



## 2023/2033 Parks, Recreational and Cultural Facilities Plan



# PREFACE

Adopted by Council Resolution 22-30 on December 20, 2022, the 2023/2033 Parks, Recreational and Cultural Facilities Plan (Plan) reflects the City’s focus on existing parks, recreational and cultural facilities for the future enjoyment, maintenance of and improvements to extraordinary Coos Bay places. The Plan provides an update of and revisions to the 2013/2023 Parks Master Plan reflective of City Council, resident and visitor interests and priorities. This Plan exemplifies the City Council’s unwavering commitment to resident and visitor enjoyment of Coos Bay, despite challenges of the 2020 Global COVID-19 pandemic, current supply chain, labor and housing shortages, and rising inflation. Coos Bay parks, recreational and cultural facilities are valued by residents and are a potential draw for economic vitality which will entice visitors to stay, play and discover Coos Bay’s parks, recreational and cultural facility “jewels”.

A variety of enhancements to the City’s parks, recreational and cultural facilities identified in the 2013/2023 Parks Master Plan were completed with community support and partnerships. The Council seeks to continue this progress with the Plan which reviews aging facilities; identifies sustainable funding options for facility maintenance and enhancement; identifies public/private partnerships for grant and foundation funding; and fosters community collaboration for facility improvements.

Plan highlights include goals to:

- Renovate existing facilities to protect investments, enhance user safety and accessibility, maximize maintenance efficiency and support recreational activities.
- Develop branding and connectivity to all existing City parks with a “flagship” concept beginning with the downtown boardwalk that identifies waterfront trail systems, links to parks, highlights of recreational opportunities and connections to other City destinations.
- Pursue sustainable funding sources to achieve the Plan’s park, recreational and cultural facility recommendations.
- Focus on relationships and partnerships for Plan implementation.

While Plan adoption does not guarantee implementation, the Plan provides a framework for actions to secure needed park, recreational and cultural facility capital improvements and ongoing maintenance funding from a variety of sources. Plan support is reflective of robust participation in resident and visitor surveys and public hearing engagement. Consequently, the Plan provides a guide to community priorities for Council’s consideration in the coming years.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Coos Bay Citizens and Visitors:** A special acknowledgment to Coos Bay citizens and visitors for input on Coos Bay’s parks, recreational and cultural facilities.

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## **Chapter 1: Plan Preparation**

The Coos Bay City Council established a 2021 goal to update the Coos Bay 2013 Parks Master Plan. In 2022 with Parks Commission recommendations, the Council’s direction expanded to develop this 2023/2033 Parks, Recreational and Cultural Facilities Plan (Plan). The Plan identifies a multitude of recreational and cultural resources and activities for residents and visitors. These special City leisure resources reflect Coos Bay’s quality of life and offer economic development opportunity through tourism. Recognizing this visitor value, the City engaged with the Coos Bay/North Bend/Charleston Visitor and Convention Bureau at the Coos Bay Visitor Information Center to secure visitor feedback on the City’s parks, recreational and cultural facilities.

**1.1 Public Participation.** Public participation in the Plan creation included resident and visitor commentary via the City website, paper surveys and public hearings before the Parks Commission and City Council. Approximately 500 individuals provided survey feedback over a roughly 6-week time period in the summer of 2022 via an on-line survey and hand-written responses. The City Parks Commission and City Council held public hearings on the Plan. The public survey comments and public hearing minutes can be found in Appendix A. An expanded discussion of public comments can be found in Plan Section 3.2 - Community Vision.

**1.2 Plan Organization.** The Plan is organized fairly simply for reader ease and efficiency with a good deal of detail in the Plan appendices. Plan organization includes:

Chapter 1: Plan Preparation, noting the Plan’s purpose and public participation efforts.

Chapter 2: Plan Context, describing the location, demographic reference, key resources, identification and descriptions of City facilities and needs.

Chapter 3: Framework for the Future, speaking to Council leadership, community vision, Plan goals and objectives, and funding options.

Appendices provide background and reference information and include:

Appendix A: Public survey, survey results and comments

Appendix B: Design guidelines

Appendix C: Funding resources and opportunities

Appendix C1: FY 2022/2023 Coos Bay Parks Budget

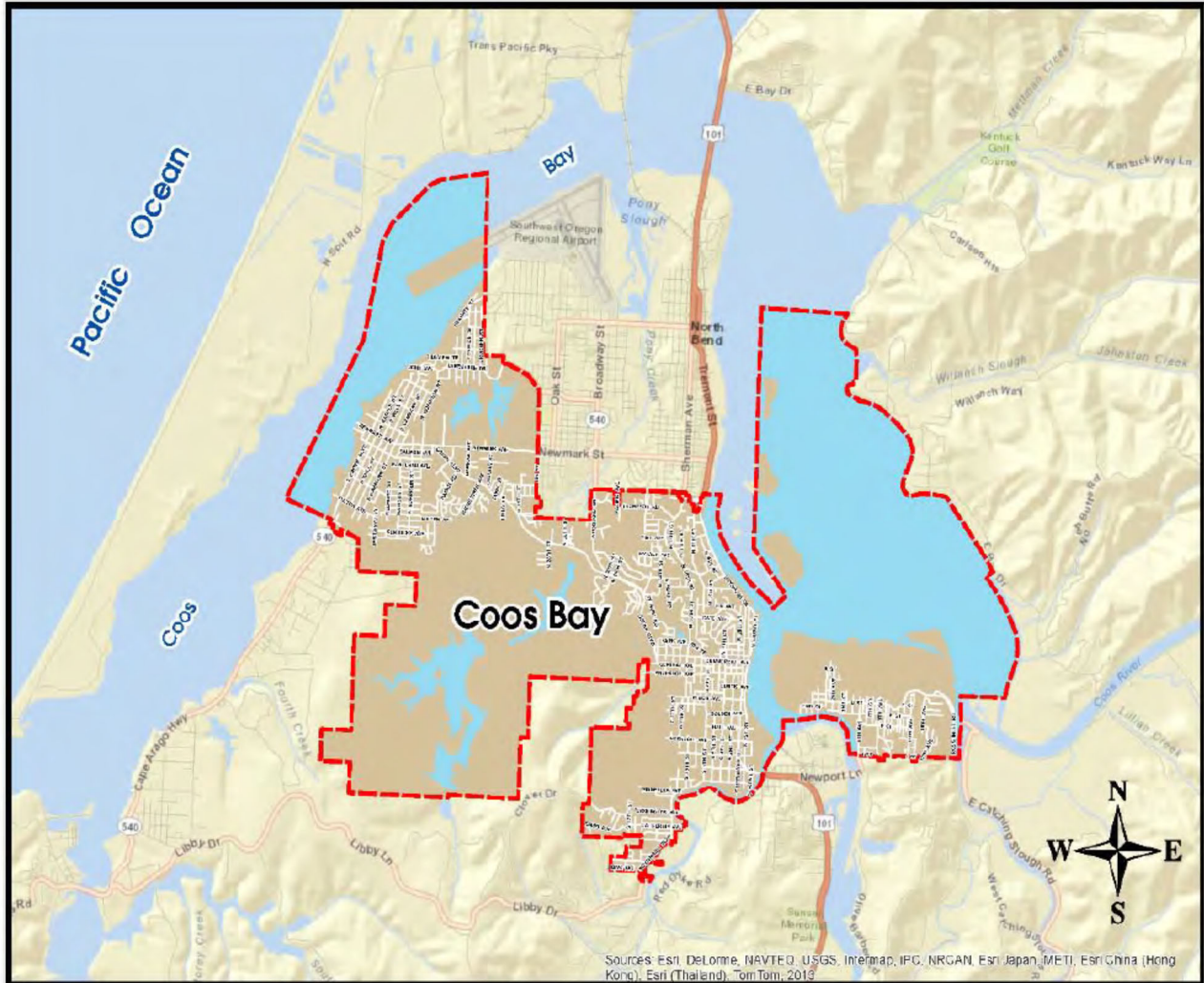
Appendix D: 2020 Coos Bay Decennial Census chart

