



# City of Stevenson Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

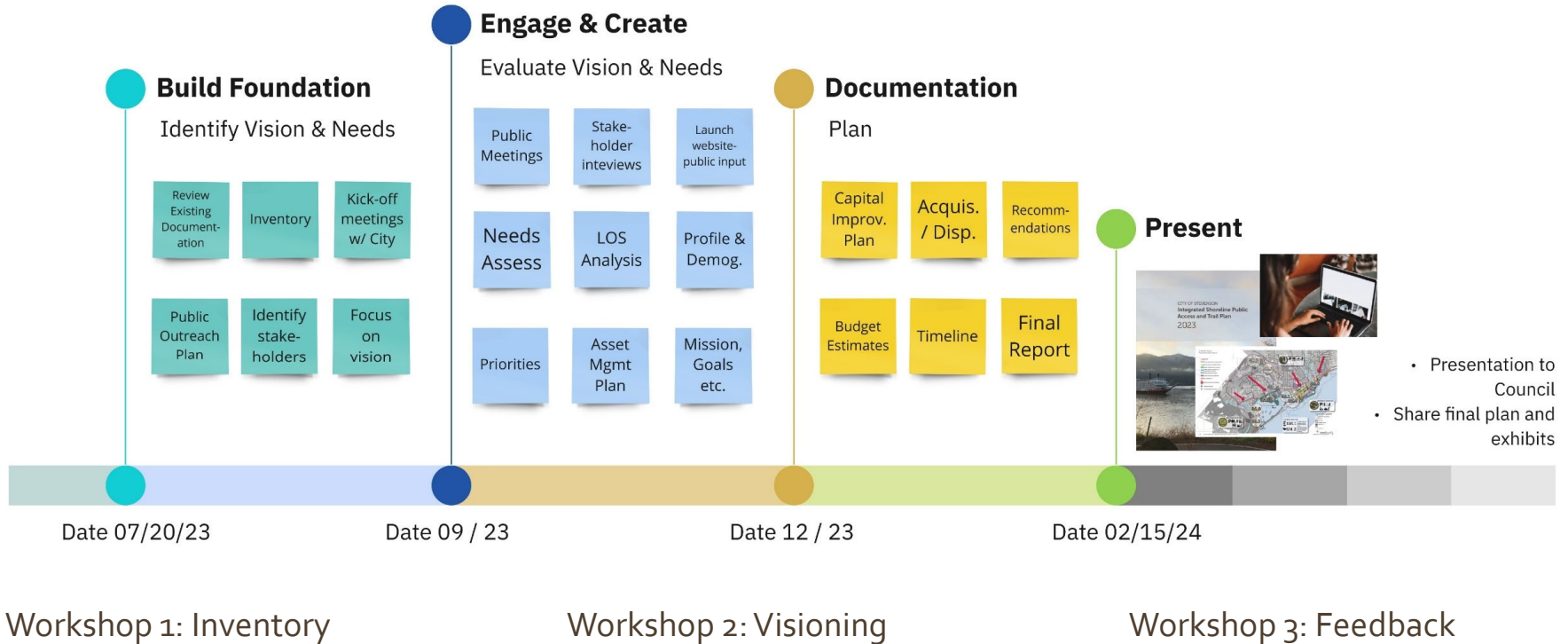
Presentation to City

# What is a Parks Master Plan?

- A plan describing:
  - What the City vision for providing parks/facilities is,
  - What parks/facilities the City of Stevenson has,
    - Current capacity
    - Current condition
  - What parks/facilities the City needs,
    - Desires for the future
    - Analysis of community profile, population growth, level of service
    - Public input
- A plan to identify and implement projects.
  - Asset management plan with timeline
  - Prioritizations
  - Funding
- Short-term and Long-term process

