

August 25, 2008

**THE BOARD OF
BENTON COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA PACKET**

9:05

R E S O L U T I O N

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BENTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON:

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE CITY OF BENTON CITY BIKE/WALKING PATH PROJECT FROM BENTON COUNTY PATHS AND TRAILS RESERVE FUND #0114-101

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2008 by Resolution 08-524, the Board approved the contribution of \$20,000 to the City of Benton City Bike/Walking Path Project; and

WHEREAS, after bids were opened for the project, the City of Benton City requested additional funding from Benton County for said project; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2008 the Board approved additional contributions from the County's Paths and Trails Reserve Fund; the total contribution not to exceed \$61,444; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED the County Engineer is hereby authorized to transfer up to \$61,444 from Benton County's Paths and Trails Reserve Fund 0114-101 to the City of Benton City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no funds will be transferred until the City of Benton City has executed the contract for construction of the Bike/Walking Path Project and a request is received from the Mayor of Benton City requesting the funds.

Dated this 25th day of August, 2008.

Chairman of the Board.

Chairman Pro-Tem.

Member.

Attest: _____ . Constituting the Board of County
Clerk of the Board . Commissioners of Benton County,
Washington.

RBD:LJM:dlh

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ACTION NEEDED</u>	
Meeting Date: <u>June 23, 2008</u>	Execute Agreement _____	Consent Agenda <u>XX</u>
Subject: <u>Contribution to COBC</u>	Pass Resolution _____	Public Hearing _____
Prepared by: <u>dlh</u>	Pass Ordinance _____	1st Discussion _____
Reviewed by: <u>RBD</u>	Pass Motion _____	2nd Discussion _____
	Other _____	Other _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

City of Benton City has requested additional funding from Benton County for said project. The Board originally approved the contribution of \$20,000 to the City of Benton City Bike/Walking Path Project on May 27, 2008. After bids were opened on the project, the City requested additional funds. On June 16, 2008 the Board approved additional contributions from the County's Paths and Trails Reserve Fund. The total contribution will not exceed \$61,444.

SUMMARY

The Board approved a transfer of money from the County's Paths and Trails Reserve Fund; the total contribution will not exceed \$61,444.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the transfer from Benton County's Paths and Trails Reserve Fund #0114-101, after the City of Benton City has executed the contract for the project, and the Mayor of Benton City sends a written request for the transfer.

FISCAL IMPACT

The funds are in the Paths and Trails Reserve Fund #0114-101.

MOTION

Approve as part of the Consent Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM	TYPE OF ACTION	Consent Agenda
MTG. DATE: August 25, 2008	NEEDED	Public Meeting X
SUBJECT: Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan.	Execute Contract	1st Discussion
MEMO DATE: August 20, 2008	Pass Resolution X	2nd Discussion
Prepared By: Michael Shuttleworth	Pass Ordinance	Other -
Reviewed By: Adam Fyall	Pass Motion X	
	Other	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On August 19, 2008, the Benton County Planning Commission conducted an open record hearing on the proposed Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan. After closing the Open Record Hearing and discussing the proposed plan, the Planning Commission made a recommendation that the Board of County Commissioners approve the proposed Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan. The Planning Commission's record and recommendation for the proposed plan is being submitted for your review. The Board of County Commissioners has set a public meeting for August 25, 2008 to review the record and recommendation of the Planning Commission.

On April 8, 2008, at its regular monthly meeting the Benton County Parks Board considered the proposed Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan and made a recommendation that the Board of County Commissioners approve the proposed Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan.

If after considering the proposed Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan at the public meeting, the Board of County Commissioners deems a change in the recommendation of the Planning Commission is necessary, the Board must conduct a public hearing.

RECOMMENDATION

After closing the Public Hearing and discussing the issue, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the proposed Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan. The Benton County Parks Board and the Planning Department recommends that the Board of County Commissioners, after reviewing the record created by the Planning Commission, make a motion to adopt the proposed Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT

See pages 42 to 49 in the attached plan.

MOTION

The Board of County Commissioners will need to make a motion adopting the Planning Commission's Findings of Fact as their own, approving the resolution and adopting the Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan. If the Board of County Commissioners wishes to make a change to the Planning Commission's recommendation, the Board of County Commissioners must conduct a public hearing and make your own findings before making a decision on the proposed Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan.

BENTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Reasons for Action, findings of Fact and Analysis
Of Factors Considered Controlling

I. INTRODUCTION

In the Matter of County Planning:

Pursuant to Chapter 36.70 RCW, the Benton County Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on August 19, 2008, for the purpose of hearing testimony for and against Benton County adopting a Benton County Parks Plan.

The members of the Planning Commission and their attendance for the aforementioned hearing are as follows:

All persons desiring to speak for or against, or in relation to the proposed Benton County Parks Plan were given full and complete opportunity to be heard.

The Planning Commission is now satisfied that this matter has been sufficiently considered.

Therefore, the Benton County Planning Commission hereby makes and enters the following:

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- A. Legal notification was given on August 7, 2008 with the public hearing being conducted on Tuesday, August 19, 2008.
- B. The proposed Benton County Park Plan was found to be in conformance with the intent of the Benton County Comprehensive Park Plan. YES
- C. Written and oral testimony have indicated the following concerning the proposed Benton County Park Plan. APPROVAL
- D. The record and testimony does establish the need for the proposed Benton County Park Plan for the following reasons by making the County eligible for receipt of certain state-granted funds, mostly notably grants from the Recreation and Conservation Office (formerly "IAC"). Adoption is also required for spending "Paths and Trails Reserve" funds, which the County has recently been asked to do by one of our municipalities.
- E. S.E.P.A. – The Planning Commission has determined that the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act have been satisfied because SEPA review was completed and a Determination of Non-Significance was issued on July 3, 2008.
- F. The Planning Commission members agreed with the staff recommendation to adopt the Benton County Parks Plan.
- G. The record indicates the approval of the adoption of the Benton County Parks Plan would be in the public's best interest. YES

III. STAFF REPORT

A majority of the Planning Commission members finds that all the facts set forth in the Planning Staff memo dated August 6, 2008 are accurate.

RESOLUTION

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BENTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON
IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY PLANNING RE: ADOPTION OF THE BENTON COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PARKS PLAN. APPLICANT: BENTON COUNTY PARKS BOARD

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2007, December 5, 2007, January 15, 2008, February 12, 2008 and March 11, 2008, the Benton County Parks Board conducted public meetings to discuss a proposed Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan; and,

WHEREAS, On April 8, 2008, the Benton County Parks Board did consider the Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan and has recommended that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Benton County Planning Commission did conduct a public hearing on August 19, 2008, to review the proposed Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan received from Benton County Parks Board; and,

WHEREAS, the Benton County Planning Commission at the conclusion of their public hearing recommended approval of the Benton County Parks Plan. The Planning Commission's record was forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for review at a public meeting on August 25, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners did consider the Planning Commission record on August 25, 2008, at 9:05 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Third Floor, Courthouse, Prosser WA 99350; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal has been reviewed under the requirements of RCW 43.13C(SEPA) and a determination of non-significance was issued on July 3, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that proper legal notification for a public hearing and review have been made; and,

WHEREAS, after consideration of the above mentioned request and after reviewing the Planning Commission's record, staff files and all written and oral comments submitted at the public hearing, the Board of County Commissioners adopts the Planning Commission's findings as their own and it appears to be in the public's best interest to adopt the Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners hereby adopts the Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2008

Chairman of the Board

Member

Member
Constituting the Board of County
Commissioners of Benton County
Washington

Attest.....
Clerk of the Board

Michael Shuttleworth

Cc: Park Department/Planning Department

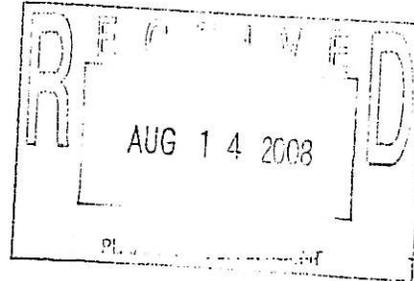
CITY OF BENTON CITY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 70, Benton City, Washington 99320
(509) 588-3322, daily email: cclerk@owt.com,

2011/08/14/14
File No. Park Plan
Date 8-14-08
Exhibit No. 8
Received by [Signature]

August 13, 2008

Benton County Planning Dept.
Attn: Mike Shuttleworth
PO Box 910
Prosser, WA 99350



Dear Mr. Shuttleworth,

Benton City is in support of the County's bike path project on the west side of the City of Benton City. We feel that this project is a good continuation to the bike path/safety walkway that Benton City is currently constructing.

Thank you,

Lloyd Carnahan
Lloyd Carnahan, Mayor
City of Benton City

Benton County Planning Department

Planning Annex, P.O. Box 910, 1002 Dudley Avenue, Prosser WA 99350, Phone: (509) 786-5612 or (509) 736-3086, Fax (509) 786-5629

Comprehensive
File No. Parks Plan
Date 8-11-08
Exhibit No. 1
Received by djh

DATE: August 6, 2008
TO: Benton County Planning Commission
FROM: Benton County Planning Department
RE: Public Hearing on the Benton County Department of Facilities and Parks
Comprehensive Parks Plan

The Benton County Planning Commission held a workshop on the Benton County Parks Plan at their July meeting in anticipation of a public hearing in August. The Parks Plan is now before the Planning Commission at a public hearing in order that they may take written and oral testimony, discuss and make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners will then hold their own public hearing on this matter to finalize the Comprehensive Parks Plan and get the County's Parks Plan up-to-date and state-compliant.

An important reason why the Plan needs to be formally adopted by the County is that it then makes the County eligible for receipt of certain state-granted funds, most notably grants from the Recreation and Conservation Office (formerly "IAC"). Adoption is also required for spending "Paths and Trails Reserve" funds, which the County has recently been asked to do by one of our municipalities.

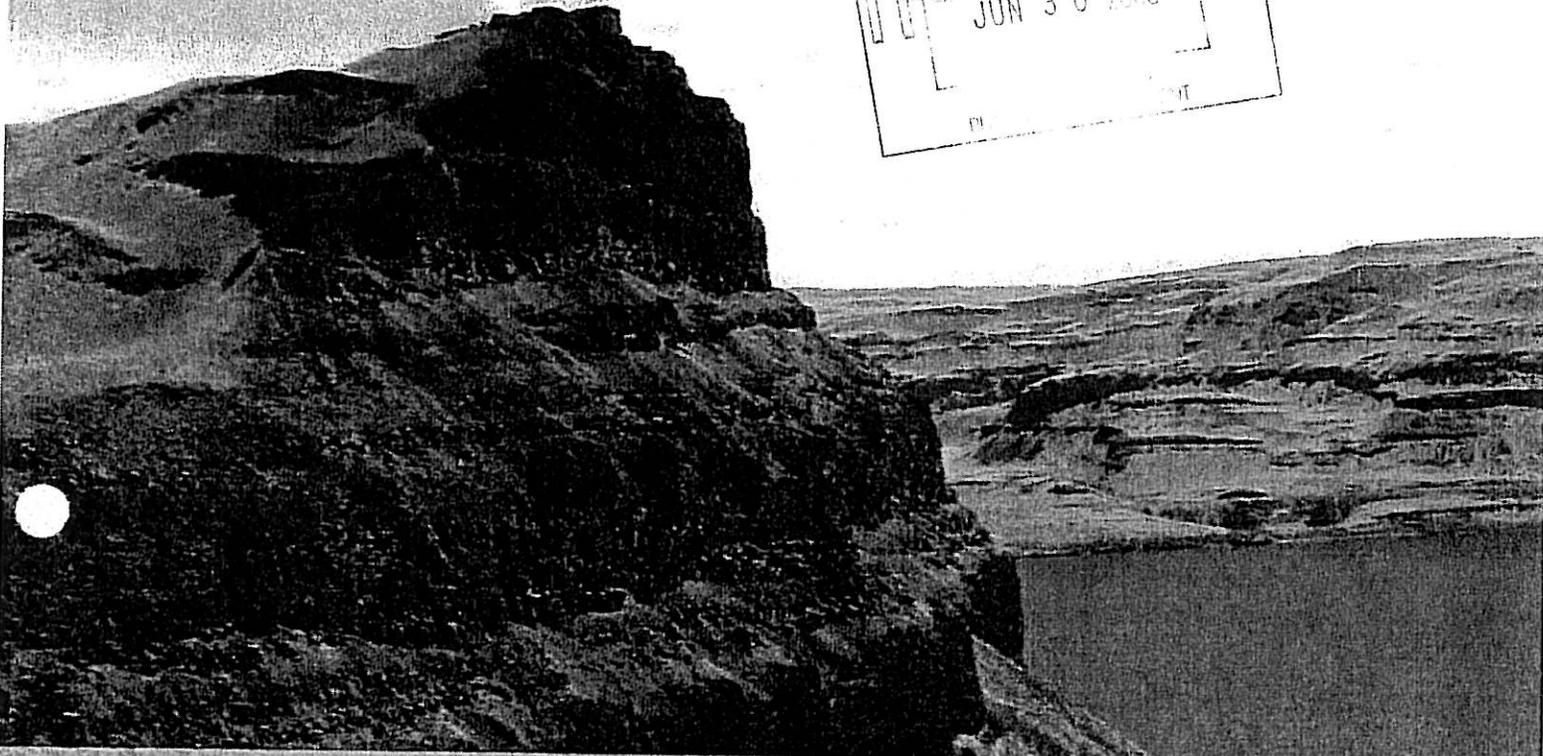
EXHIBITS:

- Exhibit No. 1 Staff Memo dated August 6, 2008
- Exhibit No. 2 Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan dated June 30, 20-08
- Exhibit No. 3 Determination of Non Significance issued July 3, 2008
- Exhibit No. 4 Environmental Checklist dated June 30, 2008
- Exhibit No. 5 Letter from Benton County Public Works Dept. dated July 9, 2008
- Exhibit No. 6 Letter from Benton County Fire Marshal dated July 14, 2008
- Exhibit No. 7 Letter from Benton Franklin District Health dated July 14, 2008

File No. Comprehensive Parks Plan
Date 8-11-08
Exhibit No. 2
Received by djh

**PLANNING
COMMISSION**
30 JUNE 2008 - REVISION

RECEIVED
JUN 30 2008



Benton County

Comprehensive Parks Plan



April 2008

Studio
Cascade
Community Planning & Design



Benton County

Comprehensive Parks Plan

April 2008

*Cover: View of Wallula Gap Preserve
(photo: Virginia Lee Paul)*

Acknowledgements:

Benton County
Board of
Commissioners: **Max Benitz, Jr.**
 Leo Bowman
 Claude Oliver (Parks Liaison)

**Benton County
Park Board:** Earl "Skip" Gest
 Marilyn Hyde
 Kathye Kilgore
 Richard Kilgore
 Bert Lake (Chair)
 Donna Raines
 Henry Sauer
 Glynn Wheeler (Member Emeritus)

**Benton County
Staff:** David Sparks, County Administrator
 Loretta Smith Kelty, Deputy County Administrator
 Adam J. Fyall, Community Development and Parks Coordinator
 Mark Finkbeiner, Park Ranger - Horn Rapids Park
 Dennis Rockwell, Park Ranger - Two Rivers Park

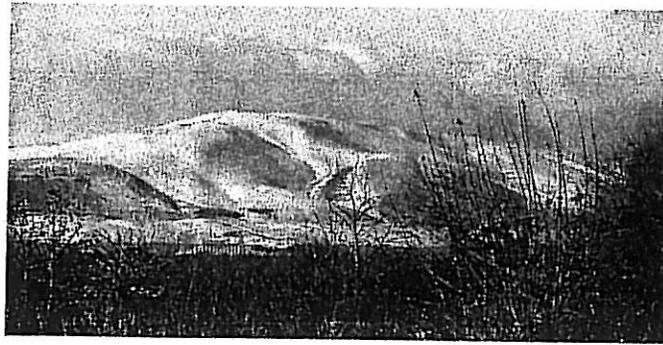
Consultant Team: Studio Cascade, Inc.:
 Gideon Schreiber, Chaz Bates, Kate Koch and Rick Hastings

 Gavin Associates Landscape Architecture:
 Tim Gavin

Special Thanks: Benton County and the consulting team would like to especially thank all of the members of the public who participated in the creation of this Plan by attending our public meetings and participating in the questionnaire and other comment opportunities. We would also like to recognize our "Partners in Parks" organizations who are our advocates and stewards of the park lands; and our volunteer corps who make personal donations of their time, equipment, and money to advance many projects in our parks.

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Introduction

The Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan marks the first major comprehensive planning effort for the County's parks system in over 20 years. The Plan will give guidance to Commissioners, the Park Board, staff, and park patrons as the system continues to develop. The Plan is the result of a rigorous public process, and Benton County thanks all of the participants who provided input and direction.

This Plan addresses both the conditions and needs of the existing parks, as well as future needs and desires expressed by the community that may involve the creation of new parks or development of new facilities within existing parks in coming years. The existing parks, of which there are eight, are referred to administratively as "park units", and are loosely-organized in three generalized categories: "Parks", which can be of any size, serve multiple, sometimes disparate uses, and tend to be more highly developed; "Preserves", which generally are larger properties with a conservation emphasis and are restricted to a narrower set of uses; and "Recreation Areas" that focus on a specific use on a single property, such as the shooting range.

Conditions and management philosophy make the County's parks different from the more numerous and accessible "city parks" that most of the public sees more regularly. Benton County's parks tend to be larger, less-developed sites in more rural settings. Overall, the County's parks emphasize diffuse, passive recreational uses in "natural areas" such as horse riding and wildlife observation; as opposed to more traditional uses and facilities like playgrounds and sports fields that would be found in manicured municipal parks. In general, Benton County's parks offer a transition, contrast, and balance between intensely-developed and highly-managed city parks; and remote, undeveloped public lands such as those managed by the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management. The Plan discusses levels of service and types of parks in detail.

Finally, Benton County emphasizes teamwork and partnerships - themes that are reprised often in this document and that were a focus of the public process. The Park Board and staff have benefited from the numerous corporate, non-profit, and public sector partnerships that have been crucial to the development and management of the parks. Benton County will use this Comprehensive Parks Plan to continue to share its parks vision and partnership philosophy with the community.

Setting, Purpose, and Need

This 20-year comprehensive parks plan is the guide for future decisions related to the Benton County parks system and park facilities. The Benton County Park Board uses the plan to advise the County Commissioners on matters of policy, programs, and projects for the development and operation of Benton County's park system. The parks plan must be updated at least every six years to be eligible for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) funding. This parks plan is also prepared in accordance with requirements specified in RCW 36.70A (Growth Management Act) and, after being adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, will become a chapter of Benton County's Comprehensive Plan.

Benton County began developing a park system in the early 1960s. In 2008, the County manages eight park properties with four owned outright, two leased from the US Army Corps of Engineers, and one jointly leased from the US Bureau of Land Management and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Benton County park property totals over 2,300 acres with river frontage at five of the parks and significant public land adjoining some of the properties. The parks range in size from very small units (less than one acre) to larger park units (over 500 acres). The park facilities have many functions including lawn activities and



Figure 2 - The shared trail between a city park and a county park at Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve shows the potential collaboration between the various agencies and user groups. Trails at the Preserve are built and maintained by the Friends of Badger Mountain.

picnicking, water and swimming, natural open space and habitat conservation, boat launches, a model airplane facility, an RV campground, an equestrian camp, and a developed shooting range. Benton County subleases all or portions of two parks to non-profit entities.

Benton County has two full-time park rangers assigned year-round with one stationed at Two Rivers Park and one based at Horn Rapids Park. The park system is administered from the County Commissioners' Office by the Community Development Coordinator in collaboration with the Benton County Park Board, whose volunteer members are appointed by the Commissioners. There are also a number of user groups who advocate for and volunteer at specific parks.



Figure 1 - Benton County is located in the center of the Columbia Basin

Benton County's Parks

The current system includes eight sites as outlined in the following table and as depicted on the following map. Benton County manages a total of 2314.5 acres of land.