Appendix E: Sawmill and Tribal Trail brochure

## Chapter 2: Plan Context

**2.1 Location.** The Plan is specific to Coos Bay in Coos County on the southern Oregon coast as noted in the map below. Coos Bay is approximately 220 miles south of Portland, Oregon and 531 miles north of San Francisco, California; visitors traverse U.S. Highway 101 with links to Interstate 5 via state Highway 42 (Coos Bay to Roseburg), state Highway 38 (Reedsport to I-5 at Curtin), and state Highway 126 (Florence to Eugene).

Figure 1 Coos Bay City location



**2.2 Demographics.** Based on the 2020 Decennial Census (Appendix D) conducted during the Global COVID-19 Pandemic, the Plan area reflects:

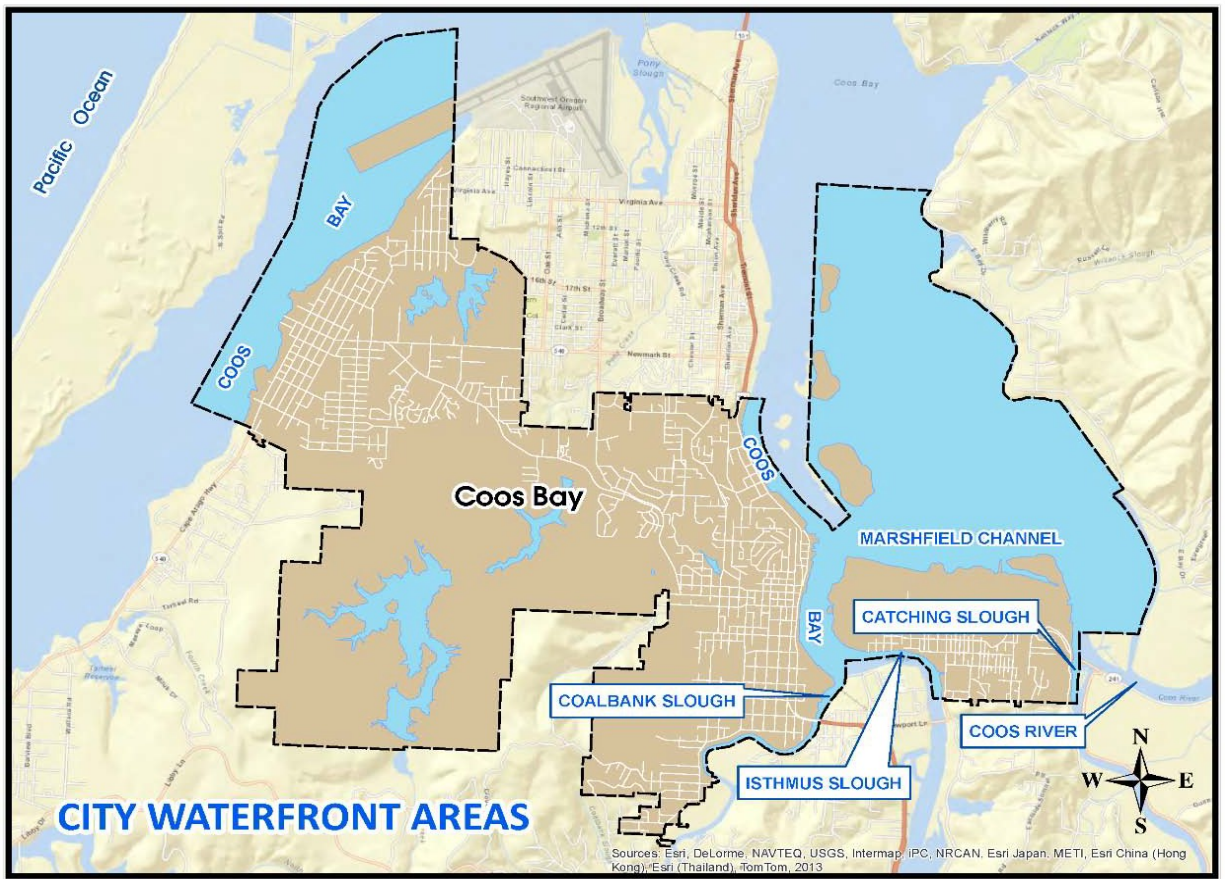
- A resident population of 15,907 persons.
- 22.4% of the population over 65 with 20.8 % under 18.
- 87 % of the population is Caucasian. Approximately 8% are Latino or Hispanic with the balance of the population of other origins.
- Median household income in 2020 dollars is approximately \$49,478.