# Schedule

## Work-flow / Process & Timeline



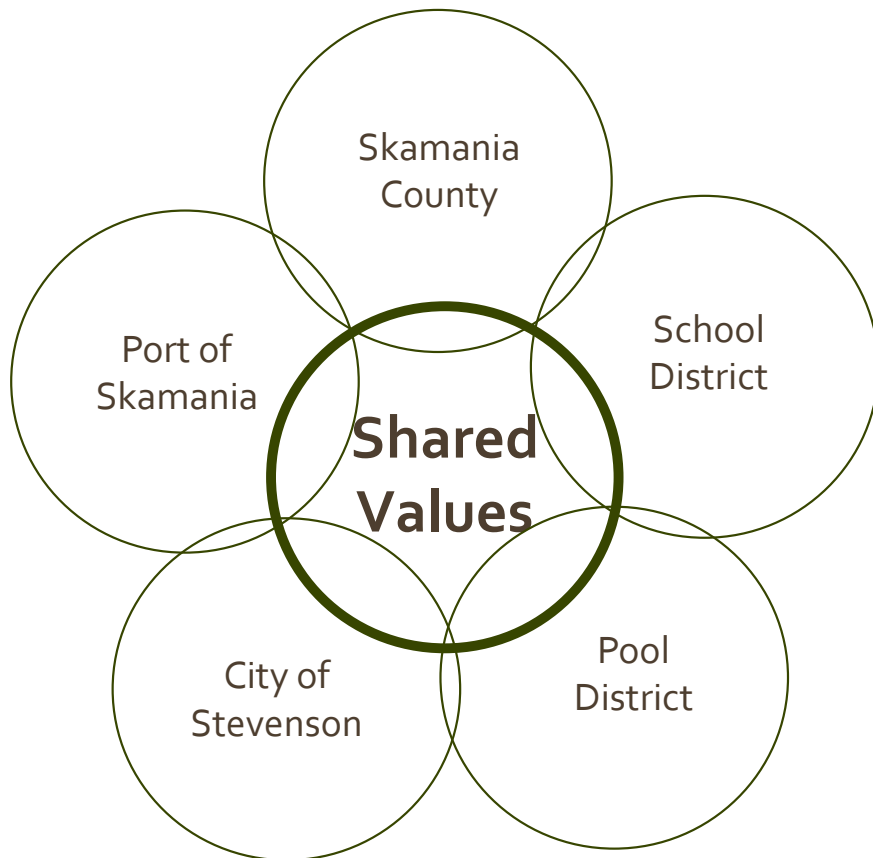
# Community Feedback Overview

## • Public Outreach Plan

- Use a focus group for special workshops and charrette engagement. Focus group members should represent the interests of a greater community group.
  - Formation of Advisory Committee of local public entities currently providing parks and recreation opportunities.
- Conduct one-on-one interviews with stakeholders and active members of special interest groups
  - Stakeholder Interviews of community members representing local entities, downtown association, wind-sport community, running club, small business owners, active parents, and landowners, etc.
- Solicit General Public Feedback through an online survey
  - Promote online survey using outreach graphics and social media. Keep survey live for a minimum of one month. Provide hard-copy version upon request.
- Presentations to city Planning Commission and City Council
  - Provide updates and preliminary findings for input and comment.



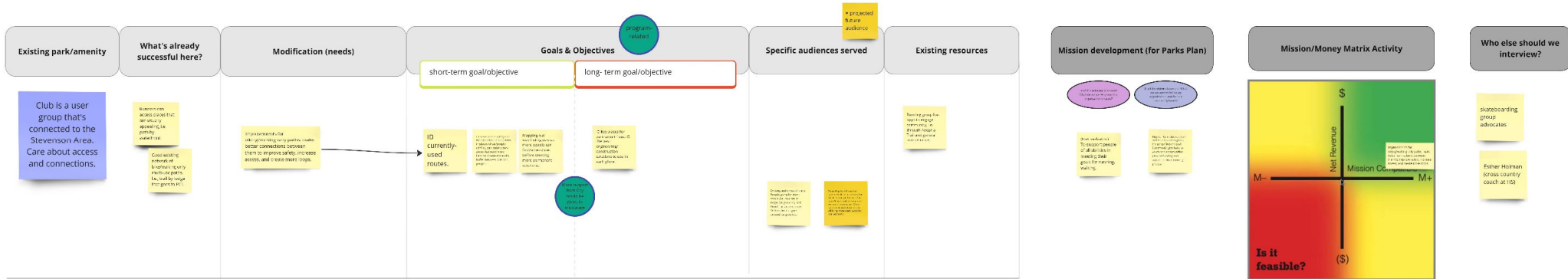
# Advisory Committee Feedback



- Identify Overlapping Project needs and prioritize partnership and funding opportunities. Leverage each others expertise through collective marketing.
- Explore opportunities to address shared need and demand for basic maintenance and updates of existing sites.
- Capitalize on common desire to increase accessibility and ADA improvements.
- Collaborate on need to provide space for and promote gathering spaces.
- Agree to focus on serving both locals and tourists alike.
- Work towards a common goal to improve connections between parts of town and communicate to the public about the availability and locations of park and recreation resources and programs.