Table 1 - Benton County Parks and Acreage

Site	Calculated Acres
Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve	559.4
Horn Rapids Park	564.5
Horse Heaven Vista	6.3
Hover Park (Corps Lease)	175
Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility	740
Two Rivers Park (Corps Lease)	159
Vista Park	0.3
Wallula Gap Preserve	110
TOTALS	2314.5

*Land was calculated using a Geographic Information System (GIS) and some times differs from historic acreage calculations

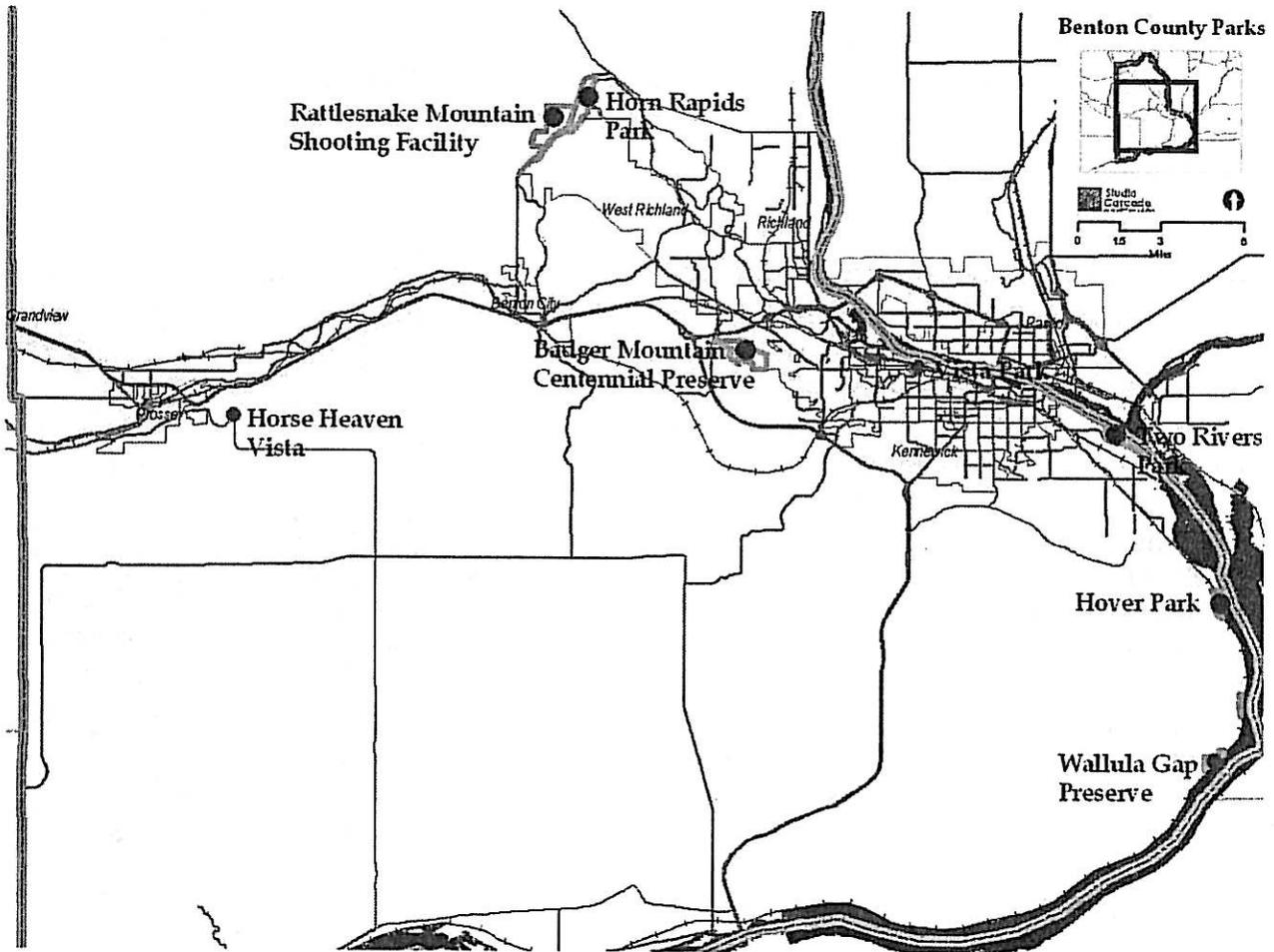


Figure 4 - Benton County park locations

Horse Heaven Vista

Horse Heaven Vista lies above Prosser along State Route 221 on the crest of the Horse Heaven Hills overlooking the Lower Yakima Valley. The site offers a view point with a small parking area and shelter. Benton County has owned the vista since the early 1960s, and is renovating the site with paving, landscaping, and other improvements.

Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility

The County has a land use agreement with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and a Recreation and Public Purpose Lease with the Bureau of Land Management who administers the terms and conditions of the leases as a single unit(740 acres). In January 1988, Benton County signed a sublease and concession agreement with the Tri-Cities Shooting Association Inc. (Rattlesnake Mountain Public Shooting Facility Committee). The committee has the responsibility for the development and operation of the range, although the County assists with some of the costs for improvement. Ranges have been constructed on the property to accommodate multiple shooting disciplines. The Shooting Association reports enrollment of over 1,600 members and are open several days during the week.

Horn Rapids Park

Horn Rapids has been owned by Benton County since 1964 and is a major natural area of the park system with about 565 acres. Previous to the County's acquisition of the park; the site was a ford for wildlife and Native Americans traveling along Rattlesnake Ridge, a campsite for the pioneering Longmire Wagon Train, an internment camp for conscientious objectors during World War II, and a Hanford Site contractor camp and field office. It is located six miles north of Benton City and has over five miles of Yakima River riparian area along one side and public lands of the Hanford Reach National Monument, Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility, and Rattlesnake Slope Wildlife Area on the other. The park has an improved campground with full recreation vehicle hookups, showers, restrooms, a horse camp, a model airplane facility, a boat launch, and multi-use trails. Horn Rapids Park is used as an outdoor educational center by areas schools. Each spring a "Salmon Summit" is held at the Park allowing students to learn about the outdoor environment and participate in the release of salmon smolts into the Yakima River.

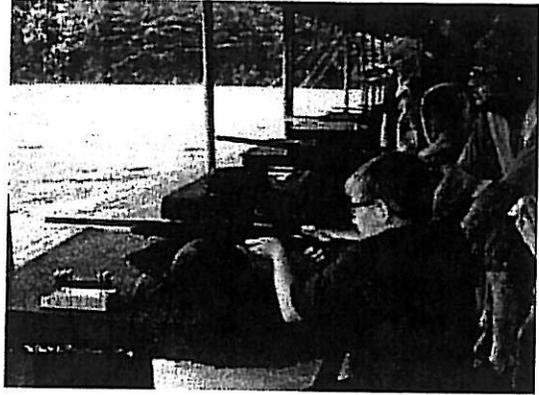


Figure 5 - The Shooting Facility offers target opportunities in multiple disciplines, with an emphasis on youth programs and hunter education (photo: uncredited)



Figure 6 - Horn Rapids Park offers five miles of shoreline and a hard-ramped boat launch for family fishing access to the Yakima River (photo: uncredited)

Horn Rapids Park is a transitional river-to-upland shrub-steppe habitat. The upstream areas are natural open space and are used primarily as horse/hiking trails and wildlife habitat.

Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve

Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve has 560 acres of natural terrain and vegetative cover located on the upper ridges and slopes of Badger Mountain. The preserve was purchased in 2005 through a partnership using County, private and state funds with goals to preserve views, protect upland shrub-steppe habitat, and provide for hiking, biking, and horse riding opportunities. Shrub-steppe vegetation, soft surface trails, expansive views of the Columbia Basin, and steep slopes characterize the site. The park is designated as a natural preserve, with plans to keep it as public undeveloped open space for passive recreational use, aesthetic amenity, habitat preservation, and for outdoor education and interpretive opportunities (i.e. Ice Age Flood interpretation). Per Resolution 05-27 that created the Preserve in 2005, the acreage is also “banked” by Benton County for possible use as mitigation for shrub-steppe disturbances that may occur elsewhere in the County.



Figure 7 - Badger Mountain is not only a popular hiking, biking, and horse riding destination; it is also the scenic backdrop for the Tri-Cities

Vista Park

Vista Park is located on Umatilla Avenue in the Tri-City Heights neighborhood (an unincorporated “island” in northwest Kennewick). It is a less than half acre neighborhood park with picnic tables and swing sets that was originally developed by the Vista Women’s Club in 1970. County staff maintains the park including general repair of play equipment, irrigation and general care of the park. It is the only small park owned by the County in an urban neighborhood.

Two Rivers Park

Two Rivers Park is leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is located about two miles east of Kennewick near the community of Finley. The park has three sheltered lagoons, fed from over two miles of Columbia River shoreline; and has the last downstream developed boat launch in the Tri-City region. Approximately 16 acres at the west end of the park is developed with picnicking, play areas, and swimming facilities. A boat launching ramp, docks, and parking lot were developed in 1987 at the east end of the park. The most recreational usage is on summer and holiday weekends. The area between the developed ends of

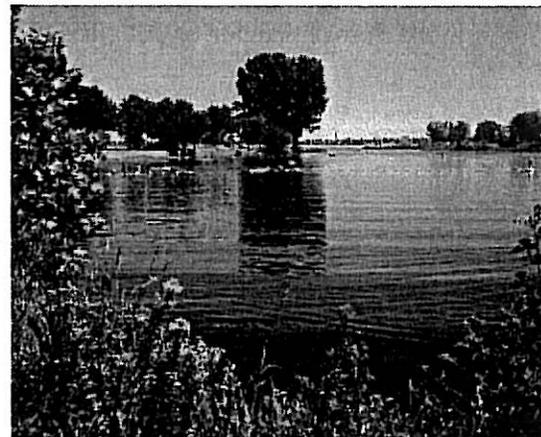


Figure 8 - With three lagoons sheltered from the main channel of the Columbia River, Two Rivers Park is an ideal setting for passive water activities such as swimming, fishing, and kayaking (photo: AJ Fyall)

the park is a natural area with a nature trail and undeveloped beach.

Hover Park

Hover Park (about 175 acres) lies six miles downstream of Two Rivers Park on the Columbia River, and is a Corps of Engineers property operated by Benton County under the same lease as Two Rivers. The first wagon train to the area, the Longmire Wagon Train, crossed the Columbia River on rafts near the park in 1853. The first major ferry crossing from Wallula was in the vicinity, and the original Hover town site, established in 1898, is part of the park. Remnants of the town structures can still be seen in the area.

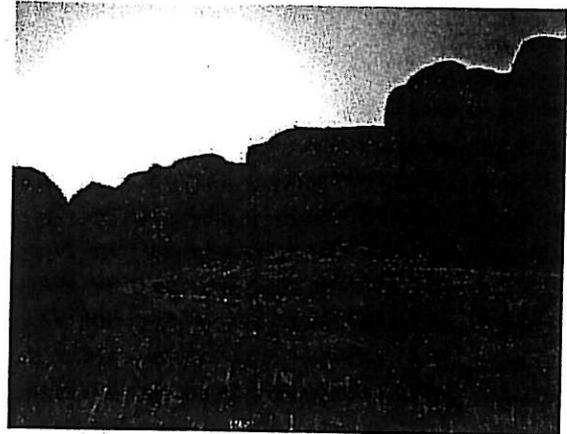


Figure 9 - Hover Park has management issues connected to access, dumping, and vandalism; but also has many scenic, habitat, and recreation opportunities (photo: AJ Fyall)

The undeveloped and open park has good potential for future use with the only natural sand beach area in a protected lagoon and shoreline with dense stands of trees. The open areas are crisscrossed with dirt roads and the Burlington Northern Railroad bisects the property. The property west of the railroad right of way has public access but the side east of the railroad and adjacent to the river is only accessible from the river. There is a potential access point adjacent to the park to the north owned by the Port of Kennewick, with a railroad crossing already established. Fishing, equestrians, and bicycling are some current uses. Off-road vehicles and shooting are some illegal activities that are currently occurring within the park.

Wallula Gap Preserve

Wallula Gap Preserve is located on the eastern slope of Horse Heaven Hills above Lake Wallula across the Columbia River from the 'Sister's Peaks' in Walla Walla County. There are three disconnected parcels that are approximately 110 acres which have remained unchanged since the properties were deeded over to the county in 1984 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The parcels are remote and generally inaccessible, with one parcel not much more than the sheer basalt cliffs of Wallula Gap itself. Current legal access to the



Figure 10 - Unreachable by automobile, Wallula Gap Preserve is used mostly by birders and naturalists on foot or horseback (photo: B Lake)

property is by water only, although the railroad corridor limits that access. In order to access the property by land an easement would have to cross about 5 miles of privately owned property.

The properties are managed as part of the National Natural Landmarks program of the National Park Service; and Benton County provides regular reports to the Park Service on the status and condition of the site.

Planning Area History

Lewis and Clark landed on Blalock Island near Richland during their expedition on the Columbia River in 1805. That expedition opened the region to more exploration and fur trading was established between the Hudson Bay Company and the Native American tribes of the area. This temporary settlement grew when the Northern Pacific Railroad started construction of its main line up the Yakima Valley in 1883. Benton County and the current county boundaries were created in 1905 from the eastern portions of Yakima and Klickitat Counties with Prosser for the county seat.

The 600-square-mile Hanford Site, 20 miles north of Richland, was selected in 1943 by the federal government because of its flat rural location, water availability, and available electricity. The nuclear industry and its associated services, manufacturing, and research activities have been a source of growth since the Hanford Atomic Reservation was established. In 1964, the federal government decided to promote diversification in the development and use of Hanford facilities. Since that time, Hanford has become a broadly based complex of energy research and development laboratories and a center for nuclear projects and a major source of employment in the county based on that research and the major clean-up and environmental restoration of the site.

The Columbia River's McNary Dam near Plymouth, 30 miles south of Kennewick, altered the area in 1953, creating a new reservoir on the Columbia and permitting ocean-going barge traffic up to Richland.

Geography and Climate

Benton County was established in 1905 and covers 1722 square miles in south central Washington State. Yakima and Klickitat Counties are on the west; Grant County is on the north; Franklin and Walla Walla Counties are on the east; and Morrow and Umatilla Counties in Oregon are located to the south. The Columbia River defines the northern, eastern, and southern edge with the Yakima River bisecting the county. The Yakima River has an elevation of 700 feet at Yakima County and drops to 300 feet at the Columbia River confluence. The Snake and Walla Walla Rivers join the Columbia River along Benton County's eastern boundary. Rattlesnake Ridge separates the Pasco Basin and the Yakima River Valley running from the northwest to the southeast where it meets the Horse Heaven Hills south of Finley. This ridge includes Rattlesnake, Red, Candy, and Badger Mountains. Rattlesnake Mountain is the highest point in the County (elevation of 3629 feet) and the lowest elevation (265 feet) is on the Columbia River near Plymouth.



Figure 11 - The Horse Heaven Hills plateau terminates dramatically near Hover Park and Wallula Gap Preserve

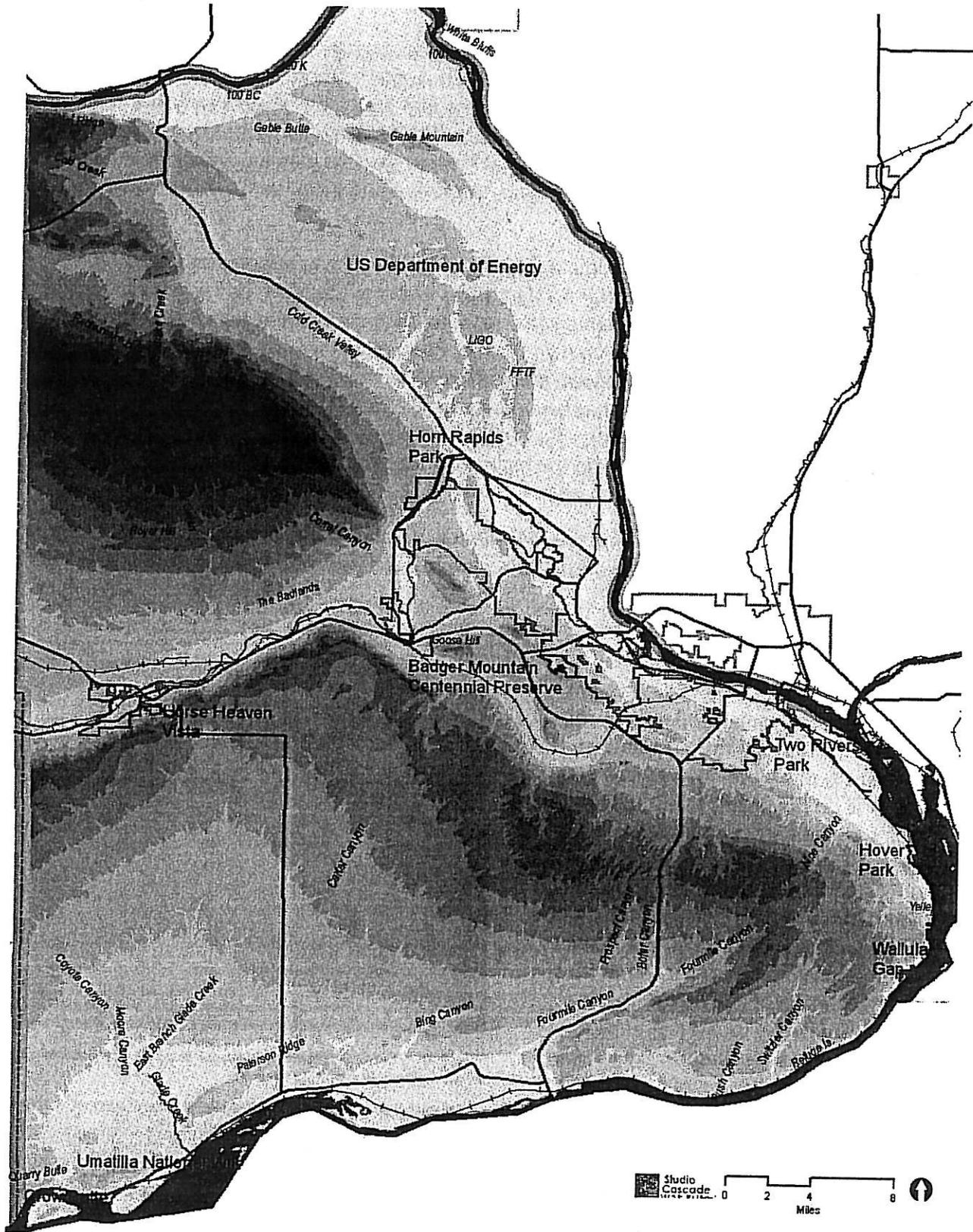


Figure 12 - There are a number of canyons and peaks in Benton County and a wide river valleys through the center of the County. The color bands in the above map depict elevation differences of about 270 feet for each gradient

The county has several basins and valleys with plateaus and ridges separating them. The Pasco Basin (mostly the Hanford Reservation) is fairly flat with some hills. The Yakima River valley defines the central area of the county with a riparian zone (diverse wildlife and plants) adding more diversity to Benton County's varied landscape. The Horse Heaven Hills define the plateau that makes up the southern half of the county. The Horse Heavens Hills rise from the Columbia River along the southern edge of the County to a ridgeline running east to west. Jump Off Joe Butte to the south of Kennewick is the highest point on this plateau.

These mountains and ridges defined the path of the Ice Age Floods that scoured and defined the region from northern Idaho all the way to the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Columbia River. The valleys became inundated with only the tops of the mountains sticking out above the floods. Wallula Gap was a constriction point where the water backed up and slowly drained down-river. This back-up allowed erratic boulders to be randomly scattered within the County as seen in many of the County's parks. This interesting geologic event is part of a conceptual Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail which would be a network of marked touring routes across parts of Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, with interpretive centers located across the region.

