



CHAPTER 7 PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (PR)

A park and recreation plan is an important part of a Comprehensive Plan. As Woodland grows in population, demands on parks and recreational facilities increase. Recreation opportunities are one important measurement of community livability in that they also help to build strong neighborhoods and promote a high quality of life. The Woodland Comprehensive Plan update provides an opportunity to review community needs and identify the city's park and recreation needs for the next 20 years.


In September 2015 the City Council adopted "The City of Woodland Parks and Recreation Plan." City staff developed the plan with the help of the Woodland Park Board and Woodland Planning Commission. Public outreach and planning efforts included a mailer and an open house. The park and recreation plan is designed to meet or exceed all Washington State requirements as listed in the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) Planning Policy Guidelines. The plan was designed to meet the city's obligations under GMA for park and recreation planning and capital facilities planning.



7.1 Existing Conditions

The principal facilities highlighted are under the jurisdiction of the City of Woodland. However, other providers including the Woodland School District, Cowlitz County, and the Port of Woodland provide significant recreational opportunities to residents of Woodland.

Figure 7-1. City-Owned Recreation Facilities

Name:	Horseshoe Lake Park
Location:	200 Park Road: North bank of Horseshoe Lake, east of downtown Woodland
Size:	6.5 acres
Classification:	Community Park
Features Description:	<p>This 6.5 acre park is located on the north bank of Horseshoe Lake, just east of the city's business district. It is the largest developed city park in Woodland and is used frequently for community events, including Planter's Days. Facilities include covered picnic areas, gazebo, an open lawn for field games, a playground, skate park, paved walking trail, a beach, restrooms, a parking lot and a boat launch. Adjacent to the park is Hoffmann Memorial Plaza. The lake is open for swimming (no lifeguard on duty), fishing, and boating. The lake is a "no wake" lake. The large covered picnic area can be rented by the general public.</p> <p>Since 2007, the skate park and walking trail around the park have been completed. The skate park was constructed in 2007 and the walking trail in 2014.</p> <p>Horseshoe Lake is an important resource for the residents of Woodland and for visitors traveling on Interstate 5. The lake is heavily utilized for recreation, including fishing, boating, and swimming. Surface area is 86 acres, its average depth is around 12 feet and its maximum depth is around 24 feet. Horseshoe Lake was created in 1940 when a meander in the North Fork of the Lewis River was isolated from the river during construction of Highway 99 (now Interstate 5). The watershed of the lake (approximately 339 acres) includes agriculture, residential, and business uses.</p>
Misc. Notes:	<p>The Horseshoe Lake trail system was partially completed in 1991. The 2.5 mile semi-developed trail loops around the Horseshoe Lake area. Approximately 1.4 miles of the trail network is within the city, while the remaining segments are outside of Woodland's city limits. The developed portion of the trail, which includes a paved path with road striping and one trailhead sign, begins at the intersection of Park Road and Lake Shore Drive, goes south along Lake Shore Drive, west along Pinkerton Drive, and north along South Pekin Road to the Woodland city limit line. The undeveloped portion continues north on 5th Street, east on Davidson Avenue (downtown area), north along Goerig Street, and east on Park Street, terminating at Lake Shore Drive.</p>
Photos:	

Name:	Hoffmann Park
Location:	782 Park Street; adjacent to Library & Community Center
Size:	.50 acres
Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Features Description:	Hoffmann Park contains the Woodland Community Center, playground equipment, swing set, landscaping, and open/grassy play areas. The Community Center is located at 782 Park Street and is available for rent. The building includes a full kitchen, has a wheelchair-accessible restroom, and a maximum occupancy of 98 people.
Misc. Notes:	Hoffmann Park is located next the Woodland Community Library and across the street from the Woodland School District main complex. Although small by traditional "neighborhood park" standards, Hoffmann Park does serve as a neighborhood park because of its relative location and diverse offerings.