# Stakeholder Interview Process

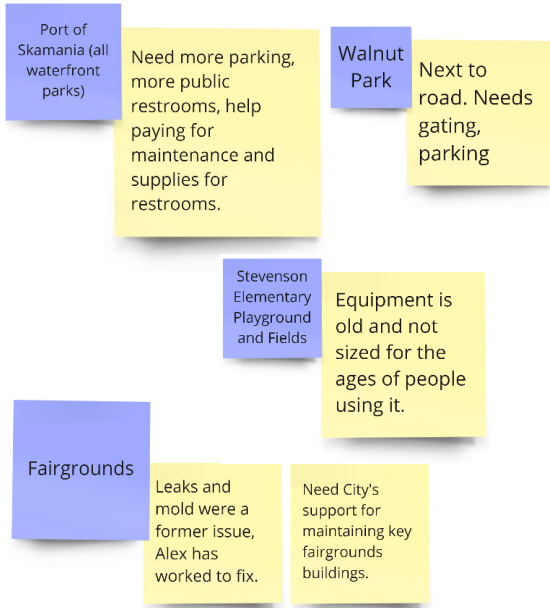
- Conducted 15 one-on-one interviews
- Goals:
  - Understand local parks and amenities' **needs and goals**
  - Understand visitors' motivations, and how to better serve **current and future audiences**
  - Gather information to inform a **Mission and Vision**



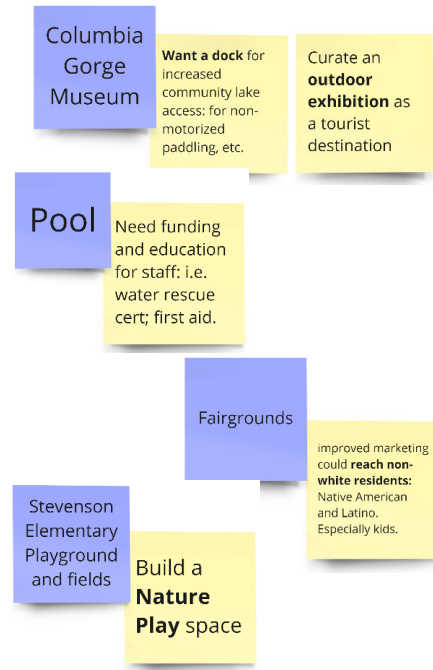
# Stakeholder Interview Results

Needs and goals were unique to each site/organization, but commonalities include:

## Basic maintenance, updates, and operational needs



## Site-specific project goals



## The need to activate "dead" and underutilized spaces



## Goals to better serve locals, increase tourism, and facilitate community gathering





# Community Survey Process

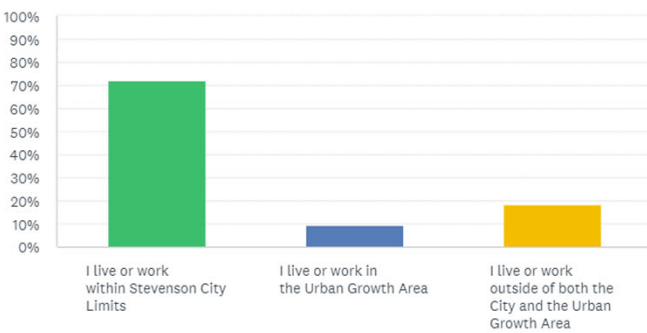


- Created online survey using Survey Monkey. 12 questions, average response time of 10 minutes.
- Survey was live for 5 weeks and available as a hard-copy. Outreach was online and using posters and postcards around town.
- Goals:
  - Gather information to inform a **Mission and Vision**
  - Understand local parks and amenities' **existing conditions and needs and priorities**
  - Understand visitors' motivations, and how to better serve **current and future audiences**

