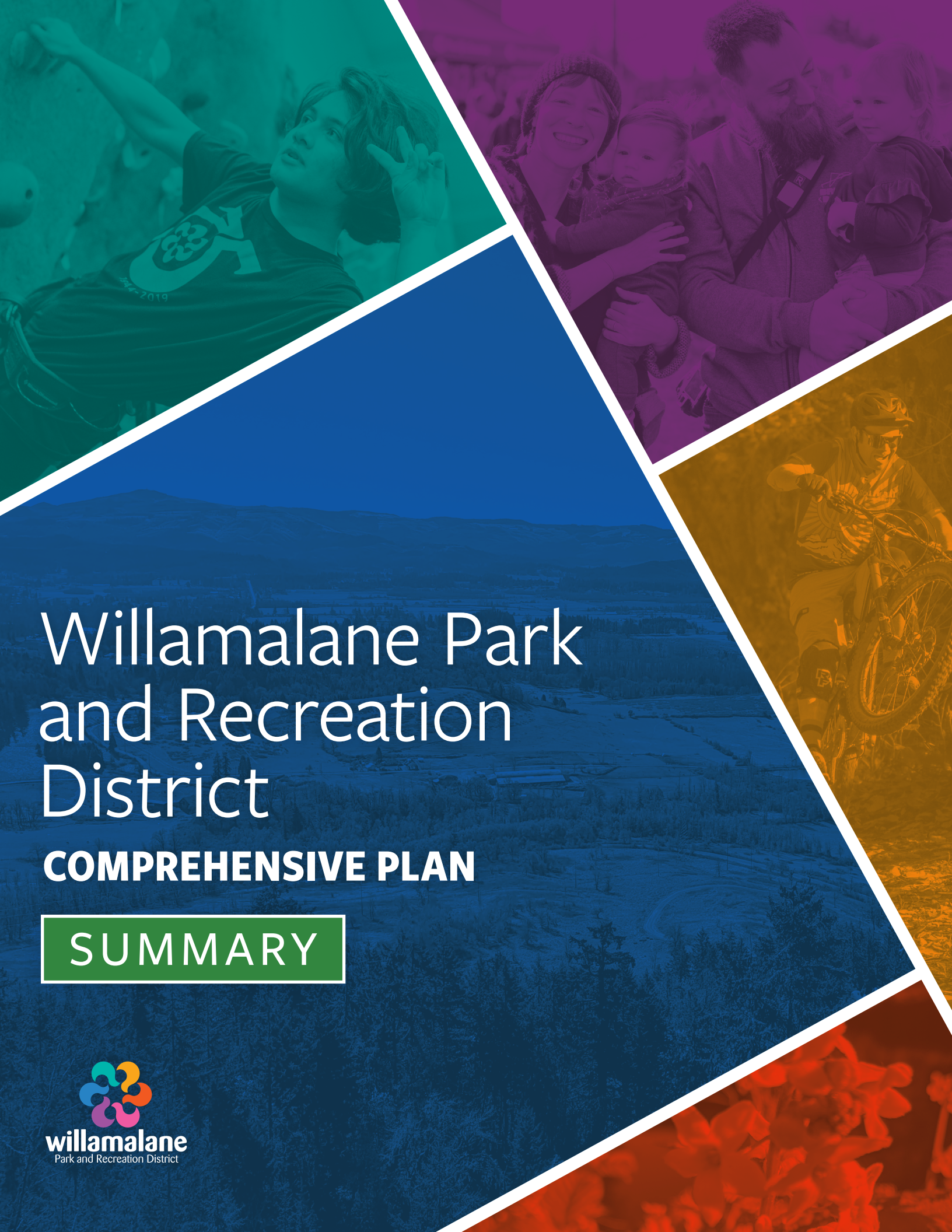




Willamalane Park and Recreation District

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

SUMMARY

What is Willamalane's Comprehensive Plan?

