



# ST HELENS PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

*September 2024*

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*(Updated Version - September 2, 2024)*



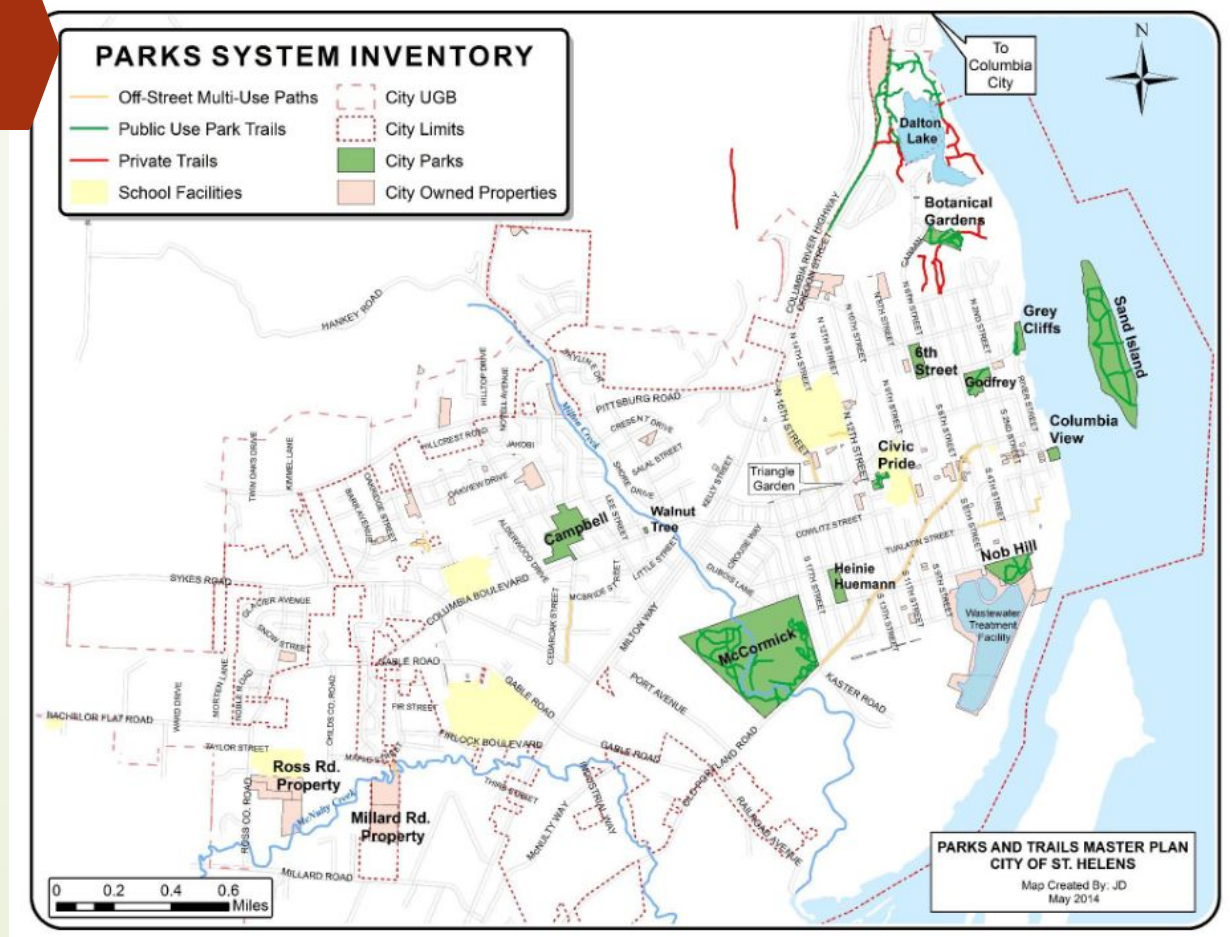
# Overview



1. Parks Inventory
2. Parks and Trails Commission Members & Current Park Assignments
3. Discussion on Changes Wanted
4. Park Updates
5. Current Projects
6. Parks and Trails Sign Grant
7. Questions