Following the completion of the 2024 State Comprehensive and Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Plan will be updated to mirror SCORP demographic data.

**2.3 Key Plan Elements.** Certain features and offerings of the City provide a strong base for community support of parks, recreational and cultural resource facilities. Many comments on each of these offerings can be found in Appendix A.

**2.3.1 Waterfront Activities.** The Coos Bay Boardwalk, boat launches and waterfront trails provide opportunities for waterfront and/or water-related recreation, crabbing and fishing. Figure 2 identifies the City’s waterfront areas.

**Figure 2 City Waterfront Areas**



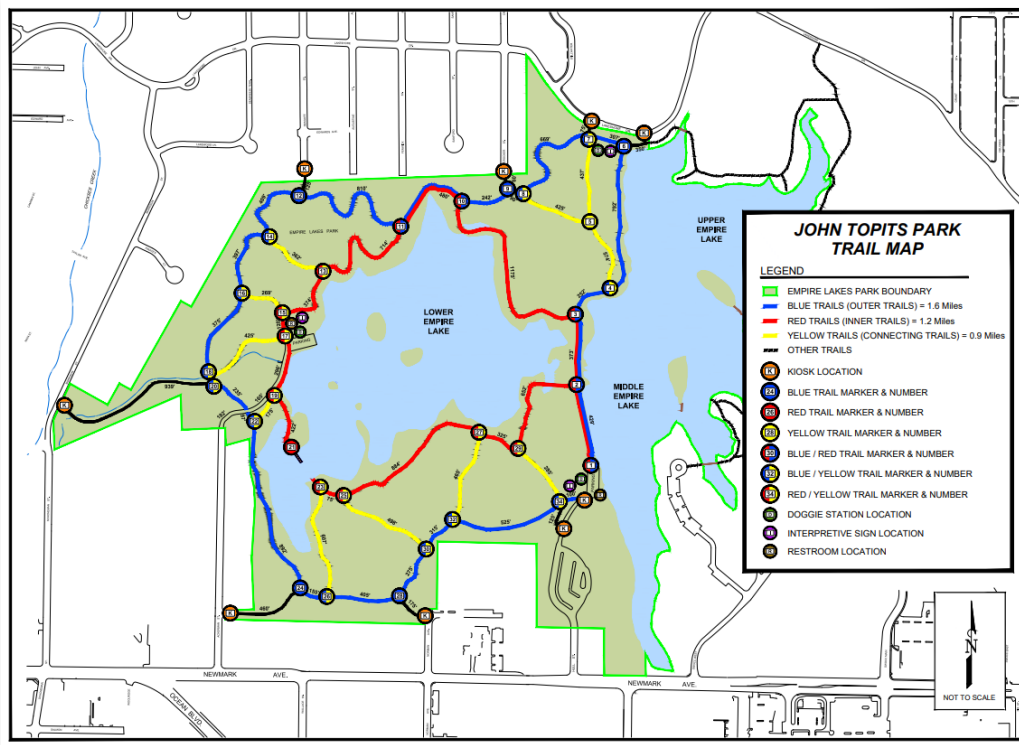
**2.3.2 Protection of Natural Resources.** Maintenance of natural resources protects the local watershed forest cover and drainage corridors related to storm water conveyance, hazard mitigation, erosion protection, aesthetics and trail connectivity. While bay crabbing, clamming and tide pool walking are popular, care by the City is required and provided to protect these natural resources consistent with the Oregon Wetlands Priority Plan and SCORP.



**2.3.3 Connectivity.** Connectivity via trails and public pathways between parks, recreational and cultural facilities maximize recreational and cultural experiences. Hiking, biking, kayaking, bird watching, fishing and whale watching are common trail recreational activities.

**2.3.3a John Topits Park Trail.** The largest of the City’s trail systems (see Figure 3) can be found along Empire Lakes in John Topits Park.

**Figure 3 John Topits Park Trail**



**2.3.3b Sawmill and Tribal Trail.**<sup>1</sup> The Sawmill and Tribal Trail (Trail) is a 5.6 mile, one-way urban trail using existing sidewalks and the shoulder of various local streets. The Trail feeds into and out of the trail systems in John Topits Park in Coos Bay<sup>2</sup> and Ferry Road Park in North Bend. The Trail begins at Ferry Road Park and can be walked, bicycled or driven through sections of North Bend, John Topits Park and Empire. Trail logos in these areas can be found on thirty-five (35) numbered cedar posts on historically or culturally significant trail locations. The Trail is also divided into three sections in North Bend, John Topits Park and the Empire area of Coos Bay to enable breaking up the trail experience into shorter distances.

The Trail honors paths developed by Coos Bay area tribal ancestors that connected their bayside villages and hunting grounds. In the 1800s the trails were also used by settlers. Loggers, mill and shipyard workers who went to Empire for saloons and entertainment also used the trail, hence the reference to the “Sawmill” in the “Sawmill and Tribal Trail” name.

<sup>1</sup> Text and exhibit sourced from brochure published by the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum and the Sawmill & Tribal Advisory Team; the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum is now know as the Coos History Museum.

<sup>2</sup> Previously known as Empire.