Photos:



Name:	Eagle Park
Location:	1844 Willow Street (within the River Bend Estates Subdivision)
Size:	0.30 acres
Classification:	Mini-Park
Features Description:	This small park is located in the residential district in the northeast part of the city on Willow Street east of Insel Road. The park is equipped with a playground for small kids and there are some limited grassy areas that serve as play areas. There are also some picnic tables and benches. Overall, the park primarily serves younger-aged children that live within walking distance of the park.

Photos:



Name:	Kenneth Bjur Memorial Park
Location:	2030 Spruce Ave.; Intersection of Spruce and Madrona
Size:	0.20 acres
Classification:	Mini-Park
Features Description:	This small park is located in the residential district in the northeast part of the city at Spruce and Madrona streets. The park is equipped with a jungle gym and swing set and there are some limited grassy areas that serve as play areas. Overall, the park primarily serves younger-aged children that live within walking distance of the park. Street parking is available adjacent to the park.

Photos:



WOODLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

The Woodland School District complex is located in the central part of the city, between Park Street and the railroad tracks, covering approximately 20 acres. The facilities include three gymnasiums, three tennis courts, two baseball fields, two softball fields, one stadium (football/soccer/track and field), one track (which the school district lights in the evening for track users part of the year), a concession stand and a playground. Although the city does not manage the school grounds, city residents may use the gyms and outdoor facilities for recreation when not in use by the school.

Woodland Intermediate School is located on the northeastern edge of the city and it features large grassy fields, baseball diamonds, a walking path and playground equipment. The approximately four-acre open portion of the site meets some of the recreational needs for area residents and is within walking distance of several neighborhoods.

A new high school opened the fall of 2015. The new school is located at 1500 Dike Access Road in the northwest corner of the city. It includes two gyms, a stadium (football/soccer/track and field), two baseball fields, two softball fields, and other open space.

MISCELLANEOUS LOCAL & REGIONAL FACILITIES

Goerig Park

This 1.5 acre parcel is located outside city limits, on the east bank of the Lewis River, just north of the bridge to Clark County and is owned by the City of Woodland. The site has one undeveloped boat launch site and is primarily used for pedestrian access to the Lewis River bank. The city closed off the area to automobiles in 2013 but the park is still open to pedestrian traffic.

Paradise Point State Park and Boat Launch

Paradise Point State Park is located three miles south of Woodland off Exit 16 (I-5) outside of La Center. The regional park is located on the south side of the Lewis River and includes RV camp sites, picnic tables, hiking trails, a boat launch, parking and restrooms. The park also provides access to the East Fork Lewis River for swimming, fishing and boating.

Lewis River Golf Course

East of Woodland (5.5 miles), along the Lewis River Road, is the privately owned and operated 18-hole Lewis River Golf Course and club house. Open all year, it attracts golfers from the local area and from the Portland-Vancouver and Longview-Kelso areas.

Lewis River Little League Fields

This facility is located on Green Mountain Road and is owned and operated by Lewis River Little League and includes approximately two acres of developed land west of Green Mountain Road and 11 acres of land to the east. Facilities include one softball, one T-ball, one minor and one major ball field.

Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens

The Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens are located at the southern end of the city along South Pekin Road. The property contains a two story frame house constructed in 1903 by the father of Hulda Klager, “The Lilac Lady”. A small barn and several outbuildings are located on the northwest corner of the property. The remainder of the property is comprised of over 100 other species of trees, shrubs and plants. The home and gardens are open to the public. The Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and on the Washington State Heritage Register.

