



INDEPENDENCE RIVERFRONT

SECTION XII:
RIVERFRONT
RECOMMENDATIONS



SECTION XII RIVERFRONT RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 INTRODUCTION

A city's waterfront is perhaps its most important public space. Over the past one hundred years, waterfronts have been evolving from sites for industrial commerce to areas that have tremendous opportunity for a city. Making the transition from working waterfront (such as the Valley Concrete site) to public open space with a range of recreation facilities and city amenities is a challenging opportunity. Today, more and more cities across the nation are embracing their waterfronts and considering access, recreation, and economic development as significant drivers for city renewal.

The City of Independence is in a prime and enviable position as a city with almost complete ownership of its riverfront property stretching from the Independence Sports Park south of the bridge for almost two and one half miles. Most waterfronts and riverfronts across the state of Oregon have been privatized by residential development, others are cut off from the rest of the city by roads, highways, or railroad, and most have large sewage treatment facilities which block their prime waterfront access.

It is a great challenge to provide the City of Independence's riverfront with visionary planning and structure while at the same time maintain the city's historical character, identity, atmosphere and aesthetic qualities. Up until this time, no master plan has been established for the waterfront describing how it should be developed. There have been several development plans and projects put forth to support the development of certain areas, however they have not been structured as part of an overall master plan or as a consideration of the overall parks, trails, and natural areas system. The City of Independence recognized the importance of the Willamette River to its identity and future and is poised for new growth and businesses within the riverfront that will create new places to work, new public spaces, and attractions where art, recreation, nature, and urban culture are integrated as one.

12.2 SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A key item identified continuously throughout the public engagement process included utilizing the Willamette River for accessible recreation with a focus on safety and sustaining the environmental importance of the river. In fact, the highest ranked item in priorities as communicated by the public was providing access to the Willamette River. Throughout the planning process, community outreach and city staff input, the following recommendations for the Independence riverfront have been compiled:

Recommendation W - 1: Build Independence Sports Park.

Recommendation W - 2: Build group shelters, playgrounds, and nature play areas to accommodate group activities.

Recommendation W - 3: Provide kayak launch floating dock to accommodate kayakers and canoes at the old boat launch site.

Recommendation W - 4: Acquire remaining gaps in City ownership of the riverfront including Bill Leedy property, property adjacent to well fields, and property near City Hall as final linkages to complete riverfront system.

Recommendation W - 5: Finalize and build Riverwalk trail facility as an ADA accessible and multimodal pathway.

Recommendation W - 6: Create improved Riverview Park improvements including new parking, circulation, splash pad, nature play areas, and River Steps/River Promenade.

Recommendation W - 7: Provide alternative sports concept park with pump track and skate park adjacent to Dog park.

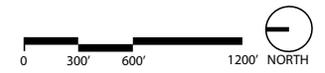
Recommendation W - 8: Provide community orchard and group shelter for public access and education to food and fruit production.

Recommendation W - 9: Provide splash pad and riverfront park extension on Valley Concrete site.

Recommendation W - 10: Foster riverfront restoration, encourage native riparian species along riverfront and partner with Volunteer groups for non-0 native species removal.

Recommendation W - 11: Foster multiple connections from Riverfront Park to the City Street system.

Section XII: Figure 1 - Overall Riverview Master Plan



Parks, Trails, and Open Space System Master Plan: Riverview Park Conceptual Overall Siteplan
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, OREGON