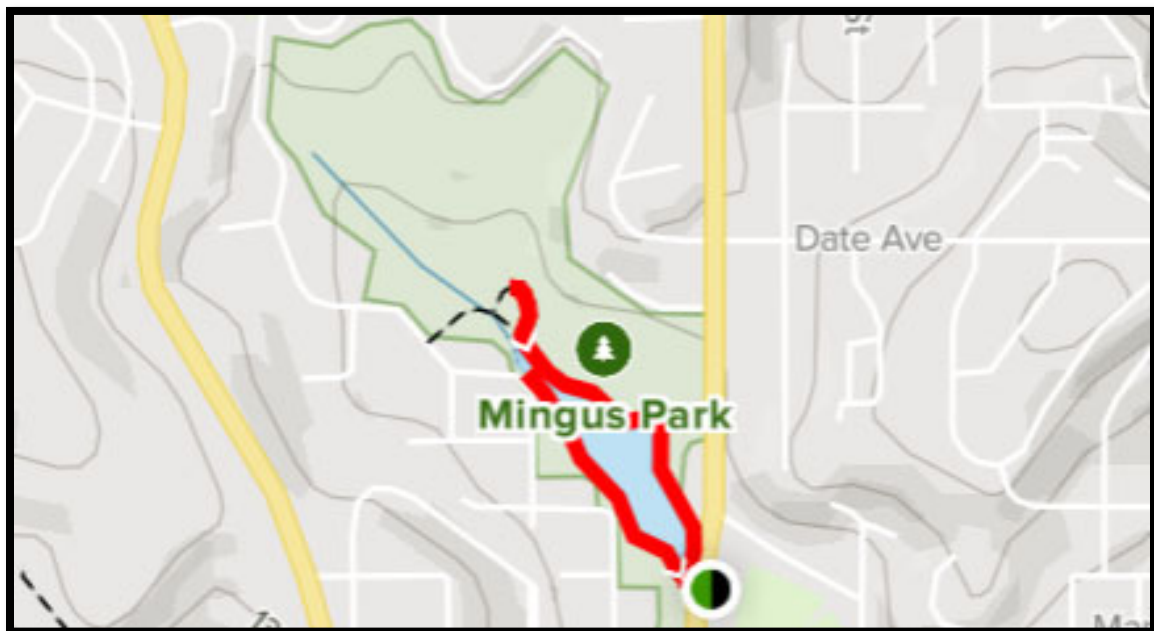
The Trail markers and current recognized route were developed by a partnership between the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum<sup>3</sup>, Community Coalition of Empire, South Coast Striders and the National Coast Trail Association. The Trail was dedicated July 17, 2011. Figure 4 below notes the location of the Trail in Coos Bay. A Trail brochure noting the entire Trail can be found in Appendix E.

**Figure 4 Sawmill and Tribal Trail in Coos Bay**



**2.3.3c Mingus Park Trail.** As identified on Figure 5, trails wind through the park around Mingus Pond and the forested area west of Choshi Gardens.

**Figure 5 Mingus Park Trail**



<sup>3</sup> The Coos historical and Maritime Museum is now known as the Coos History Museum.



**2.3.3d Coos Bay Boardwalk.** Along the eastern edge of Front Street, the Boardwalk is currently comprised of approximately .5 linear trail miles. Boardwalk trails are anticipated to expand in the coming years to the northerly section of Front Street. In the spirit of connectivity, in 2022 the City adopted the Front Street Blueprint noting a multi-modal trail expansion opportunity.



**2.3.4 Cultural Facilities.** Facilities owned by the City (Figure 6), and by others offer cultural experiences for residents and visitors. Resident and visitor community surveys indicated interest in these facilities, including the Coos Art Museum, Coos Bay History Museum, Coos Bay Library, Egyptian Theater, Oregon Coast Historical Railway Museum and Marshfield Sun Printing Museum. Community events, festivals, and organizations are also a draw and include but are not limited to the Dolphin Theater, Empire Clamboree, Blackberry Arts Festival, Fun Festival parade, Cruz the Coos, Farmers Market, Prefontaine Memorial Race, and the Annual Salmon Derby.

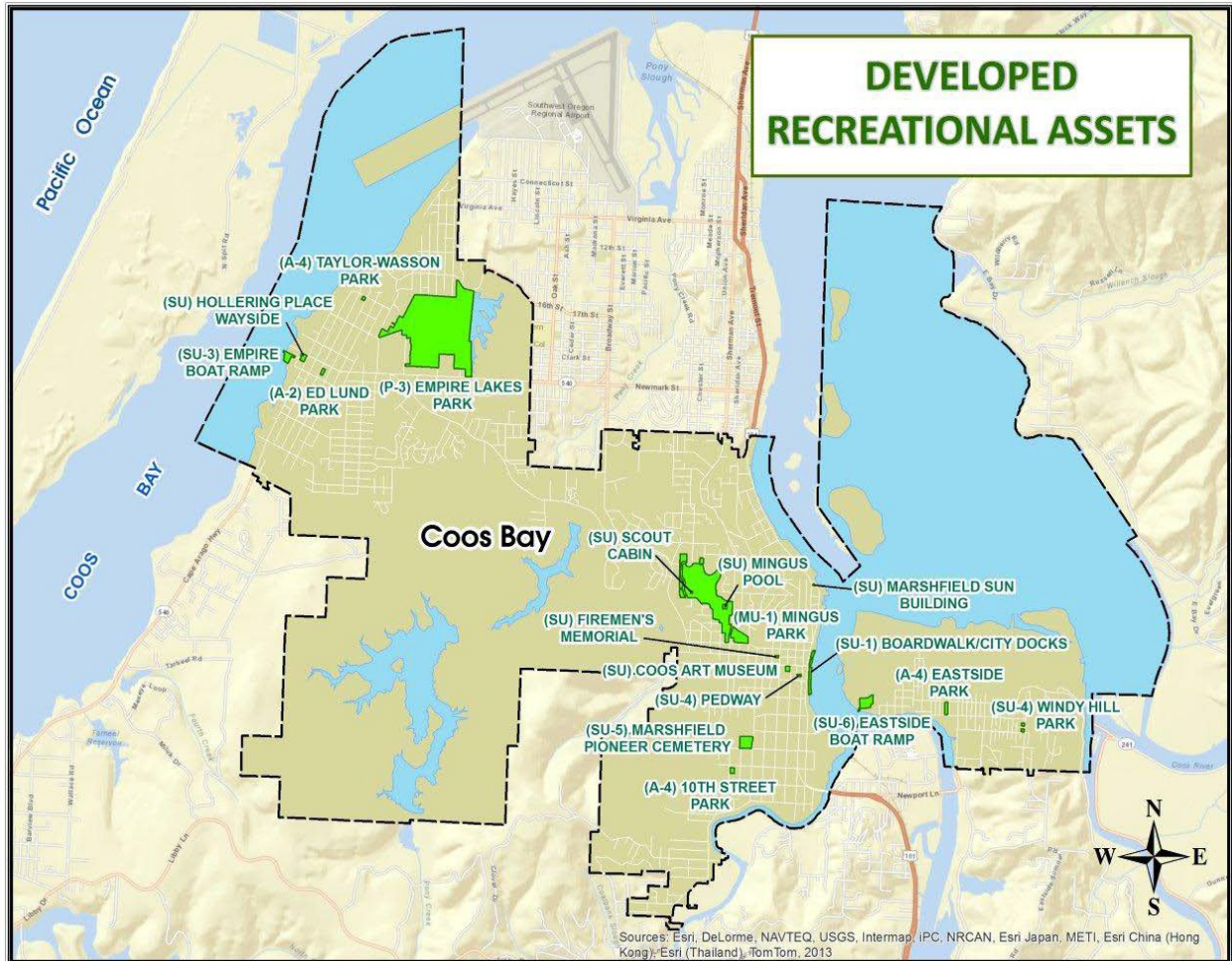
## **2.4 Park, Recreational and Cultural Facility and Improvement Recommendations.**

