plants that grow in this area.*

## City Achievements

The City has made a series of improvements to Sankey Park. In 2019, park improvements included a new playground, lighting and seating, and a community plaza. Park restrooms were also replaced. Work towards implementing additional improvements to Sankey Park is ongoing, including replacing the bandstand structure and enhancing trails at the upper side of the park. Sankey Park is a cornerstone of the park system and functions as a hub for the community by supporting smaller events, like the Summer Reading Program and Movies in the Park, as well as larger events such as the Oregon Jamboree and the Harvest Festival.

Planning ahead for the future, the City acquired the former Quarry Property from Linn County in 2018. The Quarry Property is an extensive 233-acre site bordering the South Santiam River. Wetlands, ponds, and forests support habitat. Informal existing trails are in use, and the City is exploring potential partnerships to support public recreation and event opportunities on the site.



# 02 Understanding the Existing Park System

# City Facilities

Park system planning requires the identification and assessment of existing park and recreation facilities and amenities through an inventory process. System strengths, opportunities, and needs, including underserved areas, are documented during the process.

The inventory focuses on facilities owned or operated by the City but also documents other recreation facilities in the area. The full inventory is available in the appendices.

Six developed parks, two special use facilities, and one trail facility totaling approximately 86.73 acres of land and about 1.3 miles of trails, comprise the park system (Table 2.1). The City owns the majority of park facilities; one special use facility, the skate park, is owned by the School District. In addition, the City owns four undeveloped sites with potential for park uses. One undeveloped site is a large 233-acre undeveloped parcel of riverfront land, known as the Quarry Property, and three undeveloped sites that could be developed as future mini parks.

Map 2.1 Existing Park System illustrates the types of park facilities in the existing park system within the City of Sweet Home and provides context of the immediate area and other recreation available to residents. The full inventory with detailed facility information is available in the appendices.

**Table 2.1 Park System Developed Facilities**

DEVELOPED FACILITIES	
PARKS	ACRES
Community Park	
Sankey Park	17
Neighborhood Park	
Ashbrook Park	1.4
Clover Memorial Park	0.92
Northside Park	3.63
Strawberry Park	3.2
Natural Area Park	
Hobart Natural Area	59.59
Special Use Park	
Skate Park	0.81
Pleasant Valley Boat Ramp	0.18
<b>TOTAL PARK ACRES</b>	<b>86.73</b>
TRAILS	MILES
South Hills Trail	1.3
<b>TOTAL TRAIL MILES</b>	<b>1.3</b>

**Table 2.2 Park System Undeveloped Facilities**

UNDEVELOPED FACILITIES	
PARKS	ACRES
Regional Park	
Quarry Property	233
Mini Park	
Evergreen Loop	0.2
Walkabout Park	0.14
Halfway Park	0.12
<b>TOTAL PARK ACRES</b>	<b>233.46</b>



# Existing Park System

## Sweet Home Park System Plan

### LEGEND

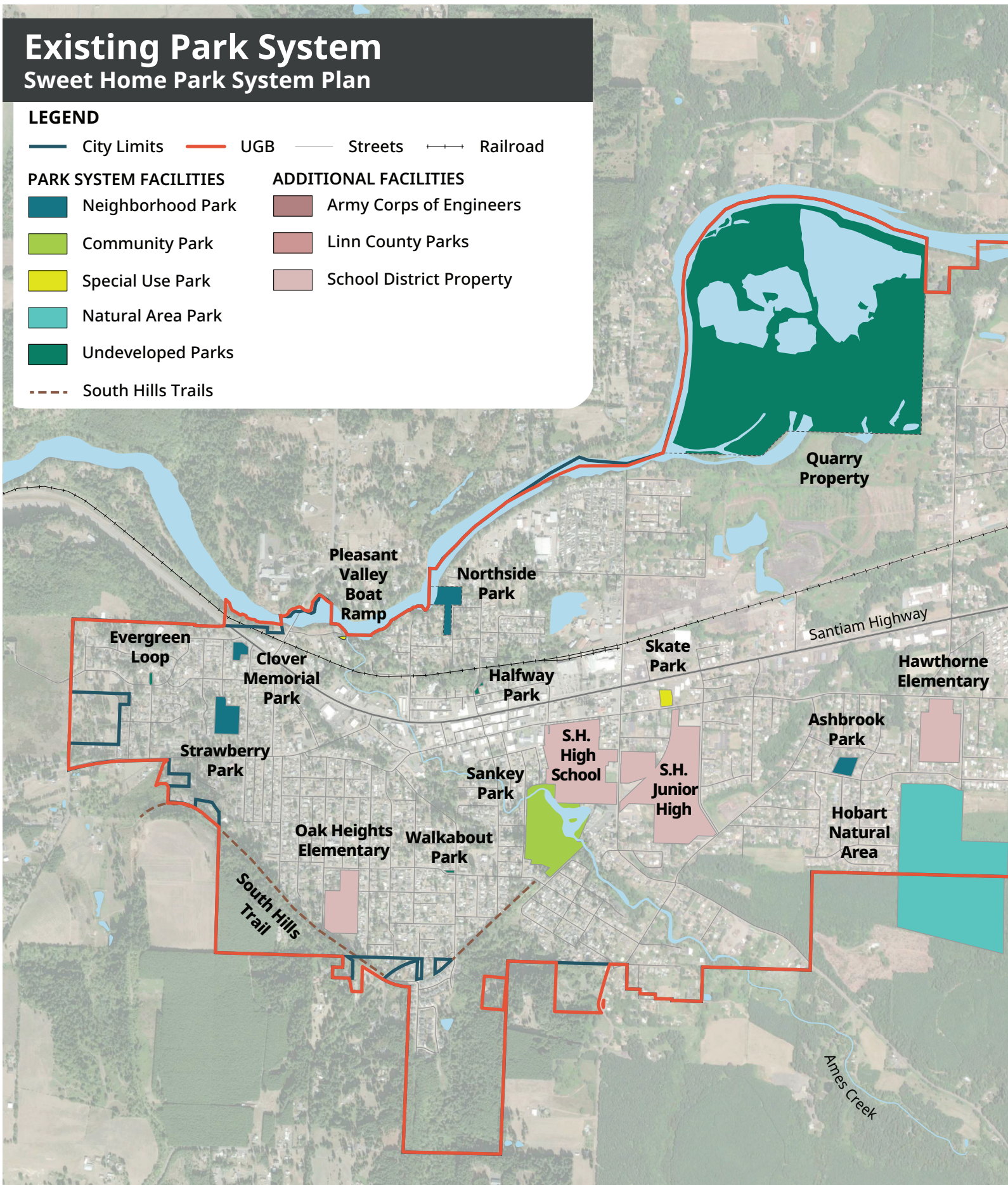
— City Limits   
 — UGB   
 — Streets   
 —+— Railroad

### PARK SYSTEM FACILITIES

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Park
- Natural Area Park
- Undeveloped Parks
- - - South Hills Trails