The region is relatively dry because of the Cascade Range to the west and the rain shadow it creates with precipitation between 5 and 15 inches depending on the area of the County. Summer temperatures can pass the 100 degree Fahrenheit mark but evenings cool down even

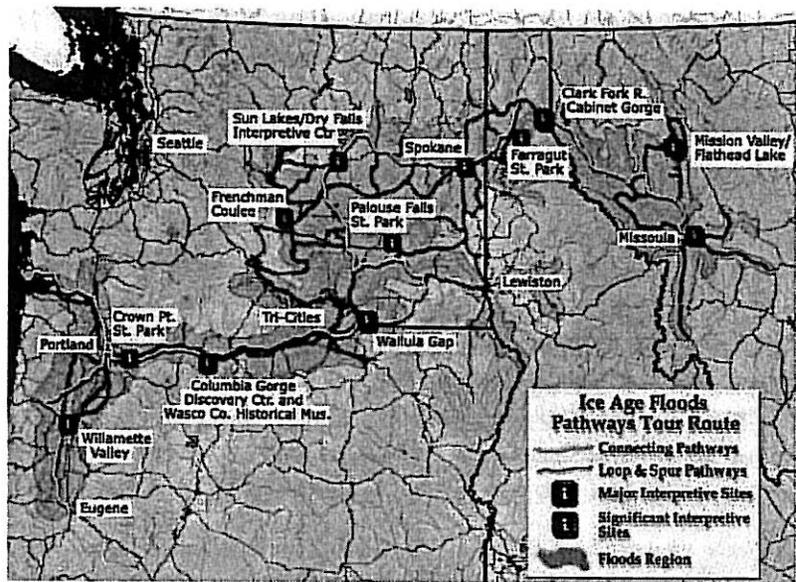


Figure 13 - The proposed Ice Age Flood touring route (from the National Park Service report and the Ice Age Flood Institute includes much of Benton County)

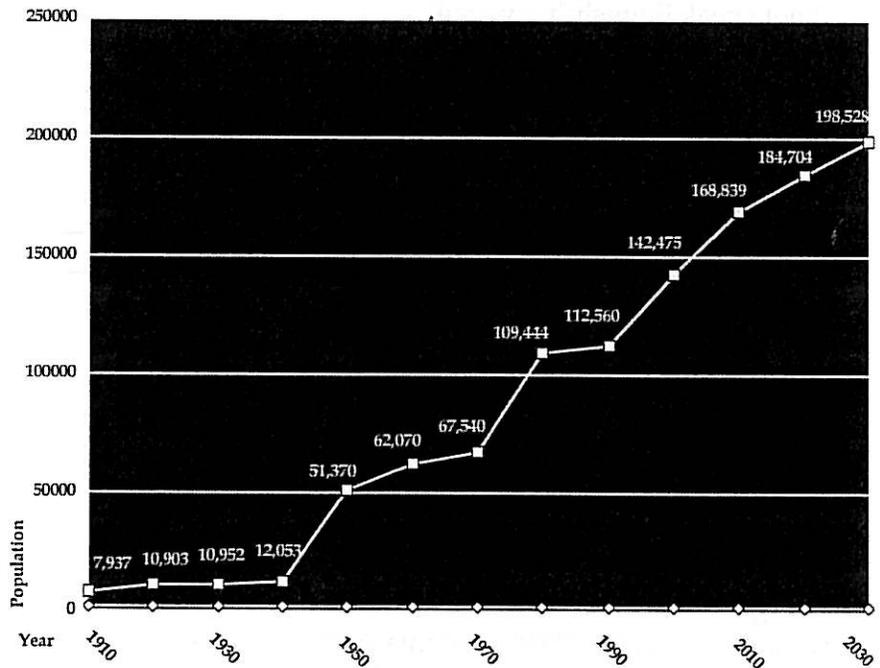


Figure 14 - OFM and the US Census Population Trends and Projections

during the hottest months of July and August. Winter weather can be relatively mild although cold spells do occur. January average temperatures are just above the freezing point during the day and just under it in the evening.

Demographics and Economy

Benton County had a population of 162,900 according to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimates for 2007. This was an increase of about 20,000 people since the 2000 US Census. The population of the incorporated areas was 126,375 people while the population of unincorporated areas, including Paterson, Plymouth, and Whitstran, was 36,525. The projections for the County, as seen in figure 6, estimate a population of 198,528 in the County by 2030.

The primary economic engines in Benton County are agriculture, retail and nuclear-related industries connected to the Hanford Site and the Energy Northwest power reactor. Other industries include food processing plants and manufacturing. The world's largest irrigated experiment station, Washington State University Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center, is located in Benton County 10 miles north of Prosser. The wine industry is a rapidly growing industry with many established and new wineries opening in recent years. Columbia Crest, the state's largest winery, is located in Paterson, overlooking the Columbia River.

In 2006, there were 57,000 households in Benton County with an average household size of 2.8 people. Eleven percent of the people living in Benton County were foreign born and 18 percent of people over 5 years old spoke a language other than English at home. Of those people who spoke other than English at home, 74 percent spoke Spanish and 39 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well".

Table 2 - 2007 Population Breakdown

2007 Population	
Benton City	2,860
Kennewick	62,520
Prosser	5,075
Richland	45,070
West Richland	10,850
Incorporated	126,375
Unincorporated	36,525
Total	162,900

Source: OFM

Table 3 - Benton County's 2006 Demographic Summary American Community Survey

Demographic Estimates	Estimate	Percent	U.S.
Total population	159,463		
Male	78,713	49.4	49.2%
Female	80,750	50.6	50.8%
Median age (years)	35.2	(X)	36.4
Under 5 years	11,290	7.1	6.8%
18 years and over	117,046	73.4	75.4%
65 years and over	17,273	10.8	12.4%
One race	156,797	98.3	98.0%
White	133,199	83.5	73.9%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	23,985	15.0	14.8%

School enrollment in Benton County was 41,000 in 2006 including nursery schools and kindergartens with 4,300 and elementary or high schools with 29,000 students. College or graduate schools had 7,900 students enrolled. Sixteen percent of people at least five years old reported a disability, with the breakdown varying by age (7 percent of people 5 to 15 years old,

15 percent of people 16 to 64 years old, and 39 percent of those 65 and older reported a disability).

Table 4 - Benton County's 2006 Social Summary American Community Survey

Social Characteristics	Estimate	Percent	U.S.
Average household size	2.79	(X)	2.61
Average family size	3.41	(X)	3.20
Population 25 years and over	102,360		
High school graduate or higher	(X)	86.3	84.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	(X)	29.0	27.0%
Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and over)	15,544	13.3	10.4%
Disability status (population 5 years and over)	23,523	16.0	15.1%
Foreign born	17,432	10.9	12.5%
Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)	26,969	18.2	19.7%

In 2006, Seventy-seven percent of Benton County workers drove to work alone, 14 percent carpooled, 3 percent took public transportation, 4 percent used other means and 2 percent worked at home. Commuters took an average of 21 minutes to get to work. Six percent of the households did not have access to a vehicle for private use but seventy percent of the households had at least two vehicles to use.

Table 5 - Benton County's 2006 Housing Summary American Community Survey

Housing Characteristics	Estimate	Percent	U.S.
Total housing units	62,516		
Occupied housing units	56,808	90.9	88.4%
Owner-occupied housing units	39,048	68.7	67.3%
Renter-occupied housing units	17,760	31.3	32.7%
Median value (dollars)	156,100	(X)	185,200

Also in 2006, the most common occupations included: Management, professional, and related occupations at 39 percent; Sales and office occupations at 24 percent; Service occupations at 14 percent; Production, transportation, and material moving occupations at 12 percent; and Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations at 8 percent. Eighty percent of the people employed were classified as private wage and salary workers; 16 percent were government workers; and 4 percent were self-employed or non-incorporated business workers. The median income of households in Benton County was \$50,688. The median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners was \$1,246, non-mortgaged owners \$380, and renters \$663.

Table 6 - Benton County's 2006 Economic Summary American Community Survey

Economic Characteristics	Estimate	Percent	U.S.
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	82,451	67.5	65.0%
Mean travel time to work in minutes (workers 16 years and over)	21.0	(X)	25.0
Median household income (in 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars)	50,688	(X)	48,451
Median family income (in 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars)	62,426	(X)	58,526
Per capita income (in 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars)	24,852	(X)	25,267
Families below poverty level	(X)	10.2	9.8%
Individuals below poverty level	(X)	13.9	13.3%

Process

Framework

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is a major source of park grant funding and provides specific planning guidelines for eligibility. RCO park planning requirements differ from the Growth Management Act (GMA) but are compatible with it. This document is meant to fulfill all state requirements for parks planning.

The guidelines as specified by the RCO ask for the inclusion of several elements within a comprehensive parks plan.

- Community goals are broad statements of intent based on an overall vision.
- Policies implement goals, directing day-to-day agency behavior in a manner designed to achieve specific and measurable actions.
- An inventory of the planning area and community reveals its identity and strengths within the context of the County's geography, along with the current parks and conditions including facilities, lands, programs, and the policy environment impacting parks and recreation activities.
- Public involvement provides opportunity for input in plan development and adoption.
- Demand and need analysis defines priorities for acquisition, development, preservation, enhancement, management and other park system management strategies based on public input and inventory.
- Projects for acquisition, development and renovation are the basis of the **Capital Improvement Program** including a projected timeline, budget and funding sources for each over at least a six-year period.
- The final step is **adoption**, which creates the final approval of the plan and process required to apply for grants.

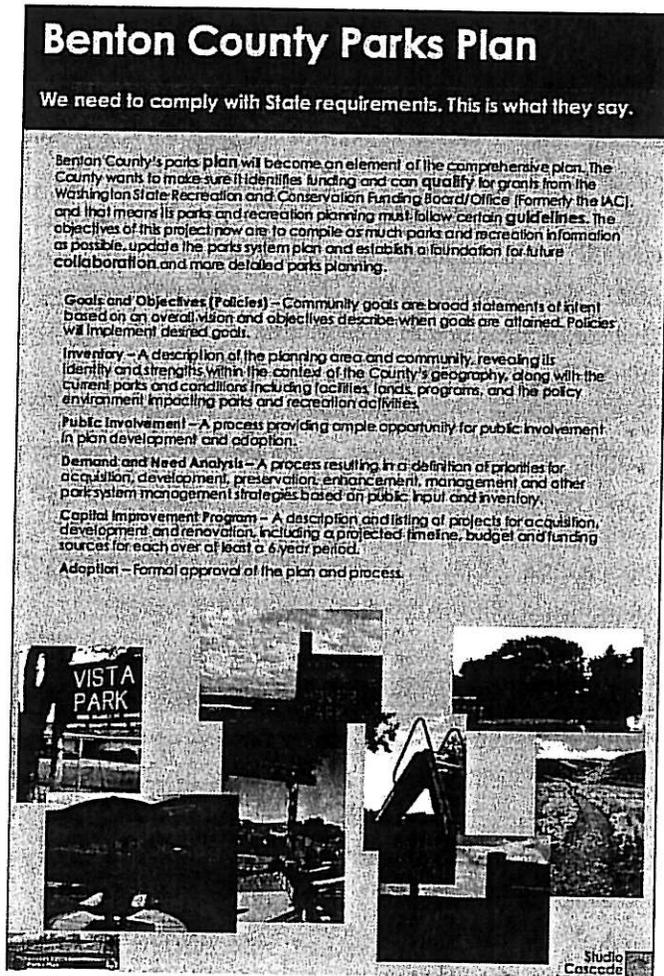


Figure 15 - Benton County is following the state guidelines for a parks plan allowing for potential state grants and funding.

Participation

Citizen involvement for parks planning is the backbone of this planning process. Benton County appreciates the high level of public participation that was crucial to generating a great Comprehensive Parks Plan. In particular, our "Partners in Parks" were instrumental to this planning process, as they are to so many parks projects and functions. The Partners in Parks have chosen to take-on high levels of responsibility in the parks over the years, and they make-up the heart of our volunteer corps. The Partners include:

- Backcountry Horsemen of Washington - Purple Sage Riders
- Backcountry Horsemen of Washington - Rattlesnake Ridge Riders
- Friends of Badger Mountain
- Tapteal Greenway Association
- Tri-Cities Model Airplane Association
- Tri-Cities Shooting Association

In addition to our Partners and the public at large, several representatives from other organizations and agencies participated in the plan process, including:

Benton Conservation District	Native Plant Society
Benton City Economic Development Council	Pacific NW Fjord Horse Group
Benton County Emergency Services	Paterson Schools
Benton County Fire District 1	Paul Liddel Park User Group
Benton Franklin Health District	Prosser Schools
Benton-Franklin Council of Governments	Richland Parks and Recreation
Chinook Cycling Club	Richland Rod and Gun Club
Desert Kayak and Canoe Club	Richland Schools
Finley Schools	Tri-City Bicycle Club
Inter-Mountain Alpine Club	US Bureau of Land Management
Kennewick Parks and Recreation	US Army Corps of Engineers
Kennewick Schools	West Richland City Council
Kiona-Benton City Schools	West Richland Parks Board

The outline for plan development has followed a meeting schedule designed for interaction, input, and participation. The events included:

Date	Event	Location
November 8 th 2007	Vision 2028	Shilo Inn, Kennewick
December 5 th , 2007	Partners and Priorities	Benton REA, West Richland
January 15 th , 2008	Policy Workshop	Shilo Inn, Kennewick
February 12 th , 2008	Plan Draft Meeting	Justice Center, Kennewick
March 11 th , 2008	Plan Roll-out	Justice Center, Kennewick
April 2008	Plan Adoption Recommendation	Justice Center, Kennewick

The public participation process included an online questionnaire which was publicized in the newspaper, on television, by word of mouth, and on the radio. The ideas and information from the questionnaire are incorporated into the planning process. Comments and thoughts are reflected in the policies and projects identified in this plan.

Parks and Recreation Trends

There are trends that can be seen within Benton County. Several assessments were distributed to the population to get feedback over the years. Questions focused on the existing system, potential demand, and funding. The full text of the 2007-2008 Benton County Parks Questionnaire and a report is included in the appendix of this parks plan along with information from the previous survey/questionnaires conducted in 1982 and 1994.

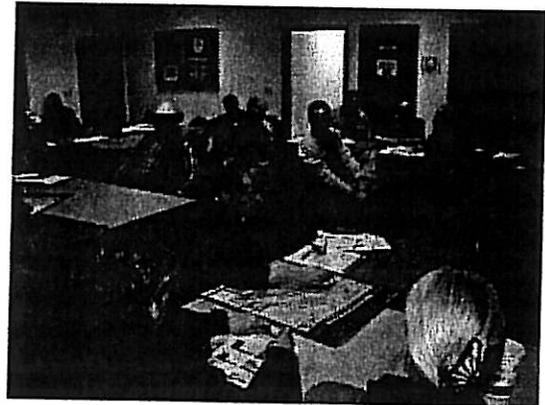


Figure 16 - Participants had many great ideas shared during workshops and on the website

2007-2008 Parks Questionnaire Findings

Benton County administered an online questionnaire to county residents in 2007 as part of the public participation program to engage the public in the parks planning process. The questionnaire was intended to reach park users and residents to learn about what they liked about Benton County Parks, what needed to be improved, what activities are most popular, and an idea of what kinds of parks should be provided in the park system. The questionnaire was a tool for input for people who did not have time or inclination to come to scheduled public meetings. In this way, the questionnaire attracted people to the process that wouldn't normally participate but whose ideas helped shape policy development and project prioritizing.

The 2007-08 questionnaire was administered and processed by an online survey distributor. The program restricted completed questionnaires to one IP address, to reduce the chance of duplicate respondents. Essentially, each computer could only complete the questionnaire one time. The questionnaire was available to the public between November 2007 and January 2008. Links to the questionnaire were posted on the project website and made available via email through the steering committee and various stakeholders. The website was also advertised in the Tri-City Herald, on local television news programs, and on talk radio.

The results were consistent with the responses from public meetings and other opportunities for public comment. Most respondents to the questionnaire were from Richland (47 percent) and

Kennewick (25 percent) and were between 45 and 59 years of age. The majority of respondents indicate they are satisfied with the parks system. The questionnaire provides some key findings including:

- **Facility Demand** - Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve and Horn Rapids Park are used by a majority of respondents and Badger Mountain has the highest percentage of weekly users. Hiking and walking were the activities the majority of respondents participated in most frequently during an “in season” month. Bicycling and nature activities were also frequent activities for respondents. The responses show a high need for facilities to support these activities and continued maintenance of the most frequently used parks.
- **Project Types** - Trails topped the list of needed parks facilities. Trails were closely followed by preserves and waterfront parks. All facility types, except athletic play fields, showed high level of support. Coupled with the activities that people do most in their free time, these questions show an increased desire for trails, preserves, and waterfront parks. These projects will take precedence in future planning efforts.
- **Project Priorities** - Collaboration and safety received the highest ratings when respondents were asked to prioritize various attributes of parks projects. Future projects will reflect the desires of residents to have parks that are safe and that were designed, funded, built and maintained through a process of collaboration.
- **Funding** - An overwhelming 90 percent of respondents said they believed land should be set aside in new developments for future parks facilities. Respondents said they would like parks to be funded through various means including but not limited to development impact fees, by a bond issue, or through a property tax increase. Knowing how residents feel parks should be funded helps the parks department make better choices about how to pay for maintenance, acquisitions and improvements.

State and National Trends

There are emerging park and recreation trends at the state and national level which relate to Benton County. These trends should be considered as part of the assessment. The following trends were highlighted by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and include both state and national surveys and research. Those trends relate to specific opportunities within the County. People are busy and have to weigh the time available for work, live, and play. Key trends to consider include:

- **Increasing population:** The County is growing rapidly with more growth in urban areas than rural areas
- **Aging population:** Older and retired populations continue to grow within the county with many expected to stay active and likely demanding more recreation opportunities
- **Ethnic diversity:** The growing population in Benton County is diverse with many non-native speaking residents that should be considered in marketing and services

- **Changing lifestyles:** Changing work patterns are creating off peak demand on facilities and less structure for activities while multi-generational demand increases demand for diverse activities
- **Physical activity:** An increased interest in physical activity has emerged as obesity rises in children and adults throughout the country
- **Infill development:** Urban areas are being filled in and higher density housing development is increasing demand for more urban facilities and connectivity to rural opportunities
- **Convenient recreation:** People are getting busier and costs for travel are increasing interest in recreating closer to the home and work
- **Recreation choices:** An increase in trail activity and winter recreation interests including indoor winter activities and an emerging interest in activities like community gardens, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, adventure sports and disk golf.

The RCO, in 2003, identified outdoor recreation activities and the projected change in participation levels in the next 10 and 20 years. The following table highlights those activities and the increase or decrease for each activity. At the statewide level walking and hiking are the highest interest area. Sport related activities come in at a close second.

Table 7 - Washington State's future participation in outdoor activity

Participation in Washington	10 Year	20 Year
Walking	+23%	+34%
Hiking	+10%	+20%
Outdoor team and individual sports	+6%	+12%
Nature activities	+23%	+37%
Sightseeing	+10%	+20%
Bicycle riding	+19%	+29%
Picnicking	+20%	+31%
Motor boating	+10%	No estimate
Non-pool swimming	+19%	+29%
Visiting a beach	+21%	+33%
Canoeing/kayaking	+21%	+30%
Downhill skiing	+21%	No estimate
Cross-country skiing	+23%	No estimate
Snowmobile riding	+42%	No estimate
Fishing	-5%	-10%
Camping - primitive dispersed	+5%	No estimate
Camping - backpacking	+5%	+8%
Camping - developed (RV style)	+10%	+20%
Off-road vehicle riding	+10%	+20%
Hunting-shooting	-15%	-21%
Equestrian	+5%	+8%
Air activities	No estimate	No estimate

Source: RCO 2003- Statewide data

In 2002, the RCO completed an "Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State" which shows that across the state, people were interested in nearby and affordable activities. Walking, hiking, and bicycling and other linear activities are very popular within Washington State followed by team and individual sports next in interest. More than 20 percent of people were also interested in nature activities, sightseeing, bicycling, indoors opportunities, and picnicking.

