



INDEPENDENCE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

**SECTION VI:
ASSET INVENTORY**

SECTION VI: ASSET INVENTORY

6.1 INTRODUCTION

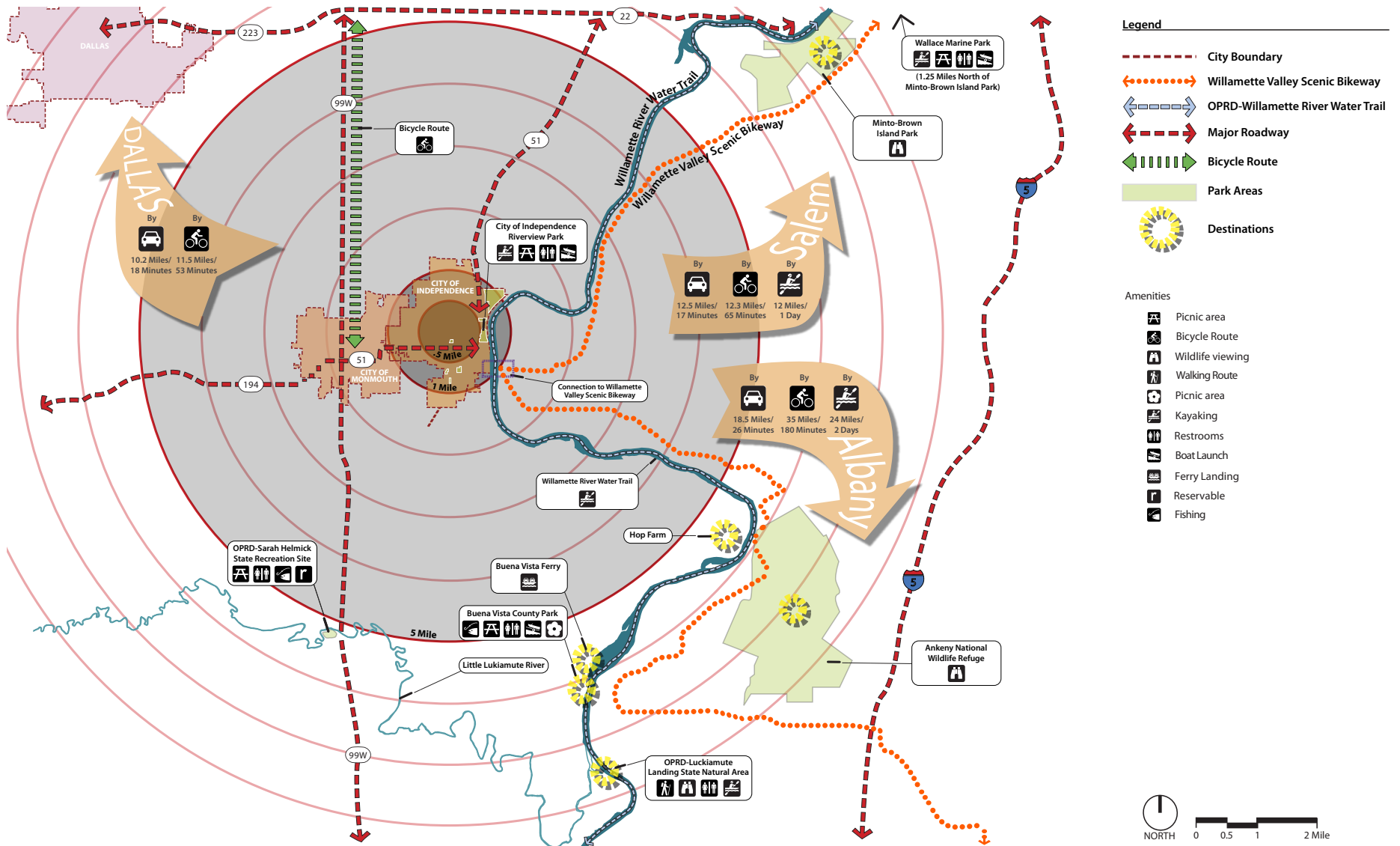
This section provides an overview of the existing conditions of individual assets within the City of Independence's parks, trails and natural resource system. The inventory of Independence's parks, trails, and natural areas are reviewed and presented in the following order: regional context, natural resources inventory, wayfinding and signage and individual parks inventory