Willamalane Park and Recreation District's (Willamalane) updated comprehensive plan strategically outlines the future of the District's parks, facilities, and recreation programs for the next 20 years. The plan serves as a roadmap to guide Willamalane's decision-making process, prioritize projects, and provide a framework for fiscal planning. By undertaking this comprehensive planning process every 10 years, Willamalane can ensure the community's long-term sustainability, development, and enhancement of parks and recreation services. Ultimately, the comprehensive plan will positively impact the community by creating engaging and inclusive spaces and experiences that promote health, well-being, and a high quality of life for all district residents.

This comprehensive plan update was especially important for the district because so much has changed in the Springfield area since the last plan was adopted in 2012. Population growth, changes in racial and ethnic backgrounds of community members, and an increased population of older adults will require a purposeful yet flexible approach to delivering parks and recreation services.



Notable Willamalane Accomplishments Since 2012

Since 2012, the district has accomplished many of the recommendations in the previous plan. These include expansions to parks, trails, and natural areas in the district as well as:

- Delivering promises made for the 2012 bond resulted in an expansion of the park system and an increase in recreation opportunities within the district.
- Winning the National Park and Recreation Association's National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in the Field of Park & Recreation Management (2016).
- Celebrating its 75th Anniversary with the community (2019).
- Achieving national accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) (2022).
- Doubling its available park space since 2012, adding 851 acres.
- Increasing available natural areas to from 186 to 920 acres.
- Increasing the overall inventory of parks from 37 to 45.



Read The Full Plan!

Visit willamalane.org/future, or scan the QR code to read the full plan and supporting appendix documents.

The plan is intended to help the district achieve its mission, vision and values.



MISSION

To deliver exceptional parks and recreation to enrich the lives of everyone we serve.



VISION

A healthy, active community where everyone belongs.

VALUES



BELONGING

We create a community where everyone connects, grows together, and works towards common goals.



ACCESSIBILITY

We provide equitable access to recreational opportunities, regardless of ability, income, or background.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

We deliver inclusive and accessible programs, facilities, and parks that promote healthy living.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards and build trust and respect in all interactions.



STEWARDSHIP

We preserve and protect our natural and cultural resources for future generations to enjoy.



INNOVATION

We strive to continuously improve our offerings with innovative and sustainable practices.

The Community's Input Helped Shape Our Future.

The plan considers the valuable feedback from more than 3,800 community members. Data was collected through a variety of methods and channels to inform the direction of the plan.

Willamalane is grateful to all of the community members who provided input that shaped the plan. In addition to key stakeholders and community members, Willamalane carefully considered voices heard specifically from advocates and individuals representing teens, trails and natural areas, accessibility and inclusion champions, and members of the Latinx, and American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The district's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion influenced the decision-making and planning process throughout this project.



1,598
Needs Assessment Survey



1,766
Pop-up and Intercept Events



28,481
Digital Outreach



207
Internal Engagement (Staff Input)



235
Stakeholders and Focus Groups

How did Willamalane develop this plan?



Document collection and review



Maintenance and operations analysis



Demographics and trends analysis



Park and facility inventory



Community engagement



Level of service analysis



Organizational, financial, and recreation program analysis



Potential funding opportunities assessment



Recommendations-goals, strategies, and actions



Current Top 10 Most Important Facilities and Services to Springfield Households*

- ✓ Park safety and maintenance
- ✓ Natural areas/open space
- ✓ Trails in parks and/or trail systems
- ✓ Restrooms in parks
- ✓ Indoor swimming pool
- ✓ Off-leash areas in parks for dogs
- ✓ Outdoor fitness stations in parks
- ✓ Pickleball courts
- ✓ Basketball courts

*According to preferences received during the community outreach phase of the plan.