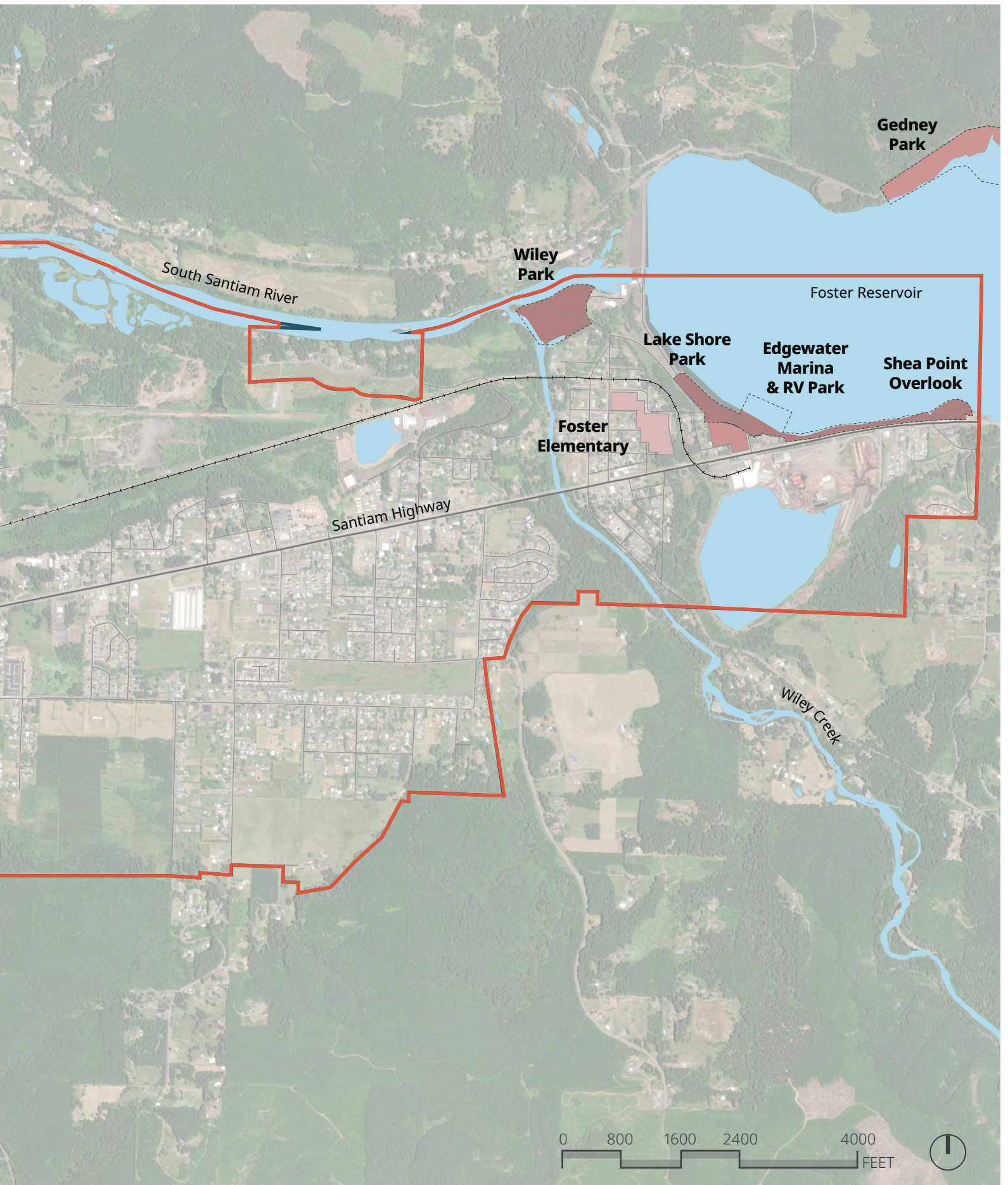
### ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Linn County Parks
- School District Property



Map 2.1 Existing Park System





# Level Of Service

Industry best practices set by NRPA<sup>1</sup> are used to determine the level of service the existing park system provides. Two benchmarks are applicable measures for level of service: Residents Per Park and Acres of Parkland Per 1,000 Residents.

## Residents Per Park

The ratio of residents per park is calculated by dividing the current population estimate (10,028 people) by the number of existing neighborhood and community park properties (5 park properties). Based on this equation, the ratio of residents per park in Sweet Home is 2,005 residents per park.

For this benchmark, a ratio of fewer residents per park (or a ratio close to the lower quartile) is preferred, meaning there are fewer residents per park compared to similarly sized jurisdictions. A ratio with a greater number of residents per park (or a ratio close to the upper quartile) means there are more residents per park compared to similarly sized jurisdictions.

Compared to jurisdictions surveyed by NRPA with less than 20,000 residents, Sweet Home's ratio of residents per park is significantly higher than the national median ratio. The residents per park ratio shows that Sweet Home residents have fewer parks to visit than similarly sized jurisdictions (Table 2.3).

<sup>1</sup> 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review (National Recreation and Park Association, 2023), 7-8.

**Table 2.3 Residents Per Park**

	Number of Residents	Residents Per Park	Comparison
<b>Sweet Home</b>			
	10,028	2,005	-
<b>NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies</b>			
Median	-	1,225	780
Lower Quartile	-	666	1,339
Upper Quartile	-	2,042	-37



## Acres of Parkland Per 1,000 Residents

The ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is calculated based on the developed acreage of neighborhood and community park land (26.15 acres) and the current population estimate divided by 1,000 (10.03). Based on this equation, the acres of park land per 1,000 residents in Sweet Home is 2.6 acres per 1,000 residents.

For this benchmark, a higher ratio of acres per resident (or a ratio close to the upper quartile) is preferred, meaning there are more acres per resident than similarly sized jurisdictions. The lower the ratio (or a ratio close to the lower quartile), the fewer acres per 1,000 residents.

When compared to similarly sized jurisdictions of less than 20,000 residents, Sweet Home's ratio of acres of park land per 1,000 residents is lower than the national lower quartile ratio. The acres of park land per 1,000 residents ratio shows that Sweet Home offers significantly lower acres of park land than a similarly sized jurisdiction (Table 2.4). Detailed level of service analysis is found in the appendices.

**Table 2.4 Acres of Park Land Per 1,000 Residents**

	Population	Ratio (Acres of Park Land / 1,000 Residents)	Comparison
<b>Sweet Home</b>			
	10,028	2.6	-
<b>NRPA Review of Similarly Sized Agencies</b>			
Median	-	13	-10.4
Lower Quartile	-	6	-3.4
Upper Quartile	-	21.1	-18.5