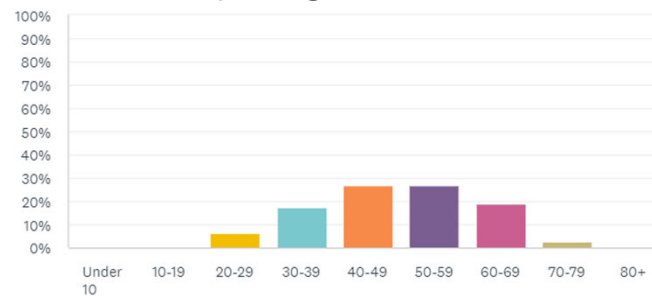
# Community Survey Responses

## Who did we hear from? 203 Responses

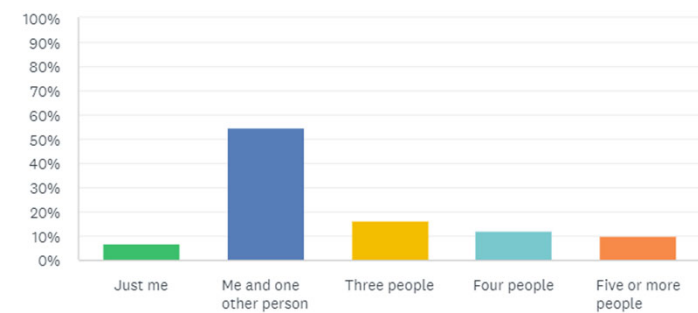
Where do you live?



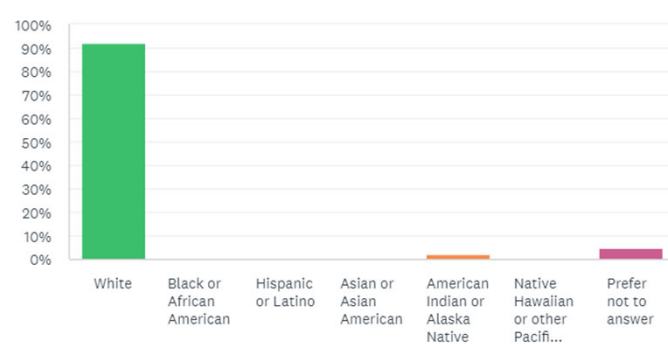
What is your age?



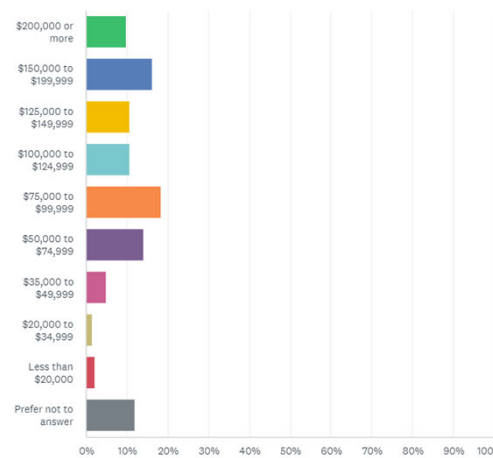
How many people live in your household?



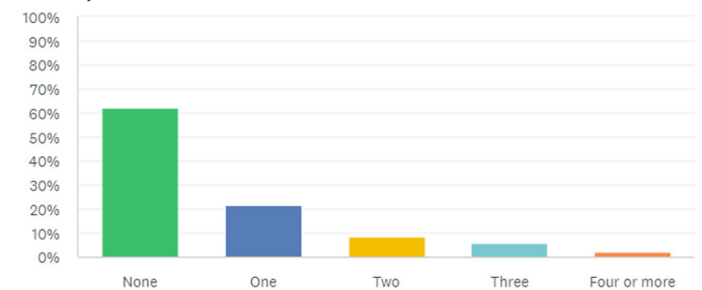
What is your race or ethnicity?



What is your household income?



How many people under 18 live in your household?



# Community Survey Responses

- Most respondents spend time outdoors to **connect with nature or observe wildlife, for fitness or exercise, or to enjoy solitude or peace and quiet.**
- **The Port Waterfront, County Fairgrounds, and Rock Creek** are the most visited local recreational areas.
- Some parks that have low visitation because mostly because respondents **didn't know it was a park or it doesn't have park amenities**

## Park Improvement Priorities:

- Respondents wanted **more restrooms** in local recreation areas.
- There is strong interest in **more outdoor concerts and live music events.**
- Provide **family-friendly improvements** to increase opportunities for intergenerational audiences and for children of **all ages and abilities.**
- **Basic amenities need to be provided** at parks (seating, trash, restrooms, landscaping, etc.)
- **Increased maintenance** was frequently suggested as a means of improving local parks and recreational areas.