RIVERFRONT RECOMMENDATIONS

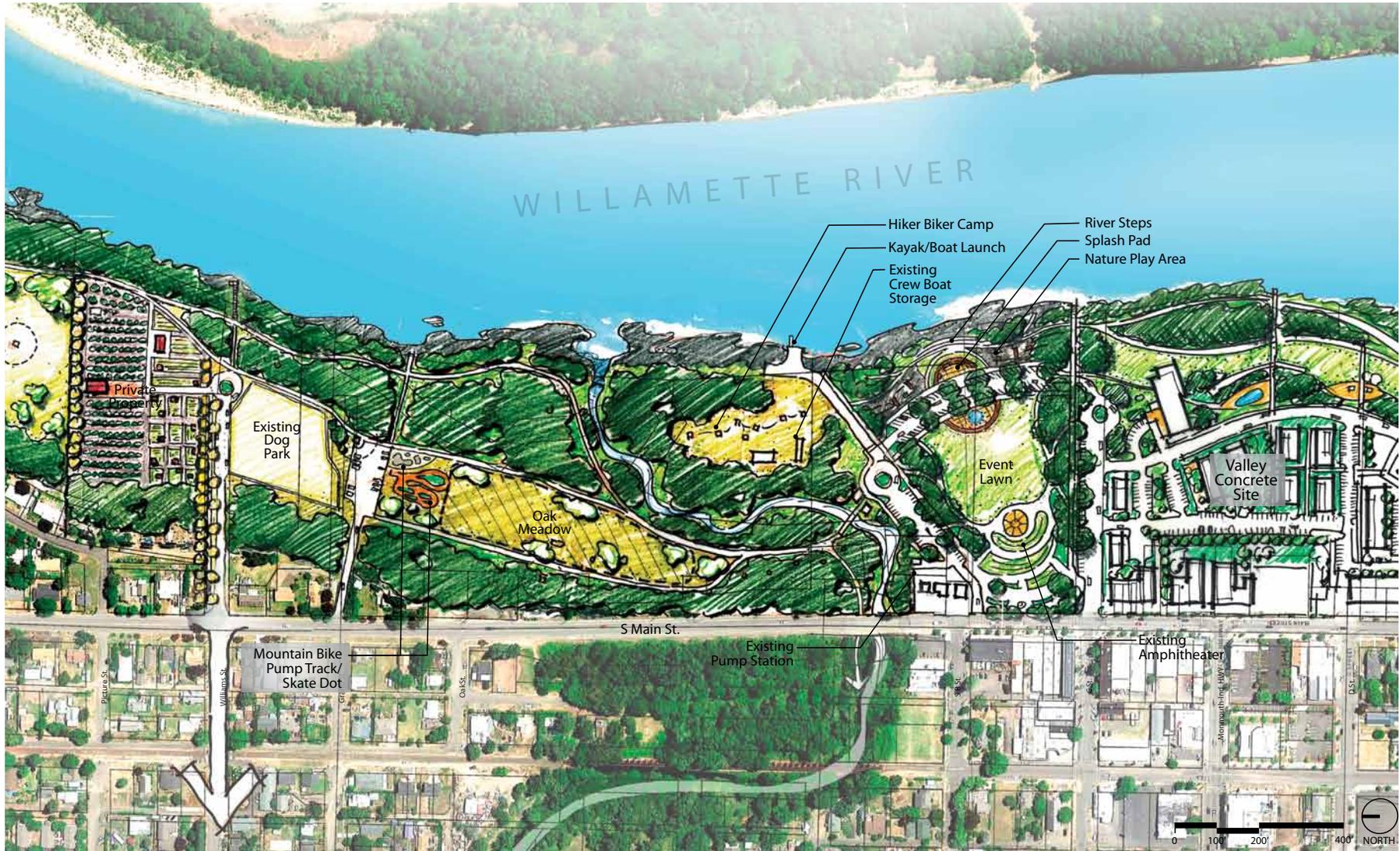
Section XII : Figure 2- Overall Riverview Master Plan-Area 1



Parks, Trails, and Open Space System Master Plan: Waterfront Conceptual Overall Siteplan-Area 1
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, OREGON