Foster Reservoir



# Existing Level of Service

## Sweet Home Park System Plan

### LEGEND

— City Limits   
 — UGB   
 — Streets   
 —+— Railroad

### PARK SYSTEM FACILITIES

■ Neighborhood Park

■ Community Park

■ Special Use Park

■ Natural Area Park

■ Undeveloped Parks

- - - South Hills Trails

1/4 Mile Walkability

NRPA 1/2 Mile Service Area

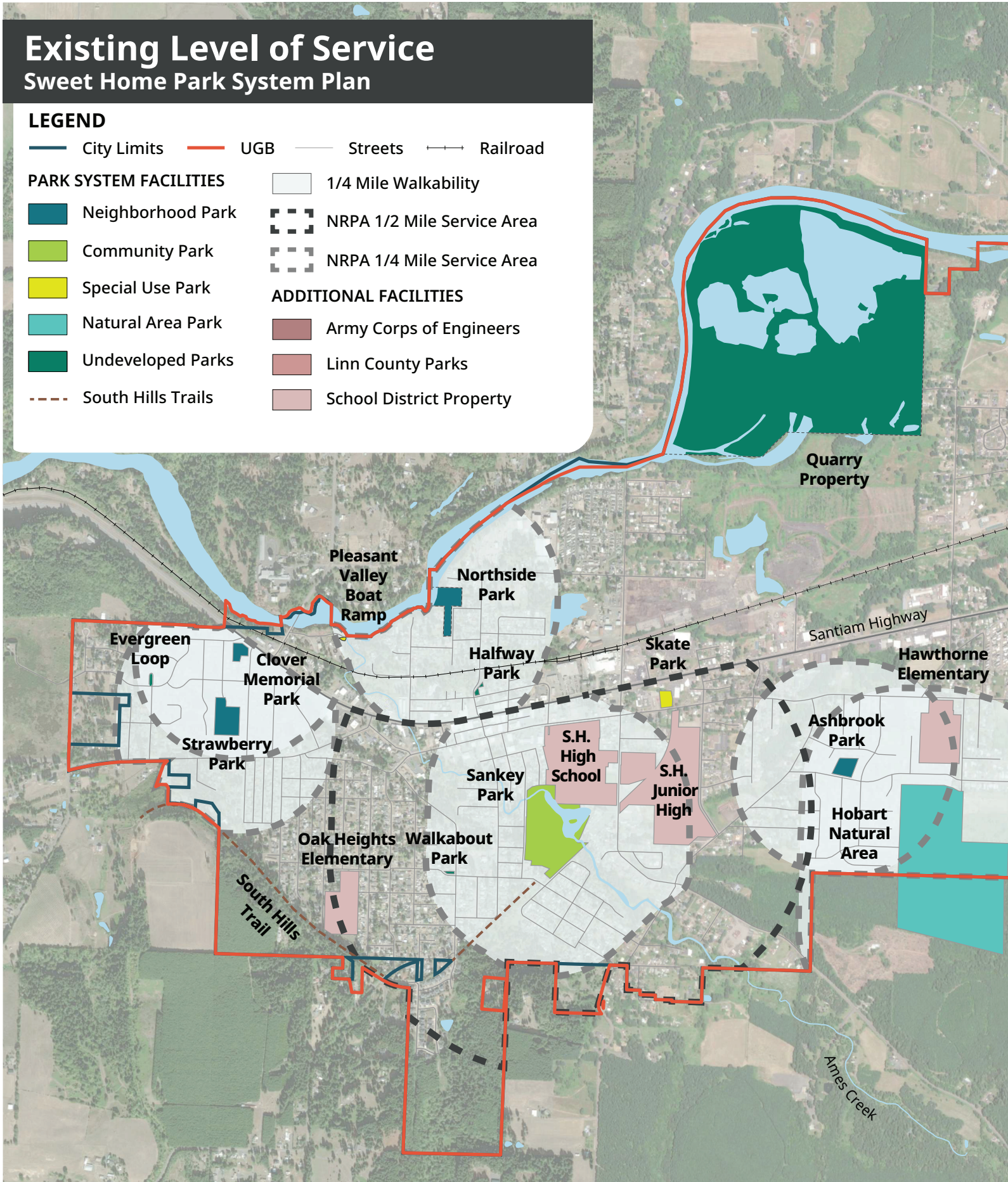
NRPA 1/4 Mile Service Area

### ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

■ Army Corps of Engineers

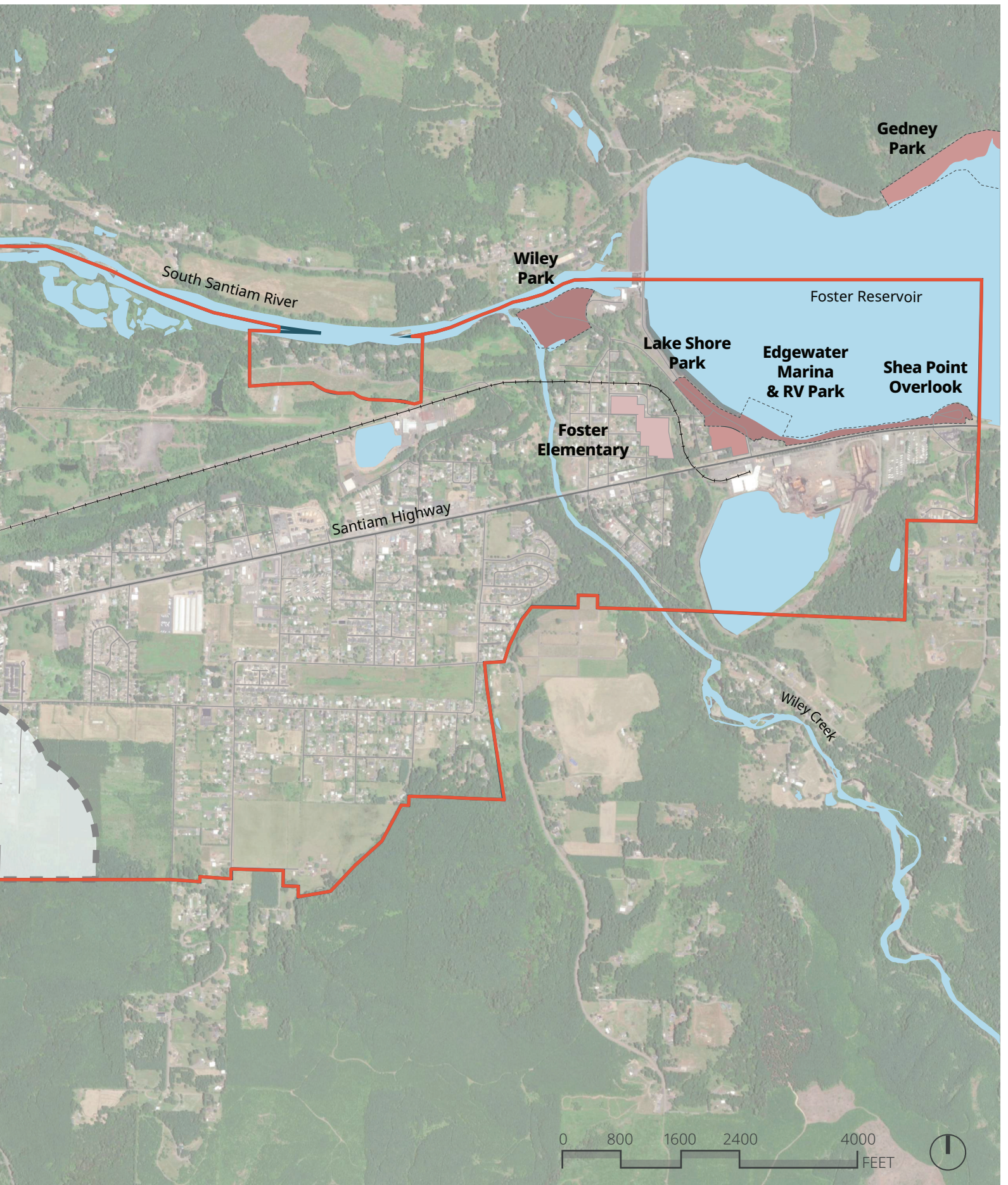
■ Linn County Parks

■ School District Property



Map 2.2 Existing Level of Service









# 03 Identifying Park System Needs

Park system needs are determined through a detailed evaluation of park inventory, level of service, demographics, projected population growth, public involvement findings, and recreation trends. A detailed profile of Sweet Home’s community demographics and summaries of the public involvement methods and findings is found in the appendices.

## Top Needs And Priorities

### Water Play or Splash Pad

Residents were strongly interested in water play or a splash pad, particularly at the in-person public involvement events. It was the most popular park amenity during the project’s public involvement process when combining results from all involvement methods.

### Trails

#### (Paved and Unpaved Trails, Improved Sidewalks)

Trails were the second most popular park amenity. According to the Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) rural residents, especially families with children and low-income residents and older adults, expressed that soft surface walking trails and paths were a top priority for recreation near their homes.<sup>2</sup>

### Nature Playground

Residents expressed slightly more interest in nature playground than a more traditional children’s playground. Nature play was a priority at in-person events with families and children during the public involvement phase. State-level data show playgrounds with natural materials like trees, logs, water, sand, boulders, and hills are also a priority for rural Latino residents and families with children.<sup>3</sup>

### Children’s Playground

Play areas for children were a priority residents shared, particularly at in-person events with many families and children attendees. Statewide data from SCORP also show rural families with children identify children’s playgrounds with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing features to be a top priority for recreation near their homes and regionally.<sup>4</sup>

### Water Recreation and Water Access

Improving existing access or creating new public access to water for recreation purposes is a current need. Rural residents identifying as older adults, families with children, and low-income expressed public access sites to waterways as a need in their area.<sup>5</sup>

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2 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023 (Oregon Park and Recreation Department, 2019), 184, 188, 189.

3 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023, 186, 188.

4 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023, 188.