# Mission

## DRAFT Mission Statements for the Stevenson Parks Master Plan

To enhance Stevenson's recreational and gathering spaces in ways that increase access to the area's natural beauty and cultural heritage, for residents and visitors alike.

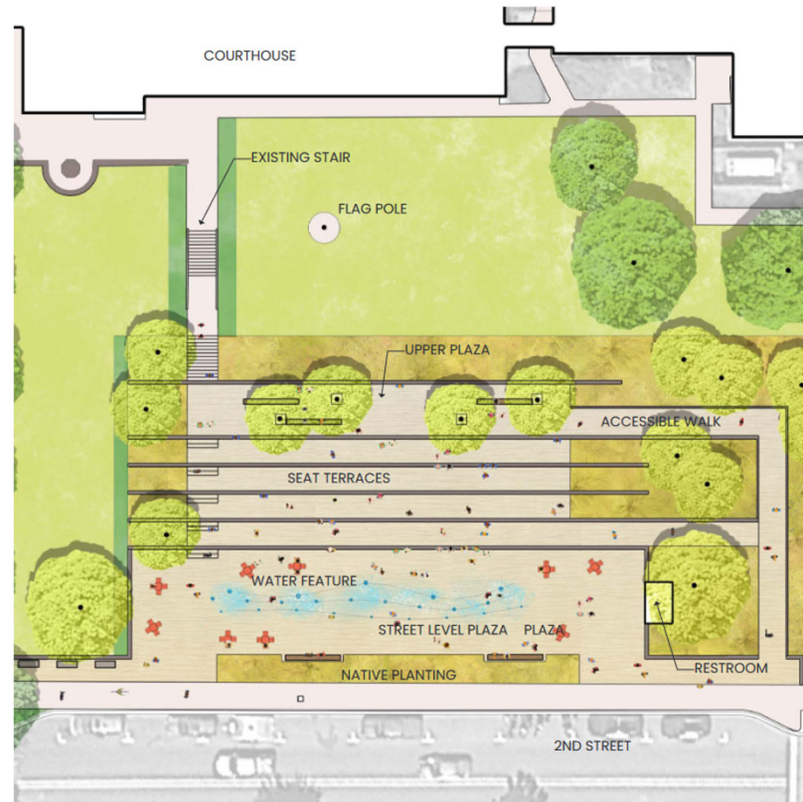
# Goals

## DRAFT Goals for the Stevenson Parks Master Plan

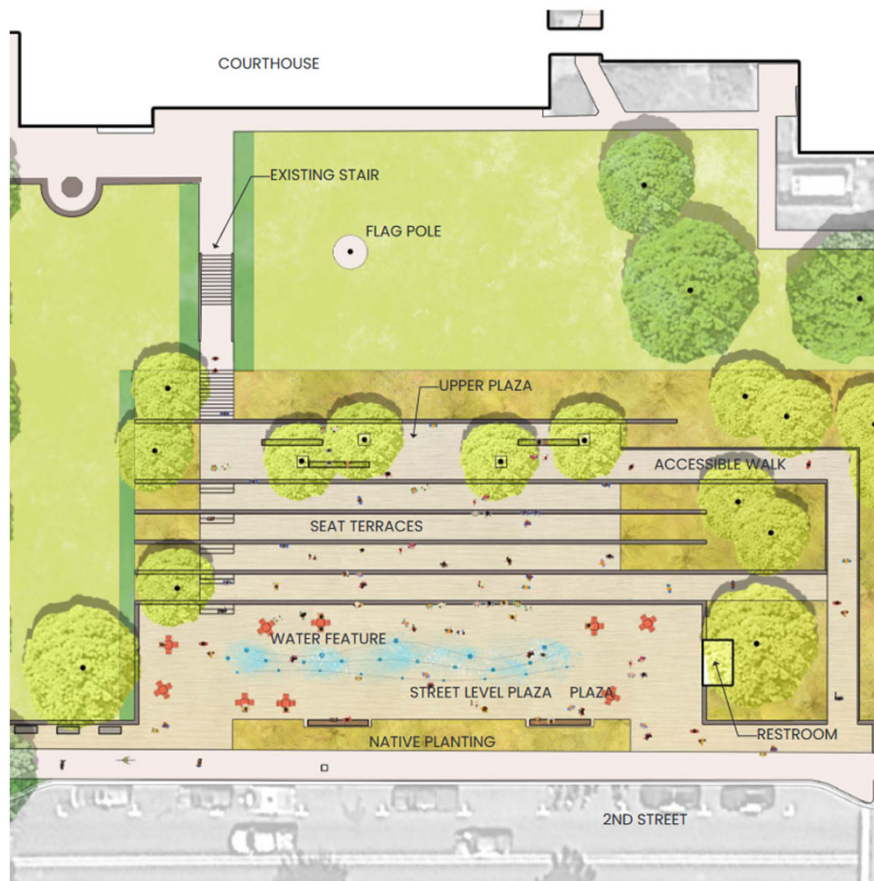
1. **Establish and Sustain Well Maintained Parks**
  - Increase maintenance.
  - Explore alternative management approach or landscape types to maximize efficiency and aesthetics.
2. **Enhance Community Access to Parks by Increasing Visibility and Awareness**
  - Develop an online platform to provide a centralized location for information on parks and recreation areas and facilities. Consider centralizing program calendar and facility rentals.
  - Expand upon the existing wayfinding plan to create a cohesive physical character for parks and open spaces city-wide.
3. **Improve Proximities to and Connectivity Between Parks**