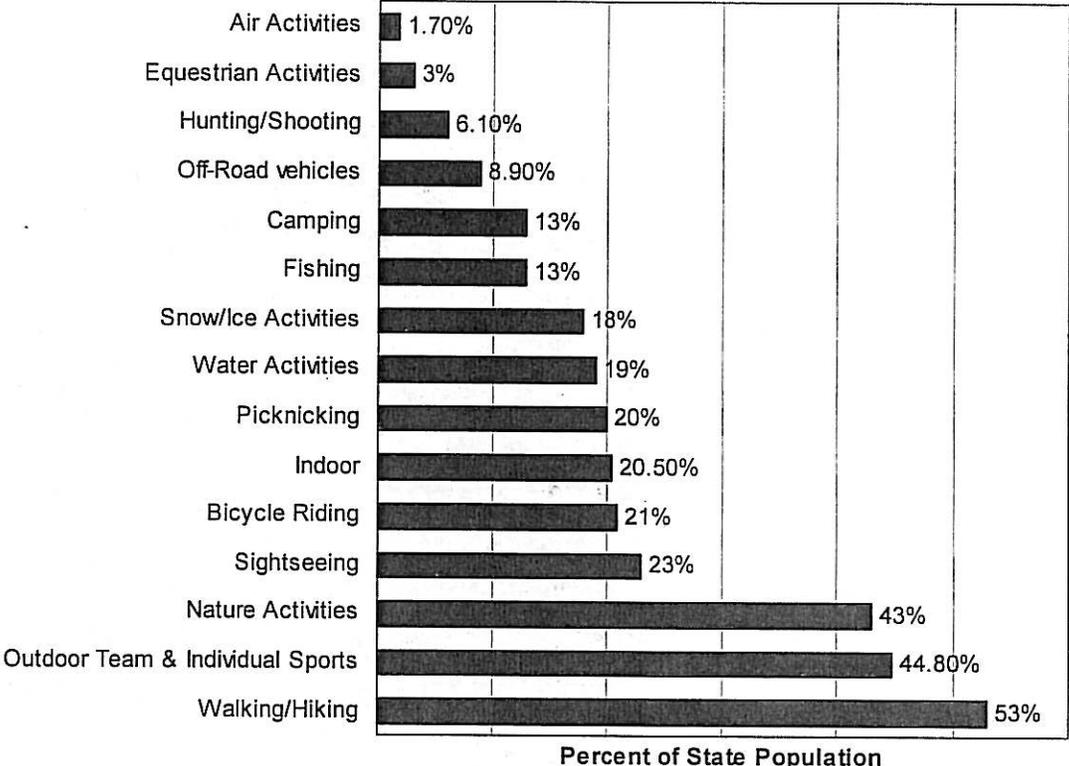


Figure 17 - Statewide participation in recreation may not reflect Benton County trends perfectly but should be considered as part of the picture as overall state demand impacts county facilities

Vision and Issues

What would the Benton County park system look like in 20 years? When asked that question, residents said that, *"Benton County provides a connected system of parks, trails, and nature preserves that balance the community's priorities to provide environmental stewardship, public access, diverse opportunities, and healthy options."* This vision describes that park system 20 years from now, creating a picture of what will be. The vision is supported through a policy framework that provides the steps for achieving the vision.

Issues are points of contention, missing pieces, and general concerns that focus the vision and policy framework. Some identified issues include:

- **Partnerships** - are the backbone of improvements, expansion, and recreation oriented activities
- **Connectivity** - is lacking between parks and throughout the county
- **Misuse** - could diminish access to sites and disrupt the natural areas, and damages property
- **Coordination** - is crucial to make a complete system and keep conversation alive
- **Conflicts** - between interest and users groups could disrupt partnerships and viability of the park system
- **Information** - is not available about the current park system or the amenities offered
- **Funding** - is hard to obtain for continued maintenance and for the many competing projects
- **Development** - is occurring at a fast pace within and near unique landscapes and key corridors
- **Access** - is not provided or developed for some parks within the system while other areas are to easily accessed



Figure 18 - The park vision can be broken down into component parts which guide goal and policy development

Demand and Needs Assessment

The park system is meant to provide desired and needed opportunities for Benton County residents to recreate and participate in different outdoor activities. The system should provide enough opportunities to users, and those opportunities should be in the right locations within the County. There is also an opportunity for the park system to help provide regional recreation opportunities and protect or enhance the environment.

Level of Service and Park Types

The 2006 Benton County Comprehensive Plan adopted level of service standards for parks from the 1982 Comprehensive Parks Plan. Those plans specify that the standards are meant to be used as guidelines, not absolutes. The following table modifies those standards to fit with the current population and feedback during the workshop sessions and questionnaire.

Table 8 - Current Level of Service Standards

Park Type	Service area	Level of Service
Regional Parks	15 mile radius and within an hour drive	5 acres per 1000 population
Natural Park Designation	20 mile service radius	5 acres per 1000 population
Trails	NA	1.37 miles per 1000 population`
Special Use	NA	Case by Case

To better understand the types of parks within the system, the following descriptions were created using the 1982 Parks Plan and the current system features.

Regional parks are intended for more passive outdoor uses and serve a large region including rural county residents. These parks are meant to preserve large areas of natural space and typically include amenities like wooded areas, varied topography, water features, but can also provide campgrounds, picnic areas, nature centers, trails, waterfront access, boating, and sometimes athletic fields. These parks should not be used to relieve pressure for urban park uses.

Natural parks (Preserves) are native areas developed for educational or recreational options that preserve and develop native plant and wildlife habitat. They generally can provide non-consumptive uses including interpretive trails, historical points, viewpoints, habitat, educational centers, picnic areas, and case by case primitive camping.

Trails (Linear Parks) are intended to provide circulation between parks, cities and rural areas. Trails can follow roadways, waterways, wooded areas, historic or scenic routes, and should consider points of interest, scenic views and existing rights of way.

Special use areas include lands that are for specific uses and can be subleased and managed by other organizations (an example includes the Rattlesnake Shooting Facility).

Benton County had 162,900 residents in 2007 with a forecast population of 198,528 in the year 2030. The current level of service standards would call for a total 1,632 acres of parkland and an additional 354 acres by 2030 for a total of 1,986 acres. There are currently 1,458 acres of regional

and natural park land in the system, although Hover Park is currently not developed in any way.

The current park system is not meeting the level of service standards by 174 acres, and will need 354 more acres of land to meet those standards 20 years from now. This acreage analysis does not include special use parks, trail connections, or community desire for preservation of open space lands in certain sensitive and view corridors.

Table 9 - Level of Service requirements by 2030 for Benton County parks

Park Type	Current LOS (Pop. 162,900)	2030 LOS (Pop. 198,528)
Regional Parks	816 acres	993 acres
Natural Parks	816 acres+	993 acres+
Special Use	Case basis	Case basis
Total Parkland to meet LOS	1,632 acres	1,986 acres
Trails	223 miles	272 miles
<i>*within a 20 mile service area</i>		
<i>+within an hours drive</i>		

Table 10 - Park system needs by 2030

Park Type	Target	2007 Acres		2030 Acres		
		Current	Desired	Target	Now	Desired
Regional	816 acres	723.5	92.5	993	723.5	269.5
Natural	816 acres	734.4	81.6	993	734.4	248.6
Special Use	NA	856.6	NA	NA	856.6	NA
Total	1,632	2314.5	174.1	1,986	2314.5	528.1

Other Facilities

The Benton County park system would not be adequate without the other parks and facilities within the County. The cities provide many urban opportunities including an extensive trail network provided through coordinated efforts of multiple jurisdictions. The following map highlights the parks within the urban area of Benton County and the tables that follow provide the key to park names.

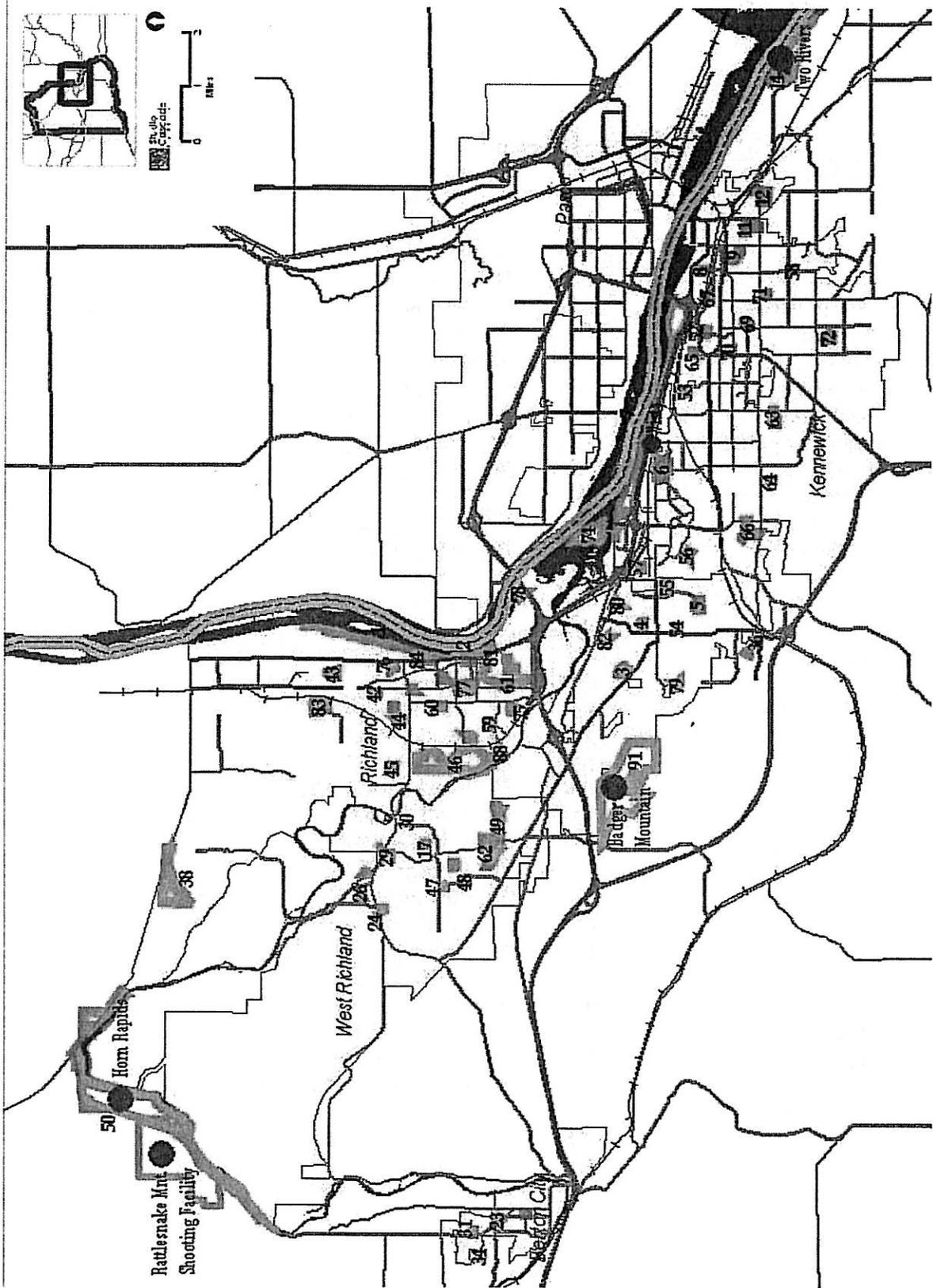


Figure 19 - There are numerous parks within the urban areas of Benton County (numbers correlate to the inventory tables)

Table 11 - Parks Inventory within the urban area of Benton County

Map	Benton County Sites	Acres	Map	Benton County Sites	Acres
91	Badger Mtn. Preserve	559.4	14	Two Rivers Park	159
50	Horn Rapids Parks	564.5		Vista Park	0.3
	Horse Heaven Vista	6.3		Wallula Gap Preserve	110
	Hover Park	175		TOTALS	269.3
	Rattlesnake Mtn. Shooting	740			
Map	Parks in Benton County	Acres	Map	Parks in Benton County	Acres
1	General Leslie R. Groves Park	93.2	47	Paradise Park	1.0
2	Howard Amon Park	33.0	48	Coyote Park	2.8
3	Badger Mountain Park	13.3	49	Park at the Lakes	20.1
4	Chaparral Park	2.3	52	Yelm Park	2.7
5	Claybell Park	8.7	53	John Day Park	2.3
6	Lawrence Scott Park	34.7	54	Overlook Park	0.9
7	Columbia Park	459.9	55	Meadows East Park	3.0
8	Fruitland Park	2.8	56	Sunset Park	5.9
9	Keewaydin Park	8.8	57	Columbia Center Estates Park	1.9
10	Underwood Park	2.1	58	Kenwood Park	1.1
11	Unnamed Park (Approx.)	2.5	59	Frankfort Playground	3.5
12	Eastgate Park	14.6	60	Roberdeau Park	3.1
13	Monopoly Park	0.9	61	Goethals Playground	11.0
15	Enterprise Park	7.3	62	Bombing Range Rd Sports Complex	16.6
16	South Highland Park	2.5	63	Grange Park	9.9
17	Melinda Park	0.2	64	Penn Park	0.8
18	Prosser City Park	4.3	65	Hawthorne Park	1.4
19	Farrand Park	1.3	66	Hansen Park	28.4
20	Crawford Riverfront Park	3.5	67	Hatfield Park	2.6
21	E.J. Miller Park	6.0	68	Arboretum	4.5
22	Market Street Park	2.6	69	Vancouver Park	2.3
23	Benton City	3.0	70	Westgate Park	4.5
24	W Richland	1.5	71	Jay Perry Park	0.6
25	W Richland	1.0	72	Horse Heaven Hills Park	5.6
26	Glenn Memorial Park	1.3	73	Barth Playlot	0.4
27	Luanne Estates Park	0.3	74	Bateman Island	163.7
28	Edgewater Park	0.3	75	Beverly Heights Park	2.7
29	Flat Top Park	8.6	76	McMurray Park	1.7
30	Grant Ct Park	0.3	77	Columbia Playfield Complex	19.7
31	Benton City	1.9	78	Columbia Point Marina Park	15.4
NA	Benton City	1.1	79	Crested Hills Park	5.8
NA	Benton City	0.2	80	Desert Rim Park	2.8
34	Breezin' Estates	2.0	81	Gillespie Parkway	3.1
36	Kennewick	1.5	82	Hills West Park	2.1
37	Kennewick	1.3	83	Horn Rapids Athletic Complex	29.8
38	Horn Rapids OVR Park	98.7	84	Jefferson Park	9.1
39	Plymouth Park	147.9	85	Paul Liddell Park	2.8
40	Craighill Park	3.4	86	Jeanette Taylor Park	2.5
41	Richland	3.9	87	Stevens Playground	1.4
42	Richland	3.2	88	Tanglewood Park	1.6
43	Lynnwood Loop Park	10.6	89	Westwood Park	1.1
44	Jason Lee Park	4.1	90	Grant Street Park	0.8
45	Richland	5.3	NA	Benton City	1.3
46	W.E. Johnson Park	253.1		Total	1663

State and Federal Lands in Benton County

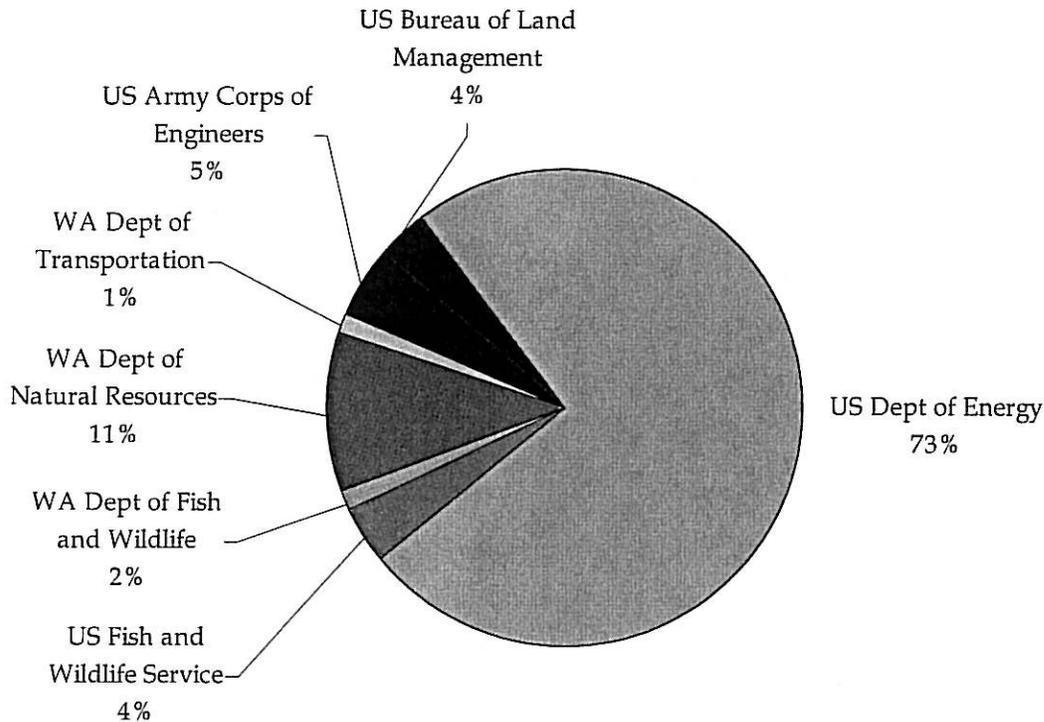


Figure 20 - Approximately 384,500 acres of public lands are managed by the state or federal government although most of this land does not provide public access (Hanford Site)

Park Land and Critical Areas

The park system provides larger tracts of open space preserves for native wildlife and plant species while still allowing passive activities. There are other lands within the County that are limited because of natural conditions (this land has been identified as critical resource lands by the County). Some of this land could have a potential use within the park system as trail corridors or as additions to open space preserves that provide natural habitat and viewshed corridors. Much of this land is already owned by public or quasi-public entities although there are privately owned lands in these areas, as well. This private land is difficult to use or develop. Land owners should be approached about easements along corridors or within identified areas while still allowing the full use of their properties. In other cases this land could be acquired or easements could be obtained within identified critical area land. Preserving some of this land (through conservation easements, with trusts, or as park land) could create needed corridors and preserve valuable environmentally sensitive areas and ecological function system-wide while providing diverse and needed recreation opportunities.

Critical area lands identified in the County's Comprehensive Plan include wetlands, critical aquifer protection areas, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and fish and wildlife conservation areas. Those areas support natural and resource functions or are potential hazardous areas. Some benefits of protection include water quality, habitat, natural flood control, groundwater replenishment, natural hazard protection; historical, archaeological, and aesthetic value protection, and recreation.

The map identifies potential critical areas, and existing public and quasi-public lands. From this conceptual map, linkages and sites can be identified by connecting critical areas and public lands. These sites and corridors play a larger role for open space preserve identification, partnerships, and could provide potential locations for acquisition or easements.