5 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023, 184, 188, 189.





Participants share their favorite amenities at a Sankey Park after visiting the summer reading program in 2023.

## Mountain Biking Trails, Bike Park

Residents expressed interest in more park development that includes mountain biking trails and bike parks.

## Covered Play Areas/Picnic Shelters/Shade

Protection from the weather elements, particularly the sun, was a desired park improvement. Shade sails, picnic shelters, and trees were examples residents shared of the type of covered or shaded experiences they desired. Statewide SCORP data show that rural residents identifying as Latinos, families with children, and low-income residents all expressed more shaded areas and/or picnic areas and shelters for small groups as their top priorities for recreation locally and regionally. Additionally, rural Latino residents identified that picnic areas and shelters that accommodate large groups are also needed.<sup>6</sup>

## Park Facilities In The Northern And Eastern Areas Of Sweet Home

At in-person events, the east side of town was most frequently identified as an area in need of parks. The specific locations residents shared congregated around 47th Avenue, north and south of Main Street. Along with upgrades to existing facilities, building parks in underserved neighborhoods was a top priority for residents.

<sup>6</sup> Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023, 186, 188, 189.

## Accessibility Improvements

Residents expressed a need for improved physical access to and within facilities. Extending beyond trails and sidewalk improvements, residents identified a desire for more accessible parking areas, facilities, and equipment so they can participate in recreation experiences. Older adults (ages 65+) were most frequently reported as an underserved population in Sweet Home, and people experiencing disabilities were included in the second most frequently reported underserved population. Currently, the largest age demographic in Sweet Home (29% of the population) is 45-64 and 21% of the population 65 or older. Also, SCORP identifies Oregon’s aging population as a key issue to address, as almost a third of the population will be over the age of 60 by 2030.<sup>7</sup> Statewide SCORP survey data of Oregon residents also highlight that accessible parking is a priority.<sup>8</sup> Maintaining and improving physical access for an aging population and people experiencing disabilities is a current and long-term park system need.

## Inclusive Recreation Opportunities

During public involvement process, Sweet Home residents expressed their vision for the future system to appeal to a diverse demographic of residents and provide enhanced accessibility to park spaces and equipment. They shared examples like multilingual signage and park amenities that fit the needs and interests for residents of different ages, races, and abilities.

7 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023, 194.

8 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023, 196.



Participants share their ideas for the park system during the Harvest Festival in 2023.





# 04 Envisioning the Future Park System

Goals and actions in the Park System Plan guide implementation efforts and policy decisions toward achieving the Plan’s vision and recommendations. Goals are broad areas of achievement and actions are specific steps needed to achieve stated goals. Recommendations are specific projects needed to achieve the Park System Plan goals and implement the vision.

# Goals And Actions

## 1. Develop and Improve Facilities

- 1.1. Develop additional and improve existing playground facilities.
- 1.2. Provide water recreation opportunities including but not limited to water play, river access, and fishing.
- 1.3. Provide spaces for social gatherings (including picnic areas, shelters, benches, and shade).
- 1.4. Enhance open space and natural areas and provide additional recreation opportunities.

## 2. Increase the Level of Service and Connectivity

- 2.1. Develop new parks in underserved residential neighborhoods.
- 2.2. Identify and acquire land for parks in future residential areas.
- 2.3. Expand the network of paths and trails, including facilities for walking, cycling, hiking, and mountain biking.
- 2.4. Create walkable connections to parks, including new or improved sidewalks and road and rail crossings.

## 3. Improve Physical Accessibility Within Parks

- 3.1. Improve physical circulation within parks, including new sidewalks, multi-use paths, and trails.
- 3.2. Provide accessible play opportunities, including accessible play surfaces and equipment.
- 3.3. Improve and develop parking areas and provide accessible routes to amenities.

## 4. Expand Available Resources for Improvements and Maintenance

- 4.1. Regularly evaluate and pursue additional funding sources, including grants and partnerships.
- 4.2. Continue coordination and relationship building with existing partners to maximize the benefits of regional and local projects.
- 4.3. Develop amenities that include revenue-generating opportunities, such as campgrounds, shelters, events, and other rental spaces.

## 5. Expand and Update Park Facilities for Improved Access and Inclusion

- 5.1. Provide various recreation options in park facilities that serve a broad range of park users.
- 5.2. Provide signage, including wayfinding, informational, and multilingual signage.
- 5.3. Improve services for older adults (65+) and people experiencing disabilities, teens, children, and minorities.



Ashbrook Park





Sankey Park

# Recommendations

## System

### Level of Service

Currently, the park system level of service ratio of park acreage per 1,000 residents is well below the lower quartile for similarly sized jurisdictions. To increase the level of service, the Plan recommends the adoption of a LOS target of 6.0 park acres per 1,000 residents. This LOS target would meet the lower quartile for acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

With an estimated population of 11,175 residents in 2043, the City will need to develop approximately 41 acres of parkland over the next 20 years to achieve the LOS target of 6.0 acres of parkland

per 1,000 residents. The City has 1 to 3 acres of undeveloped property at 42nd and Osage Street planned to be developed as a neighborhood park. There is also an opportunity for a neighborhood park near 43rd and Coulter, where a potential subdivision is under land development review. If a 10 to 20-acre park were developed in that location, the City would be about one-third to halfway toward achieving the LOS target. In addition to those two park developments, an additional 18 to 30 acres of neighborhood or community park development is needed to achieve a LOS of 6.0 acres of parkland

**Table 4.1 Systemwide Recommendations**

ID	Site	Description
S1.1	System	Develop a Wayfinding Plan to identify signage locations and design for on-street and off-street signage.
S2.1	System	Adopt a level of service target of 6.0 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.
S3.1	System	Install on-street signage (including signage to parks) based on Wayfinding Plan.
S4.1	System	Amend the Sweet Home Development Code to include parkland dedication or parkland development funding (payment in lieu) standards for land division subdivision and planned development approvals.
S5.1	System	Implement, design, and maintain consistency with products and features such as site furnishings and signage as existing parks are improved and new parks are developed.

per 1,000 residents by 2043. Achieving a LOS of 6.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents meets the lower quartile of service and is an improvement from the current service of 2.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Developing 3-4 parks totaling 41 acres of parkland will also improve the residents per park level of service by lowering the number of residents per park and

bringing the LOS in Sweet Home closer to the median LOS of similarly sized agencies. Assuming Sweet Home realizes an estimated population of 11,175 in 2043, and the City develops 3-4 new parks totaling 41 acres, the LOS in the next twenty years improves by decreasing to 1,240 residents per park from 1,390 residents per park, or approximately the median residents per park LOS benchmark.



*(Parks can) be a safe place for families and friends to gather to spend time together and get to know our community.*



# Park Facility Development

Park facility development recommendations are outlined in Tables 4.2 to 4.8. Recommendations include development for existing neighborhood, community, natural area and special use parks as well as undeveloped parks, new parks, and park acquisitions and development.