  - Develop a comprehensive trail, streetscape and utility improvement plan that can capitalize on utility projects to also make phased improvements to the pedestrian experience.
  - Explore opportunities for new park developments or expansions in areas with identified park gaps.
4. **Provide Inclusive Spaces to Meet Diverse Community Needs**
  - Identify opportunities for partnerships in project development and funding.
  - Support projects that include features, programs, facilities or amenities that were identified in this plan.

# Recommended Capital Improvement Projects

- Stevenson Courthouse Plaza
- West end waterfront easement purchase and temporary trail
- County fairgrounds kayak launch
- Piper Road Trail easement purchase and trail plan
- Gateway landscape improvements
- 1<sup>st</sup> Street sidewalk trail connection



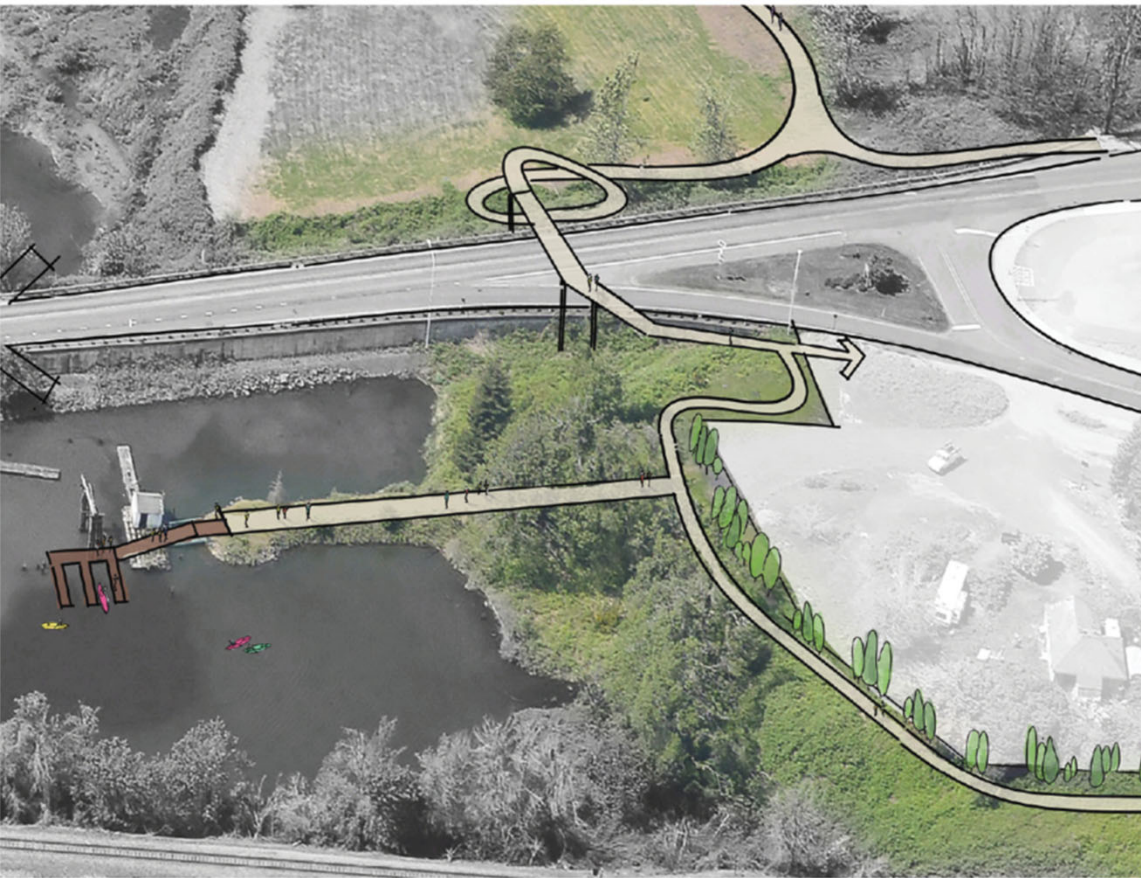
PROJECTS	2025-2030 EXPENDITURES
Stevenson Park Plaza	\$3,200,000
West Waterfront Trails	\$585,000
County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch	\$53,500*
Piper Road Trails	\$65,673
Gateway Landscape Improvements	\$TBC
1st Street Sidewalk Trail Connection	\$18,000
	<b>\$3,922,173</b>



