



INDEPENDENCE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

SECTION XII:
RIVERFRONT
RECOMMENDATIONS

SECTION XII RIVERFRONT RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 INTRODUCTION

A city's waterfront is perhaps its most important public space. Historically, urban 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 unique city in Oregon with almost complete ownership of its riverfront property stretching from the Independence Sports Park to south of the River Road bridge for almost two and one half total 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 highways or the 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 discreet areas; however, they have not been structured as part of an overall riverfront 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 was the importance of the Willamette River, utilizing the river for accessible recreation with a focus on safety and sustaining its environmental importance. 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 – a: Build Independence Sports Park.

Recommendation – b: Build group shelters, playgrounds, and nature play areas to accommodate group activities.

Recommendation – c: Provide kayak launch floating dock to accommodate kayakers and canoes at the old boat launch site while maintaining boat launch area for non-motorized boats.

Recommendation – d: Obtain remaining gaps in City ownership of the riverfront by acquiring properties adjacent to well fields and properties near City Hall as final linkages to complete the overall riverfront system.

Recommendation – e: Finalize and build Riverwalk Trail facility as an ADA accessible and multimodal pathway.

Recommendation – f: Provide Riverview Park improvements including new parking, circulation, splash pad, nature play areas, and River Steps/River Promenade.

Recommendation – g: Provide alternative sports concept park with pump track and skate park adjacent to existing Dog Park.

Recommendation – h: Provide community orchard and group shelter for public access and education to food and fruit production.

Recommendation – i: Provide splash pad, connect Riverwalk trail and implement riverfront park extension on Valley Concrete site.

Recommendation – j: Foster riverfront restoration, encourage native riparian species along riverfront and partner with Volunteer groups and other partner groups for non-native species removal and restoration activities.

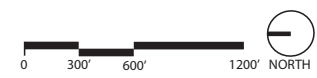
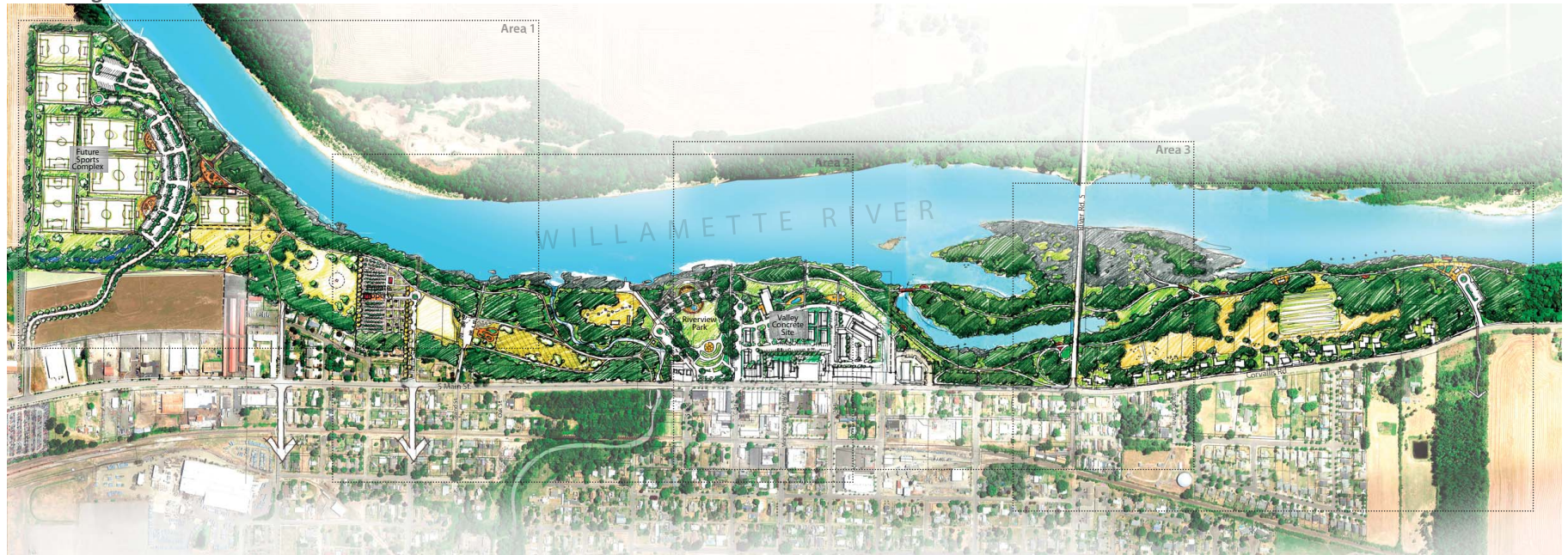
Recommendation – k: Foster multiple connections from Riverfront Park to the City transportation system.