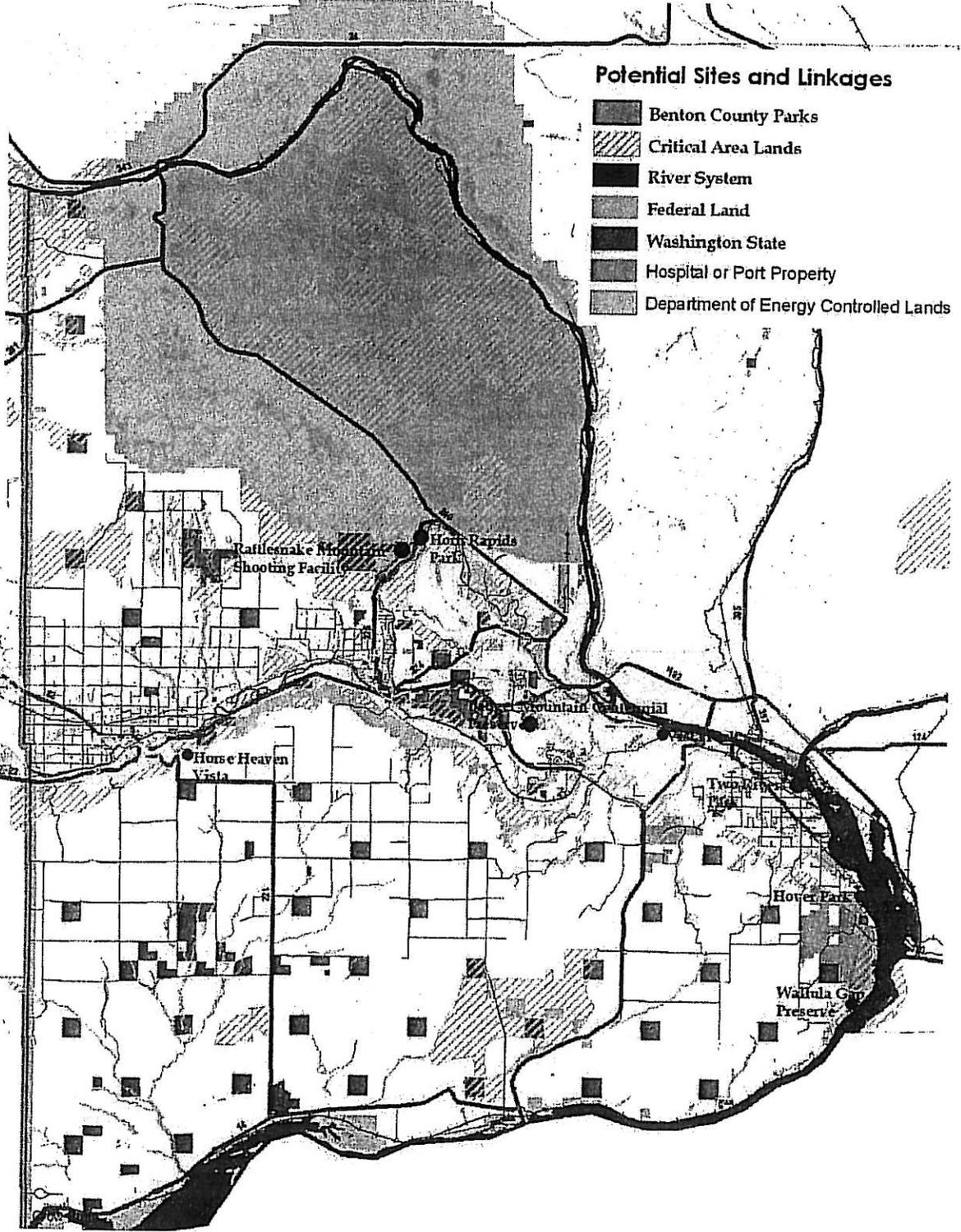


Figure 21 - A map showing approximate critical area, public, and quasi-public lands in Benton County

Workshop Participant Project Ideas

Participants, during the 2007 and 2008 workshops and in the questionnaire, identified many projects and project areas that could be beneficial as improvements or additions to the Benton County park system. There is not enough money or man-power to follow through with all of the project areas that came up during brainstorming but it is important to consider the ideas as part of the long-term plan. Final projects are identified which fit within the overall vision and goals of this plan and are included in the implementation section of the plan. The following are paraphrased and summarized ideas generated during the planning meetings or from comments received:

Badger Mountain	Two Rivers
<i>Welcome sign kiosk, sign, and parking on back side,</i>	<i>Long term master plan and landscape plan</i>
<i>Pave access for parking lot and horse trailer access</i>	<i>Gazebo in open area, disc golf course, boardwalk trail along river, paved boat parking, update restrooms</i>
<i>Continued restoration of natural areas</i>	<i>Improve policing</i>
<i>Signs on major roads for directions and trail signs pointing at interesting things</i>	<i>Improved trail along shoreline</i>
<i>Another hiking trail to make a loop and more nutli-use trails</i>	<i>Multi-use trail including connectivity to Hover Park and Kennewick</i>
<i>Trail links to other ridges and trails</i>	<i>Improve/maintain ramp and dock and access for safety</i>
<i>Restroom at trailheads (Westgate)</i>	<i>Trailer parking and restrooms for boat area</i>

Horn Rapids Park, Rattlesnake Mt. Shooting Facility	Hover Park
<i>Restroom for Meacham Hall. Shade trees around facilities, remove lawn</i>	<i>Limit vehicle access, native vegetation</i>
<i>Water access trail development and improves loop trails within park</i>	<i>Day use parking and interpretive information</i>
<i>Trail connecting to BLM, DOE and WA Fish and Wildlife lands</i>	<i>Improve railroad crossing (over/under railroad)</i>
<i>Acquire property or easements to connect Benton City with Horn Rapids Park</i>	<i>Multi-use trails in and to Two Rivers and Wallula Gap</i>
<i>Abandoned RR (potential bike/pedestrian path)"</i>	<i>Camping and boat-in beach access (swimming)</i>
<i>Parking access on Horn Road (south end)</i>	<i>RV and restroom area</i>
<i>Continue and expand revegetation with native plants</i>	<i>Area patrolled, limit access points to help control illegal dumping</i>

The public input also produced a wide variety of system-wide ideas through brainstorming during the workshop process. These ideas may go beyond the scope of the Benton County Park System but the ideas are summarized below. Generally, they include:

Countywide or new park project ideas

- Ridge top preservation and trail (Badger, Candy, Red, Rattlesnake)*

- Waterfront acquisition , trails*

- Horse Heaven rim trail corridor with Mcbee overlook*

- New park in Red Mountain area*

- Access point at end of Ayers Road (preservation and restroom etc.)*

- Consistent signage for hunter/other access*

- ADA improvements*

- Multi-use trails and expanded equine trails*

- Trails on both sides of Yakima River*

- Parking areas suitable for horse trailers*

- Non-motorized trails for Wallula Gap with trailhead parking, restroom, water*

- Trail system (by permit only) to top of rattlesnake-nonmotorized (monitored)*

- New Ayers Road trailhead and parking*

- Brochure listing all of the parks, directions and equestrian route maps*

- Set aside land for park in Badger Road area*

- Continue (Keene) corridor abandoned RR for bike-ped trail extension (City of Richland)*

- Coordinate w USFWS and DOE for potential future uses of Hanford Reach lands and ALE*

- Support a county park for the Plymouth area*

Park Specific Assessment and Recommendations

Each park has specific issues that should be addressed. These issues are focused on improving the parks to a level that creates a safe and sustainable park for long term use and enjoyment of the users while keeping with the mission and use philosophies of the County and the Park Board. The assessment was developed through park visits, interviews with user groups and staff, public meetings and comments received. The following improvements are incorporated into the Implementation Section of this plan.

Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve Improvements

The existing park has multiple trails and many recreation opportunities. The primary issues in this park include abundant use on a relatively undeveloped property. The intent of the site is to preserve the natural setting but also provide for the users. Without further planning and improvements, this park's trail system has the potential for conflicts between user types and over use leading to deterioration of the natural preserve. The observed volume of users and the predicted increase in use of the park points to a need for better facilities and a defined trailhead for each entry into the park. Park improvements should include:

- A park master plan and trail plan with consideration of expansion through collaborations and partnering
- Road signs and park entry signs that welcome
- and provide wayfinding to trailheads
- Information Kiosks which inform about the natural history (Missoula Floods) and also provides trail etiquette rules for the various trail user types with interpretive sign for the trail system
- Improved access and parking at the Westgate trailhead with a restroom facility

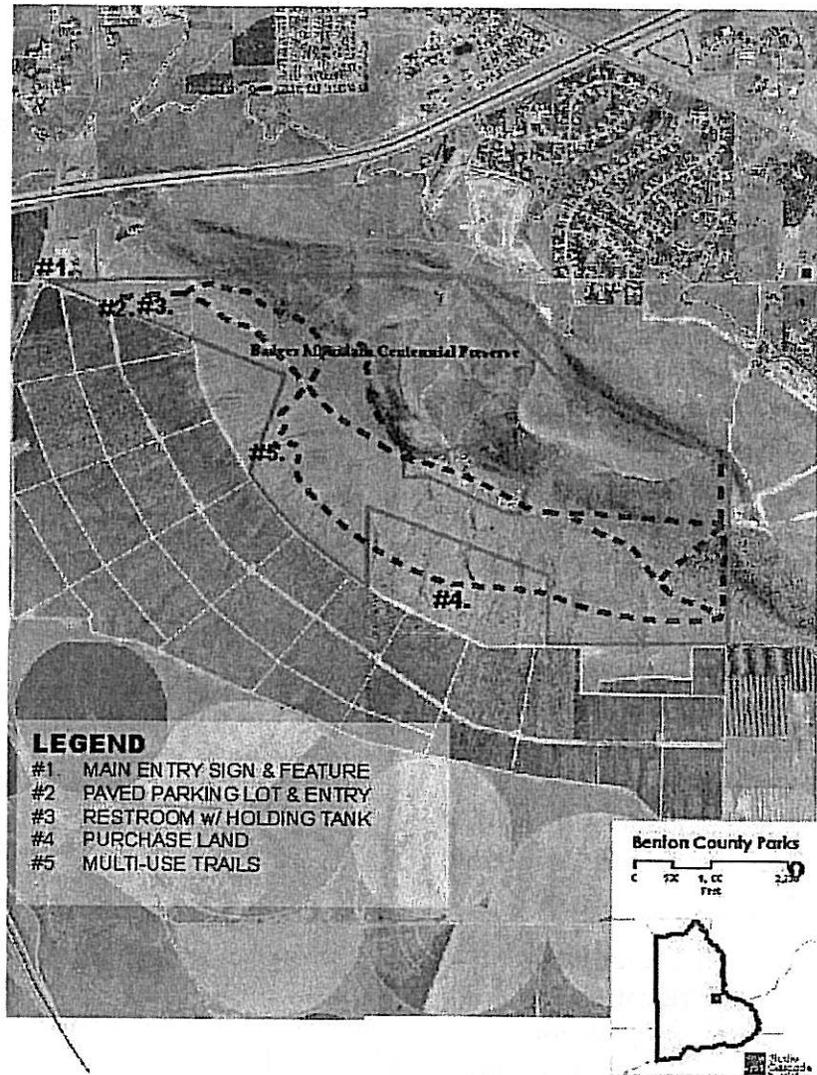


Figure 22 - Badger Mountain has a popular multi-use trail system and other opportunities that should be further explored with a master plan



Figure 23 - Kiosks can be used for consistent interpretive signage, wayfinding maps, and trail etiquette rules

**Horn Rapids Park
Improvements**

Horn Rapids Park has some pressing issues that should be addressed in the near future. The park boundary has been one area of confusion that needs resolution. The park sees a lot of use but also gets abuse in the form of off-road vehicle use and dumping because of the parks' isolation and the large network of informal roads throughout the park. The park also has a lot of riverfront needing better designed access for safe and proper use of the river and shoreline.

Recommendations to resolve issues and provide solutions include:

- Park boundary clarification and reconfiguration which would afford better management by all entities involved in ownership of the proposed properties
- Park and trail master plan with site survey to show preferred boundaries of the park
- Year-round restroom for Meacham Hall
- Complete the unfinished portion of overflow parking (horse arena) to limit dust and improve traction and safety
- Update road and entry signs and landscaping
- Identify native areas for rehabilitation

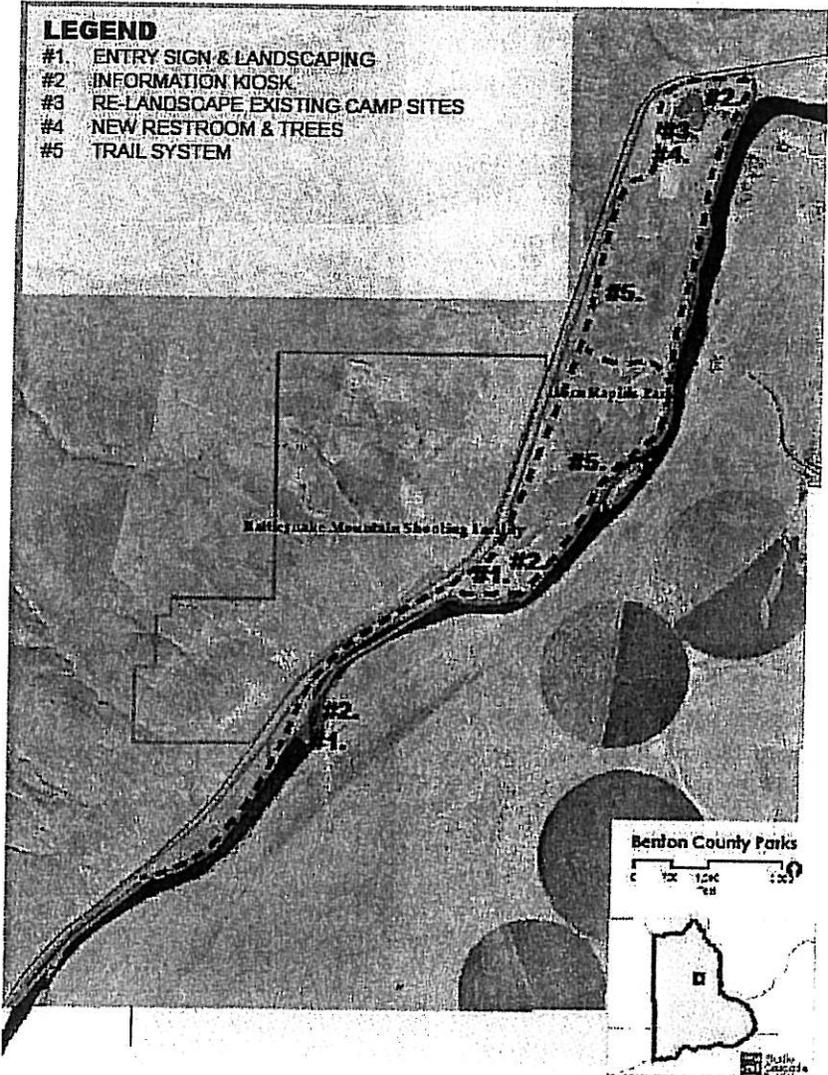


Figure 24 - Horn Rapids Park and Rattlesnake Shooting Facility are divided by Horn Road but are adjoining properties



Figure 25 - Landscaping could help blend improvements into the surroundings in Horn Rapids and other parks

**Horse Heaven Vista
Improvements**

Horse Heaven Vista currently has funding allocated for improving access to the site and the implementation is occurring in 2008. The following are the planned for improvements:

- Install main entry sign
- Improve parking lot
- Install information kiosk
- Install paved access and a parking area
- Improve sight distance for entering and exiting the site
- Install a restroom if possible
- Improve the shelter and trash receptacles
- Install directional road signs
- Develop interpretive signs that fit the context of the site
- Develop a plan for maintenance and operation for the site

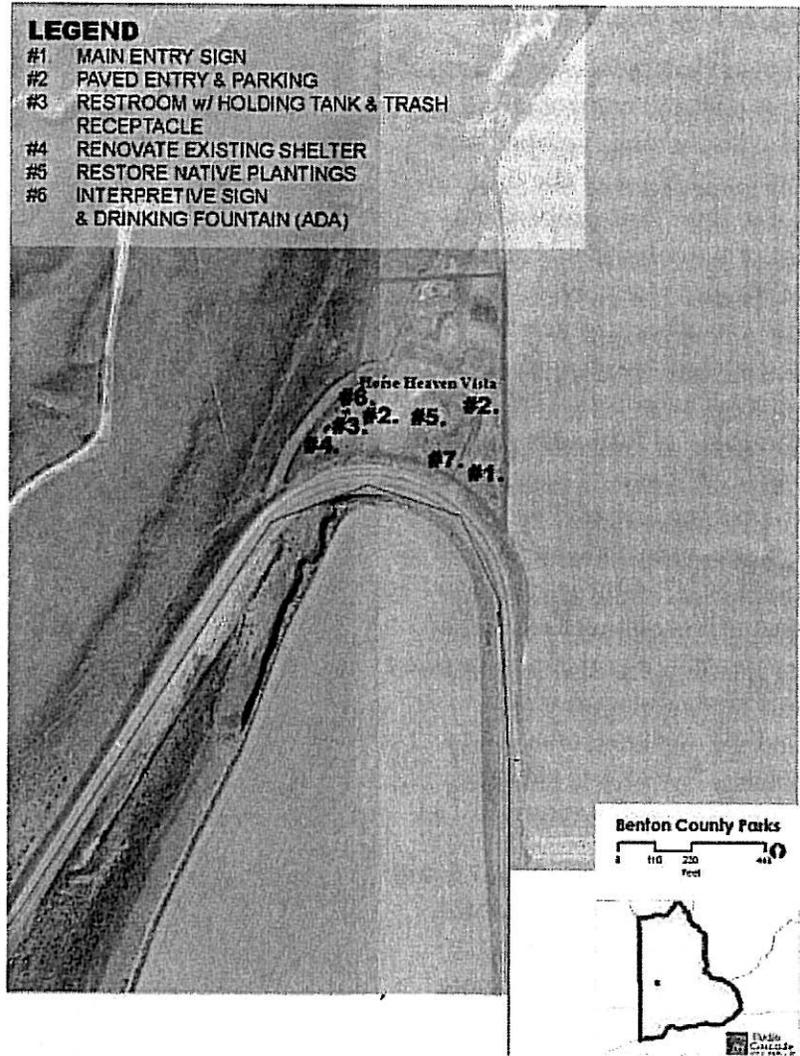


Figure 26 - Horse Heaven Vista has funding for most of the proposed improvements

Hover Park Improvements

Hover Park is located in a rural area without controlled access. The area is undeveloped and has some signs of the original town site. This property has a lot of potential but also has a lot of issues. The park currently has unauthorized and indiscriminate (illegal) use by off-road vehicles and for dumping of junk cars and other garbage. Current users enjoy the fishing and trail opportunities but the overall perception of the park is low. A strong interest was expressed for keeping the park under lease and management by the County, by users who enjoy fishing, horseback riding, bicycling, and walking.

The park board should look into options and decide what the next step will be for this property. The following are some options that could be taken. The first step should be considered as highest priority.

Step One:

- Control vehicle access into the site (Updated welcome sign and limited vehicle access)

Step Two:

The Park Board should establish a subcommittee to determine the future disposition of the park.

Step Three:

Dependent on the decisions made in step to the following should be considered.