6.2 REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Independence is set geographically in the heart of the Mid-Willamette Valley and Polk County. Oregon's iconic Willamette River borders eastern Polk County, and the county landscape is furrowed with many creeks and streams flowing in its direction. Independence has a prominent location on the Willamette River with a continuous two and one half miles of waterfront uninterrupted by roads, infrastructure, or railroads which would separate its residents from their river access.

Agriculture is the main economic activity of Polk County. At the beginning of the 20th century, hops and prunes were major crops, and at one time there were nearly 4,000 acres of hops growing in Polk County. This exceeds the acreage in vineyards today. A Century Farm is home to the Rogue (Brewery) Farms hop yards, and hop farming is making a comeback with the resurgence of interest in artisan beers for which Oregon is a major center of production. The region is branded as Oregon Wine Country. Wine grapes are a major agricultural product. Despite its small size, Polk County ranks third statewide in production of wine grapes. Independence's idyllic and pastoral landscape provides a beautiful setting for the historic city. **Figure 1** provides an overall view of the regional context of Independence and the amenities and resources available at the regional level.

Section VI: Figure 1 - Regional Context



Parks, Trails, and Open Space System Master Plan: **Regional Context**
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, OREGON

REGIONAL MAPS-NOVEMBER 7, 2014



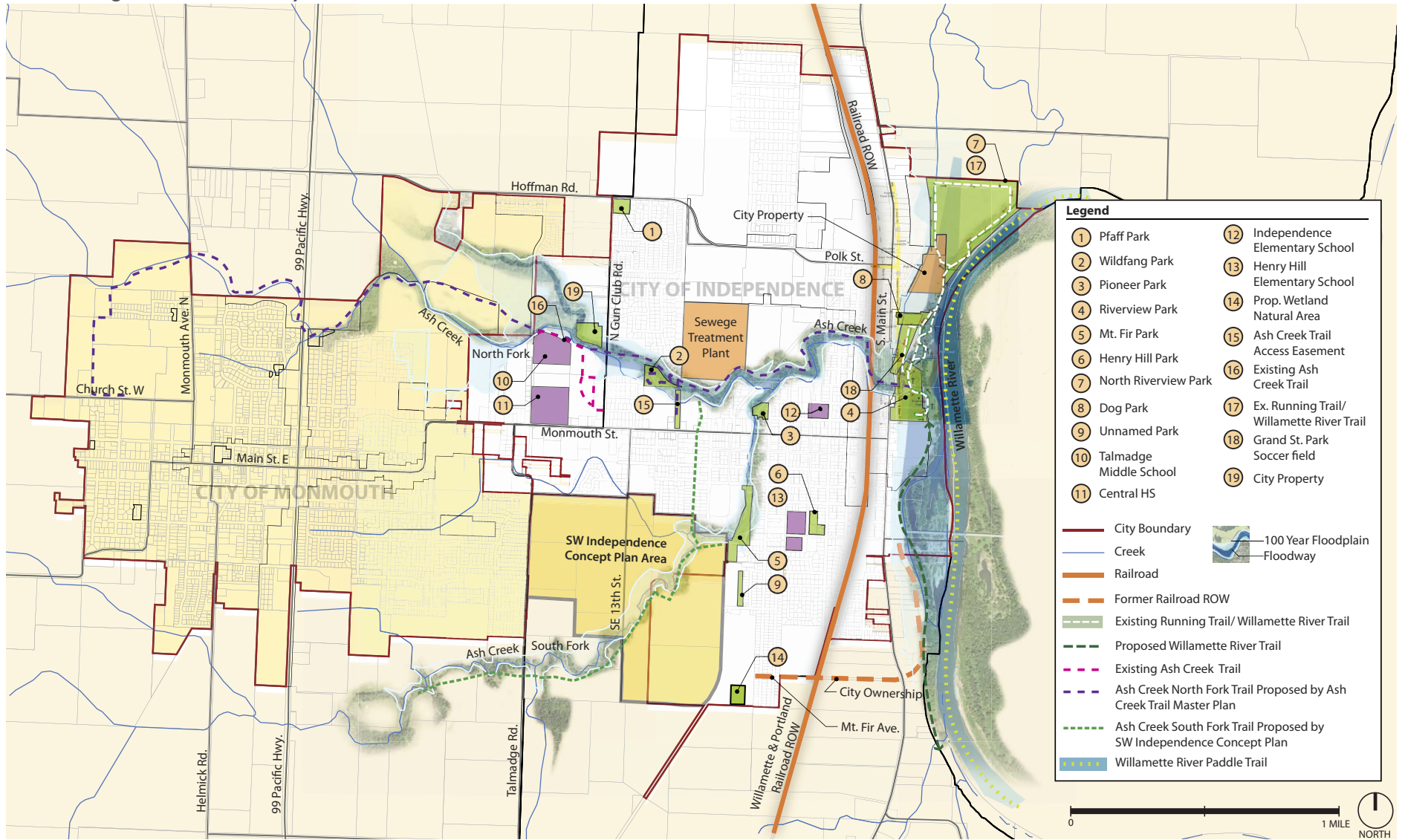
6.3 OVERALL PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