Most Important Future Priorities to Springfield Households

- ✓ Trails and bike paths
- ✓ Outdoor swimming pool
- ✓ Park safety and maintenance
- ✓ Better maintenance of existing parks and facilities
- ✓ Outdoor splash pad for water play
- ✓ Additional restrooms in parks
- ✓ Additional dog parks/facilities
- ✓ Open-air covered multi-use space
- ✓ Community farmers market



District Goals for the Next Twenty Years

Through extensive engagement and analysis, the plan identifies a series of goals that will drive the next decade of growth, projects, and changes within the park district.



GOAL 1

Continue to operate the district at CAPRRA accredited national standard.

.....



GOAL 2

Provide a safe and equitable system of parks and natural areas.

.....



GOAL 3

Provide an easily accessed and connected system of paths and trails.



GOAL 4

Provide access to high-quality and affordable recreation facilities.

.....



GOAL 5

Strive for a high standard of care for the maintenance of parks, trails, and facilitates across the district.

.....



GOAL 6

Offer recreation programs and services that respond to the community’s needs and encourage healthy lifestyles.

.....



GOAL 7

Be a responsible steward of district resources and partnerships.



Strategies to Meet Our Goals

Each of the 7 goals includes a series of strategies and actions prioritized into short-term (1–5 years), mid-term (6–10 years), and long-term (11+ years) time frames to assist with implementation. The actions are in Section 9 of the comprehensive plan.



GOAL 1: Continue to operate the district at a nationally accredited (CAPRA) standard.

- 1.1** Review and update plans, policies, and procedures to align with the changing needs of the community.
- 1.2** Strive for effective and transparent communication.
- 1.3** Prioritize Willamalane resources to best serve community members of all abilities.
- 1.4** Integrate diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) in every facet of district services.
- 1.5** Prioritize workplace culture.
- 1.6** Strengthen employee recruitment and retention.



GOAL 2: Provide a safe and equitable system of parks and natural areas.

- 2.1** Improve existing parks to enhance the district's current level of service.
- 2.2** Expand acreage and recreation offerings to accommodate population growth and provide parks and recreation opportunities in underserved areas.
- 2.3** Improve and enhance the district's sustainability initiatives.
- 2.4** Improve existing parks to enhance the district's current level of service.
- 2.5** Expand acreage and recreation offerings to accommodate population growth and provide parks and recreation opportunities in underserved areas.
- 2.6** Improve and enhance the district's sustainability initiatives.



GOAL 3: Provide an easily accessed and connected system of paths and trails.

- 3.1** Improve connectivity and access to existing paths and trails.
- 3.2** Provide a desirable experience for trail users.



GOAL 4: Provide access to high-quality and affordable recreation facilities.

- 4.1** Add or expand facilities to best meet user demand in the district.



GOAL 5: Strive for a high standard of care for the maintenance of parks, natural areas, trails, and facilities across the district.

- 5.1** Maintain a high standard of care for parks and open spaces.
- 5.2** Proactively manage existing natural areas.
- 5.3** Proactively manage and update trails and pathways in the district.
- 5.4** Manage facilities to create a safe and enjoyable user experience.



GOAL 6: Offer recreation programs and services that respond to the community's needs and encourage healthy lifestyles.

- 6.1** Maximize participation in recreation activities across the district.
- 6.2** Expand and adapt programs in response to the changing needs and desires of the community.



GOAL 7: Be a responsible steward of district resources and partnerships.

- 7.1** Develop a long-term funding strategy for capital improvements for new facilities and upgrades.

Themes

The plan includes a long list of capital and planning projects in order to achieve the plan's goals and strategies. This section describes the categories these capital and planning projects fall into. For a full list and details about each project check out Appendix 11 of the main document.

Proactively Plan and Design Future Park Projects

Early planning and design work for projects in this category will set them up as successful capital improvement projects and grant applications in later phases of implementation.

Expand the Level of Service in Existing Parks

The plan's analysis shows that some of our existing parks are not providing as much service as others. These park redevelopment projects are intended to improve user experiences and access, prioritizing areas that the plan shows as having the greatest need.