## Neighborhood Park Facility Development

- Ashbrook Park
- Clover Memorial Park
- Northside Park
- Strawberry Park

## Community Park Facility Development

- Sankey Park

## Natural Area Park Facility Development

- Hobart Natural Area

## Special Use Park Facility Development

- Pleasant Valley Boat Ramp

## Undeveloped Park Facility Development

- Walkabout Park
- Halfway Park

## New Park Facility Development

- Future Neighborhood Park (City Hall Park)
- Future Neighborhood Park
- Future Regional Park (Quarry Property)

## Park Acquisition and Development

- Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition 1 (East)
- Future Outdoor Event Center Acquisition 2 (East)



Clover Memorial Park



**Table 4.2 Neighborhood Park Recommendations**

ID	Site	Description
P1.1	Ashbrook Park	Install restroom, lighting, security cameras.
P1.2	Ashbrook Park	Improve the parking area to enhance accessibility.
P1.3	Ashbrook Park	Replace the existing playground.
P1.4	Ashbrook Park	Improve existing basketball courts with resurfacing.
P1.5	Ashbrook Park	Pave the existing loop trail to improve accessibility and install site furnishings.
P1.6	Ashbrook Park	Design and install educational signage.
P2.1	Clover Memorial Park	Improve adjacent right of way to add parking spaces.
P2.2	Clover Memorial Park	Improve visibility through the park by lowering the height of Fountain Hill.
P2.3	Clover Memorial Park	Develop playground and install site furnishings.
P2.4	Clover Memorial Park	Install landscape improvements and address drainage improvements.
P3.1	Northside Park	Install river access trail.
P3.2	Northside Park	Install security cameras.
P3.3	Northside Park	Construct a fishing and viewing platform.
P3.4	Northside Park	Replace basketball court base and surfacing.
P3.5	Northside Park	Resurface racquetball court and tennis court.
P3.6	Northside Park	Install off-street wayfinding signage.
P3.7	Northside Park	Remodel playground.
P3.8	Northside Park	Install landscape improvements.
P3.9	Northside Park	Install site furnishings.
P3.10	Northside Park	Design and install educational signage.
P4.1	Strawberry Park	Improve parking area and install loop trail.
P4.2	Strawberry Park	Install restroom and security cameras.
P4.3	Strawberry Park	Install landscape improvements and irrigation updates.
P4.4	Strawberry Park	Design and install playground addition.
P4.5	Strawberry Park	Design and install pavilion.
P4.6	Strawberry Park	Install off-street wayfinding signage.
P4.7	Strawberry Park	Design and install educational signage related to wetland mitigation/ landscape improvements.



Sankey Park

**Table 4.3 Community Park Recommendations**

ID	Site	Description
P5.1	Sankey Park	Design and construct bandstand/community event center.
P5.2	Sankey Park	Design and install splash pad.
P5.3	Sankey Park	Plan, design, and install pump track.
P5.4	Sankey Park	Install restrooms at upper Sankey Park and security cameras.
P5.5	Sankey Park	Plan, design, and install basketball court.
P5.6	Sankey Park	Install off-street directional signage for South Hills Trail.
P5.7	Sankey Park	Install pedestrian bridge to the community center.

**Table 4.4 Natural Area Park Recommendations**

ID	Site	Description
P6.1	Hobart Natural Area	Develop a Natural Area Management Plan including a detailed analysis of restoration areas, quantify the restoration needed and prepare specific management recommendations.
P6.2	Hobart Natural Area	Develop parking areas, and improve roadway access from 35th Ave.
P6.3	Hobart Natural Area	Install trails and boardwalk, including trail lighting.
P6.4	Hobart Natural Area	Install site furnishings; trailhead landscape improvements and lighting.
P6.5	Hobart Natural Area	Initiate wetland restoration efforts following management plan recommendations.
P6.6	Hobart Natural Area	Install off-street wayfinding signage.
P6.7	Hobart Natural Area	Design and install educational signage following trail installation.



Pleasant Valley Boat Ramp

**Table 4.5 Special Use Park Recommendations**

ID	Site	Description
P7.1	Pleasant Valley Boat Ramp	Resurface parking area.

**Table 4.6 Undeveloped Park Recommendations**

ID	Site	Description
P8.1	Walkabout Park	Install site furnishings.
P8.2	Walkabout Park	Install landscape improvements.
P9.1	Halfway Park	Install sidewalk improvements.
P9.2	Halfway Park	Install site furnishings.
P9.3	Halfway Park	Install landscape improvements.

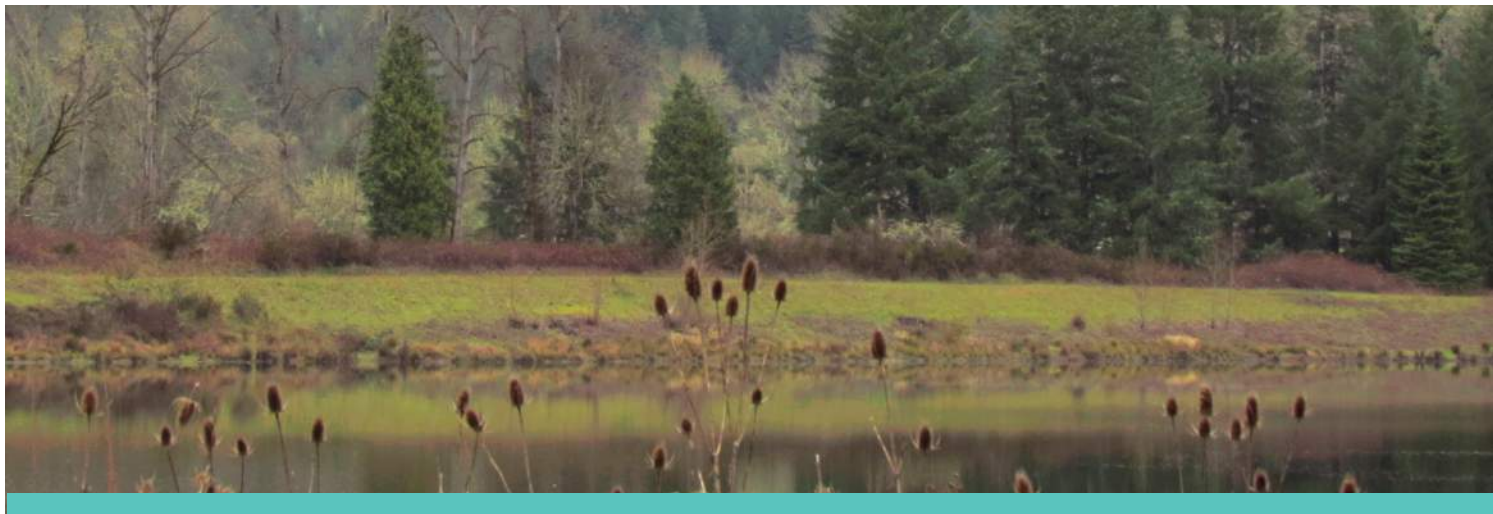


**Table 4.7 New Park Recommendations**

ID	Site	Description
P10.1	Future Neighborhood Park (City Hall Park)	Relocate the Dahlenburg covered bridge from Sankey Park to the future park site adjacent to City Hall.
P10.2	Future Neighborhood Park (City Hall Park)	Install dog park and pedestrian path to adjacent neighborhood.
P10.3	Future Neighborhood Park (City Hall Park)	Install a new playground.
P11.1	Future Neighborhood Park	Develop 1 to 3 acres as a neighborhood park with natural area components at 42nd and Osage Street.
P12.1	Future Regional Park (Quarry Property)	Issue an RFI for public-private partnership at the former Quarry Property.
P12.2	Future Regional Park (Quarry Property)	Install multi-use paths at the Quarry Property.
P12.3	Future Regional Park (Quarry Property)	Install pavilions, picnic shelters, informational kiosks and educational signage at the Quarry Property. Install off-street wayfinding signage.

**Table 4.8 Park Acquisition and Development Recommendations**

ID	Site	Description
A1.1	Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition 1 (East)	Acquire and develop 5 to 15 acres for a neighborhood park. Develop playground, basketball court, pavilion, and restroom.
A2.1	Future Outdoor Event Center Acquisition 2 (East)	Conduct a feasibility study for an outdoor event center located between 38th to 42nd Avenue, south of Long Street.



Quarry Property

# Trail Development

Recommendations for trail development are summarized as a Trail System Plan in Table 4.9.