The City of Independence has a varied and rich inventory of existing parks, trails, and natural areas that contribute to the overall quality of life for its residents. The City recognizes that parks and open space add to the quality of life and are essential components for a livable city. Parks and recreation also contribute to health and wellness, build stronger families, improve the air and water quality of the city, and provide economic value. Creating places to recreate and enjoy nature will provide a number of benefits to the entire community.

The City of Independence has currently nine parks in its inventory creating a total of 114.27 acres of parks for its residents. These parks range in definition and classification from Mini-Neighborhood Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Special Use Parks, and Natural Areas.

Figure 2 provides an overall view of the existing parks, trails and natural resources researched in the inventory phase to develop a base plan map of Independence's parks system.

Section VI: Figure 2 - Overall Park System



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

August 14, 2014



6.4 NATURAL RESOURCES REVIEW

Pacific Habitat Services (PHS) conducted a review of natural resources in six parks within the City of Independence. These parks are: Wildfang Park, Pioneer Park, Riverview Park, Mt. Fir Park, North Riverview Park, and Dog Park.

WILDFANG PARK

Wildfang Park is located north of Monmouth Street (Highway 51) and is accessed via a Pacific Power and Light (PPL) easement. The North Fork of Ash Creek flows to the east through the park. The creek provides rearing and migration habitat for spring Chinook and winter steelhead, which are both listed as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The reach of the creek flowing through the park is characterized as a low gradient stream, with a large floodplain and a slope of less than 1%. The bed of the creek is approximately 20 feet below the highest elevations within the property.

The majority of the vegetation in the park is within the creek's riparian area. Dominant vegetation along the creek banks is Himalayan blackberry. Oregon ash, red alder, and cottonwood trees dominate the wetter, more frequently flooded portions of the park nearer the creek, with Douglas fir dominating the higher, drier areas further from the creek. There is no bridge crossing of the creek and the PPL easement is locked to the public, so access to the park is restricted.