Recommendation – l: Provide wayfinding and interpretive signage system to enhance visitor experience, to orient visitors to Riverfront Park, and to navigate facilities and amenities on site.

Recommendation – m: Explore partnerships to foster additional programs and facilities reflecting community needs within the riverfront that complements the overall vision for the riverfront and the Willamette Greenway as a recreational and natural resource corridor.

Recommendation – n: Develop a broad strategy for sustaining natural watershed health and maintaining effective stormwater management when implementing developments within the riverfront system.

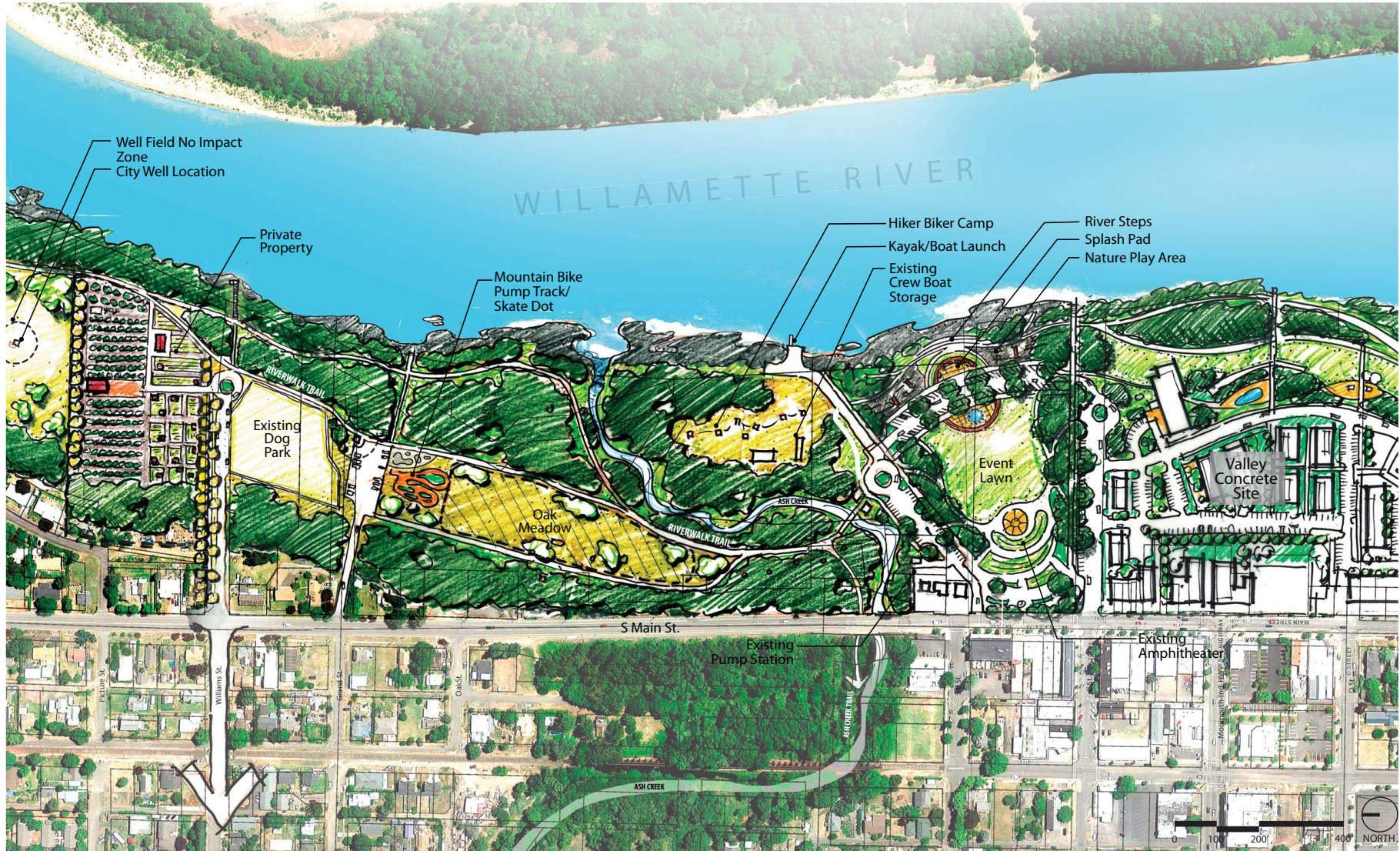
Section XII: Figure 1 - Overall Riverview Master Plan