- Trail System Plan

**Table 4.9 Trail Development Recommendations**

ID	Site	Description
T1.1	Trail System Plan	<p>Develop a Trail System Plan, and study the following trail projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Hills Trail Expansion (on-street)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Connection to Sankey Park; connect east and west segments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ames Creek Trail (on-street and off-street)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Sankey Park to Hobart Natural Area</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wiley Creek Trail               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ North-south trail along Wiley Creek from Wiley Park with bridge crossing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• South Santiam River Trail               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Northside Park to Quarry Property segment</li> <li>◦ Quarry Property to Wiley Park segment (OPRD grant)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rail trail               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ South side of railroad between Wiley Park and 24th</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Foster Dam Road trail (on-street)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Connects to Foster Reservoir trail, and in collaboration with the Corps.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Shea Point Trail               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Trail from Shea Viewpoint towards Sweet Home along rail</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 43rd and Osage to Quarry Property (on-street and off-street)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Connection with rail trail</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Long Street Trail (on-street)</li> <li>• Sankey Park to Northside Park Trail (on-street)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Trail along 18th Ave and Tamarack Street</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Coulter Lane to Foothills Drive               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ East-west trail through Hobart Natural Area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Operations And Maintenance

The City will need to adjust its staffing and funding levels to adequately support park operations and maintenance as the City experiences population growth and the park system expands. Standards for maintenance and consistency in products can also improve efficiency. Examples of such standards include: ensuring playground equipment and surrounding play areas meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards; ensuring park facilities and circulation are accessible for all, structurally sound facilities with no compromised materials, park spaces are free of debris or graffiti, and restrooms are open consistently, clean, sanitary, and supplied with necessary facility products.



Sankey Park



# Proposed Park System

## Sweet Home Park System Plan

### LEGEND

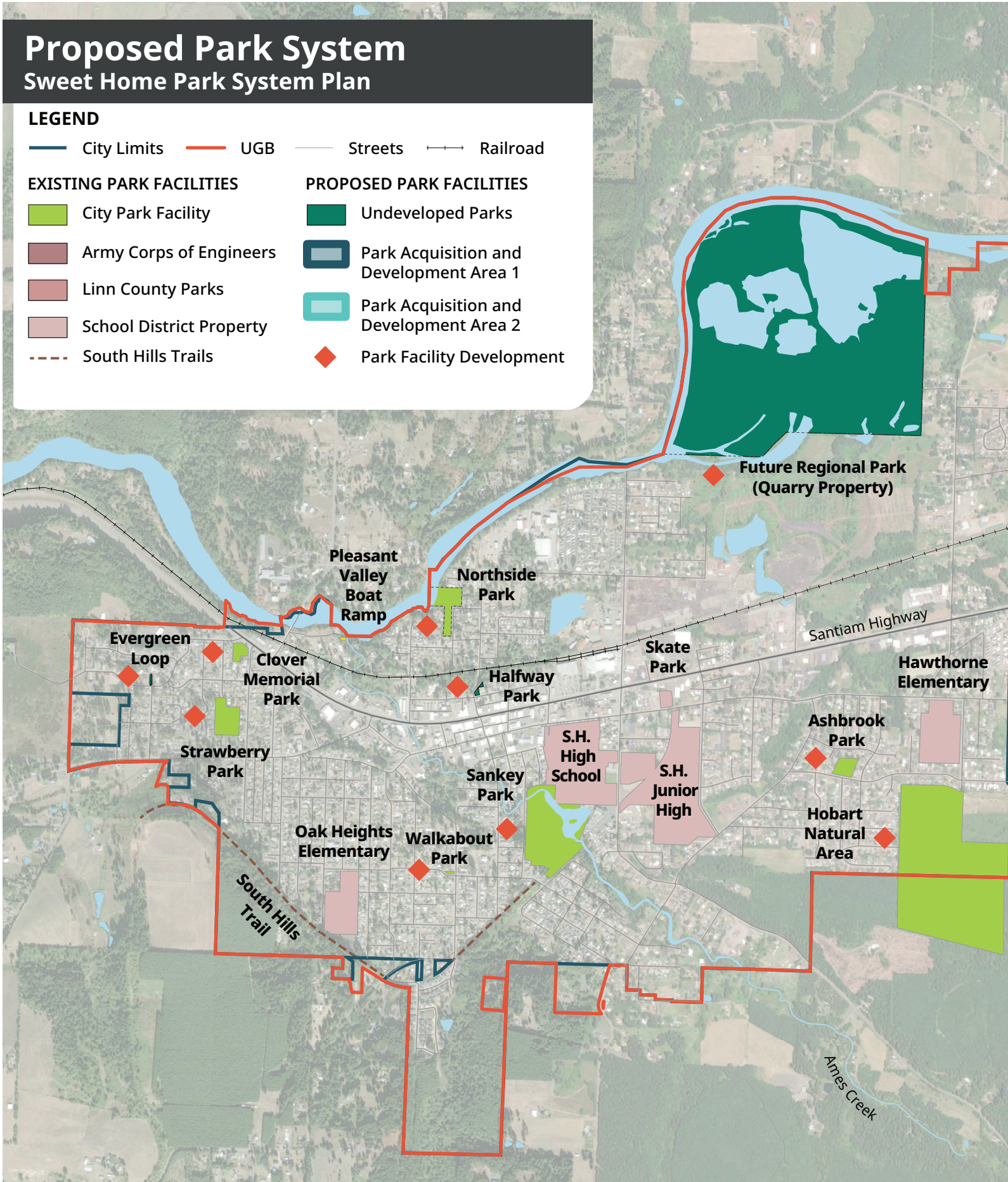
— City Limits   
 — UGB   
 — Streets   
 —+— Railroad

### EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

■ City Park Facility  
■ Army Corps of Engineers  
■ Linn County Parks  
■ School District Property  
- - - South Hills Trails