- Park master plan that considers, water access,

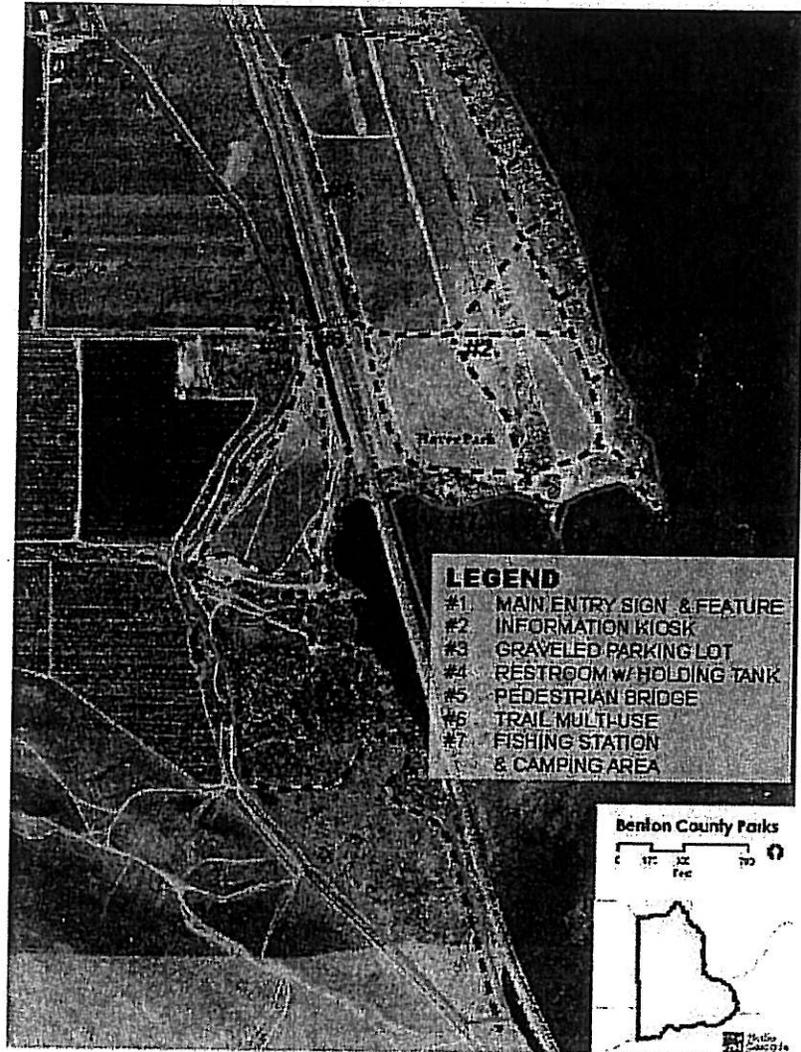


Figure 27 - Hover park has many opportunities for water sports but needs access.

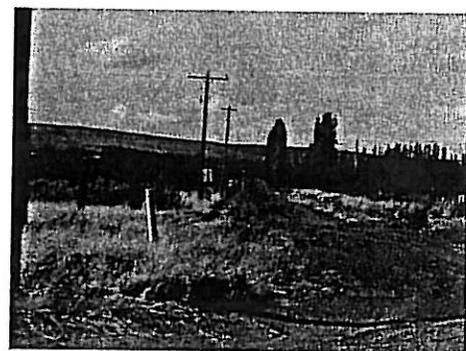


Figure 28 - The uncontrolled access to Hover Park is a gravel road without a railroad crossing to the main parkland

primitive camping options, Columbia water trail stop-over, bathroom facilities, small boat access, parking and trail head, and interpretive signage

- Railroad crossing options either on existing crossing north of property or with a new over pedestrian bridge

Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility Improvements

The Rattlesnake Mountain site is hard to manage because of the lease situation (and sub-lease). The County should pursue land conveyances from the Bureau of Land Management and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This would eliminate the extra steps required for every decision pertaining to the property as the gun club grows in membership and facilities.

- Pursue ownership of the property
- Master plan the shooting facility
- Improve the main entry with consistent welcoming signs and landscaping
- Shooting Ranges (Improved parking and access, restroom, drinking fountain)
- New hunter's education facility (including archery)

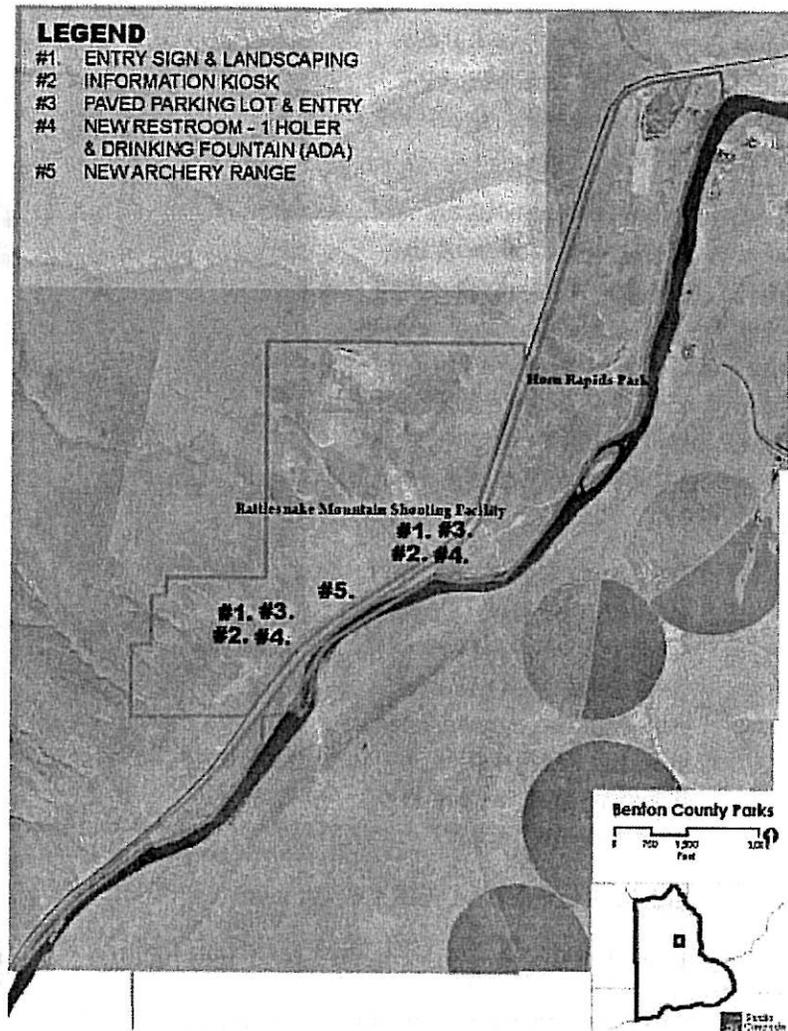


Figure 29 - Rattlesnake Shooting Facility is a subleased property with several proposed improvements and expansions

Two Rivers Park Improvements

Two Rivers Park has great opportunities for formal and passive recreation. The improved areas provide large expanses of grass for informal team sports, swimming, picnic areas, and boat launching. Unimproved areas provide for bird watching and relaxation and natural shoreline opportunities.

There are concerns about an observed decrease in use of the park. There also may be limited options for larger group events in the park. An important issue from a management perspective is the small polygon of land that is across the road from the main park area.

- Polygon property should be removed from lease or fenced for future use (potential uses include parking and rented boat storage, caretaker housing, or interpretive center in the future)
- Updated park and trail master plan
- Updated docks, parking, and restroom facility
- Consider group picnic shelters or large covered facility as part of master plan
- Build the proposed Disc Golf course
- Upgrade or replace restroom in main park area
- Interpretation for trail system
- Consistent road signs
- Assess playground equipment for safety
- Resolve hunting issue and inform public about the rules of the park



Figure 30 - Two Rivers has many water focused areas with potential for a riverfront trail system in the natural area.

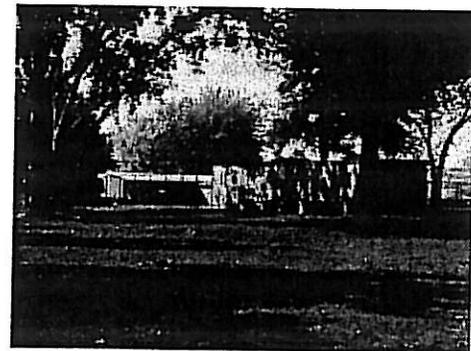


Figure 31 - Two Rivers has many recreation choices and flexible spaces

Vista Park Improvements

This neighborhood park is an urban area that does not fit within the vision of the County Park System. The County has had discussions with the City of Kennewick. The City has expressed willingness in taking over the park if and when the area is annexed. Benton County should consider handing this park over in the near future. Any improvements or modifications should be done in collaboration with the City. The following improvements should be considered at a minimum:

- Remove existing unsafe play structures
- Install new playground equipment with required cushion and edging
- Update and repair irrigation
- Build retaining wall and fence on the south side of the park to keep people off the steep bank.



Figure 32 - Vista Park is Benton County's only small neighborhood park.



Figure 33 - The bank between the parking areas and Vista Park is hard to traverse

Wallula Gap Preserve Improvements

This preserve is located in a very difficult area of the county to access. The site is primarily an aesthetic and view property from the Columbia River and the river corridor. There is a large section of private land adjoining the properties.

- The County should continue to look at ways to access the properties through easements or other options.

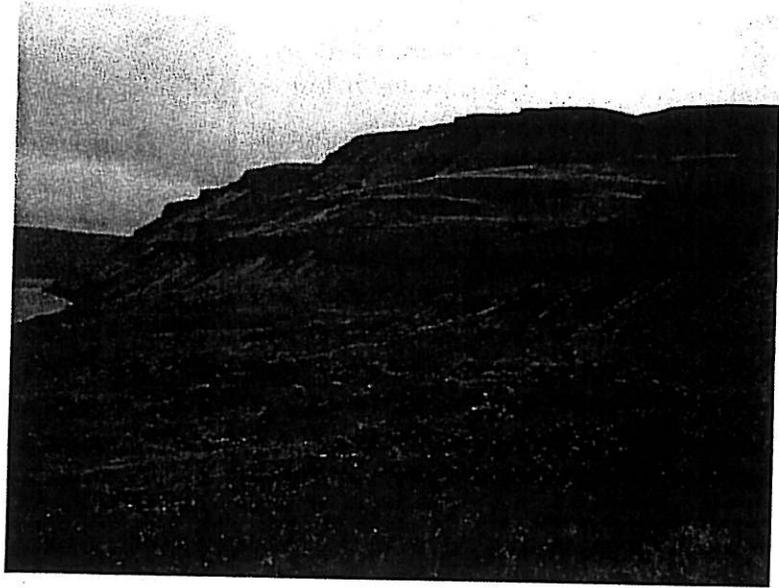


Figure 34 - Wallula Gap is not accessible so any improvements would depend on gaining access through neighboring property

System-wide

Through the public process, the community has expressed an interest in some system-wide improvements. There are opportunities to better communicate the County's park-related activities to the public and for expanding park and recreation opportunities in certain parts of the County. Suggestions included:

- Improved information distribution by providing kiosks at key park access points, publishing a brochure, and utilizing the website
- A user-friendly capital improvements summary document that showcases improvements to the park system as they are completed
- A trail connection between Columbia Park and the Sacajawea Heritage Trail (in Kennewick) and Two Rivers Park at a minimum, and possibly on to Hover Park. This has been a back-burner project in Benton County's Capital Facilities Plan for several years
- Support for a County-sponsored community-type park in Plymouth.

Community-wide

The process also produced ideas from the community in a number of larger, regional-scale projects that may or may not be led-by or directly involve Benton County. There may be opportunities for multiple jurisdictions to collaborate on concepts such as:

- A "Rattlesnake Ridge Trail", connecting Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve with Red Mountain via Candy Mountain
- A "Rattlesnake Mountain Trail" connecting Horn Rapids Park to the Vernita area via the crest of Rattlesnake Mountain and through the Hanford Reach National Monument

- A “Horse Heaven Rim Trail” along the crest of the Horse Heaven Hills
- A trail connection between Prosser and Benton City/Red Mountain via the Yakima River corridor
- Protections of important habitat and recreational lands either through acquisition or easement in the Jackrabbit Ridge area near Richland and areas south and east of Horn Rapids Park
- A paved trail within the Benton City limits that utilizes the Kiona Irrigation District right-of-way. While within the City, Benton County recognizes the community benefit of the project and its potential to link with other regional trails. The County has pledged funds for its completion from its “Paths and Trails” fund, which is not associated with the Parks Department or Parks budgets.

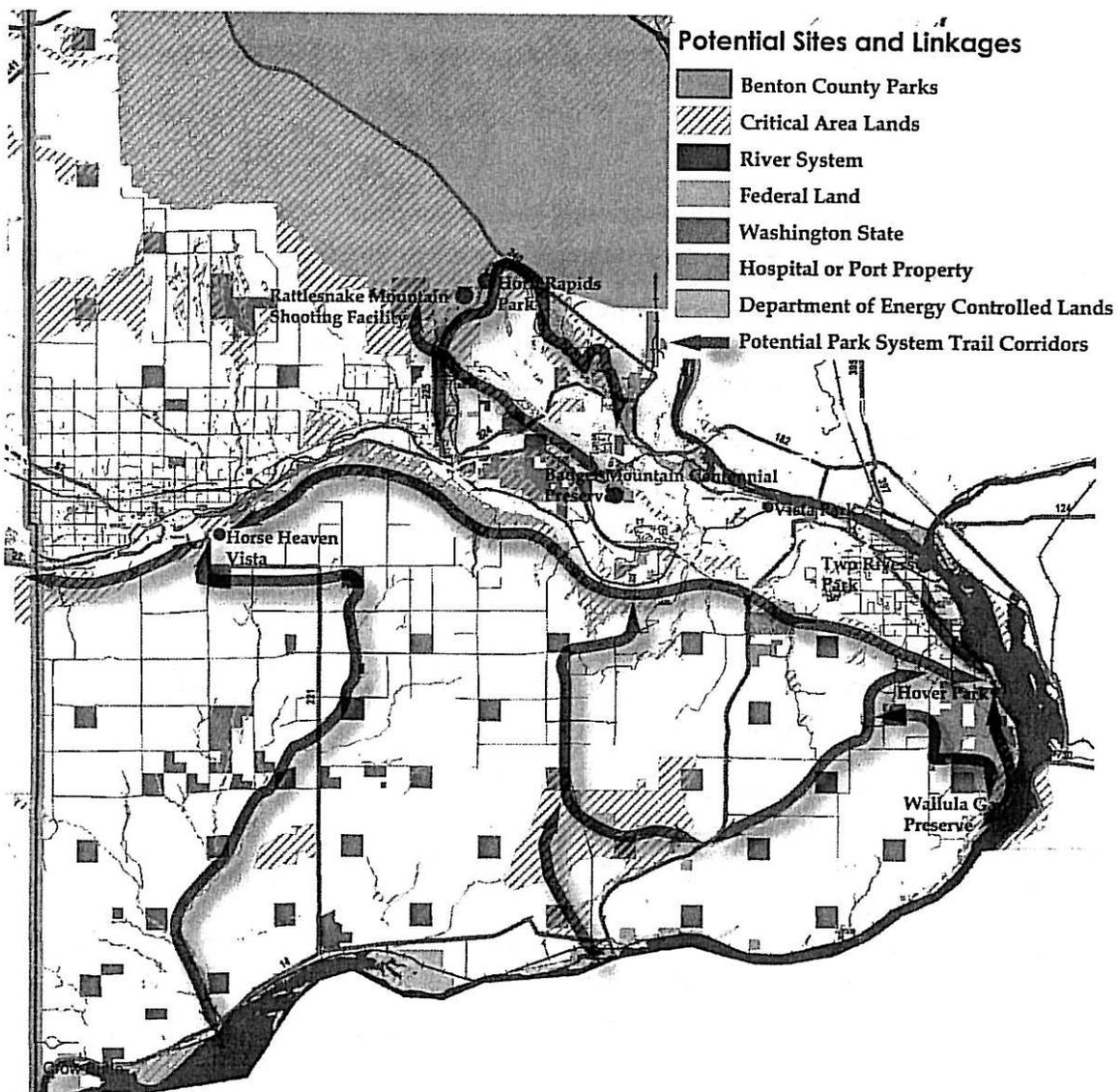


Figure 35 - Identifying potential properties and links with a trail system would allow user access to the entire system

Goals and Policies

The framework for making the vision a reality involves the development of goals and policies. A goal is an end result of which policies are directed. A policy is the means and guidelines by which one will accomplish the goals.

The goals and policies reflect public input and ideas generated throughout the plan process. The policies are meant to ensure that decisions relating to parks represent the most current ideas regarding park facilities and services within the County.

Both residents and tourists benefit from the recreational opportunities and the natural amenities offered by Benton County and other parks providers within the region. Trails create the network to better connect the regional system and also offers corridors for recreational, commute, and wildlife travel. Open space preserves are an important component of the natural environment and supports the natural system, aesthetics, recreation and the economy. The system also provides transitions from the urban landscape of the Tri-Cities to the surrounding rural landscapes.

System and Access

Goal 1-Have a connected system of parks, trails and open space

Policies

1. Using a collaborative system-wide perspective, consider best routes and missing links between the county's park facilities, urban park systems, rural communities and surrounding jurisdictions.
2. Make trails multiple-use or compatible-use for walkers, runners, bikers, and equestrians for recreating and commuting.
3. Limit access to natural areas through signage, vehicular barriers, education and enforcement.
4. Identify and map the trail system.
5. Approach specific owners to consider trail corridors along existing and proposed canal right of ways and for access to remote areas.
6. Assist in the development of a Yakima and Columbia River water trail system with pullouts and stopping points within riverfront parks.
7. Consider options for a safe vessel portage around Wanawish Dam (Horn Rapids).
8. Work with the Army Corps of Engineers and municipalities in expanding the levee trail network as part of the trail system.
9. Identify property that would better connect the county park system and request access to and through those properties (i.e. Kennewick Public Hospital District).

-
10. Work with jurisdictions and advocate to identify and create a regional trail system.
-
11. Continue to support the efforts of the Tapteal Greenway Association to complete the Tapteal Greenway Trail, five miles of which go through the Horn Rapids Park.
-
12. Update or create master plans for the larger parks within the system.
-
13. Evaluate access options for Wallula Gap.
-

Use and Expansion

Goal 2-Provide access and opportunities for a broad spectrum of recreational pursuits

Policies

1. Ensure that the park system remains affordable and available to all potential users.
-
2. Consider ADA design guidelines for access in all improvements, maintenance and acquisition to the extent possible.
-
3. Develop horse mounting platforms for individuals with physical limitations.
-
4. Maintain and expand water oriented opportunities for day-use, camping, fishing, and motorized and non-motorized boating.
-
5. Identify and preserve historic resources with interested partners.
-
6. Provide sufficient facilities for all residents and visitors without overuse using adopted levels of service.
-
7. Identify future sites that will provide diverse opportunities for recreation users and serve all areas of the county.
-
8. Plan for park system acquisitions and development in cooperation with regional and local entities.
-
9. Consider donations of property for the Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve.
-
10. Work with the City of Kennewick to develop a trail that connects Columbia Park to Two Rivers Park and on to Hover Park.
-
11. Consider water rights in the acquisition or development of future park land.
-

Ecology, Aesthetics, Education, and Health

Goal 3-Promote environmental stewardship

Policies

1. Identify and consider acquisition of natural open space preserves for current and future benefits.
2. Coordinate efforts with other jurisdictions and organizations to protect ecological diversity and systems.
3. Identify, protect, and include critical areas in the park system as natural preserves and corridors (examples include wetlands, shorelines, habitat as defined in state law).
4. Consider identified wildlife corridors (WA Department of Natural Resources) when looking at new property acquisition.
5. Low-impact uses should have a priority in existing parks and new park designs but higher impact use areas should be accommodated as appropriate.
6. Develop a fire and medical response plan as a part of each master plan. Develop fire control policies for the park system in cooperation with the fire districts considering impacts (fire lines, retardants, motorized vehicle use, heavy equipment, aircraft, medical response, and rehabilitation planning).
7. Consider view corridors including ridgelines and peaks if a conservation easement program is developed
8. Protect shoreline and water access points within the park system.
9. Provide social spaces for gatherings (i.e. group picnic areas, plazas, and amphitheaters).
10. Support partners who provide environmental and natural education programs in the parks.
11. Educate the public on the benefits of protecting fragile ecosystems and critical areas through signage and publications.
12. Consider dedicated sites and facilities for outdoor classrooms within the park system, where suitable, for interested group activities.
13. Encourage frequent use of the park system for improved health, well-being and outdoor activity by hosting special events.