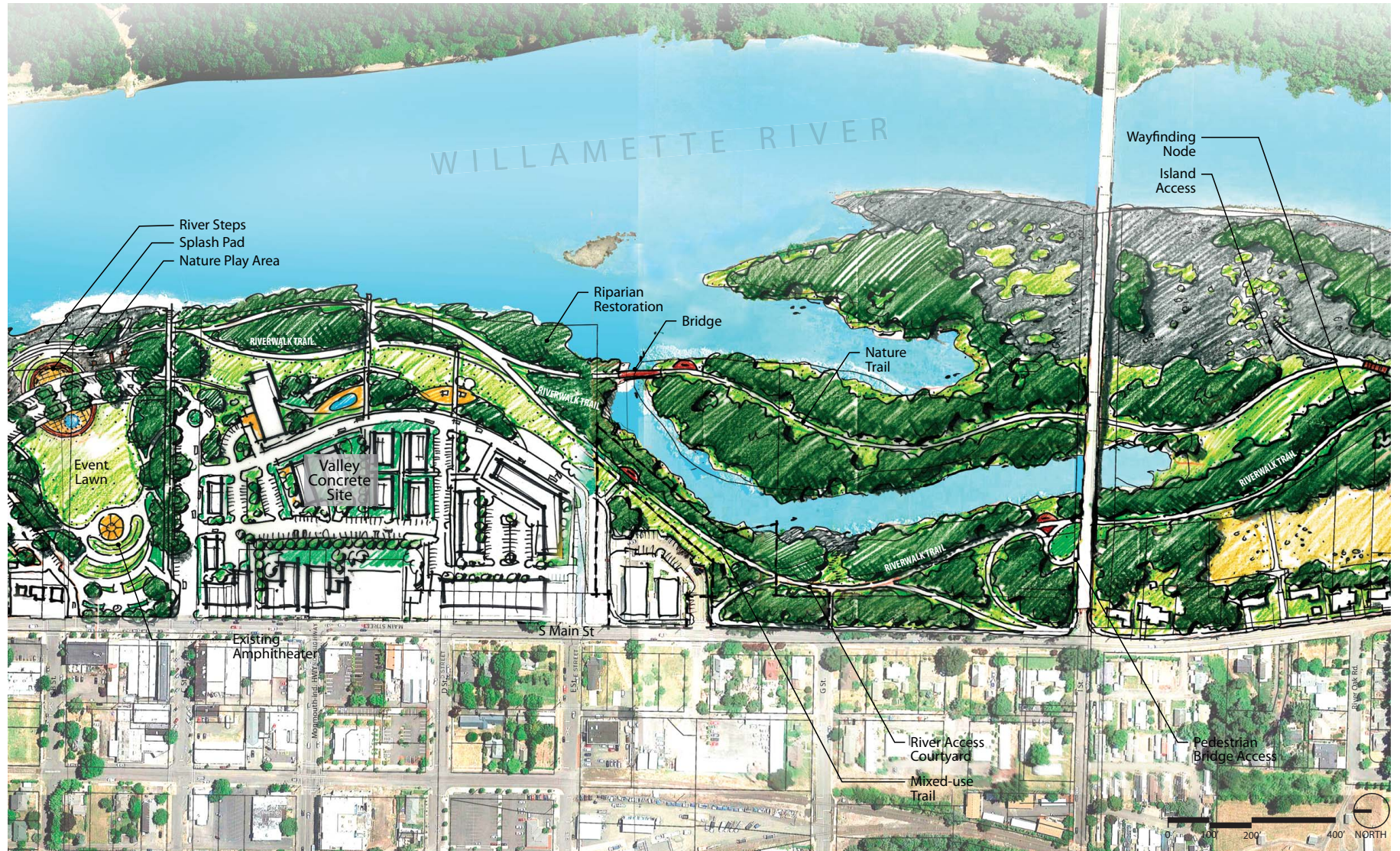
Section XII : Figure 2- Overall Riverview Master Plan-Area 1



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



Section XII: Figure 4 - Overall Riverview Master Plan-Area 3



Section XII: Figure 5 - Overall Riverview Master Plan-Area 4