Section XII : Figure 3 - Overall Riverview Master Plan-Area 2

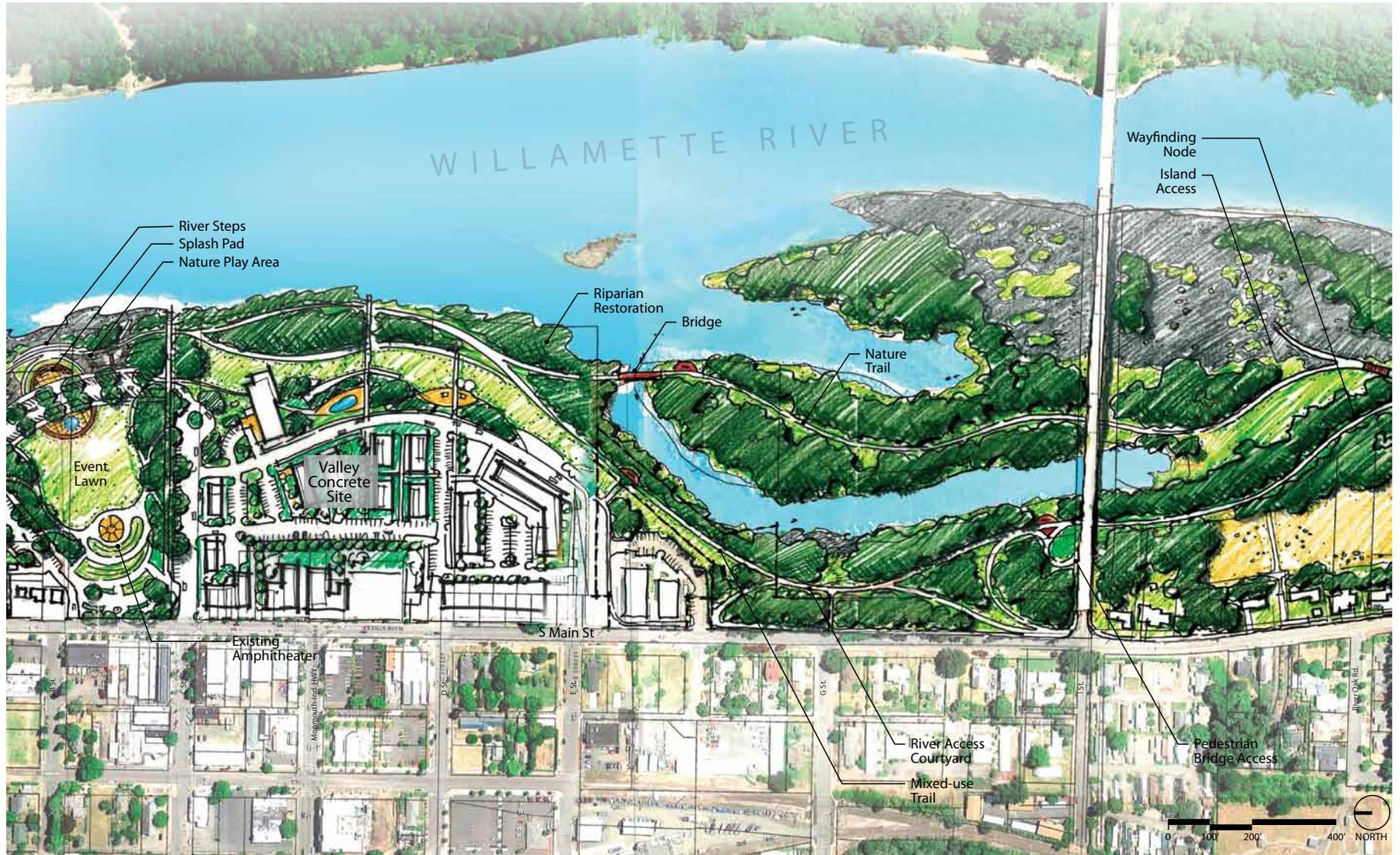


Parks, Trails, and Open Space System Master Plan: **Waterfront Conceptual Overall Siteplan-Area 2**

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, OREGON



Section : Figure XII - Overall Riverview Master Plan-Area 3



Parks, Trails, and Open Space System Master Plan: Waterfront Conceptual Overall Siteplan-Area 3
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, OREGON



Section : Figure XII - Overall Riverview Master Plan-Area 4



Parks, Trails, and Open Space System Master Plan: **Waterfront Conceptual Overall Siteplan-Area 4**
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