To the south of the creek and within the easement, is a channel that historically was likely an active fish-bearing tributary. It appears to be inundated year round, but flow within the channel is essentially stagnant and water quality is poor; there is no apparent year-round connection to the creek. Its banks are dominated by non-natives species, such as reed canarygrass and Himalayan blackberry, but also by native species, such as Pacific ninebark and Douglas Hawthorn.

The majority of the park is mapped with cove silty clay loam soils; a hydric (wetland) soil. A wetland determination was not conducted for this assessment, but wetland areas may exist in portions of the park. A wetland has been delineated to the south of the channel within the PPL easement (ESA Adolphson, 2007). This lower quality wetland is seasonally saturated and is dominated by non-native pasture grasses.

Figure 3 shows the former tributary of Ash Creek. The water quality of the creek is poor. The banks of the channel, within the easement, are primarily dominated by non-native species, such as reed canarygrass and Himalayan blackberry.

Section VI: Figure 3 - Former tributary of Ash Creek



Section VI: Figure 4 - Beaver dam within the north end of Ash Creek



MT. FIR PARK

Mt. Fir Park is an approximately 7-acre park that is located to the west of S 7th Street. The South Fork of Ash Creek flows to the north along the park's western property boundary. For decades a concrete dam operated by the Mountain Fir Lumber Company was intact within the creek. It created a holding pond for lumber and effectively blocked fish passage. In 2007 the dam was removed as part of a multi-agency project organized by the Luckiamute Watershed Council. The removal of the dam allows rearing and migration habitat for winter steelhead and Chinook salmon. Although the concrete dam has been removed, beavers have created a dam within the creek near the same location.

Section VI: Figure 5 - Restored riparian area, with plants less than 10 years old along Mt. Fir Park and Ash Creek



The riparian area along the eastern bank of the creek has been restored with native trees and shrubs and many of the non-native species have been removed. Dominant native species include willows, Douglas fir, Spiraea, and dogwood. The dominant non-native species present within the creek and along portions of the bank is reed canarygrass. This is also the dominant herbaceous plant within a large wetland that is present along the creek banks within the southern portion of the park. The dominant woody vegetation within the wetland is willow, which forms a dense thicket. No other wetlands exist within the park.

Figure 4 shows the beaver dam within the north end of the creek. **Figure 5** shows the restored riparian area, with plants less than 10 years old.

Section VI: Figure 6 - Shows the east bank of the South Fork of Ash Creek



PIONEER PARK

Pioneer Park is located at the corner of 7th Street and C Street. Approximately half of the park's area is relatively flat and dominated by a stand of mature Oregon white oak and Douglas fir trees, with a mowed lawn. This area of the park is actively used (play equipment is adjacent) and the native understory has been removed. This portion of the park is mapped with Woodburn silt loam, a well-drained soil generally found in uplands. The park is located near the confluence of the South Fork of Ash Creek and the main stem of Ash Creek. The creeks provide rearing and migration habitat for winter steelhead and Chinook salmon. The riparian areas of the creeks slope down to the west. The riparian areas are mapped as Coburg silty clay loam, which though not as well drained as the Woodburn soil, is still indicative of upland areas. No wetlands were observed along the creeks.

Section VI: Figure 7 - Shows the mowed lawn beneath the Oregon white oak stand within the more active portion of the park



The dominant trees within the riparian areas are Oregon ash and big leaf maple. Non-native species, such as Himalayan blackberry, have been partially removed within the riparian area, though replanting does not appear to have occurred. Reed canarygrass is the dominant herbaceous species along the creek banks.

Figure 6 shows the east bank of the South Fork of Ash Creek. Some of the nonnative species within the creek's riparian area (understory) appear to have been removed. **Figure 7** shows the mowed lawn beneath the Oregon white oak stand within the more active portion of the park.

RIVERVIEW PARK

Riverview Park is located at the confluence of the Willamette River and Ash Creek near downtown Independence. Much of the southern portion of the park is developed and is used to gain access for boats and canoes to the river. The northern portion contains the confluence of the river and the creek. Although a portion of the northern area of the park adjacent to the confluence is mapped as Cove silty clay loam (a hydric soil), no wetlands were observed within the park.