Management, Maintenance, and Funding

Goal 4-Maintain and improve park facilities

Policies	
1.	Determine accurate park boundaries and maintain that data for mapping and site planning, especially for Horn Rapids Park.
2.	Create efficient park maintenance standards and programs that are sustainable over the long term.
3.	Upgrade and standardize sites improvements for ease of maintenance.
4.	Use consistent, quality building construction and low impact lighting in remodels and new building within the park system (i.e. green building, dark sky, water efficiency).
5.	Use an Integrated Pesticide Management program to minimize, or eliminate where possible, pesticide application and use.
6.	Use native species, where possible, in park plantings for lower maintenance and cost.
7.	Develop criteria for prioritizing improvements for parks.
8.	Pursue a variety of funding strategies including new revenue generating ideas for the acquisition, development and maintenance of the park system.
9.	Update capital improvement plans annually.
10.	Measure community needs and update the Comprehensive Parks Plan at least every six years.
11.	Include ADA accessibility, where possible, when upgrading or renovating park components.
12.	Continue to build volunteers into the parks program.
13.	Continue to build on the "Partners in Parks".
14.	Continue to build the relationship with the Sheriffs' Work Crew.
15.	Improve and integrate a system to combat and reverse the spread of invasive and noxious weeds.

Goal 5-Support the department's needs and priorities

Policies

1. Promote and market the park system and raise awareness of available facilities using outreach (special events, user groups, area websites, public places, kiosks).
2. Create outreach materials, brochures, and maps promoting the parks and their benefits.
3. Develop and implement a consistent map, signage and wayfinding program for the park system with thematic interpretive signing.
4. Develop signage for water access points within the county.
5. Develop public involvement strategies for planning and development projects.
6. Provide leadership, management and expert advice on planning, design, acquisition and implementation of park and open space projects.
7. Continue to develop a good work environment for staff and volunteers.
8. Provide adequate staffing for maintenance, safety, and security and evaluate the organizational model for necessary changes.
9. Provide program training and development opportunities for staff to ensure best practices.
10. Develop a department policy manual in collaboration with the Park Board to address issues including but not limited to: parks and facilities naming standards, vehicle access and control standards, signage standards, construction and lighting standards, trail etiquette, use of domestic animals in the parks, and donation acceptance protocols.
11. Evaluate established partnerships for viability and identify areas needing improvement.
12. Coordinate parks planning with other agencies, jurisdictions, and user groups.
13. Assist the Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility and the miniature aircraft association in identifying improvements to their subleased areas. Master plan each facility.
14. Maintain and recruit volunteers for outreach, education, preservation, maintenance, trail improvements, and plantings programs.
15. Consider private partners for services, vending, amenities, and specific events.
16. Consider alternate funding options for the park system.

Implementation

There are many exciting ideas and projects in Benton County being developed and implemented by various groups. It became apparent during the park planning process that residents wanted many parks and recreation opportunities in the County. Some of these ideas focused on urban areas of the County while others focused on areas that are in the transition zone between the urban and rural landscape. Other project ideas specifically related to the rural county.

The County maintains the park system and also considers expansions on a case by case basis. These actions have created a strong regional parks system but have not created priorities or direction for decisions pertaining to the future park system. The vision sets a clear role to provide a connected system of parks through collaboration while protecting and providing access to Benton County's natural areas.

Fiscal Portrait

In order to maintain and support a parks system for a growing population, funding is needed. This funding will make the implementation of Benton County's parks plan a reality. Revenue can be obtained from a combination of taxes, licenses and permit fees, state and federal grants, user service charges, fines and forfeits, miscellaneous interest earnings and sales, and pass-through federal revenue sharing monies. Major funding sources for park and recreation facilities could include property taxes, general obligation bonds, real estate excise taxes, grants and pass-through monies, and park mitigation fees.

Some funding options could be implemented by the County, while others would require partnerships. Some sources have specific application and qualification requirements that the County will need to meet prior to receiving available grants or loans.

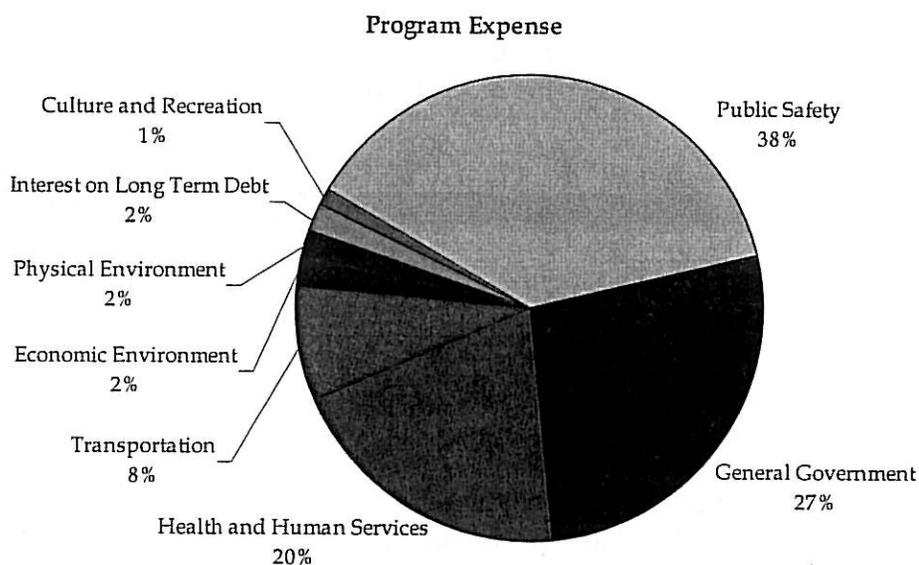


Figure 36 - Benton County spent less than 1% of funds on culture and recreation in 2006

Revenue

The services and programs within Benton County are supported through various revenue sources which are then placed into specific funds. The primary fund that revenue is placed in is the Current Expense Fund. This fund's revenue is one-third from property tax, one-third from intergovernmental revenue, and one-seventh from sales tax. The Park Development Fund, which comes from the general fund, is used for capital improvements within the Benton County Park System which totals about one percent of the County's spending per year.

Benton County's overall revenues have increased while expenditures fluctuated from year to year. Expenditures have generally increased less than revenues. The County had revenues of \$53,892,900 in 1998 and revenues of \$116,047,527 in 2007. The total fund ending balance in 2007 was \$23,122,618.

The Current Expense budget for the Park Department supports two full-time employees, a part-time director, and part-time office staff. The County does not have plans to expand the budget in the next 6 years for increased staffing.

Table 12 - Current expenses and planned expenses through 2013

Current Expense-Parks		2008 Budget
Employee		\$167,902
Supplies		\$25,744
Other		\$22,870
Total		\$216,516
Capital Facility Plan Year		Park Fund
2009		\$184,734
2010		\$159,601
2011		\$191,380
2012		\$232,622
2013		\$265,377

The budget for the Park Development Fund had increased level of funds because of the Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve acquisition. This acquisition also reflects in the increased expenditures in the last few years.

Table 13 - Park Development Fund 2008 Budget Breakdown

Account-Park Development	2008 Budget Breakdown
Supplies	\$45,000
Contract Services	\$372,500
Capital Outlay and Buildings	\$250,000
County Road Fund	\$55,000
Total	\$722,500

The path and trail fund accounts for the county's share of the motor vehicle fuel tax distributed by the state and can be used for pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle paths and trails. This fund should remain stable or may decrease in the next few years if fuel prices continue to rise.

Table 14 - Paths and Trails Fund

Paths/Trails Reserve	2005	2006	2007	2008
Beginning Balance	88,000	113,000	132,800	145,000
Revenues	15,900	18,400	21,800	21,900

The current staffing for the park system is enough to maintain the current system with support of many volunteer hours and a volunteer Park Board. Even with this small staff, the department was able to move beyond maintaining the status quo. The Park Department orchestrated the acquisition of the Badger Mountain Preserve property. Many more options for improving the park system have been identified in this plan, in jurisdictional planning, and from partners; but the current staff level makes little time for any other projects or administrative capacity. This means that grant identification and applications, and other funding sources would have to be obtained through volunteer efforts or come from another department within the County unless the staffing budget was increased.

Debt

Benton County had bonded debt of \$37,400,000 as of December of 2006 which was an increase of approximately \$5,500,000 since 2005. There was a remaining capacity for non-voted debt (1.5 percent of assessed valuation) of approximately \$116,000,000. There is about \$100,000,000 more in voted debt capacity (2.5 percent of assessed valuation) for a total capacity of over \$200 million for voted and non-voted bonds. The best option for increasing funding for park acquisition and maintenance would be to consider the conservation futures program as detailed in the funding sources table below.

Funding Sources

The following is a list of potential funding sources.

Funding Sources

Capital Improvement Fund - Money allocated from the County's General Fund to finance major capital projects.

Certificates of Participation - A lease-purchase approach in which the County sells Certificates of Participation (COPs) to a lending institution. The County then pays the loan off from revenue produced by the facility or from its general operating budget. The lending institution holds title to the property until the COPs are repaid. This procedure does not require a vote of the public.

Conservation Futures Levy - The County can levy, by resolution, up to \$.0625 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for the acquisition of open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timber land (RCW 84.34). This money may only be used for acquiring rights and interests (easements) in real property with a portion used for maintenance.

Fee in Lieu of Parks and Open Space - A voluntary option for developers (RCW 82.02.020)

General Fund--General funds allocated to the Park and Recreation Budget.

General Obligation Bond - Property tax for the sale of construction bonds.

- Unlimited** - The tax assessment can be levied up to 30 years with a bond counsel hired. Requires a 60% majority approval of 40% of the voters who voted at the last election.
- Limited Tax (Councilmanic) Bonds** - Bonds that can be issued by the County Commissioners. Does not require a vote of the people but must be paid out of the annual operating budget.

Park Impact Fees - The County does not currently have impact fees for open space and parks. The fees could be imposed on new development based on a set share of the impact but can not be used for maintenance and must be for projects in the capital facilities plan and has restrictions as identified in the Growth Management Act. RCW 82.02.050

Park and Recreation Districts or Service Areas - With citizen interest, the County could explore the possibility of creating Parks and Recreation Districts/Service Areas for park needs. Districts are independently managed and could meet some of the need for facilities in defined areas. RCW 36.69 and 36.68

Park Revenue - Revenue from park operations used to pay for capital improvements.

Payment in Lieu of Tax - Federal government payments substitute for property taxes on the land base of federal land managing agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) RCW 82.46--Levied on all real estate sales measured by the full selling price, including the amount of any liens, mortgages, and other debts given to secure the purchase.

- First 0.25 percent projects identified in the capital facilities element and housing relocation assistance which would include parks improvements. RCW 82.46.010
 - Second 0.25 percent REET 2 - An additional excise tax on each sale of real property at a rate not exceeding 0.25 percent of the selling price restricted to projects in a capital facilities plan and could be used for "planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvements to parks" (requires an ordinance and approval of the voters). RCW 82.46.035(2)
 - 0.50 Percent Affordable Housing REET *in lieu* of Optional Sales Tax - the County can not use this option because of timing and it also does not apply to parks unincorporated areas. RCW 82.46.075
 - 1.0 percent Conservation Area REET-The County may submit a ballot proposition to the voters for an added REET on each sale of real property at a rate not to exceed 1 percent of the selling price for acquisition and maintenance of Conservation Areas. RCW 82.46.070
-

Revenue Bonds- Revenue from the operation of the facility pays for the capital cost and debt service. Does not require a vote of people unless required by local ordinance.

Special Levy - A property tax for construction and/or operation levied for a set number of years. It is usually short term, 1-3 years. A special levy requires a 60% voter approval.

Another source for funding comes through grants. The best funding source is through Washington State. The State offers several programs that would fit with improvements and acquisitions the County is interested in pursuing.

State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Grants

Aquatic Land Enhancement Fund (ALEA) - This program, funded by the State Department of Natural Resources, can finance acquisition, restoration, or improvement of aquatic lands for public purposes, and to provide interpretation and access to those lands and waters with 50 percent in matching resources required.

Boating Facilities Program (BFP) - Grants to acquire, develop, and renovate boating facilities like boat ramps, guest moorage, and support facilities

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) - Grants to help with guest boating facilities for 26 feet and larger boats (25 percent match).

Firearm and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) - Aiming at acquiring, developing, and renovating

firearm ranges and archery training and practice facilities with a 33-50 percent match required.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - Grants to buy land and develop outdoor facilities for parks, trails, and wildlife lands. Grants require a 50percent match

National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) - Federal funding through the RFCB to maintain backcountry trails and facilities with a required 20 percent match. Examples of eligible projects include maintenance and rerouting of trails, trailside and trailhead facilities, environmental education, and trail safety programs.

Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) - To develop and manage opportunities for backcountry trails and non-highway roads, grants can be used for planning, capital improvements, maintenance, operation, land acquisition, education, and law enforcement.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) - Acquisition and development parks, water access, trails. Funding is also available for critical wildlife habitat, natural areas, urban wildlife habitat, farmland preservation and protection of riparian areas, with at least a 50 percent match.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) - Grants to acquire, develop, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities with a 50 percent match required.

The last option for funding is actually not monetary in nature. Benton County currently has strong working relationships with volunteer groups and partners. This teamwork could be promoted as an option for many types of improvements within the system. The following are some options for non-monetary choices for development including:

Non-Monetary Options

Density Bonus and Clustering - Consider density bonuses for open space and critical areas preservation or affordable housing. Clustering could focus on conserving resource lands and promoting larger open space areas consistent with rural character.

Dedication Requirement - A typical requirement of subdivisions.

Development Agreements - SEPA mitigation agreements including deferral of improvements or future dedication of land not subject to the five-year limitation in RCW 82.02.020.

Conservation Easements - a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Conservation easements can use a purchase or transfer of development rights program or donations.

Current Use Assessment - The Washington Open Space Taxation Act allows property owners to have their open space, farm and agricultural, and timber lands valued at their current use helping to preserve private land in open space, farm and timber use. RCW 84.34

Partnerships - Cooperative partnerships with agencies and citizen groups could be pursued by the county. The state and federal governments including the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR seeks better managed land through consolidation of land holdings using trades or sales. The county should continue to work with DNR and other state and federal agencies to identify opportunities to meet county open space needs.

Purchase of Development Rights -A process where the development rights of a specific parcel of desired open space land is purchased. A funding source, such as a bond, would need to be identified for a purchase of development rights program.

Transfer of Development Rights - A process where development rights of a specified parcel is transferred to a second parcel of land more suitable for development. The second parcel is then permitted a higher level of development. If the two parcels are owned by two different landowners, the

increased value of the second parcel is given to the owner of the first parcel.

Volunteer Efforts - Strengthening volunteer efforts could help with contributions of cash, materials or labor. Playgrounds, community gardens, and farmers markets have been developed through volunteer efforts. Adopt-A-Trail and Adopt-A-Greenway programs are examples of volunteer programs successfully implemented in other areas. Volunteer hours can also count toward in-kind funding for some grants and funding applications.

Prioritizing Criteria

Overarching criteria were based on input during meetings, stakeholder interviews, and from responses on the 2007/2008 questionnaire and previous questions over the last several decades. Priorities also considered trends of users within the park system.

Through questionnaire responses, the most important focus areas for new projects include in order of importance:

1. Trails for pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian use
2. Preserves
3. Waterfront parks
4. Overnight camping

This list provides general preference for types of projects to develop in the park system. Specific projects should then be evaluated using the following criteria. This set of criteria was also derived from questionnaire responses and responses obtained during the meetings. The individual projects can then be placed in the capital improvement program with relative priority determining the timeframe for implementation.

General Priorities for Project Funding	Weight
Safety - project will create a safer environment for users on an appropriate site	4
Collaboration - project involves the community and has partners in developing and maintaining the site	4
Quality - project is viable, well-designed, and enhances or protects the environment long-term	3
Access - project provides better or new public access incorporated into the surroundings	3
Affordability - project will squeeze the most value and provide opportunity for all users	3
Multi-Use - project serve more than one function with an educational component included	2
Funding - project is timely and has funding from sources such as grants or other resources	2
Seasonality - project will create opportunities for programs throughout the year	1

Project Scoring Guide: <i>Projects are scored from 0 to 5 with 0 not meeting criterion and five exceeding criterion.</i>	Safety	Collaboration	Quality	Access	Affordability	Multi-Use	Funding	Seasonality	Raw Score	Weighted Score	Priority
Relative Importance (Weight)	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	1			
Badger Mountain Master Planning and Improvements	4	5	4	4	4	4	2	3	30	64	1
Horn Rapids Master Plan Update and Improvements	3	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	31	63	1
Hover Park Controlled Access	5	2	5	2	3	2	5	1	25	51	3
Hover Park Master Plan and Improvements	4	2	4	4	4	4	5	1	28	56	2
Rattlesnake Shooting Range Expansion	5	4	1	1	3	2	5	3	24	49	3
Two-Rivers Park and Trail design	3	2	3	4	5	4	5	3	29	55	2
Vista Park Improvement	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	13	30	3
Columbia River Trail (Kennewick, Two-Rivers Park, Hover Park)	1	3	4	4	4	3	2	3	24	47	3

20-Year Capital Improvement Program

Priority	Project	Funding**	Category*	Facility	Cost
2008-12	Badger Mountain Master Planning and Improvements		D, Re	OS, TP, TB, I, EQ	170,000
2008-12	Horn Rapids Master Plan Update and Improvements		D, R, Re	WF, OS, TP, TB, EQ, F	273,000
2012-16	Hover Park Master Plan and Improvements	L, M	D, Re	WF, OS, C, B, TP, BP, EQ	213,000
2012-16	Hover Park Controlled Access		Re	OS	35,000
2012-16	Two-Rivers Park and Trail design		D, R	WF, P, F, I, SB, B	754,000
2016-28	Rattlesnake Shooting Range Expansion		D	Shooting	290,000
2016-28	Columbia River Trail (Kennewick, Two-Rivers Park, Hover Park)		A,D	B, TP, TB, EQ	-
2016-28	Vista Park Improvement		R	PE	94,000

*Category Acquisition, Renovation, Development, Restoration

**Funding: Local, General Obligation Bond, Unknown, Donation, Revenue Bonds, Matching Grant, Other Bonds

The CIP includes all facility types that apply for each project with the primary use listed first. Facility types specify what funding options can be considered use the following categories:

Facility Type	Symbol	Facility Type	Symbol
Aquarium	A	Open Space, Greenway	OS
Administration, Maintenance	AM	ORV Facility, Trail	ORV
Boating Facilities	B	Picnic, Day Use	P
Basketball, Other Courts	BB	Play Equipment	PE
Botanical Garden	BG	Open Play Field	PF
Baseball, Softball Fields	BS	Swimming Beach	SB
Camping Facility	C	Swimming, Indoor Pool	SI
Community, Senior Center	CC	Swimming, Outdoor	SO
Equestrian Facility/Trail	EQ	Tennis Court	T
Fishing Area	F	Trail, Bicycle	TB
Football/Soccer Fields	FS	Trail, Pedestrian	TP
Golf Course	G	Winter Sports Facility	W
Interpretive/Nature Study	I	Waterfront/Beach Access	WF
Neighborhood Park	NPK	Zoo	Z