# PARKS INVENTORY

- 6th Street Park\*
- Campbell Park\*
- Civic Pride Park\*
- Columbia Botanical Gardens
- Columbia View Park
- Dalton Lake Nature Preserve
- Godfrey Park\*
- Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park\*
- Heinie Heumann Park\*
- Kaster Road Softball Fields
- McCormick Park
- Nob Hill Nature Park
- Recreation Center
- Sand Island Marine Park
- Walnut Tree Park\*



\*No new improvements this year



2024  
COMMISSION  
MEMBERS  
AND PARKS  
ASSIGNED

- Dana Lathrope - Grey Cliffs Park, Japanese Garden
- Howard Blumenthal - Nob Hill Nature Park, Sand Island
- Jacob Woodruff - McCormick Park, 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park, Sand Island
- Jerry Belcher - Godfrey Park, Columbia Botanical Gardens, Japanese Gardens
- Lynne Pettit - Dalton Lake Nature Preserve, Walnut Tree Park, Japanese Garden
- Paul Barlow - McCormick Park, BMX Track and Skate Park
- Scott Jacobson - Heinie Heumann Park, Columbia View Park, Columbia Botanical Gardens

□ NEW MEMBERS THIS YEAR:

NICK HELLMICH

REID HERMAN



## DISCUSSION ON CHANGES WANTED FOR THESE PARKS

- **COLUMBIA BOTANICAL GARDENS:** Working on a new name for the area. There is need for a small historical kiosk.
- **GREY CLIFFS PARK:** A handrail at the steps. Although, not in the Parks' purview, a barrier of some type at the cliff for safety should be considered.
- **MCCORMICK PARK (BMX/SKATE PARK):** Because of a theft, there is need for a replacement sign, and one is on order.
- **CIVIC PRIDE PARK:** Plant native trees and shrubs, install picnic table, and historical kiosk. Water is not available in the Park at this time, but water lines are available in the area. New signs were ordered.

# COLUMBIA VIEW PARK



- Discussion with John Walsh and Jennifer Dimsho at November 2023 Parks & Trails Commission meeting regarding park redesign.
- Revised plan and design of park presented by Jennifer Dimsho at January 2024 Parks & Trails Commission meeting.
- Grant money awarded April 2024 to repair courthouse docks
- Park is currently closed until May 2025 due to construction.



One of our local engineers at the Preserve.

# DALTON LAKE NATURE PRESERVE

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- The 3<sup>rd</sup> kiosk, 6<sup>th</sup> TRES bench and a Mason Bee house was installed on the Main entrance trail, near the bridge that goes over Harrie Creek. The Historical kiosk will have signs from the Museum Association soon.
- A private donation has provided an opportunity to order signs that were stolen.
- The St Helens Police Department continues to patrol the Preserve, resulting in a significant absence of garbage, and camps.
- Work is ongoing for specie signs to be made for plants and trees. QR codes will be added to show the specie in bloom with a description, on your phone.
- Brochures are made and available on the kiosks of Bird species found in the Preserve and a list of plant species.
- Parks maintenance cleared downed trees and debris from the main trails.
- New gravel was added for parking off Oregon St., South Entrance by the Kiosk.
- Volunteer works days, in Summer months, are conducted for invasive specie removal.





# GODFREY PARK

- Safety fence installed
- Swing set removed due to condition



HEINIE HEUMANN PARK

# HEINE HEUMANN PARK

## Explored possibility of building an ADA Trail

- An ADA trail at Heinie Heumann Park had previously been identified in the 2015 Parks and Trails Master Plan.
- Met with Melissa Watson, Executive Director of Senior Center, in December 2023 to discuss the possibility of building an ADA trail connecting the Senior Center to Heinie Heumann Park.
- Consulted with Jennifer Dimsho in the Planning Department regarding funding options and design.
- Contacted the Local Government Grant Program regarding the possibility of a grant and how this project would score and attended a webinar on grant application and scoring.
- Contacted Executive Director of Columbia County Habitat for Humanity regarding possibility of volunteer labor for matching grants.
- Contacted potential landscape designers.
- Site meeting with Public Works, members of the Parks and Trails Commission, and Melissa Watson to consider design and scope.
- At the March 2024 Parks and Trails Commission meeting, discussed feasibility of the ADA trail and decided not to proceed at this time due to utilization concerns versus cost.