Section 2.4.1a identifies facilities and needed improvements that should be initiated when funding and staff capacity are available. The Parks Commission has recommended priority be placed on three projects noted in Section 2.4.1a in FY 2023/2024 at the beginning of the Plan’s ten year life. These projects include:

- 1) Mingus Pond dredging (see 2.4.1a(1));
- 2) Empire Lake bridge installation of bridges at John Topits Park (see 2.4.1a(2); and
- 3) Citywide branding of facilities (see 3.3 Goal 2, Objectives 1 and 2).

Section 2.4.1b provides historical context and information on the Coos Bay Firefighters Memorial.

Figure 6 City Owned Developed Recreational Assets





**2.4.1a Existing City Parks, Trail and Recreation Facilities.** Comprised of approximately 194 acres, City facilities are described in this section with a reference by number/location on Figure 6.

**1. Mingus Park,** featuring Choshi Gardens, ballfield, a disc golf course, skate park facility and tennis courts (MU-1) and Mingus Pool (SU). Mingus Park’s 55 acres comprise a fully developed multi-purpose park located at 725 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The Park offers a wide range of recreation experiences including forested natural areas, a ballfield complex, a skate park, tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic areas, pond frontage, disc golf course, and an extensive network of trails. Mingus Park is a favorite with walkers who stroll along the paved trail that borders the water and winds through the tranquil Choshi Gardens. The Park also includes a year-round 25-yard x 45-foot public pool managed by Mingus Park Pool Management and maintained by the City. The facility has a reception counter, office, showers, dressing rooms, and restrooms. Improvements for future consideration include:

- a) Rehabilitation or potential modification of tennis courts
- b) Dredging of Mingus Pond
- c) Update all park building structures
- d) Update of playground
- e) Resurfacing of asphalt trail
- f) Installation of fishing pier
- g) Subject to an engineering study to determine the best location, installation of a wetland bioswale.
- h) Resurfacing of the parking lots
- i) Installation of ballfield drainage system
- j) Installation of a park kiosk
- k) Installation of park bollards
- l) Skate park upgrades





2. **John Topits Park** featuring trails, restroom, playground equipment, picnicking areas and kayak launch (P-3). John Topits Park, located at 298-284 Hull St, is comprised of 113 acres with 5.5 miles of asphalt trail with a kayak launch to be added in 2023. As noted in Plan section 2.3.3b, portions of the Sawmill Trail pass the fringe of Empire Lakes to the trail conclusion at the Hollering Place. Trail markers and a kiosk inform visitors of trail locations. Improvements for future consideration include:

- a) Update of all park building structures (restroom, picnic shelter)
- b) Installation of new restroom upper parking lot
- c) Installation of new restroom lower parking lot
- d) Update of playground equipment
- e) Trail asphalt overlay
- f) Parking lot asphalt overlay
- g) Installation of two-foot bridges
- h) Installation of park benches
- i) Installation of a fishing pier
- j) Maintenance of park levies



**3. Boardwalk / City Docks (SU-1).** Located on the east side of U.S. Highway 101 at 200 Bayshore Drive, the Coos Bay Boardwalk includes a wood plank pier with a fish market, informative displays, outstanding view of Coos Bay, and the “Koos #2” a tugboat used on the Bay in years past. Adjacent to the Oregon Coast Historical Railway Museum at 766 South First St. in Coos Bay, the Boardwalk and City docks lease dock space from the Department State Lands. The City owns the top wearing surface of the asphalt trail adjacent to the boardwalk. The docks are equipped to accommodate short term and long-term moorage of various size vessels. Improvements for future consideration identified in 2012 and 2022 include:

- a) Replace board surface with maintenance friendly surface
- b) Install retaining wall/footing at the entry to the Boardwalk
- c) Install new flag poles
- d) Landscape trail slope in front of the Boardwalk
- e) Rehab Boardwalk structures
- f) Install new dock ramp access
- g) Expand moorage slips
- h) Install floating restroom/shower off dock
- i) Install fishing pier off Boardwalk
- j) Resurface asphalt trail

Expansion of the Boardwalk to the north is anticipated in the coming years with addition of overlooks to the Bay as identified in the City’s 2022 Front Street Blueprint. Ultimately the Boardwalk expansion will connect with the Coos History Museum Boardwalk.





4. **Empire Boat Ramp** (SU-3). Located at 201-235 Holland, this heavily used 2.8-acre area boat ramp facility is comprised of eight float docks accessed by residents and visitors from across the State and a fishing and crabbing pier. Improvements for future consideration include:

- a) Asphalt overlay of the parking lot, upgraded signs
- b) Installation of an information kiosk noting safety and rules
- c) Construction of a garbage enclosure
- d) Restroom upgrade and maintenance
- e) Updates of the fish cleaning station
- f) Installation of a boat washing station





**5. Eastside Boat Ramp (SU-6).** This seven-acre boat ramp on D Street needs the following:

- a) Updated landscape plan
- b) Upgrades and maintenance of the fish cleaning station
- c) Installation of a boat washing station
- d) Addition of signs
- e) Restroom enhancement



**6. Eastside Park (A-4).** Located between D and E Streets off of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Eastside Park, approximately 0.9 acres, has a playground, open grass, baseball backstop, picnic tables and a portable restroom. The access is unimproved with limited parking. There is a paved switch-back trail from D Street on the north. Needed improvements include:

- a) Update of playground equipment
- b) Expansion of playground area
- c) Installation of park benches and basketball courts



7. **Pirate Park (A-4).** Pirate Park is located at 1010 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The 0.72 acre park improvements were completed in partnership with the Marshfield High School Key Club with a playground, fall protection, border, park benches and basketball court. Needed improvements include:

- a) Addition of open turf
- b) Asphalt the entrance into the park
- c) ADA designated parking spot
- d) Consideration of additional parking
- e) Added signage similar to that at John Topits Park identifying playground / park rules, hours of operation, etc.
- f) Directional signs to Pirate Park
- g) Addition of concrete pad under portable restroom
- h) Addition of concrete pad for a bike rack
- i) Completion of work on the water fountain
- j) Pedestrian access from the top of 10<sup>th</sup> Street
- k) Installation of fencing around the park perimeter





**8. Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery / Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery (SU-5).** Founded by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the 3.86-acre Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery at S. 7<sup>th</sup> St. and Ingersoll Ave. was the region’s primary burying ground from 1888 until the early 1920s. In the 1940s, the City of Coos Bay became the Cemetery’s operating authority. The Cemetery contains about 1,960 burials and 1,100 grave markers, and has other contributing features such as 100+-year-old Monterey cypress trees, a 1915 veterans’ monument, and a 1930s PWA-funded rock retaining wall. Since 2004, a coalition of local stakeholders, with the backing of the City, has addressed many longstanding issues, funding many of these initiatives with grants and private donations. In 2012, in recognition of the Cemetery’s historic integrity and local importance, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Improvements for future consideration include:

- a) Preservation of the 392 grave markers in need of repair
- b) Pruning of the Cemetery’s historic trees by a certified historic arborist
- c) Repair of the rock retaining wall along Ingersoll Ave
- d) Install ADA-compliant pedestrian walkway at the Cemetery’s southwest corner in partnership with School District 9
- e) Complete concrete work for northeast landscaping bed at the Cemetery entrance.



**9. Ed Lund Park (A-2).** Located at 135 S. Wall is Ed Lund Park, this 0.8-acre Empire-area community gathering place has hosted the Coos Bay Clamboree event in years past. Channel 14 Public Broadcasting Network uses the Park's 735 square foot building. The park grounds are available as a community play area. Improvements for future consideration include:

- a) Update of the park building
- b) Update of the playground area



**10. Scout Cabin (S-U).** Constructed in the depression era, the Cabin is on the National Register of Historic Places. The 1,968 square foot cabin at 840 W. Park Roadway includes a rock fire place, electric, plumbing and natural landscape. Improvements needed include:

- a) Stabilizing the building foundation and structure repairs
- b) Upgrade the restroom, kitchen, HVAC system
- c) Upgrade the entrance and deck





**11. Taylor Wasson Park (A-4).** Located at the intersection of Taylor and Wasson, needed improvements at this 0.3-acre park include:

- a) A new playground
- b) Replacement of the asphalt path and
- c) Installation of park benches and picnic tables

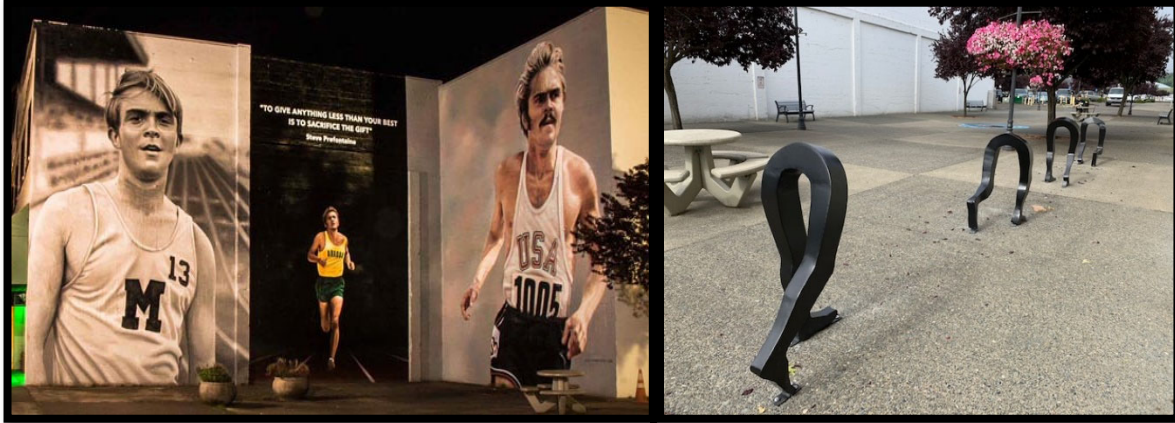


**12. Windy Hill Park (SU-4).** Located at the intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and F Street, Windy Hill Park includes one tennis court on 0.63 acres. The courts have never been resurfaced and there is not ample off-street parking. Improvements to consider include:

- a) Rehabilitation or potential modification of tennis courts
- b) Installation of a new fence
- c) Installation of park benches



**13. Preway (SU-4).** The Pedway is an 8,712 s.f. public court in a setting located between 2nd Court and Broadway just north of Curtis Avenue in downtown Coos Bay. The Pedway includes a concrete surface with benches, picnic tables, street landscape, and public art, including sculpture and Steve Prefontaine murals.



**2.4.1b Coos Bay Firefighters Memorial.** The Memorial is located at 495 Central Avenue across from Coos Bay City Hall. Noted on Figure 6 (SU) the Firefighters Memorial was designed by Coos Bay Firefighters to honor the memory of their lost brothers and is dedicated to the sacrifices of all firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty. The bronze sculpture was created by artist Mack Holman. The Memorial includes bricks with personal messages from supporters. The Memorial offers a location for rest and quiet contemplation.



**2.4.2 City Owned Cultural Facilities.** Multiple buildings, owned but not operated by the City, are used as cultural facilities. Available for resident and visitor enjoyment, these buildings are maintained, managed and operated by private not-for-profit groups. The use of and maintenance for each facility is subject to an agreement between the City and the not-for profit group board of directors that has established the building's use as a city cultural resource.



a) **Coos Art Museum.** This 23,840 square foot art-deco museum is located at 235 Anderson Street. Nominated for National Register of Historic Places recognition and Oregon’s 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest art museum with quality exhibits and educational programs, it is available for public viewing, gallery, meeting and education room uses. Exterior sculptures and landscaping round out its exterior. The museum motto is: *COOS ART MUSEUM IS THE CORNERSTONE OF VISUAL ARTS ON OREGON’S SOUTHERN COAST. Through collections, exhibitions, and educational programs, we build an arts and cultural community by prompting the appreciation, understanding, and expression of visual art.* Needed improvements include HVAC and lighting updates, dock renovation and exterior windows.