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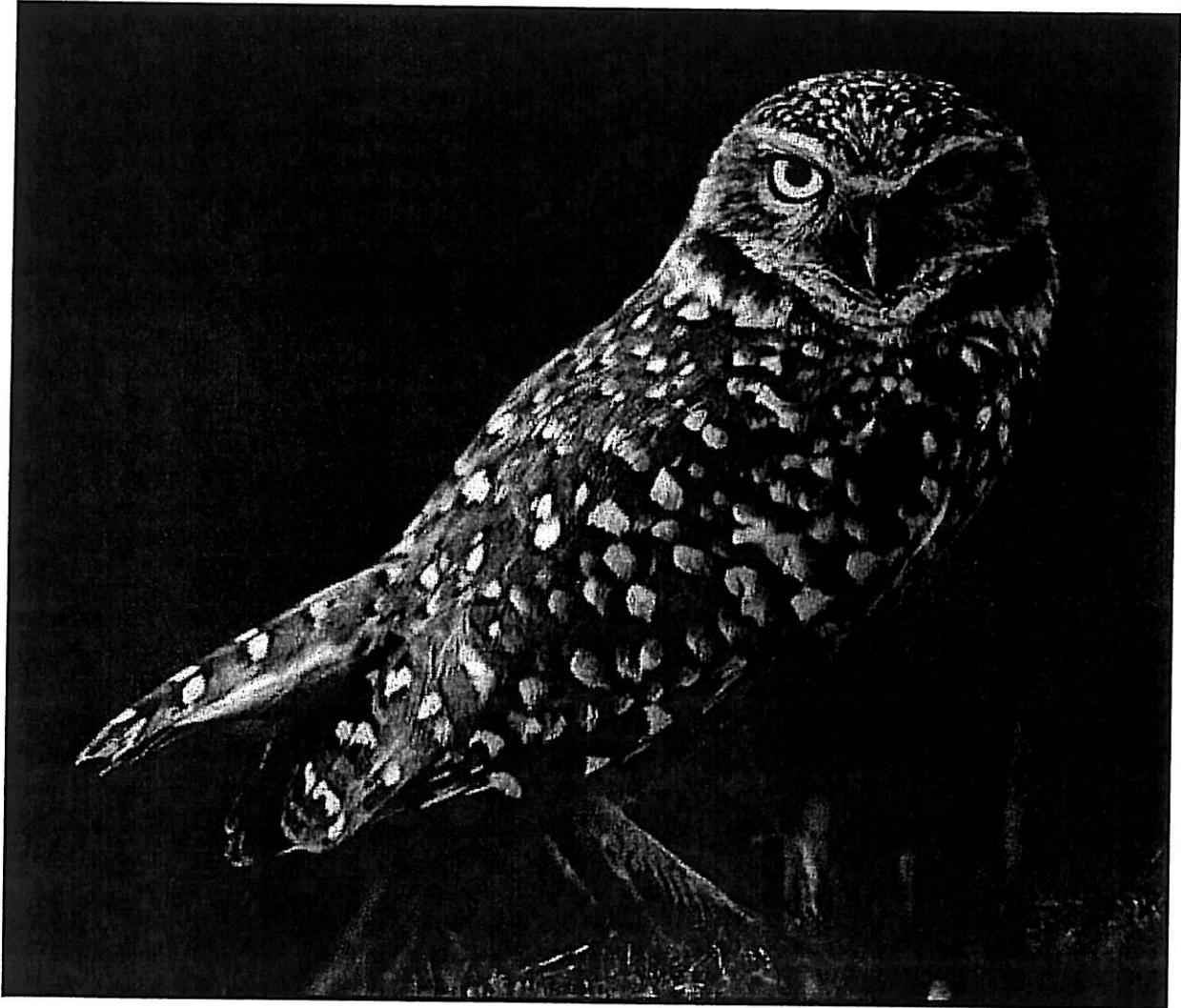
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The Burrowing Owl (Athene cunicularia), with its laser-focused gaze and peculiar habits, is an iconic summer visitor to the Columbia Basin and an unofficial mascot of Benton County Parks. The Parks System's missions of recreation, conservation, and education are represented and facilitated by the Burrowing Owl. Habitat restoration projects, such as those targeting these charismatic birds, promote wildlife tourism, volunteer participation, and inter-agency cooperation in our community (photo: Don Baccus, <http://donb.furfly.net>).

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: The Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan. This document addresses needs and levels of service regarding parks and recreation across the community. The plan applies not only to the existing eight Benton County parks but to any future parks and recreation opportunities that occur within Benton County.

Proponent Benton County Facilities and Parks
7122 West Okanogan Place
Kennewick WA 99336

File No. **EA 08-17**

Location of proposal: The Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan will affect all of unincorporated Benton County.

Lead agency **BENTON COUNTY**

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by July 17, 2008.

Responsible Official

TERRY A. MARDEN, Director
Benton County Planning & Building Dept.
Post Office Box 910 PHONE: (509) 786-5612
Prosser, WA 99350-0910 (509) 736-3086

Date: **July 3, 2008**

Signature



MICHAEL SHUTTLEWORTH, Senior Planner

THERE IS NO AGENCY APPEAL.

DISTRIBUTION:

- Applicant
- News Media (Encl. map or plot plan)
- Benton County Building Office
- Department of Natural Resources-Olympia
- Department of Natural Resources -Ellensburg
- Benton Clean Air Authority
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Benton County Public Works
- City of Kennewick
- City of Richland
- City of Benton City
- City of Prosser
- City of West Richland
- Benton-Franklin Dist. Health Department
- Kennewick Irrigation District
- Kiona Irrigation District
- Benton Irrigation District
- Badger Mountain Irrigation District
- Columbia Irrigation District
- Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
- andview Irrigation District
- koza Irrigation District
- Department of Transportation
- Port of Benton

- Port of Kennéwick
- Office of Community Development
- Washington State Department of Health
- Department of Ecology - Olympia Yakima
- Corps of Engineers
- Yakama Indian Nation
- Fire District 1
- Fire District 2
- Fire District 3
- Fire District 4
- Fire District 5
- Fire District 6
- Fire Marshal
- Prosser School District No. 116
- Bureau of Land Management
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
- PEDA
- Futurewise

File No. Comprehensive Parks Plan
 Date 8-11-08
 Exhibit No. 3
 Received by djh

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

EA
08-17

File No. Comprehensive
Parks Plan
Date 8-11-08
Exhibit No. 4
Received by djh

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

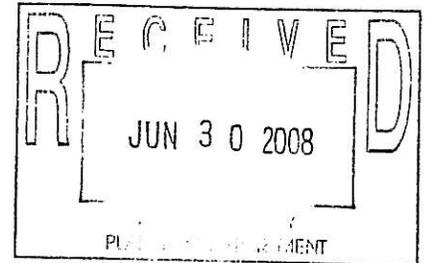
Adoption of the "Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan" (CPP)

2. Name of applicant:

Benton County Department of Facilities and Parks

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Adam J. Fyall, Community Development Coordinator
Benton County Commissioners' Office
7122 West Okanogan Place
Kennewick, Washington 99336



4. Date checklist prepared: 27 June 2008

5. Agency requesting checklist: Benton County Planning Department

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Adoption by the Board of Commissioners is the last step in formal adoption of the CPP. The CPP was already accepted and approved by the Benton County Park Board in Spring of 2008.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal?

The CPP is an instrument that addresses needs and levels of service re parks and recreation across the community. While not directly causing additions, expansions, or developments outright, it is intended to help prioritize such projects as the community – through the Park Board and Parks Department – sees fit.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

None.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

Yes, there is currently (06/27/08) an approval pending from the US Bureau of Land Management for improvement actions at the Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility – a Benton County park. However that does not impact nor is impacted by the CPP.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

None required.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The CPP has been developed through a public process. The primary aims are two-fold – to gain community input for better needs assessment and decision-making in regards to parks, trails, recreation, and open space issues; and (via adoption by the County Commissioners) to make Benton County eligible for certain state grant funds that require a parks plan to be adopted and revised at least every six years.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The scope of the CPP is the whole of Benton County. The Plan also contemplates parks, recreation, and open space in a regional context. The CPP not only applies directly to the existing eight Benton County parks, but to any future parks and recreation opportunities that occur anywhere within the County.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

The "site" is the whole of Benton County, not any one park or parcel. All "Earth" descriptions apply or could apply.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

See "a" above.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

See "a" above.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

See "a" above.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Does not apply.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Does not apply.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Does not apply.

2. **Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial, wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if know.

Does not apply.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Does not apply.

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Several existing parks front the Columbia or Yakima Rivers. At such time that there are specific project proposals, surface water interface issues are addressed.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Does not apply.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water, or wetlands, and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Does not apply.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if know.

Does not apply.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The plan applies to the whole of Benton County, and as such "lies within" the 100-year flood plain.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharge of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

Does not apply.

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharge to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if know.

Does not apply to the CPP. This could apply to individual projects into the future.

2) Describe waster material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage, industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . , agricultural, etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

4. **Plants**

a. Circle types of vegetation found on the site: deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other; evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other; shrubs; grass; pasture' crop or grain; wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other; water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other; other types of vegetation.

All of the above.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Does not apply.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Does not apply.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Does not apply.

5. **Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site: birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: _____

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: _____

All of the above except bear, herring, and shellfish.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Does not apply.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Benton County is part of the "Pacific Flyway" for migratory birds.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

This is a key feature of all the parks, advanced at every park site and fundamental to the goals and values of the parks system. Many programs and measures are in place.

6. **Energy and Natural Resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Does not apply.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

c. What kinds of energy conservation feature are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

7. **Environmental Health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

None. In any event that new property would be acquired for park space, full environmental review is done as part of the procurement process to assess hazards ahead of time.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

None.

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Does not apply.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associate with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

None.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None, does not apply.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Does not apply.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Does not apply.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Does not apply.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

CPP applies to the whole of the County. All zoning and land use designations apply.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation for the site?

CPP applies to the whole of the County. All zoning and land use designations apply.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Does not apply.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

The entire County population.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The CPP must be adopted by County Commissioners after being vetted by the Planning Commission. Any individual future projects will be scrutinized in their usual, thorough way.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None, does not apply.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None, does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None, does not apply.

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structures(s) not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

None, does not apply.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None, does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

All County parks projects take these impacts into account. Attention is paid to design, materials, color, texture, size, shape, landscaping, etc. There are specific statements in the CPP that speak to this.

11. Lights and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will be the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None, does not apply.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

None, does not apply.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Does not apply.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

See "10 – Aesthetics" above.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

All such opportunities inclusive to the County and the existing parks system.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

A primary purpose of the CPP is to promote and expand recreational uses, not displace them.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

See above.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

None in the existing parks system.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance know to be on or next to the site.

Does not apply to the CPP subject at hand; however, there are landmarks of historic importance in some of the parks, and the County makes efforts to protect and interpret these.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

In any existing or new parks, the County makes a point of identifying, preserving, and interpreting historic landmarks.

14. **Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plan, if any.

None, does not apply.

- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

None, does not apply.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Does not apply. Would apply to specific project proposals only.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Does not apply to CPP.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If know, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Does not apply.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None.

15. **Public Services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example, fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, etc.)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not applicable.

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Our existing parks have a combination of some or all of these services. New parks that may come in the future would also have some mix.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Does not apply.

ESA LISTED SALMONIDS CHECKLIST

The Listed Salmonids Checklist is provided in order that the county may initially identify a project's potential impacts (if any) on salmonids that have been listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). A salmonid is any fish species that spends part of its life cycle in the ocean and returns to fresh water. Potential project impacts that may result in a "taking" of listed salmonids must be avoided, or mitigated to insignificant levels. Generally, under ESA, a "taking" is broadly defined as any action that causes the death of, or harm to, the listed species. Such actions include those that affect the environmental in ways that interfere with or reduce the level of reproduction of the species.

If ESA listed species are present or ever were present in the watershed where your project will be located, your project has the potential for affecting them, and you need to comply with the ESA. The questions in this section will help determine if the ESA listing will impact your project. The Fish Program Manager at the appropriate Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) regional office can provide information for the following two questions. Please contact the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife at 1701 S. 24th, Yakima WA 98902-5720, Phone No. 509-575-2740.

1. Are ESA listed salmonids currently present in the watershed in which your project will be? YES X NO _____
Please Describe.

Listed species can be found in both the Yakima and Columbia Rivers.

2. Has there ever been an ESA listed salmonid stock present in this watershed?
YES X NO _____
Please Describe.

See above. "

If you answered "yes" to either of the above questions, you should complete the remainder of this checklist.

PROJECT SPECIFIC: The questions in this section are specific to the project and vicinity.

A1. Name of watershed: Both the Yakima Basin and the Columbia Basin.

A2. Name of nearest waterbody Yakima and Columbia Rivers.

A3. What is the distance from this project to the nearest body of water? Some of our parks have frontage on these rivers.

A4. What is the current land use between the project and the potentially affected water body (parking lots, farmland, etc.) All of our parks are either developed or undeveloped open space.

- A5. Is the project above a:
- | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Natural permanent barrier (waterfall) | YES _____ | NO <u>X</u> |
| Natural temporary barrier (beaver pond) | YES _____ | NO <u>X</u> |
| Man-made barrier (culvert, dam) | YES _____ | NO <u>X</u> |
| Other (explain) | | |

A6. If yes, are there any resident salmonid populations above the blockage? There are resident salmonids in these rivers, but there are no "blockages" associated with our parks or with the CPP.

A7. What percentage of the project will be impervious surface (including pavement & roof area)? Does not apply to the CPP.

FISH MIGRATION: The following questions will help determine if this project could interfere with migration of adult and juvenile fish. Both increases and decreases in water flows can affect fish migration.

- B1. Does the project require the withdrawal of
- a. Surface water? Yes _____ No X
- Amount _____
- Name of surface water body _____
- b. Ground water? Yes _____ No X
- Amount _____
- From Where _____
- Depth of well _____

B2. Will any water be rerouted? YES _____ NO X

If yes, will this require a channel change?

B3. Will there be retention ponds? YES _____ NO X

If yes, will this be an infiltration pond or a surface discharge to either a municipal storm water system or a surface water body?

If to a surface water discharge, please give the name of the waterbody.

B4. Will this project require the building of new roads? No.

B5. Are culverts proposed as part of this project?
Yes _____ No X

B6. Will topography changes affect the duration/direction of runoff flows?
Yes _____ No X

If yes describe the changes.

B7. Will the project involve any reduction of the floodway or floodplain by filling or other partial blockage of flows? Yes _____ No X

If yes, how will the loss of flood storage be mitigated by your project?

WATER QUALITY: The following questions will help determine if this project could adversely impact water quality. Such impacts can cause problems for listed species. Water quality can be made worse by runoff from impervious surfaces, altering water temperature, discharging contaminants, etc.

C1. Do you know of any problems with water quality in any of the streams within this watershed? YES _____ NO X

If yes please describe.

C2. Will your project either reduce or increase shade along or over a waterbody? YES _____ NO X Removal of shading vegetation or the building of structures such as docks or floats often result in a change in shade.

Note: The CPP will not have any effects, but as a part of our ongoing park management, we strive to improve shoreline habitat conditions, included increased shade.

C3. Will the project increase nutrient loading or have the potential to increase nutrient loading or contaminants (fertilizers, other waste discharges, or runoff) to the waterbody? YES _____ NO X

C4. Will turbidity be increased because of construction of the project or during operation of the project? In-water or near water work will often increase turbidity. YES _____ NO X

C5. Will your project require long term maintenance, i.e., bridge cleaning, highway salting, chemical sprays for vegetation management, clearing of parking lots? YES _____ NO X

Please Describe.

Vegetation: The following questions are designed to determine if the project will affect riparian vegetation, thereby, adversely impacting salmon.

D1. Will the project involve the removal of any vegetation from the stream banks? YES _____ NO X

If yes, please describe the existing conditions and the amount and type of vegetation to be removed.

D2. If any vegetation is removed, do you plan to re-plant? Does not apply.
If yes, what types of plants will you use?

SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Adam J. Fyall

Print Name: ADAM J. FYALL

Date Submitted: 30 JUNE 2008

C. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON PROJECT ACTIONS
(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Highly unlikely. Such impacts or negligible now, and any new projects resulting from the CPP would be consistent with our minimal impact approach.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Our parks are low-impact facilities.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life?

Positively.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish or marine life are:

Such conservation efforts are a big part of our mission.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Not at all.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Does not apply.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, flood plains, or prime farmlands?

All affects and impacts would be positive.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

The CPP spells-out many concepts, principles, and actions to this end.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

All impacts are compatible.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

See answers above.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Does not apply.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demands(s) are:

Does not apply.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

Would not conflict, and would in fact complement those efforts.

###

Ross B. Dunfee, P.E.
Public Works Director / County Engineer
Steven W. Becken
Asst. Director/Asst. County Engineer

Area Code 509
Prosser 786-5611
Tri-Cities 736-3084
Ext. 5664
Fax 786-5627

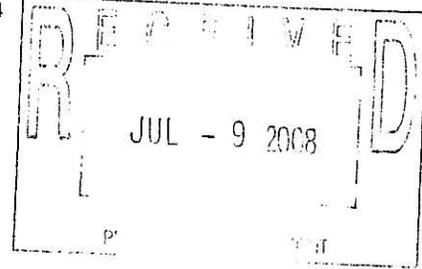
Benton County

Department of Public Works

Post Office Box 1001 - Courthouse
Prosser, Washington 99350-0954

July 9, 2008

Mr. Michael Shuttleworth, Senior Planner
Benton County Planning & Building Department
P.O. Box 910
Prosser, WA 99350



RE: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
EA 8-17 BENTON COUNTY FACILITIES AND PARKS

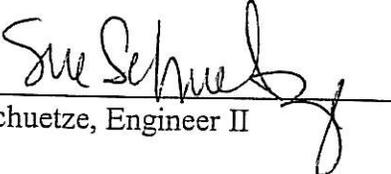
File No. Comprehensive
Parks Plan
Date 8-11-08
Exhibit No. 5.
Received by djh

Dear Mr. Shuttleworth:

This office has no comments on our review of the EA 8-17 for Benton County Facilities and Parks.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,


Sue Schuetze, Engineer II

Benton County Fire Marshal's Comments
Planning Department's Referral Forms

File No. Comprehensive
Parks Plan
Date 8-11-08
Exhibit No. 1a
Received by djh

TO: Mike Shuttleworth

EA 08-17

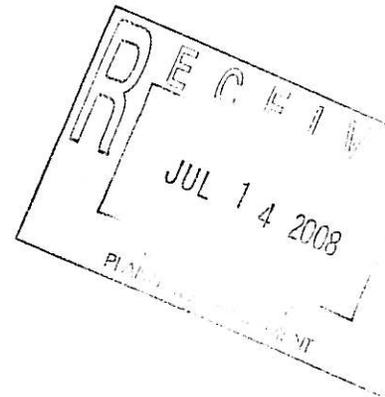
Date Received 7-8-08 Date Returned 7-9-08

Applicant's Comments: Benton Co Facilities and Parks, proposes a plan for eight existing parks and for any future parks.

Fire Marshal's Comments:

Required:

NONE





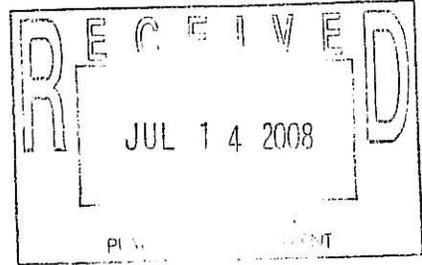
Prevent • Promote • Protect

"Always working for a safer and healthier community."

File No. Comprehensive Parks Plan
Date 8-11-08
Exhibit No. 7
Received by djh

7102 W. Okanogan Place • Kennewick, WA 99336 • Phone: (509) 460-4200

July 10, 2008



Michael E. Shuttleworth, Senior Planner
Benton County Planning Department
P.O. Box 910
Prosser, WA 99350

RE: Determination of Nonsignificance EA 08-17
Benton County Facilities & Parks

Dear Mr. Lott:

This office has reviewed the above referenced notice of application and has no objections provided:

- 1) All development will be served by an approved public water supply in accordance with WAC 246-291.
- 2) All development will be served by municipal sanitary sewer or on-site sewage disposal systems that are permitted, installed and approved in accordance with Benton-Franklin District Board of Health Rules and Regulations No. 2.
- 3) Any park development requiring sewage disposal systems must meet minimum land area requirements as specified in Benton-Franklin District Board of Health Rules and Regulations No. 2.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Kennewick Health office, phone 582-7761, Ext. 266.

Sincerely,

Jeri L. Randle
Environmental Health Specialist II

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

□ 7102 W. Okanogan Place
Kennewick, WA 99336
Phone: (509) 460-4200

□ 412 W. Clark Street
Pasco, WA 99301
Phone: (509) 547-9737

□ 310 7th Street
Prosser, WA 99350
Phone: (509) 786-1633

□ 7102 W. Okanogan Place
Kennewick, WA 99336
Phone: (509) 460-4200