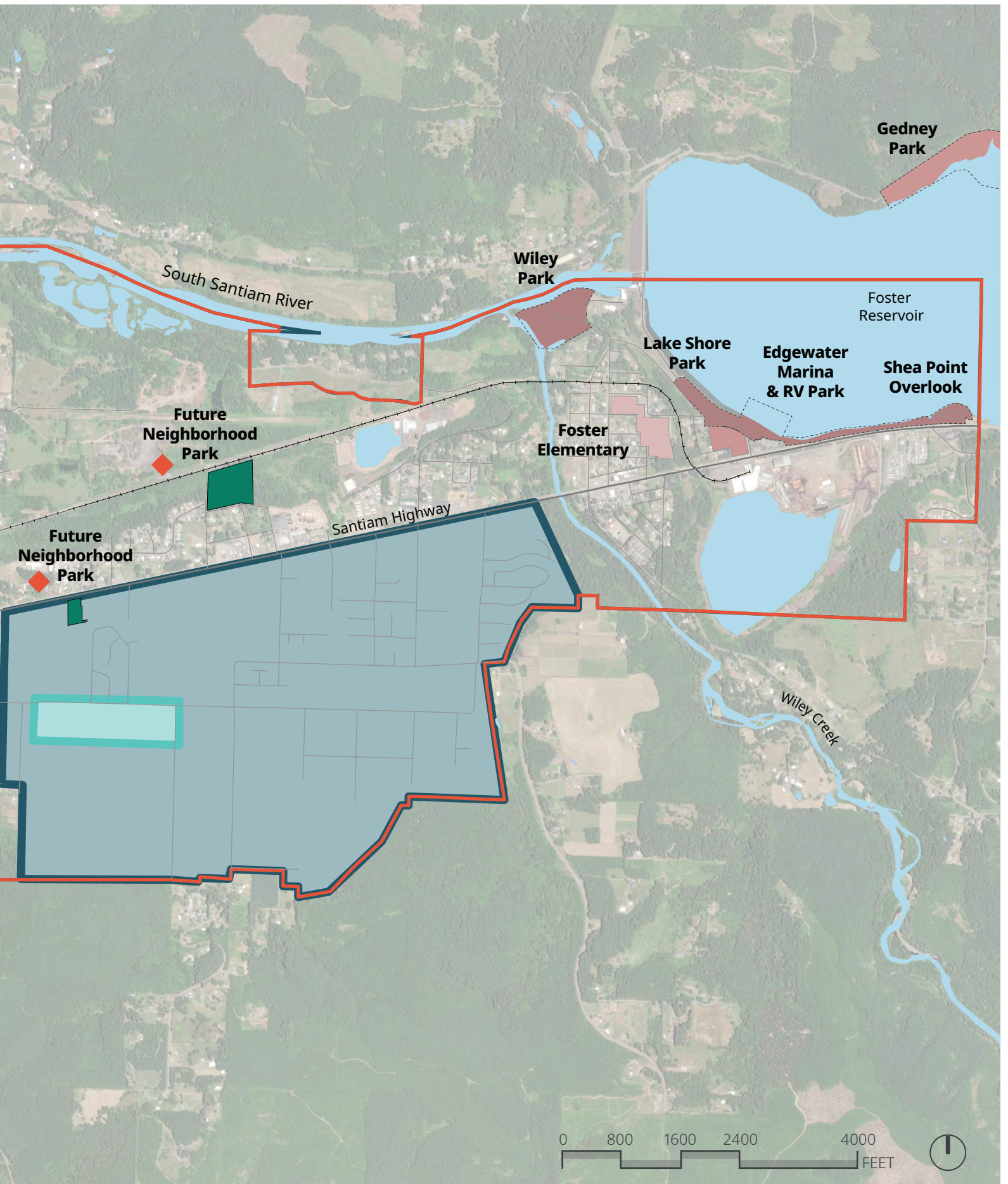
### PROPOSED PARK FACILITIES

■ Undeveloped Parks  
  Park Acquisition and Development Area 1  
  Park Acquisition and Development Area 2  
◆ Park Facility Development



Map 4.1 Proposed Park System









# 05 Implementation

This chapter summarizes the planned projects and system recommendations, the prioritization of projects over the 20-year planning period, and funding strategies the City can utilize for implementation.

## Planned Projects

**Table 5.1 Planned Projects**

ID	Project Title	Description	Size	Cost
P1	Ashbrook Park	Install restroom, lighting, and security cameras. Improve parking, replace playground and resurface basketball court. Pave existing loop trail and install site furnishings. Design and install educational signage.	1.40 ac	\$1,233,700
P2	Clover Memorial Park	Improve adjacent right of way to add parking spaces. Improve Fountain Hill visibility. Develop playground and install site furnishings. Install landscape improvements and improve drainage.	0.92 ac	\$562,800
P3	Northside Park	Install river access trail and fishing/viewing platform. Install security cameras. Update basketball court base and surfacing, update racquetball court and tennis court surfacing. Install off-street wayfinding signage based on Wayfinding Plan. Remodel playground. Install landscape improvements and site furnishings. Design and install educational signage.	3.63 ac	\$1,097,900
P4	Strawberry Park	Improve parking area. Install loop trail and security cameras. Install restroom, landscape improvements, and update irrigation. Install playground addition and pavilion. Install off-street wayfinding signage based on Wayfinding Plan. Design and install educational signage related to wetland mitigation/landscape improvements.	3.20 ac	\$2,117,900
P5	Sankey Park	Design and construct bandstand/community event center. Install splash pad, pump track, restroom at upper Sankey Park and security cameras. Install basketball court and off-street directional signage for the South Hills Trail. Install pedestrian bridge to community center.	17.0 ac	\$2,809,800

**Table 5.1 Planned Projects**

P6	Hobart Natural Area	Develop a Natural Area Management Plan. Develop parking areas. Improve roadway access from 35th Ave. Install trails, site furnishings, trailhead landscape improvements, and lighting. Restore wetlands. Install off-street wayfinding signage based on Wayfinding Plan. Design and install educational signage following trail installation.	59.60 ac	\$1,551,800
P7	Pleasant Valley Boat Ramp	Resurface parking area.	0.18 ac	\$336,200
P8	Walkabout Park	Install site furnishings and landscape improvements.	0.14 ac	\$10,200
P9	Halfway Park	Install sidewalk improvements. Install site furnishings and landscape improvements.	0.12 ac	\$97,500
P10	Future Neighborhood Park (City Hall Park)	Relocate Dahlenburg covered bridge from Sankey Park. Install dog park and pedestrian path to adjacent neighborhood. Install a playground.	1.50 ac	\$721,000
P11	Future Neighborhood Park	Develop 1 to 3 acres as a neighborhood park at 42nd and Osage Street.	1 to 3 ac	\$1,500,000
P12	Future Regional Park (Quarry Property)	Install multi-use paths. Install pavilions, picnic shelters and informational kiosks. Design and install educational signage. Install off-street wayfinding signage based on Wayfinding Plan.	233.00 ac	\$2,797,200
T1	Trail System Plan	Develop a Trail System Plan.	-	\$90,000
A1	Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition 1 (East)	Acquire 5 to 15 acres for a neighborhood park. Develop playground, basketball court, pavilion and restroom.	5-15 ac	ND
A2	Future Outdoor Event Center Acquisition 2 (East)	Conduct a feasibility study for an outdoor event center.	-	ND
S1	Wayfinding Plan	Develop a Wayfinding Plan to identify signage locations and design for on-street and off-street signage.	-	\$100,000



## Funding Requirements

As new parkland is developed, the park system will increase in size, acreage, and miles of trails.

Table 5.2 categorizes proposed projects by site and priority level. The total costs for planned projects are estimated to be approximately \$15,026,000. The prioritized projects are divided into three priority levels.

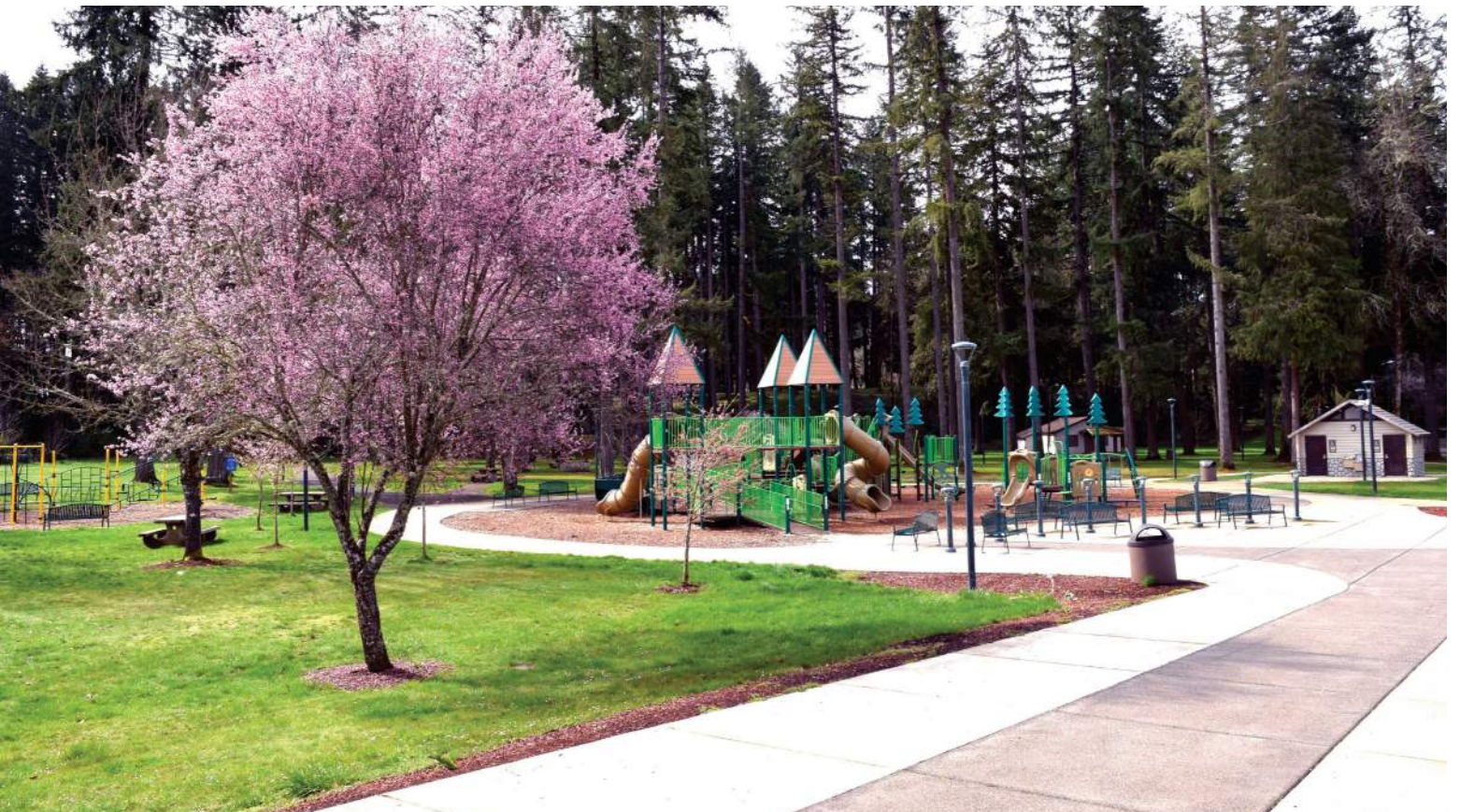
- \$3,727,300 in funding for High Priority projects (2025-2030).
- \$6,170,200 in funding for Medium Priority projects (2030-2035).
- \$5,128,500 in funding for Low Priority project (2035-2045).