## Native plants protection

- In the process of identifying an area with native plants that will be set aside and protected.



# McCORMICK PARK

All abilities Playground equipment, Disc Golf, Exercise trail, BMX track and Skate Park, Picnic tables, walking trails, the Veterans Memorial Wall, and Milton Creek meanders through the Park.

# McCORMICK PARK



- Disc Golf group has work parties to clean the area and report any damage.
- A new area next to the Veterans Memorial Wall was completed that includes flags to honor every Branch of our Military.

## JAPANESE GARDEN

- Taylor Theel of the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council discussed with Brandon and Buck an Invasive Specie Study for spraying in the Fall.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-12:00 there was a work party at the site. Cutting dead trees and bushes, weeding, cutting back brush and hauling our debris. Brandon Sundeen, Lynne Pettit, and Greg Pettit attended.



April 30<sup>th</sup> – after the work party

APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> – After the Work Party at the Japanese Garden

# BMX TRACK AND SKATE PARK

□ Parks Department cut down dead trees at the track.

□ More than once the Parks Department painted over graffiti at the track, and it was much appreciated.



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# NOB HILL NATURE PARK

- ❑ Earned 5<sup>th</sup> TREX bench for Nob Hill
- ❑ Re-graveled several portions of the Park Trails
- ❑ Held 3 volunteer work parties in September, November and April
- ❑ Recruited 2 new volunteers that help weekly since January
- ❑ Led 2 native plant ID walks jointly with the Native Plant Society of Oregon
- ❑ Weed-eating along trails, with 2 people over 4 weekends



# SAND ISLAND MARINE PARK



- Construction continues on Sand Island
- Commission reviewed the contract - Brad Hendrickson came to meeting to discuss

# WALNUT TREE PARK

- ❑ The weeding, trimming and mowing is maintained by citizen volunteers on a monthly basis.
- ❑ The St. Helens Little Library is used extensively by members of the community.



# MILTON CREEK WOODLAND RESERVE PROJECT

- Commission looking at possibility of establishing reserve and trail on City and Port of Columbia County property
- Milton Creek Trail originally identified in the 2015 Master Plan
- Opportunity to preserve a unique setting with mature vegetation, native plants, and creek which is home to several native fish species, as well as highlight historic and prehistoric components
- Creating community building through collaboration
- Drawing visitors to enjoy reserve and trail and other local amenities
- Commission currently scoping out project and will make a presentation to City Council in due course

# URBAN TRAIL PROJECT: The Gateway to Historic St Helens

- 2.25 mile loop trail
- An asset for the citizens of St Helens, Columbia County and the Greater Portland Region
- Will give greater exposure to the City of St Helens and promote local businesses
- The Urban Trail highlights and pass through five parks (Columbia View, Nob Hill, Godfrey, Grey Cliffs, Plaza) and provides views to Sand Island Marine Park
- The Urban Trail overlooks feature views of the Columbia River, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Hood and the Historic Old Town St Helens
- The Urban Trail goes by or passes through the Riverfront District, St Helens Marina, the Old Columbia County Courthouse and the new River Walk



# SIGN GRANT

- ❑ Oregon Community Foundation awarded \$2500 grant in May 2024 to be used for signage for trails and historical points in City parks and nature preserves
- ❑ Buck Tupper is providing costing for signs the Commission has requested
- ❑ We will prioritize signage money at upcoming Commission meeting



# THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Public Works staff and Director for being committed to their work, prepared, and professional always, with any of our requests.
- Members of the public who come forward with suggestions and improvements for our parks.
- City and Park staff who help keep us running and provide us with regular updates, are always prepared, and knowledgeable.
- All the volunteers, including the Garden Club, Kiwanis, and Lions Club who support and weed our City parks, and other public spaces. We couldn't do it without you!
- The Parks and Trails Commissioners who donate their time to enhance the livability of this City, and for all who visit here.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
TIME!

ANY QUESTIONS?