

SECTION 2

INTRODUCTION

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2.1 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The community needs an effective plan to address park and recreational needs so that we and future generations, as well as many visitors that pass through our community, can continue to enjoy the many benefits that parks provide. The purpose of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is to provide a policy framework. Within this framework the development of recreational opportunities in existing parks and acquisition and development of new parks to meet current and future needs can be addressed during development review and long-range planning.

2.2 BACKGROUND

Klamath Falls has a number of features that are beneficial to the overall park system. Moore Park serves a large number of residents both within and outside of the community. The existing trails in the community are well used for recreation as well as for transportation purposes. There are also a number of park and recreation sites that are leased to and maintained by organizations other than the City. These agreements reduce the labor and financial load on the Parks Division while simultaneously increasing community involvement in parks and recreation.

There are, however, many facets of the park and recreation system in Klamath Falls that are lacking. A number of parks are underdeveloped, or are deteriorating faster than can be repaired. In addition, there are large areas of the community that are not currently served by parks of any kind. Also, volunteers run the limited recreation programs that currently exist, and many needs are not being met. The groundwork for a successful park and recreation system exists, and with an overall planning effort, the City can build on the current assets and improve the overall system for all members of the community.

The ideal park system is one made up of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering certain types of recreation and/or open space opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one basic function, but collectively they will serve the entire needs of the community. By recognizing this concept the City can develop a more efficient, cost effective and usable park system.

2.3 PLANNING AREA

The planning area for this document includes the City limits of Klamath Falls, plus all unincorporated lands within the community's Urban Growth Boundary, except for those within the boundary of the Wiard Park District. The City, County and Wiard Park District are in the process of creating an Urban Service Agreement to define how park and recreation services will be delivered within the Wiard Park District if the land is ever annexed into the City. The intent of all three parties is to preserve the Wiard Park District as the park service provider in the suburban area and to provide reimbursement of lost taxes due to City annexations. The Wiard Park District is governed by its own Master Plan, however, the facilities they offer are utilized by residents outside of the District, just as District residents utilize City park facilities. Figure 1 denotes the area that is applicable to this document.