**Table 5.2 Project Prioritization**

ID/ Phase	Project Title/Description	High	Medium	Low
		FY 2025-2030	FY 2030-2035	FY 2035-2045
P1	Ashbrook Park			
Phase 1	Install restroom, lighting, and security cameras.	\$816,700	-	
Phase 2	Improve parking, replace playground and resurface basketball court.		\$295,400	-
Phase 3	Pave existing loop trail and install site furnishings. Design and install educational signage.	-	-	\$121,600
P2	Clover Memorial Park			
Phase 1	Improve adjacent right of way to add parking spaces. Improve Fountain Hill visibility.	\$22,300	-	-
Phase 2	Develop playground and install site furnishings.	-	\$314,800	\$ -
Phase 3	Install landscape improvements and improve drainage.	-	-	\$225,700

**Table 5.2 Project Prioritization**

P3	Northside Park			
Phase 1	Install river access trail and fishing/viewing platform. Install security cameras.	\$559,800	-	-
Phase 2	Update basketball court base and surfacing, update racquetball court and tennis court surfacing. Install off-street wayfinding signage based on Wayfinding Plan.	-	\$197,600	-
Phase 3	Remodel playground. Install landscape improvements, site furnishings. Design and install educational signage.	-	-	\$340,500
P4	Strawberry Park			
Phase 1	Improve parking area and install loop trail and security cameras.	\$344,500	-	-
Phase 2	Install restroom, landscape improvements, and update irrigation. Install playground addition and pavilion. Install off-street wayfinding signage based on Wayfinding Plan. Design and install educational signage related to wetland mitigation/landscape improvements.	-	-	\$1,773,400



Sankey Park

c)



**Table 5.2 Project Prioritization**

P5	Sankey Park			
Phase 1	Design and construct bandstand/community event center.	ND	-	-
Phase 2	Install splash pad, pump track, restroom at Upper Sankey Park and security cameras. Install basketball court and off-street directional signage for the South Hills Trail.	-	\$2,458,400	-
Phase 3	Install pedestrian bridge to community center.	-	-	\$351,400
P6	Hobart Natural Area			
Phase 1	Develop a Natural Area Management Plan.	\$70,000	-	-
Phase 2	Develop parking areas. Improve roadway access from 35th Ave.	-	\$273,300	-
Phase 3	Install trails, site furnishings, trailhead landscape improvements, and lighting. Restore wetlands. Install off-street wayfinding signage based on Wayfinding Plan. Design and install educational signage following trail installation.	-	-	\$1,208,500
P7	Pleasant Valley Boat Ramp			
Phase 1	Resurface parking area.	-	\$336,200	-
P8	Walkabout Park			
Phase 1	Install site furnishings and landscape improvements.	-	\$10,200	-
P9	Halfway Park			
Phase 1	Install sidewalk improvements.	-	\$71,600	-
Phase 2	Install site furnishings and landscape improvements.	-	\$	\$25,900
P10	Future Neighborhood Park (City Hall Park)			
Phase 1	Relocate Dahlenburg covered bridge from Sankey Park.	ND	-	-
Phase 1	Install dog park and pedestrian path to adjacent neighborhood.	\$224,000	-	-
Phase 2	Install a playground.	-	\$497,000	-

**Table 5.2 Project Prioritization**

P11	Future Neighborhood Park			
Phase 1	Develop 1 to 3 acres as a neighborhood park at 42nd and Osage Street.	\$1,500,000	-	-
P12	Future Regional Park (Quarry Property)			
Phase 1	Install multi-use paths.	-	\$1,715,700	-
Phase 2	Install pavilions, picnic shelters and informational kiosks. Design and install educational signage. Install off-street wayfinding signage based on Wayfinding Plan.	-	-	\$1,081,500
T1	Trail System Plan			
Phase 1	Develop a Trail System Plan.	\$90,000	-	-
A1	Future Neighborhood Park Acquisition 1 (East)			
Phase 1	Acquire and develop 5 to 15 acres for a neighborhood park. Develop playground, basketball court, pavilion and restroom.	-	ND	-
A2	Future Outdoor Event Center Acquisition 2 (East)			
Phase 1	Conduct a feasibility study for an outdoor event center.	-	-	ND
S1	Wayfinding Plan			
Phase 1	Develop a Wayfinding Plan to identify signage locations and design for on-street and off-street signage.	\$100,000	-	-
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,727,300</b>	<b>\$6,170,200</b>	<b>\$5,128,500</b>

## Prioritization

### Funding Strategies

Park improvements have been historically funded by the City’s General Fund which relies on property tax revenue. The City has budgeted a total of \$524,000 in expenditures in its Parks Department fund for 2024-2025. Additionally, the City has developed a Parks SDC Fund in recent years. The current Park SDC Fund for 2024-2025 has \$144,000 in expenditures. Additional funding sources include:

### Grants

The City can continue to pursue state and federal grants for parks and trail-related capital improvements. Additional planned projects are strong candidates for future grant funding, and state, regional, and federal grants can provide funding for a variety of park, open space, and trail projects. The City should weigh the potential application’s competitiveness with the required outlays of staff time when applying for grants.





Quarry Property

### General Obligation Bonds

This type of bond is a tax assessment on real and personal property. This fund can supplement existing revenue and is more widely distributed. Funds can be used for capital projects but cannot be used for the replacement of equipment. The City should evaluate the likelihood of success of a bond measure. Public perception of additional park fees or taxes was mixed and lacked support during the park system planning process.

### Partnerships and Relationships

The City should further develop partnerships with local recreation service providers, private land owners, and land trusts. Partnership with the School District is key to public use of athletic facilities, in particular. Relationships with private land owners and land trusts provide an opportunity to expand open space and natural areas within the park system. Soliciting and developing partnerships with private entities to advance development that supports recreational tourism is a key opportunity for the City.

## Conclusion

The City recognizes that park facilities are essential to Sweet Home residents' physical and mental health, and also an opportunity to support the local economy and community culture through recreational tourism and the social connections that grow from recreating and gathering in parks.

The 2024 Sweet Home Park System Plan is a guiding document to achieve the future park system vision described by residents and City staff. The Plan aims to improve the quality of life in Sweet Home for a growing and diversifying population through the goals, recommendations, and specific projects it entails.