Cowlitz County

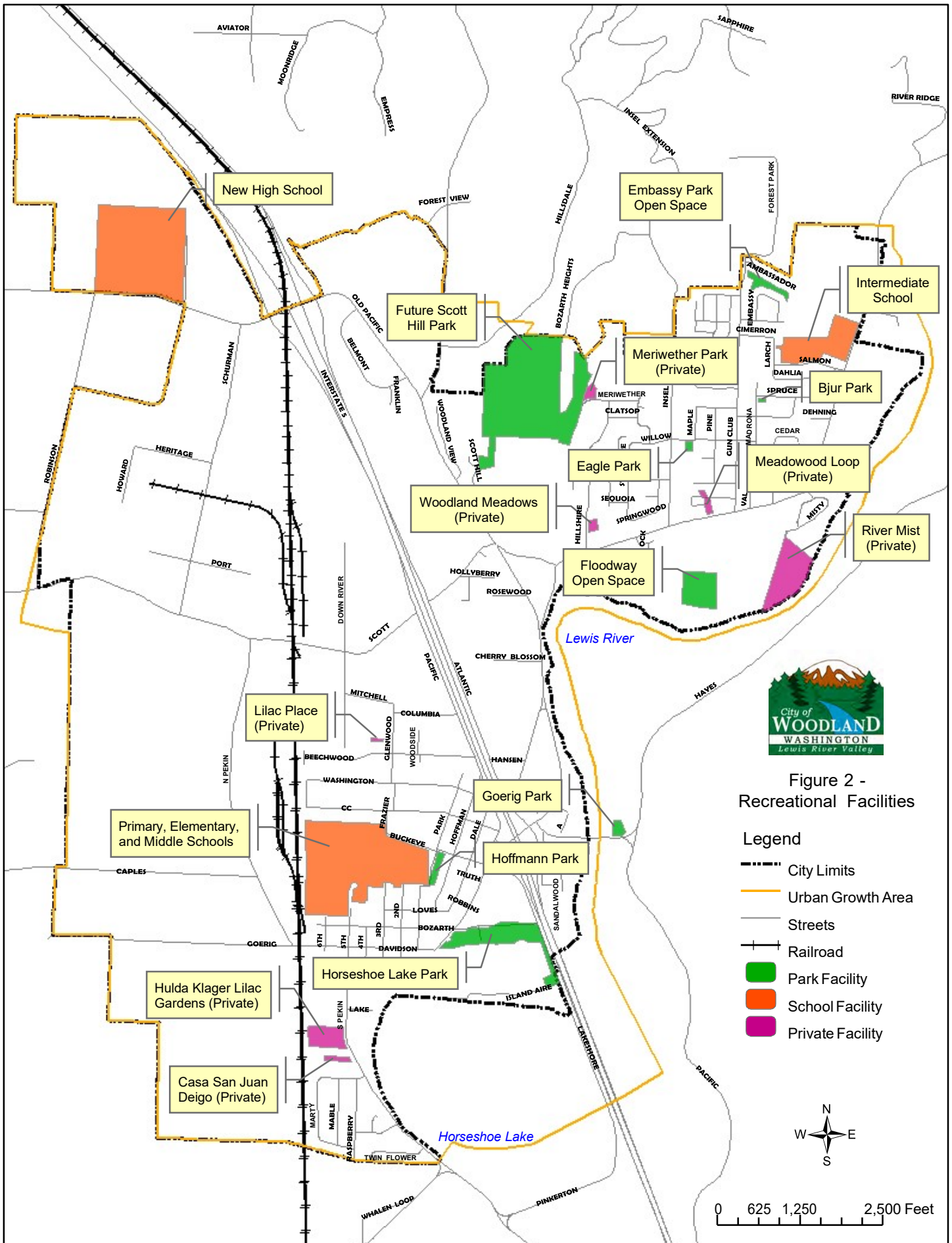
The Finn Hall Wayside (Memorial Park) is located a few miles east of Woodland on SR-503 and is managed as a cultural and historic area. The wayside is four acres in size and includes picnic and open space areas.

