

PARK AND OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK

The Vision

The Westside Area’s parks and open spaces are envisioned to form a connected system of natural areas (tree groves, ridgelines, and Henderson Creek), parks (three neighborhood parks), and community destinations (Westside Elementary School and the future school). This network of public and private open spaces will weave through the Westside Area community, resulting in greenspaces a short distance from every home.

Park Needs

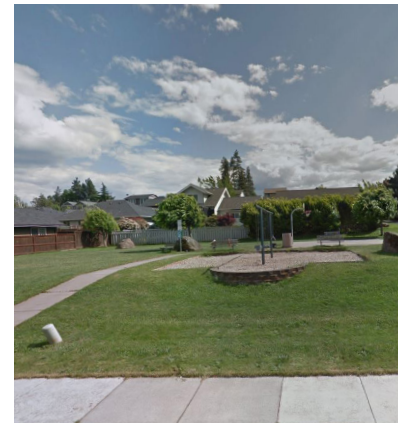
The Westside Area Vision Statement calls for “open spaces and parks that support community gathering and a connection to nature.” The overall parks and open space concept is that a connected system of open space be created through the coordinated planning of the following elements:

- Up to three new neighborhood parks to serve the Westside Area.
- Possibly a new community park, with the location to be determined in a future update of the Park and Recreation District’s Master Plan.
- A riparian corridor and off-street path adjacent to Henderson Creek, preliminarily sized at 25 feet on both sides of the creek, measured from the centerline.
- The Westside Trail corridor and Ridgeline Trail corridor.
- Retention of tree groves throughout the project area as much as practical.
- Limited development of terraced areas that are 25% slope and greater, except where needed for street connections and pedestrian connections, resulting in a network of public and private open spaces that can benefit birds and wildlife.
- Open space tracts and community gathering spaces that are designed as part of Planned Unit Developments, and higher-density and mixed-use projects.

The precise locations of parks have yet to be determined, but the concept is that one neighborhood park should be located within each of the three residential neighborhoods, with the possibility of a community park of 20-30 acres that may or may not replace a neighborhood park within the Westside Area. Based on a preliminary evaluation of neighborhood park need for the Westside Area, the Land Use Framework will require approximately 11 acres for neighborhood parks.⁸ The needed acreage calculated in this



*Water Playground, Germany
Photo Credit: Walker Macy*



*Montello Park, Hood River, OR
Photo Credit: Google Earth*



*Sahalee Park, Madras, OR
Photo Credit: Walker Macy*

⁸ This analysis used the range provided in the 1996 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines. Neighborhood park need was estimated at two acres per thousand residents, with an estimated 2.39 residents per housing units.

Concept Plan is preliminary; the plan assumes and recommends that it be officially determined as part of an update to the Park and Recreation District’s Master Plan for the area.

The Park and Open Space Framework identifies “target areas” for neighborhood parks (see Figure 20). These areas are based on a preliminary evaluation by the project team of the following criteria:

- Available buildable land (no existing development or environmental constraints);
- Proximity to natural features that could be incorporated into the park;
- Central location within the neighborhood; and
- Accessible by future pedestrian connections.

The neighborhood park target areas are preferred locations, but they are not intended to be mandatory locations. Flexibility will be needed to acquire land for parks through a variety of means: advance acquisition, dedication during development review, gifting, etc. The Park and Open Space Framework is intended to be flexibly applied, and to help inform future efforts by the Hood River Valley Park and Recreation District to develop an updated Parks Master Plan.