Conduct Minor Updates in Existing Parks

For some parks, a small, focused improvement can greatly improve use of the park. These projects primarily address deferred maintenance or aged amenities to help enhance the use of existing parks.

Example Projects Include:

- **West D St. Greenway Master Plan** – Willamalane will work with partners and the public to create a master plan for this waterfront area.
- **Tyson Park** – Willamalane will prepare a design and redevelop the park.
- **Playground updates** at Bob Artz Memorial, Fort Park, Heron, Robin, Royal Delle, and Thurston Parks.
- Development of **new parks and trails** in growing or underserved areas.

Develop New Parks in Growing and High Priority Areas

To reach the goal of providing walkable access to recreation opportunities for all community members, Willamalane will need to proactively fill currently identified and anticipated future gaps in service within the district. The projects in this category address the need for new parks in areas that currently have no walkable access to recreation opportunities and in areas that are experiencing new development.



New Acquisitions

The comprehensive plan identifies that Willamalane is currently lacking undeveloped land to support new park development in growing and in some underserved areas of Springfield. The projects in this category aim to acquire land to support future park and trail development in order to reach the district's goals. Some projects also propose expanding of existing parks as opportunities exist.

Trail Projects

Trails are consistently one of the highest demand improvements during Willamalane's public engagement efforts. The projects in this category aim to improve connectivity between existing trails and to expand access to parks, trails, natural areas, and facilities in the community. They also aim to provide scenic recreation opportunities for a wide variety of trail users.

Building Facilities

Willamalane's buildings are essential to providing recreation and childcare opportunities. The projects in this category are intended to support the growing demands from the community for these types of revenue generating opportunities. They also address needs for additional office and storage space to support the district's growing staff and maintenance needs.

Coordinate with Partners

Willamalane is grateful for the many partnerships they have formed and how they have enabled the district to more efficiently provide services to the community. Projects in this category identify some of the opportunities where partnerships can help fill gaps and expand service in areas where Willamalane is less likely to be able to do it alone.

Example Projects Include:

- **Glenwood Riverfront Park** – As plans to redevelop areas of Glenwood advance, Willamalane will work with community partners to identify opportunities for acquisition along the Willamette River in this area.
- **McKenzie River Multi-use Path** – This newly proposed multi-use path provides a critical link between Springfield and Thurston along the McKenzie River.
- **Bob Keefer Center** – Willamalane will develop a master plan and construct an expansion to the Bob Keefer Center to provide additional programming and recreation space.
- **Riverbend Elementary School** – Willamalane will coordinate with Springfield Public Schools to expand public access to play areas during non-school hours in order to increase recreation service to a neighborhood with no park currently available.