7.2 Projected Needs

The 2015 Woodland Parks and Recreation Plan projected that, based on adopted Level of Service standards; the city will need the following parks and recreation facilities over the 20-year planning horizon:

- Additional parks on the east side of I-5. Multiple parks could be supported by the existing population and the spatial distribution of residents.
- Additional land and types of recreational offerings at Horseshoe Park. Construction of Scott Hill Park & Sports Complex would provide a new community park that could help to serve the neighborhood park needs of eastside residents and provide citizens with a broader array of activities.

7-2. City of Woodland Recreational Facilities



- Additional mini-parks to meet the needs of residents, particularly in underserved neighborhoods. The two areas most in need are the south end of town (Raspberry Park) and the neighborhood east of I-5 around E. Scott Ave. and N. Goerig.
- Additional trails along the Lewis River Floodway and the area surrounding Horseshoe Lake.
- Improved and additional access (e.g., boat launch) to the Lewis River.
- Numerous smaller-scale park improvements including those related to access, parking, landscaping, and facility offerings.
- The city can assist and coordinate with groups including the Woodland Rotary, Woodland School District, Lewis River Little League, and the Woodland Community Swimming Pool Committee to meet community needs for other types of facilities.

7.3 Project Capital Improvement Costs

Six-Year Capital Improvement Program

A jurisdiction planning under the GMA must consider the capital needs of servicing growth over a 20-year period. In addition, a community should develop a focused 6-year capital needs and expenditure forecast. For the 2016-2020 period, Woodland identified six necessary parks and recreation capital improvement projects. Identified in Table 7-1, they include: Scott Hill Park and Sport Complex, mini parks in the southwest and east central areas, improvements at Horseshoe Lake Park, Lewis River Recreational project, and development of recreational trails. The total 6-year investment is \$11,400,000. The Scott Hill Park and Sports Complex is a \$10,000,000 capital investment. In the years 2018 and 2019 the city will invest \$10,450,000 in park improvements, as shown in Figure 7-3.

Scott Hill Park & Sports Complex

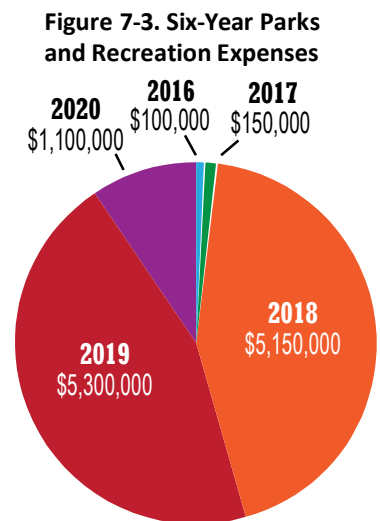
The future 46-acre Scott Hill Park & Sports Complex, to be located on city-owned property, will include walking trails and play areas. The estimated cost to develop this park is \$10,000,000. The Woodland Rotary organization has signed an MOU with the city to complete funding and development of the park with the city's assistance.

Southwest Woodland Mini-Park

The city needs a mini-park in the southwest residential area and needs to secure land for this park. There are a few undeveloped lots left in this area. Woodland should look at possibly purchasing property in 2016.

East-Central Mini-Park

The city needs a mini-park in the north end of the city.



Horseshoe Lake Park Improvements

The 2007 Horseshoe Lake Park Improvements Plan included the skate park on the east end and the paved trail around the park that connects with the Mascot Plaza. Additional improvements could include parking improvements, an amphitheater for gatherings west of the playground area, boat docks into the lake, or other desired improvements.

Lewis River Recreational Development (Trails, Floodway Open Space, boat launch)

The 2015 survey completed indicated a high demand for access to the Lewis River. This capital project could include a number of items from completing a boat launch, to gaining legal access to the floodway open space the city owns, to completing walking trails along the river.

Development of Recreational Trails

This project would include development of recreational trails not associated with the Lewis River. Trails could wind around Horseshoe Lake, along the bottom of Scott Hill, or other potential areas.