b) **Egyptian Theater.** Located at 229 South Broadway and included in the National Register of Historic Places, the Egyptian Theater is owned by the City but leased to the Egyptian Theater Preservation Association who note: *The mission of the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association is to renovate, preserve and operate the historic Egyptian Theatre as a performing arts and entertainment center and to improve the economic vitality and quality of life of the community by offering programs of cultural and educational value.* The Association Board and Executive Director collaborate with the City when bilding improvements are needed, and seek out funding for theater events.



c) **Marshfield Sun Printing Museum.** Located at 1049 Front Street and built in 1895, this 2,018 square foot building is where the Marshfield Sun Newspaper was published from 1891 to 1944. The Museum is on the National Register of Historic Places and features the original equipment of the Marshfield Sun Newspaper and exhibits on printing and local history. Needed improvements include:

- 1) Restroom renovation
- 2) Renovation/preservation of the lower floor
- 3) Construction of off-street parking





c) **Coos Bay Library.** Located at 525 Anderson and staffed with professional city employees and overseen by a seven-member library board, the Coos Bay Public Library mission statement notes that: *Coos Bay Public Library connects our community to information in various forms, ensures equitable access to information and technology, and provides opportunities for learning, cultural enrichment and improved quality of life.* Originally constructed in 1950's, multiple improvements have been made to the building. In 2021, the City Council established a goal to build a new library at another location. Regardless of the library location, the facility will continue to provide valuable resident and visitor community recreational and cultural services.



### Chapter 3: Framework for the Future

The Plan is guided by a Council vision to: *“Create a safe, clean and inviting City that protects and enhances our unique culture, history, and environment by working in a collaborative partnership that creates opportunities for the South Coast Region ...”*

**3.1 Council Leadership.** Council’s vision is reflected in the Plan to improve City parks, recreational and cultural facilities. Council goals consistently include working with key partners, engaging in economic development, strong communication between City government and citizens, and enhancement of and funding for City facilities.

**3.2 Community Vision.** As previously noted, resident and visitor comments were solicited by the City in mid-2022 regarding the Plan’s focus. Resident and community feedback is reflected in Plan section 3.3. Plan Goals and Objectives with all comments found in Appendix A. Multiple themes were noted from the surveys with many responses to:

- A. Renovate/maintain existing facilities: Improvements noted as a need by many were upgrades for equipment, space improvements, park structures and trail improvements.
- B. Identify Key parks: Mingus and John Topits Parks were identified as the top two parks visited in the City.
- C. Express concern for public safety: Illegal camping and vandalism were repeatedly noted as concerns and an impediment to park use, with multiple comments asking for a stronger police presence.

- D. Support trail connectivity: Multiple comments addressed trail connectivity in the City’s parks.
- E. Expand the Boardwalk: Boardwalk expansion was repeatedly noted.
- F. Express opinions on the Library location: Support for and against library relocation was included in the survey responses.
- G. Support of the Scout Cabin: Scout Cabin improvements and use were supported by many.
- H. Support the Millicoma Marsh Trail: There was strong community interest in the Port of Coos Bay/Coos Bay School District Millicoma Marsh trail.

Other comments indicated interest in the addition of sports field, redesign of Eastside park, replacement of tennis courts with pickleball and improvements to boat launches. Should there be interest, funding and staff capacity in the future for new park features and facilities, Appendix B provides general standards for consideration for new park development; this information mirrors information developed as a part of the 2013/2023 Parks Master Plan.

**3.3 Plan Goals and Objectives.** Four (4) Plan goals are accompanied by multiple objectives based on community feedback, Parks Commission recommendations and Council direction. While the goals provide a “big picture”; the goal objectives spell out in greater detail the “how” of goal attainment.

**Goal 1: Enhance existing facilities for public enjoyment, safety and maintenance and consider new facilities when opportunity and financial capacity are available.**

**Objective 1:** Be consistent with Oregon’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and Oregon land use law related to archeological resources in collaboration with Tribal partners when improving or developing facilities. Improvements to or development of new facilities will be consistent with SCORP and subject to the City of Coos Bay Comprehensive Plan and Development Code.

**Objective 2:** Develop baseline information for facilities. Create and maintain individual site plans (floor plans for City structures) identifying location and amenity types and locations for all City parks, recreational and cultural facilities. Plans in areas associated with archeological resources will include a heritage management plan component.

**Objective 3:** Management plans will comply with SCORP. Develop management plans for individual parks, recreational and cultural facilities that align with SCORP goals and objectives.

**Objective 4:** Collaborate with others. Collaborate with the public, federal, state, local agencies, cultural resource facility boards, tribes, staff, and others to achieve parks, recreational and cultural facilities success.

**Objective 5: Best Practices.** Use best practices to renovate and maintain facilities to protect investments, enhance user safety and accessibility, maximize maintenance efficiency and support recreational and cultural activities.

**Objective 6: Joint public facilities.** When determined to be feasible and appropriate, co-locate park facilities such as parks, natural open space, trails, and trailheads with other existing or proposed public facilities to maximize public benefit.

**Objective 7: Safety is a priority.** Perform selected safety audits on parks and facilities to develop solutions to alleviate citizen safety concerns.

**Objective 8: Public Art.** Maintain, improve and enhance existing public art in City parks, buildings, and recreational facilities.

**Objective 9: Shared Public Infrastructure.** When possible, utilize existing infrastructure or planned infrastructure development (such as street projects) to support and enhance existing and new park, facility, and trail development. Consider joint development when possible.

**Objective 10: Maintenance and Service.** The City's maintenance of parks, recreational and cultural facilities for user health, safety, cleanliness, intended recreational use and resource protection. Maintenance of cultural resource areas shall include compliance with heritage management plans and staff/volunteers trained on these plans.

**Goal 2: Develop Citywide Branding of Facilities. Facilitate parks and cultural directional and facility identification with City branding to enhance resident and visitor connectivity to these valuable facilities.**

**Objective 1: Use City branding for existing resources.** Beginning with the downtown boardwalk, use City branding on right of way signage identifying locations of City owned property for existing waterfront trail systems, park linkages, recreational and cultural highlights and connections to other Coos Bay destinations.