The riparian areas of the creek and the river are dominated by Douglas fir, big leaf maple, and Oregon ash and cottonwood. The understory is diverse and is dominated by hazelnut, snowberry, Indian plum, dogwood and thimbleberry.

Ash Creek provides high quality backwater habitat for salmonids during high winter flows. It is classified as a low gradient creek, with a large floodplain. The creek is approximately 50 feet wide. Its north-south orientation precludes effective shading, though its riparian areas are well vegetated. To the north of the creek, though still within the park, is a backwater area that is inundated during high flows. The bottom of this channel is largely unvegetated and its banks are dominated by Himalayan blackberry, willow, and dogwood.

DOG PARK

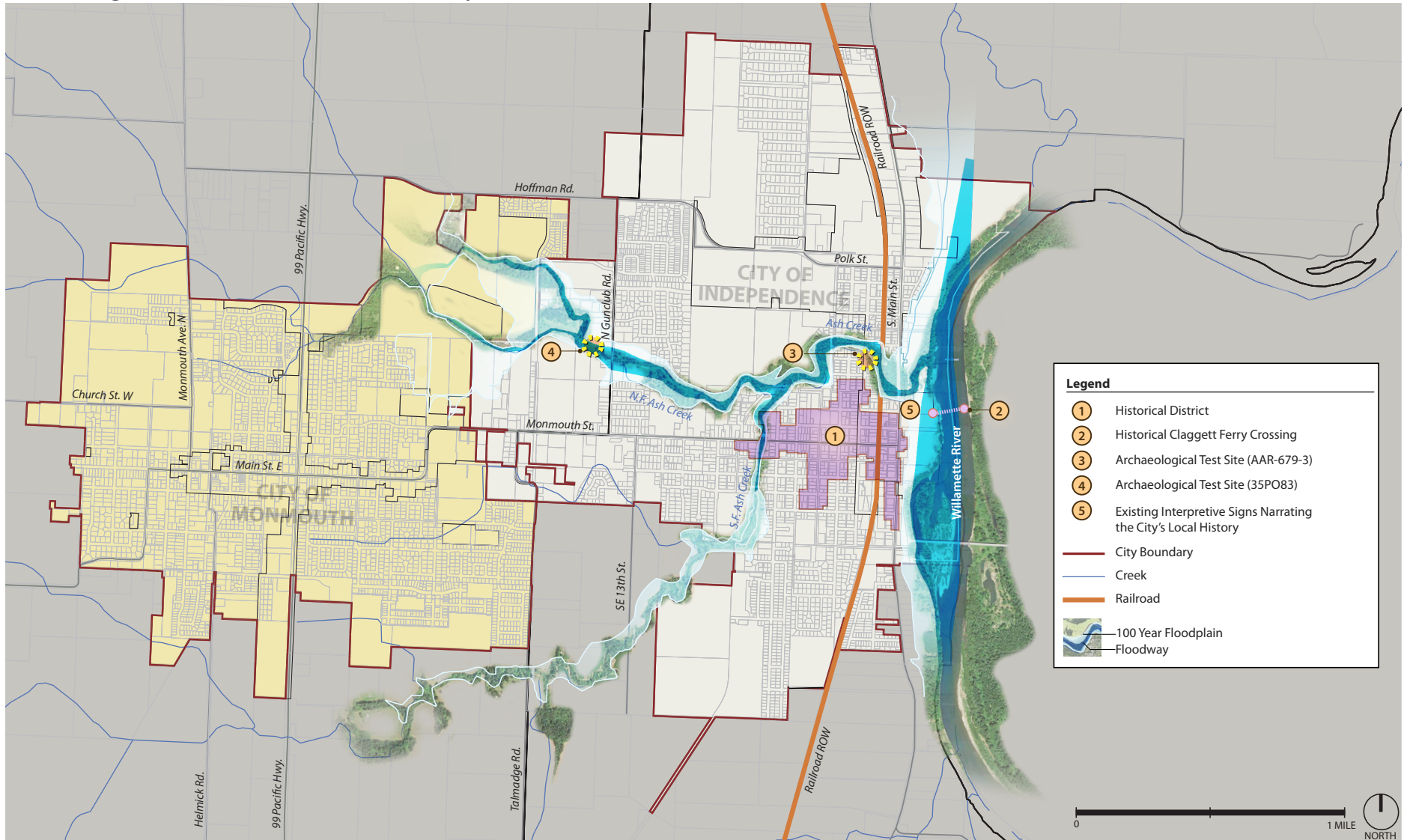
The dog park is a relatively flat park largely lacking trees within its active area. Its eastern border is the Willamette River, where the riparian area is dominated by Oregon ash, Douglas fir, and big leaf maple. The riparian area has an understory dominated by hazelnut, snowberry, Indian plum, dogwood and thimbleberry. The soils are well drained and no wetlands were observed within the park.

