

Frequently Asked Questions About Future Projects

Thank you for your interest in the Willamalane comprehensive plan. This FAQ sheet provides a summary of how the plan is currently addressing some existing and potential future uses in the district. Click [here](#) to find more information relating to each of these in the strategies and actions of the plan.

Are there plans for outdoor **water play** and new **swimming** opportunities?

Based on our community's feedback, this plan includes the addition of new water based recreational opportunities. That could include outdoor splash pads, water play areas, or new outdoor swimming opportunities. These improvements were highly desired by the community, and as a first step, this plan calls for a feasibility study for an outdoor swimming pool which will help us understand the costs and requirements of this type of improvement and provide accurate information to base future decision making. The locations for outdoor swimming pools would ideally be adjacent to existing swim facilities, while splash pads and water play areas could be located in parks with ample parking and restrooms. See action 4.1.b in chapter 9 of the plan.

Are there plans to add another **dog park**?

There is support for more dog parks in the region and this comprehensive plan recommends adding another one. Currently, there is only one dog park in Springfield located at Lively Park. A second dog park would need to be located in a park with adequate parking and available undeveloped land. The comprehensive plan allows for this in action 2.1.g.

Will there be expanded **disc golf** opportunities?

The community feedback ranked disc golf lower than many other park and recreation options, but it may be considered for expansion if opportunities arise. The ideal locations for disc golf courses would be parks with parking and available undeveloped land. The comprehensive plan allows for this to happen in action 2.1.g.

Are there plans to create new **mountain bike trails**?

Willamalane recently constructed 10 miles of trails in Thurston Hills Natural Area, but community input shows that there is a need for additional beginner-level routes and possibly an intermediate-level route within the park. This comprehensive plan identifies these as high-priority projects, and the trails are proposed to be located within Thurston Hills Natural Area (action 3.1.n).

Are there plans to expand **pickleball** options?

There is increasing demand for pickleball in Springfield, and this plan reflects that. Willamalane just completed a court resurfacing project at Meadow Park, and this plan includes additional renovations to those courts (action 2.1.j). This plan also includes the addition of more courts to other parts of the community, most likely converting existing tennis courts into pickleball courts. The locations should have easy parking and access, preferably in parks with existing tennis facilities. The comprehensive plan allows for this in action 2.1.g.

Does this plan include the addition of a **bicycle pump track**?

Yes, a bicycle pump track is proposed in this plan in conjunction with the Willamalane Park Master Plan. The proposed location will be at Willamalane Park (1276 G St, Springfield, OR 97477). Implementation of the master plan is proposed to occur as a short-term action (1-5 years, see action 2.1.i).

Will new **community gardens** be developed?

While there wasn't strong demand from the greater public for additional community gardens, partners who were consulted did flag it as a community need. In addition, community gardens can support food access programs, which did rank highly in the community input. The cost of these improvements is minimal compared to other expansion projects, and Willamalane can partner with community groups to provide these more efficiently. The location of community gardens is not yet determined, but the ideal locations will have available parking, restrooms, proximity to transit, and are walkable to residential areas. See action 2.1.g.

Are there plans for an additional **skate park**?

Currently, there is no plan for another skate parks as there wasn't a significant demand for this improvement.

Are there plans to provide additional **river access** opportunities?

Yes, providing more opportunities for river access is a high priority for the public. In the plan the district proposes to expand access to rivers within properties it already owns, explore opportunities for acquisition or easements, and expand trail systems to access waterways at various locations to meet this need (see action 2.1.g, 2.1.i, 3.1.g, 3.1.h, 3.1.i, 3.1.j, 3.1.n, 3.1.p).

Will there be **nature play** opportunities incorporated into Willamalane's parks?

Nature play was identified as a priority, and some parks, including Dorris Ranch and Clearwater Park, already propose nature play in their respective master plans. Other parks receiving improvements may also accommodate nature play. The comprehensive plan allows for this in action 2.1.g.

Is there a plan to develop additional **outdoor fitness parks**?

While there wasn't listed as a high demand from our community outreach, expanding access to outdoor fitness parks across the district supports additional adult recreation programming, which did rank highly as a community need. The district plans to work with partners to include additional fitness parks as opportunities arise. The specific locations for these additions has not been identified yet (action 2.1.h).

Will there be more **restrooms** available in parks?

Willamalane recognizes the high demand for restrooms and is taking measures to optimize restroom design and maintenance to reduce vandalism and ensure availability of existing restrooms. The district plans to increase maintenance staffing levels and update park maintenance standards for more efficient care so these can be a more available asset to park visitors (see action 5.1.a, 5.1.c, 5.1.d, 5.1.g).

Will there be improvements to **park maintenance and safety**?

Yes, park maintenance and safety are top priorities for our community. Willamalane plans to expand its capacity by adding staff for maintenance and park rangers (action 5.1.a). The Park Service Center facility will also be expanded to support the district's growing maintenance needs. (action 4.1.e, 4.1.f). Goal 5 in chapter 9 of the plan includes multiple strategies and actions for park, trail, and facility maintenance.

How does this plan account for **natural resources** that Willamalane manages?

The protection of natural areas is a top priority for the community and our region's well being. Willamalane has added over 700 acres of natural area land since 2012, and the survey results and focus group conversations reflect that it continues to be highly valued by Springfield community members. This comprehensive plan proposes additional staffing and an updated Natural Area Management Plan to manage and expand these spaces (action 5.1.a, 2.3.f). Opportunities for land acquisition in key locations are also considered to increase public access (action 2.2.f).

Are there plans to expand **trail** opportunities in the district?

A: Yes, expanding trail opportunities is a top priority identified by our community. Willamalane has already added approximately 14 miles of trails since 2012, and this comprehensive plan proposes several new multi-use paths and soft surface hiking trails in scenic areas. Improved connectivity and accessible walking trails are key objectives for the expansion of the trail network (see strategy 3.1). The plan also calls for an improved experience for trail users (strategy 3.2) and proactive management of trail systems (strategy 5.2).

Is Willamalane proposing new **recreation programs**?

Many recreation programs were recommended during the community engagement process. These were documented and will be incorporated into the more frequently updated and Recreation Programming Plan. That said, this comprehensive plan includes proposed plans to expand hours of operation, expand service to certain age groups (older adults, youth, and teens), and offer more multicultural events and programs. To read more, review proposed strategies under Goal 6 of the plan.

Is Willamalane planning to expand **childcare** opportunities?

There was strong support from the community to add more childcare opportunities. Currently, Willamalane doesn't have adequate building space or infrastructure to support any major childcare expansions, but the district-wide space assessment of this plan (Strategy 4.1.b) will seek opportunities for additional space which could allow for childcare expansion.