Parks Timing

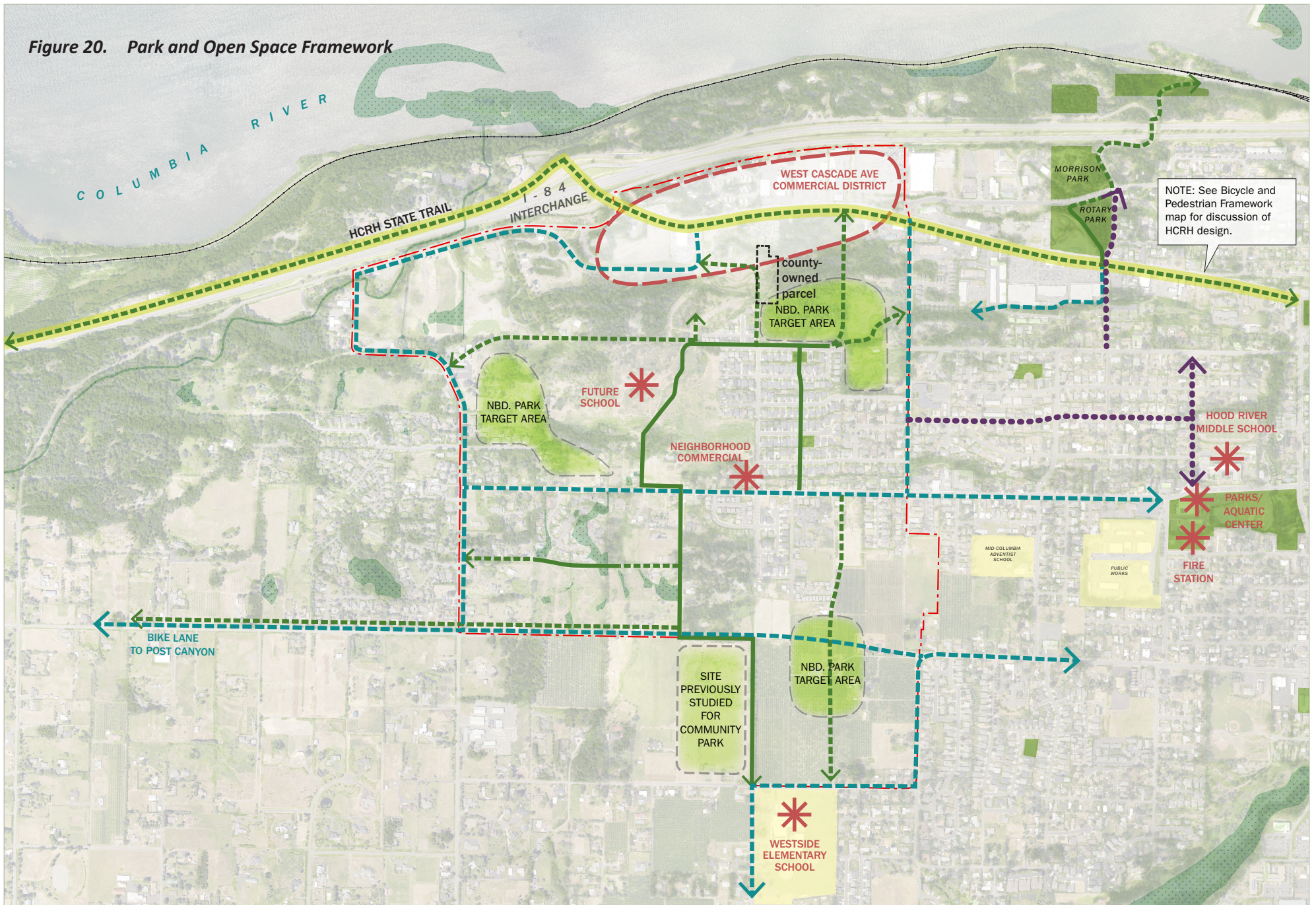
The Westside Area neighborhoods will take many years to build out fully. The City should establish a goal for “by-when” parks are in place, in order to serve Westside residents and ensure that parks are delivered before all available land is otherwise committed. A reasonable goal would be to have parks in place by the time 50% of the residential units have been built in a given neighborhood.



Scouters Mountain Trailhead Park, Happy Valley OR

FRAMEWORK PLANS

Figure 20. Park and Open Space Framework



PARK AND OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK

DECEMBER 19, 2017
HOOD RIVER WESTSIDE AREA CONCEPT PLAN

- - - HCRH STATE TRAIL
- - - EXISTING/FUTURE PED CONNECTION
- PARK TARGET AREA
- WETLAND
- - - FUTURE BIKE LANE
- * ACTIVITY CENTER
- FUTURE BIKE BOULEVARD