## Stevenson Park Plaza

- Estimated Cost: \$3.2 million development, \$275,000 design
- Survey Ranking: #4
- Gaps Addressed: Addition of core amenities (bathroom, seating), improves existing system
- City role: Stevenson would lead this project funding and management. The City would also take responsibility for ongoing maintenance. Property would remain under County ownership.





## West Waterfront Trail

- Estimated Cost: \$585,000 (easement estimate)
- Survey Ranking: #1
- Gaps Addressed: Expanded trail network, Address LOS gaps, adds 400 LF of trail and visual water access.
- City role: Stevenson would finance the easement purchase, build a temporary trail, and assume responsibility for ongoing maintenance. Private owner would develop the permanent trail and public water access.



## County Fairground Kayak Launch

- Estimated Cost: \$53,500\*
- Survey Ranking: #3
- Gaps Addressed: Improves existing system. Increase shoreline access.
- City role: Support role – County would lead project and Stevenson would support by partnering on a grant application or via fund matching (\*half the cost of total estimate).



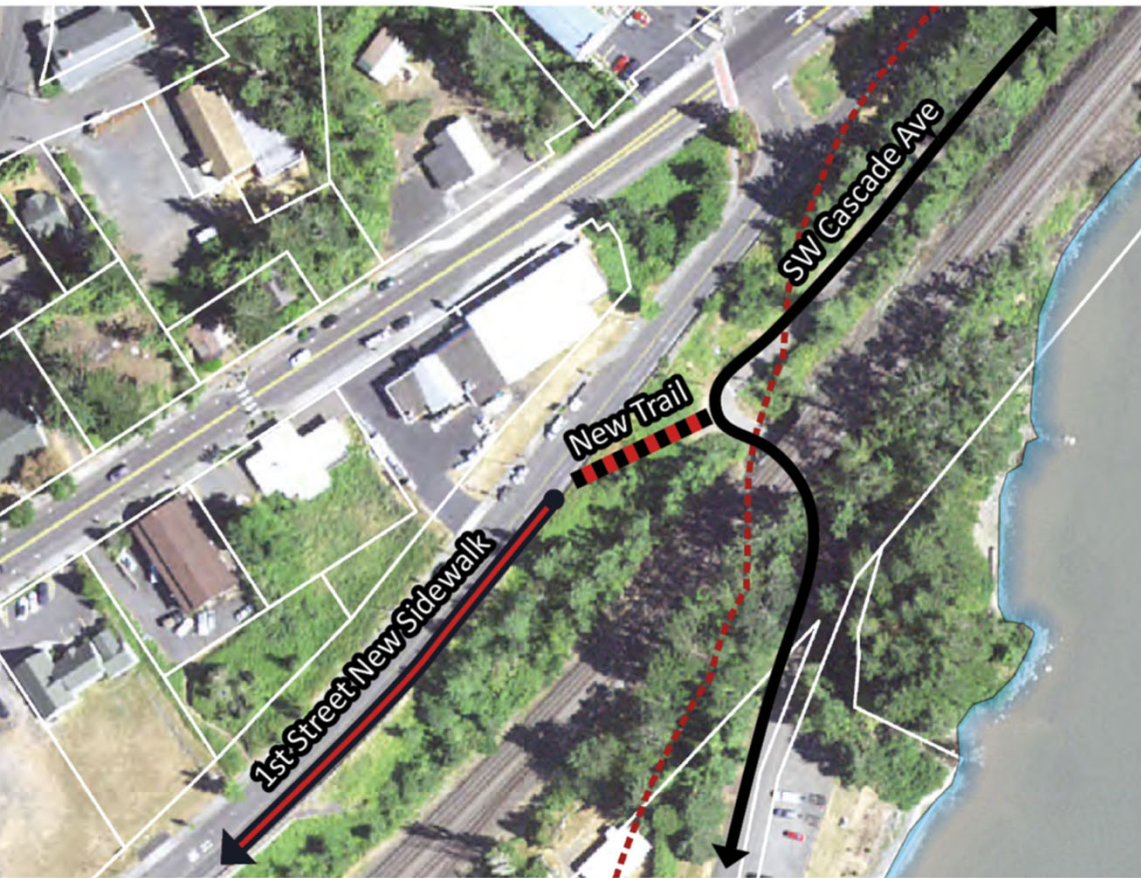
## Piper Road Trail

- Estimated Cost: \$65,673
- Survey Ranking: #7
- Gaps Addressed: Expanded trail network, Expand watershed access, Address LOS gaps
- City role: Stevenson would finance the easement purchase (\$5,673) and 70% Design Plans for off-road trail facility that would be used for grant applications (\$60K).



## Gateway Landscape Improvements

- Estimated Cost: \$TBC
- Survey Ranking: n/a
- Gaps Addressed: Improve existing system
- City role: Stevenson would lead this project and take responsibility for ongoing maintenance.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Street Sidewalk Trail

- Estimated Cost: \$18,000
- Survey Ranking: n/a
- Gaps Addressed: Expanded trail network, Address LOS gaps
- City role: Stevenson would lead this project and take responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

TASKS	HOURS (ANNUAL)	PROPOSED
Waste Removal	52	104
Christmas décor	300	300
Tree planting	100	100
Tree trimming & Lanscaping	300	750
Mowing	800	600