Table 7-1. Woodland Parks and Recreation Six-Year Capital Improvement Program

Project	Possible Funding Source(s)	Facility Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1) Scott Hill Park & Sports Complex (eastside community/neighborhood park)	Rotary, CY, IAC	CP				\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	
2) SW Woodland mini-park	IAC, CY, P, CV	MP		\$100,000	\$150,000			
3) East Central Woodland mini-park	IAC, CY, P, CV	MP				\$150,000		
4) Horseshoe Lake Park Improvements (e.g., parking, amphitheater, facilities, etc.)	CY, IAC, P	CP						\$400,000
5) Lewis River Recreational Project (Trail, Floodway Park, and boat launch)	CY, IAC, CV, TAP, WDFW	T, SU					\$300,000	\$500,000
6) Development of recreational trails	CY, IAC, CV, TAP	T						\$200,000

Funding Source: CY – City, CV – Civic Organization, P – Private Individual/Organization, CC – Cowlitz County, IAC – IAC Outdoor Rec. Grants, WDFW – State Fish and Wildlife, TAP – Transportation Alternatives Program

Facility Type: CP – Community Park, T – Trail, NP – Neighborhood Park, MP – Mini-Park, SU – Special Use, SC – Sports Complex

7.4 Goals and Policies

Goal

PR 1 Create and preserve park and recreation opportunities for all residents within the City of Woodland and surrounding area.

Policies

PR 1.1 Provide a variety of parks and landscaped open space areas and recreation opportunities throughout Woodland.

PR 1.2 Continue to upgrade parks to keep pace with changes in recreational demand and citizen needs.

PR 1.3 Require all residential single-family subdivisions and multi-family development projects to (a) dedicate land for park areas, (b) provide for improvements to existing facilities or (c) provide monetary compensation (e.g., impact fees) to the City of Woodland for the acquisition and development of park lands or for the needed capital improvements to existing park and recreation areas.

PR 1.4 Continue to cooperate with other public, quasi-public, and private organizations, agencies and groups to jointly provide needed recreation facilities and programs.

Tourism

Goal

PR 2 Make recreation a cornerstone of Woodland's economic and tourism development.

Policies

PR 2.1 Work with the Woodland Chamber of Commerce to support tourism programs through active facility management and park development.

Funding

Goal

PR 3 Provide continued funding for city park land acquisition and development programs.

Policies

PR 3.1 Maintain the park land acquisition budget in the proposed Capital Improvements Program and Budget.

PR 3.2 Explore possible grant programs geared toward water quality improvement projects.

PR 3.3 Encourage the Parks Department and the Woodland School District to work in concert when purchasing new lands and developing playground activity programs, whenever possible.

Trails

Goal

PR 4 Provide for year round use of walking, biking and jogging trails throughout Woodland.

Policies

PR 4.1 Link the existing downtown business district and Horseshoe Lake Park, with the objective of making the park an active part of the business community.

PR 4.2 Develop and implement an open space and trail plan along portions of Horseshoe Lake, the Lewis and Columbia rivers, and within major developed areas of the city by using city- owned property, land dedication, recreation easements and critical area buffers.

PR 4.3 Identify open space corridors that might be useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas.

Waters

Goal

PR 5 Provide additional public access to the banks of the Lewis River, Horseshoe Lake and other regional facilities.

Policies

PR 5.1 Provide and encourage adequate boat launch and handicapped fishing access sites at Horseshoe Lake and on the Lewis River and other regional facilities.

PR 5.2 Continue to acquire and create more park lands around Horseshoe Lake.

PR 5.3 Encourage the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and local sportsman clubs to identify, acquire and develop access and boat launch sites along the Lewis and Columbia rivers.

PR 5.4 Pursue development of city-owned land within the Lewis River floodway into a primarily passive recreation area in partnership with state agencies.

PR 5.5 Update the city's park and recreation plan and incorporate appropriate elements of the plan into the city's comprehensive plan.