**Objective 2: Expand City branding for new resources.** Use City branding on right of way signage to establish connectivity with development of new facilities. This would include but not be limited to public improvements along the Coos Bay Boardwalk when it is extended to Front Street, Front Street Bay overlooks, Coos History Museum boardwalk and others.

**Goal 3 Pursue Sustainable Funding Sources. Seek out a wide variety of funding resources identified in the Plan and elsewhere.**

**Objective 1: Support historic and cultural facility funding opportunities.** Encourage funding pursuits of historic and cultural facility boards such as but not limited to the Egyptian Theater board, the Coos Art Museum board, the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery board and Marshfield Sun Printing Museum board.

**Objective 2: Partner with others for funding.** Partner with others for funding; partnerships may include but are not limited to grant writing, mutual letters of support, public presentations, “adopt-a park/trail” groups and “Friends of” organizations for on-going fundraising efforts.

#### **Goal 4 Build and Enhance Relationships for Plan Implementation.**

**Objective 1: Identify and Engage Partners.** Multiple partnership opportunities will be identified to engage Plan implementation. Partners may include but not limited to the Coos Bay/North Bend/Charleston Visitor and Convention Bureau, Coos Bay Downtown Association, service groups, Chamber of Commerce and their respective Boards and Executive Directors.

**Objective 2: Work with others to promote events.** Ongoing engagement with the Coos Bay Downtown Association, Community Coalition of Empire and other groups will continue to showcase City parks, cultural facilities and events, such as but not limited to the Farmers Market, Blackberry Arts Festival, Empire Clamboree, Music on the Bay, Fun Festival and other associated events etc.

**Objective 3: Share information.** Through the City’s on-line newsletter and website, provide ongoing updates to identify park and cultural facility improvements and events with identification of funding and resources.

**Objective 4: Comply with natural resource management agency requirements.** Within available resources, plan, design and maintain all aspects of City owned recreational and cultural facilities consistent with federal and state fire, flood control, historic and cultural preservation (SHPO) and other natural and cultural resource management requirements.

**3.4 Funding Options.** Funding options for consideration are typically limited in scope and can only be used to fund specific types of projects or improvements. The options noted below are general in nature, but Appendix C provides specific grant funding opportunities and resources.

#### **Public Options**

**General Fund for operations and maintenance of park assets:** Provides funding for operations and maintenance of park assets through the Parks Division. As noted in Appendix C.1, the FY 2022/2023 budget for Parks is \$422,200.

**Capital Improvement Fund** provides limited funding for parks. One source of these capital funds in the past is timber harvest revenue and a private annuity donation.

**General Obligation Bond:** This bond option requires voter approval of authority to levy an assessment on real property. Funding can be used for capital improvements but not furnishings, fixtures, equipment, or on-going maintenance. The bond is levied for up to 20 years under the City’s debt policies. As with local option levies, passage requires a double majority unless during a general election in even-numbered years. This type of property tax does not affect the overall tax rate limitation as described in the Local Option Levy.



**Local Option Levy:** This is a property tax assessment for construction, operation, and/or maintenance of parks and facilities. This type of levy is established for a given rate or amount for up to five years or in the case of capital only up to ten years. Passage requires a double majority (a majority of registered voters must vote and a majority of those voting must approve the measure), unless during a general election in even-numbered years in which case a simple majority is required. Local option levies have become more difficult to pass in Oregon because of the double-majority requirement.

**Local Improvement District:** A Local Improvement District (LID) can subsidize specific parks related capital improvement projects. An LID is a method whereby a group of property owners can share in the cost of improvements. Financing is typically offered for up to 20 years, with the first payment not due until the project is completed.

**General Fund annual earmark of funds for grant matches.** The City identifies on an annual basis upcoming grant opportunities requiring a fund match and earmark funds accordingly.

**Grants:** Federal, State, foundation and private grant resources are available for a variety of facility improvements, acquisition and planning. Grants typically require a City funding or time/materials match.

**Public/Private Partnerships:** City engagement with a working agreement with a private business or nonprofit entities, including but not limited to service groups, “Friends of” or “Adopt a Park or trail” groups could be considered to fund, build, and/or operate a public facility. Incentives for partnerships the City could consider are land, certain tax advantages, and access to the facility/site.

**Local Taxes:** Taxes specifically targeted for a revenue stream for public facilities. For example, the City of Ashland, Oregon charges a 5% tax on prepared foods in restaurants and other City food sales locations; of which 25% of the tax revenue is used for acquisition, planning, development, repair and rehabilitation of City parks.

**Earned Income:** Food, beverage, and merchandise vendors or concessionaires that operate restaurants, coffee-kiosks, or other revenue-generating facilities in parks also can generate excess revenues to support the parks system.

**System Development Charges:** Systems development charges (SDC) can be considered for new development and acquisition of new parks and natural areas. Since SDCs are paid for by new development, the fees are meant to fund capacity enhancement projects needed as a result of the development. SDCs can’t be used for the preservation and maintenance of existing parks and facilities.

### **Private options**

**Land Trusts:** Land trusts conserve natural areas and parks as privately owned assets and serve as a tool for legal guardianship of property. Parklands can then be sustained as privately owned public assets for public uses but include a Trust’s responsibility maintenance, expansion and improvements and security. Land Trusts are most commonly developed by non-profit

organizations. Land Trusts also generate all revenue to support the park. Typically, this type of arrangement involves an agreement between a non-profit and a City, with the City granting control to the Trust over revenue generated in the park.

**Donations:** Donations of labor, land, materials, or cash by service agencies, private groups, or individuals is a popular way to either raise small amounts of money for specific projects or provide the labor for project completion. Subject to liability waivers and an agreement for the donation, small projects such as picnic shelters or playground improvements or larger aspects of park improvements can be undertaken. An example of a cash donation is a recent generous resident donation to the City's Capital Improvement fund. Examples of Coos Bay parks and trail projects that could potentially be considered for donation include but are not limited to (subject to City standards and authorization) installation of trails, play equipment and public art, trash clean up, trail maintenance, painting park benches, invasive species mitigation/removal, cleaning playground equipment, repairing park equipment, donation of equipment, materials, time, and energy to maintain the City's park system.

**Donation Catalog:** Related to Donations, the City can establish a gift catalog for benches, picnic tables, bike racks, trees, etc. for donations. Typically, a gift catalog includes images and donation costs for installation and maintenance over a certain number of years.