Irrigation repair	2	2
Fountain maintenance	10	10
Bathroom maintenance	0	500*
Total Hours	1,564	2,366
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$130,000*</b>

## Maintenance and Operations

The table details a maintenance schedule that could improve site conditions by doubling waste removal and integrating more landscaping services such as weed removal and maintaining native ground cover that reduces mowing needs. The addition of bathroom maintenance is the most significant change to the current schedule. Hours are estimated based on year-round operation. Implementing this maintenance plan would increase annual costs by 30%.

## Funding Options and Opportunities

- Intergovernmental Grants: RCO, LWCF, WWRP-Recreation. With the adoption of this plan, more projects will be eligible
- Development Agreements: Master planned developments must provide a designated ratio of park space.
- Enhanced Local Funding
  - Parks and Recreation Bond
- Volunteer Efforts and Donations
  - Volunteers can be quite effective in terms of contributing cash, materials and labor. Examples include park clean-up days, community tree planting events, or sponsoring high school community service projects.
  - City may need to update their policy to support additional options for sponsorships and donations.
- Public-Private Partnerships
  - Explore revenue sharing agreements with concessionaires and vendors at parks and recreation facilities. Revenue can be used to pay for capital improvements.
  - Other examples include corporate sponsorships, health organization grants and conservation stewardship programs.
- Explore formation of a Park District
  - A junior taxing district formed for the purpose of providing permanent dedicated parks, recreation, and open space funding both within the City or also include areas outside the City.

# Discussion / Reflection

- First Parks Master Plan for the city
  - Community-driven focus
  - 20-year Goals
- Process:
  - Engage
  - Collaborate
  - Get Results: higher quality, better funded, and wider serving parks.
- Adoption means funding.
- Advisory Committee:
  - Form foundation
  - Share a Vision
  - Share a Solution