NORTH RIVERVIEW PARK

As with the Dog Park, this park is a relatively flat, well drained area with little native vegetation except within the riparian area of the Willamette River. No wetlands exist within the park. The riparian area is dominated by the same species listed in the Dog Park, except that in an open area exposed to the sun, the dominant vegetation is Scotch Broom.

Figure 8 provides an overall view of the existing natural and cultural resources for the City of Independence. Individual park assets review will provide an additional layer of information per park site.

Section VI: Figure 8 - Natural and Cultural Resources Map



Legend

- ① Historical District
- ② Historical Claggett Ferry Crossing
- ③ Archaeological Test Site (AAR-679-3)
- ④ Archaeological Test Site (35PO83)
- ⑤ Existing Interpretive Signs Narrating the City's Local History
- City Boundary
- Creek
- Railroad
- 100 Year Floodplain
- Floodway



Parks, Trails, and Open Space System Master Plan: **Natural and Cultural Resources Map**
 CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, OREGON

6.5 INTERPRETATION AND WAYFINDING UPDATE – FACILITY INVENTORY

The following inventory has been completed to date to document existing interpretive resources within the city parks and within the larger community. A list of potential themes for interpreting the story of Independence and its parks follows.

Existing Interpretive Resources – Parks and Recreation

- Interpretive panels on pillars at Riverview Park – Good Condition
 - o Tells extensive historical stories of the region
- Interpretive signs at Mountain Fir Park created by partners as part of mitigation plan (?) – Signs Vandalized
- Plans for Ash Creek Trail (interpretive signage)

Existing Interpretive Resources – Community

- Independence Historical Preservation Commission
 - o Downtown National Historic District
- Heritage Museum/ Heritage Museum Society
 - o Brochure – Historical Walking Tour brochure
 - o Exhibits
 - o Volunteers
 - o Archives
 - o Stories
- Heritage Tree Program
- Hops exhibit at City Hall
- Rogue Hops Farm

Potential Themes

Cultural and natural history stories of the town and area

- Downtown National Historic District
 - o Connection to parks
- Willamette River
 - o Natural history of riparian habitat
 - o Forest ecology – trails in Riverview Park along the river

o Historical use of the river

A. Travel

River boats

Independence ferry crossing

B. Recreation – Today

Willamette River Greenway

Willamette River Water Trail

Kayak/canoes/floating

- Pioneer Park
 - o Natural history
 - o Platted within original Townsite as a park – size of trees
- Agriculture
 - o Hops
 - Production, harvest, history
 - Cultural connections to hop harvesting
 - Role of Hispanic community in picking hops (see below)
 - o Food Production
 - o Wine
 - Climate
 - Vineyards/Wine
- Hispanic community stories – where/when/who?