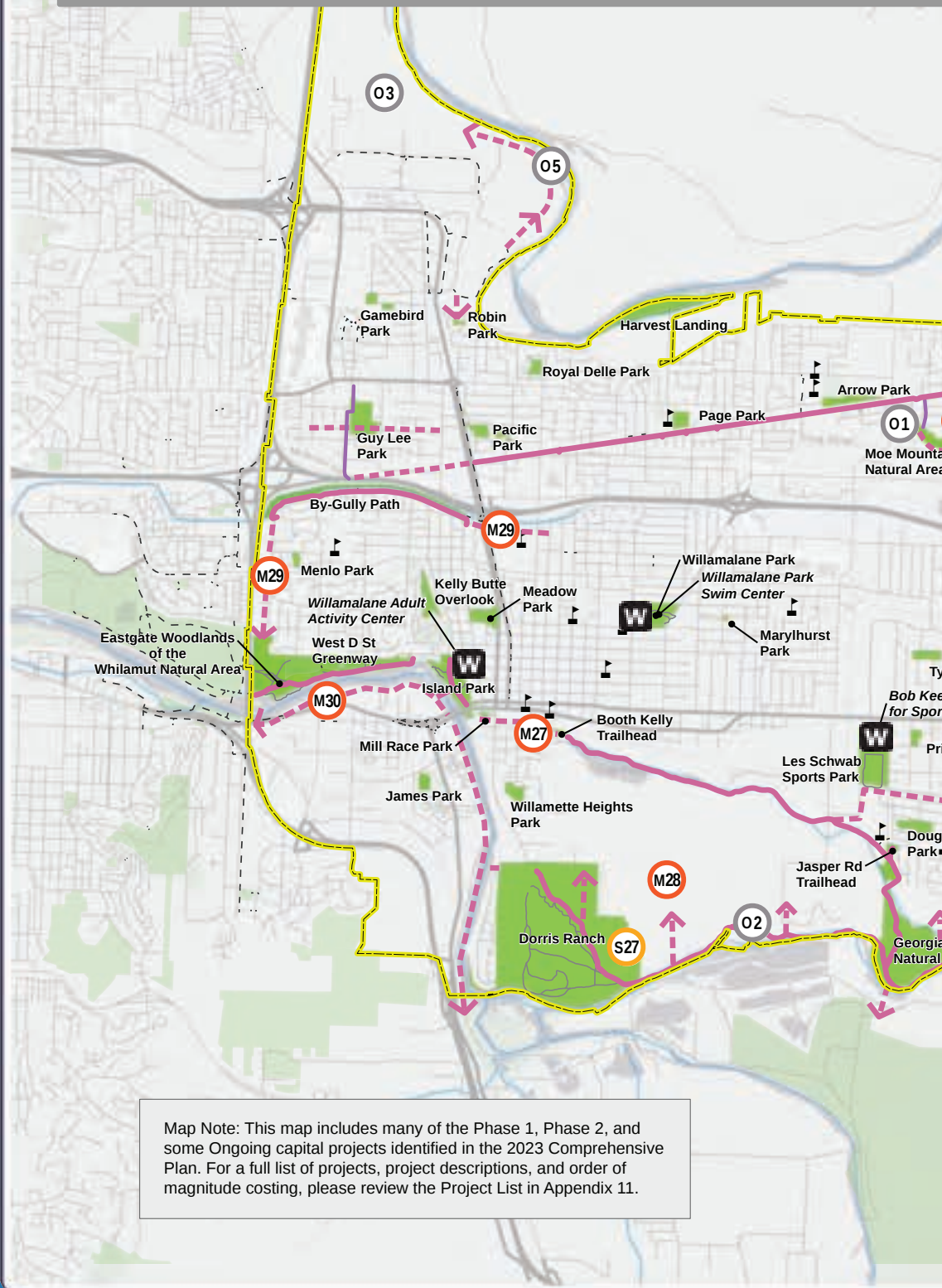


This map shows some of the key capital projects listed in the plan. Project numbers and colors on the map correlate with the descriptions that can be found in the project list in the plan's appendix (Appendix 11.)

Completing the first phase of projects is expected to cost approximately \$68 million dollars. Funding is likely to come from a variety of sources that include tax dollars, bonds, and system development charges. The district maximizes public dollars by using these funds to fulfill match requirements for as many grants as possible when implementing projects.