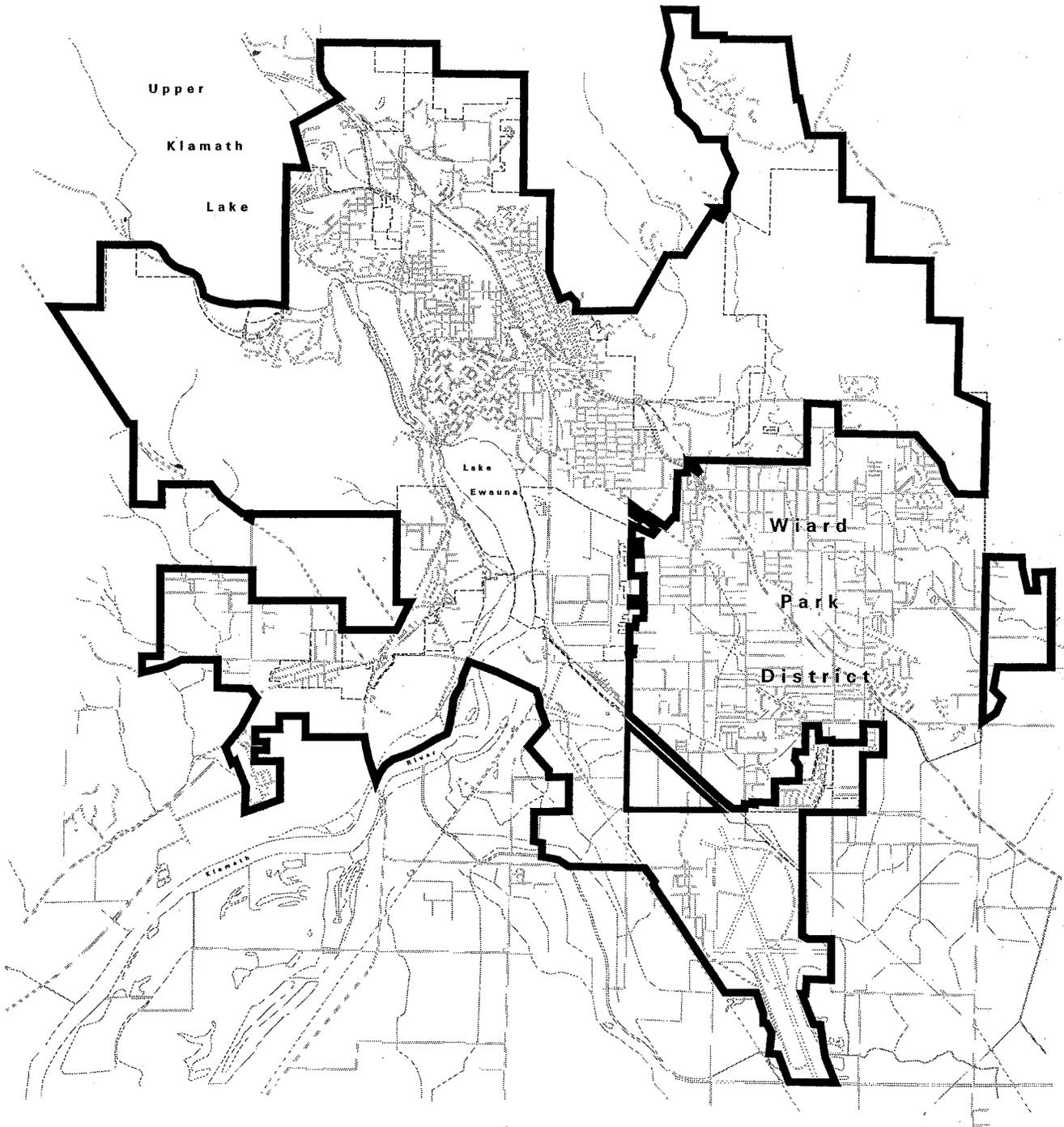


Figure 1
Planning Area

Planning Area (follows UGB) ———
City Limits - - - - -

2.4 POPULATION PROJECTIONS

New population growth is the basic factor for increased demand in park and recreation services. Found in Table 1 below are the population projections for the City of Klamath Falls and the Klamath Falls Urban Growth Area. The Urban Growth Area includes the Wiard Park District and the City population, as well as various unincorporated areas. These numbers are not the population for the planning area denoted on the previous page but will be used to determine need throughout the Master Plan as they are the most accurate information available.

These numbers assume an annual population growth of 1.0%; the approximate average annual growth rate since 1995. The projections of population are important factors in the study, as they are utilized in determining future needs. As population increases, so does the need for additional parkland and facilities, since the majority of existing facilities cannot accommodate the growth.

**Table 1
Population Projections
City of Klamath Falls**

Year	City of Klamath Falls	Klamath Falls Urban Area
1990	17,737	43,060
1998	20,529	45,252
2003	21,576	47,560
2008	22,677	49,986
2013	23,834	52,536
2018	25,049	55,216

Source: Klamath Falls Planning Department
JC Draggoo & Associates

2.5 SUMMARY OF PARK FACILITIES

One objective of the planning study is to identify future park sites and the facilities they should contain to meet the perceived demand. In order to do this it was important to first evaluate the existing park system for site deficiencies and determine if each neighborhood was being adequately served.

The following table is a summary by type of all parks and recreation areas located within the Klamath Falls Urban Growth Boundary. Parks in the Wiard Park District are included to reflect all facilities within this area, but as with County Parks, are not under jurisdiction of the City of Klamath Falls.

There are two facilities in Klamath Falls that are privately owned, but are utilized for public recreation. Burlington-Northern Railroad owns land that contains three little league fields that are used and maintained by the City Little League Association. And the City is in the process of deeding the Conger Heights Open Space to the Klamath Art Council and the Klamath Tribe for development of a Native American Cultural Arts facility.

Klamath County has a number of recreation areas, all located in the southern portion of the city near the airport. Most of these sites are sports fields and are located within the boundaries of the Wiard Park District. However, they are not under jurisdiction of this agency. Another County park site is located adjacent to the County Fairgrounds.

There are several park sites within the Klamath Falls Urban Area that are under the jurisdiction of the Wiard Park District. These sites are included here due to their location within the Urban Growth Boundary, but are not included in the planning area for this study.

There are 12 miles of trails currently in the Klamath Falls Urban Area. Of these, 10.5 miles are paved bike or walking trails. A number of the trails lack connections to create a contiguous trails system. Two trails run through the city and the Wiard Park District simultaneously. The only trail maintained by the City, however, is the 0.3 mile paved track between Marina I and Marina II at Moore Park. The remainder of the trails and paths are owned and maintained by other agencies. See Appendix A for an inventory of all facilities.

Table 2
Summary of Parks and Facilities
Planning Area

Park Site	Total Park Land (Acres)	Number of Sites
City of Klamath Falls Parks and Facilities		
Mini-Parks	2.90	5
Neighborhood Parks	17.40	4
Regional Parks	435.00	1
Special Use Areas	48.06	6
Open Space Areas	104.00	1
Landscaped Areas	6.31	38
Subtotal	613.67	55
City Owned Facilities Leased to Other Agencies		
Special Use Areas	11.60	2
Subtotal	11.60	2
Total City Areas	625.27	57
County Facilities		
Special Use-Areas	58.77	4
Undeveloped Park Land	16.46	1
Subtotal	75.23	5
Wiard Park District		
Mini-Parks	2.82	4
Neighborhood Parks	5.31	1
Subtotal	8.13	5
Private Facilities		
Special Use Areas	3.50	1
Open Space Areas	48.00	1
Subtotal	51.50	2
Total Other Agencies	134.86	12
TOTAL	760.13	69

Table 3
Summary of City Owned Parks by Type

Park Site	Acreage
MINI-PARKS	
Eldorado Park	0.40
Henderson Park	0.60
Pacific Terrace Park	0.60
Richmond Park	0.60
Stukel Park	0.70
Subtotal	2.90
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	
Fairview Park	3.10
Kit Carson Park	9.10
Krause Park	2.80
Mills-Kiwanis Park	2.40
Subtotal	17.40
REGIONAL PARKS	
Moore Park	435.00
Subtotal	435.00
SPECIAL USE AREAS	
Conger Park (leased out)	10.60
Ella Redkey Municipal Pool	2.40
Kiger Stadium	11.50
Maple Park (leased out)	1.00
Mills-Little League	5.30
Moore Park Marinas	23.00
Putnam's Point	2.56
Veteran's Memorial Park	3.30
Subtotal	59.66
OPEN SPACE AREAS	
Lynnewood Hills	104.00
Subtotal	104.00
LANDSCAPED AREAS	
California Median Strips	0.98
Campus Islands	0.46
Kiwanis Waterfall Park	0.13
Linkville Isle	0.09
Michigan Isle	0.20
Pacific Terrace Islands	4.00
Pocket Islands	0.03
Prospect Street Islands	0.22
7th Street Island	0.20
Subtotal	6.31
TOTAL (City Park Land)	625.27

[existing parks map]

