



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Public Hearing and Ordinance: 2024 Parks System Plan

Preferred Agenda: October 8, 2024

Submitted By: Blair Larsen, CEDD Director

Reviewed By: Jason Ogden, City Manager Pro Tem

Type of Action: Resolution ____ Motion X Roll Call ____ Other ____

Relevant Code/Policy: Sweet Home Comprehensive Plan

Towards Council Goal: Aspiration II: Effective and Efficient government

Attachments:
Ordinance No. 4 for 2024 Parks System Plan
Exhibit A: Draft Planning Commission Minutes April 6, 2023 and 2024 Parks System Plan Legislative Findings
Exhibit B: 2024 Parks System Plan and Appendices

Purpose of this RCA:

The purpose of this RCA is to hold a public hearing to adopt the 2024 Parks System Plan as a sub-element of the Sweet Home Comprehensive Plan and conduct the first reading of Ordinance No. 4 for 2024.

Background/Context:

The City's current Parks System Plan was adopted in January, 2014. While it is not as outdated as the plan that it replaced, which was created in 1983, the current plan is limited in its recommendations and is missing guidance in two key areas: First, the plan contains no standards for what amenities a park needs to have, and second, there is no standard on the maximum distance that a resident needs to travel to get to a park. Overall, the current plan's guidance on new parks is limited to a gross park acreage target, and it provides very little guidance on new amenities.

In late 2022, the City of Sweet Home received a local government grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to update its Parks System Plan. After conducting a competitive procurement for consultants to work on the project, the City hired Cameron McCarthy to create the plan. This work began in the summer of 2023.

After an extensive public input process, including surveys, outreach at public events, and work sessions with the Park & Tree Committee, Planning Commission and City Council, Cameron McCarthy put together the attached 2024 Parks System Plan.

At their September 19th meeting, the City of Sweet Home Planning Commission held a public hearing on this matter and voted to recommend to the City Council adoption of the 2024 Parks System Plan as a sub-element of the City of Sweet Home Comprehensive Plan.

The Challenge/Problem:

Should the City adopt the 2024 Parks System Plan as a sub-element of the City of Sweet Home Comprehensive Plan, as recommended by the Planning Commission?

Stakeholders:

- Sweet Home Residents – Residents deserve a well-designed park system that provides recreation opportunities and beautiful open space.
- Sweet Home City Council – The City Council is responsible for ensuring that City infrastructure and services meet the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

While the plan does include a prioritized list of projects with associated cost estimates, this plan does not obligate the City to make spend any funds.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

A stable solution involves adopting a Parks System Plan that provides guidance on what park improvements are a priority, and how the system should be expanded to accommodate future growth.

Options:

1. Do Nothing.
2. Approve the 2024 Parks System Plan as Recommended and conduct a first reading of Ordinance No. 4 for 2024;
3. Approve the 2024 Parks System Plan with Changes (specify) and conduct a first reading of Ordinance No. 4 for 2024;
4. Continue the public hearing to a later date to allow more time for the Council to examine the proposed plan or to provide staff time to prepare amendments or additional information (specify).

Recommendation:

Staff recommends option 2: Approve the 2024 Parks System Plan as Recommended and conduct a first reading of Ordinance No. 4 for 2024;