Path and Trail Project List and Recommendations Map

Willamalane Park and Recreation District, OR



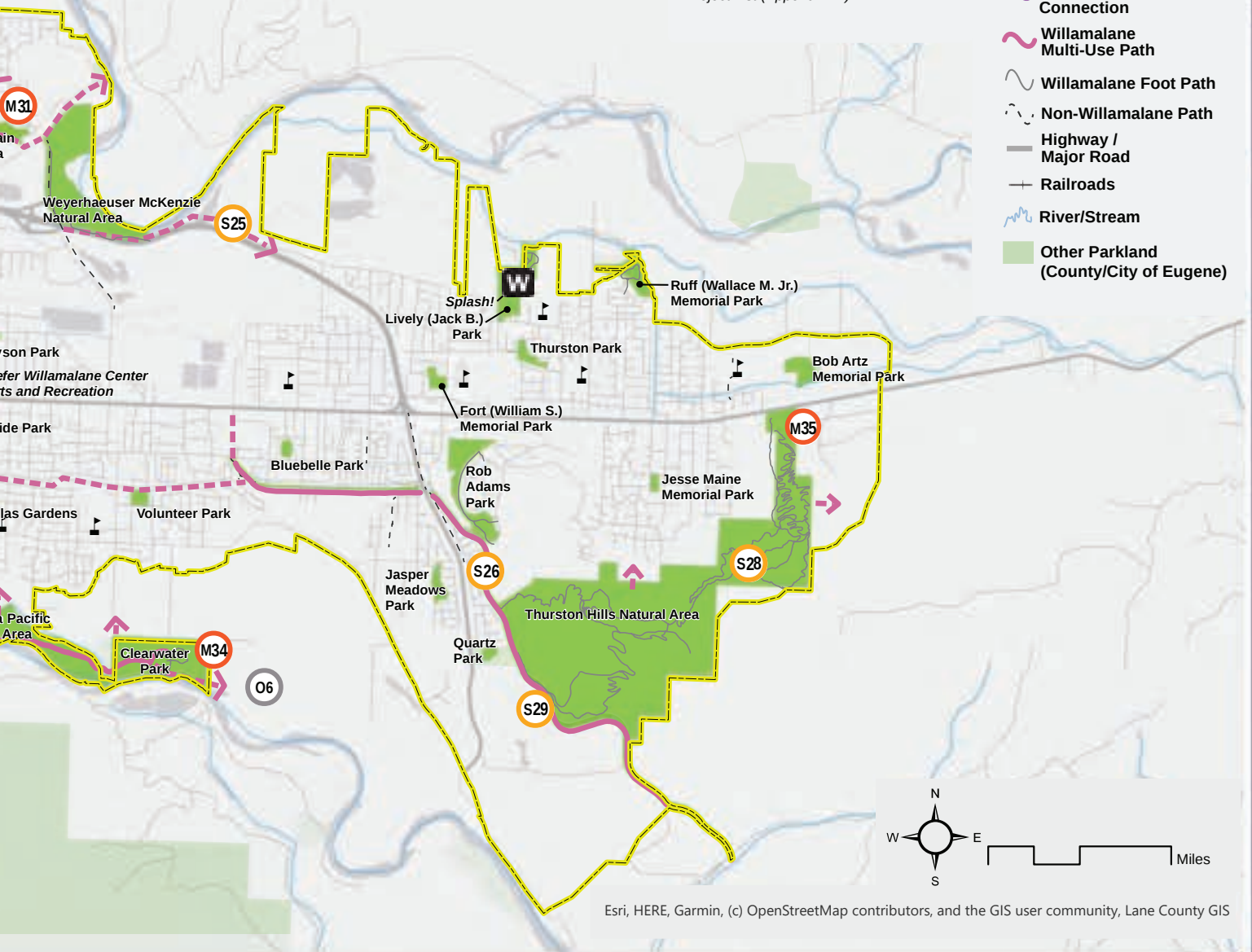
Projects*

- S# Short-term Projects (Phase 1, 1-5 years)
- M# Mid-term Projects (Phase 2, 6-10 years)
- O# Ongoing Projects (Continuous)

*Project descriptions are provided for each project number in the Project List (Appendix 11).

Legend

- Willamalane Parks
- W Indoor Facilities
- School
- Study Area Boundary
- Proposed or Planned Path
- Proposed On-Street Connection
- Willamalane Multi-Use Path
- Willamalane Foot Path
- Non-Willamalane Path
- Highway / Major Road
- Railroads
- River/Stream
- Other Parkland (County/City of Eugene)



Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community, Lane County GIS



willamalane
Park and Recreation District

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

SUMMARY