6.6 INDIVIDUAL PARKS INVENTORY

JOHN PFAFF PARK

John Pfaff Park is located in the Northgate subdivision on the corner of Hoffman and Gun Club Road. Originally named Northgate Park, the park was renamed in 2003 to honor John Pfaff, a former mayor of Independence and a community leader for over 50 years. In 2008, area volunteers installed playground equipment from GameTime, Inc. at Pfaff Park. It was a grass-roots fundraising effort led by citizens who raised over \$10,000 locally. The city was able to match that with city money and secure an additional \$10,000 to install irrigation, making John Pfaff Park a welcoming attraction for people throughout the community. The park setting is predominately an open lawn area with young small trees located around its perimeter.

Access

Vehicular access is provided although via Wild Rose Court which is a cul de sac on the northwest end of the Northgate subdivision. No direct street access is provided off of Gun Club Road or Hoffman Road. There is no pedestrian or bike access available off of Gun Club Road.

Facilities Review

A picnic shelter that measures 10' x 20' is located near the small, half-court basketball play area. The picnic shelter is constructed on a concrete slab-on-grade, and is covered by a roof supported on six 6" x 6" pressure treated wood posts. The roof is composed of shingles over plywood on 2 x wood trusses. The structure is in sound condition, but a fresh coat of paint for the rafters or trusses would help the appearance. There is no lighting or power, or water in the shelter. The shelter accommodates two picnic benches and two trash cans.

The park has a paved half-court basketball play area with one basketball goal on the northeast end of the court. The court has a bench on one side for spectator viewing.

No permanent restroom facilities are currently at the park. A port potty is located on the western end of the parking lot near North Gun Club Road. A drinking fountain is located near the auto parking space near the entrance. A sign with the park's name marks the entrance to the park.

City of Independence Parks Master Plan 1996 Recommendations

Pfaff Park (Northgate Park) was designated as a mini-neighborhood park.

Purpose and use Recommended by 1996 Master Plan

Provide an area for youth ranging in age from toddler to adolescent. Provide an area which residents of the neighborhood can socialize and recreate informally.

Proposed facilities 1996 plan

Picnic tables and shelter, benches, play equipment, basketball hoops (lighted), unstructured play (lighted), restrooms and water fountain

Total Acreage

2.18 Acres

Classification

Mini-Neighborhood Park

Section VI: Figure 4 - Pfaff Park



Parks, Trails, and Open Space System Master Plan: Pfaff Park
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, OREGON

SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 

WILDFANG PARK

Wildfang Park is located via an easement from Pacific Power and Light Company north of the intersection of North 11th and Monmouth-Independence Highway. The land is currently inaccessible except through this easement. The four acre site is owned by the City of Independence and is directly adjacent to the north fork of Ash Creek. Historically, residents have indicated that the park is inundated in the winter months. North of the site and Ash Creek, a concrete pedestrian access connects this area with the neighborhood to the north via the cul-de-sac of North 21st Street. Without a pedestrian bridge, there is no formal access across this site from North 11th to North 21st.

Facilities Review

There are currently no facilities in Wildfang Park.

Access

There are currently no public access routes.

City of Independence Parks Master Plan 1996 Recommendations

Wildfang Park was designated as a conservation area.

Purpose and use Recommended by 1996 Master Plan

Conserve this area for viewing and interpretation of Ash Creek natural area plants and animals. Construct a boardwalk/overlook area which connects to Ash Creek trail. Negotiate with Pacific Power and Light for paved access and parking for bicycles and motor vehicles off of Monmouth Avenue. Develop a pedestrian/bicycle access off of Rhoda Lane and a pedestrian/bicycle access via proposed Ash Creek Trail

Proposed facilities 1996 plan

Boardwalk, overlook, interpretive signage, benches, pedestrian/bicycle trail, vehicle parking, bicycle parking.

Observations

None of the proposed facilities have been implemented to date.

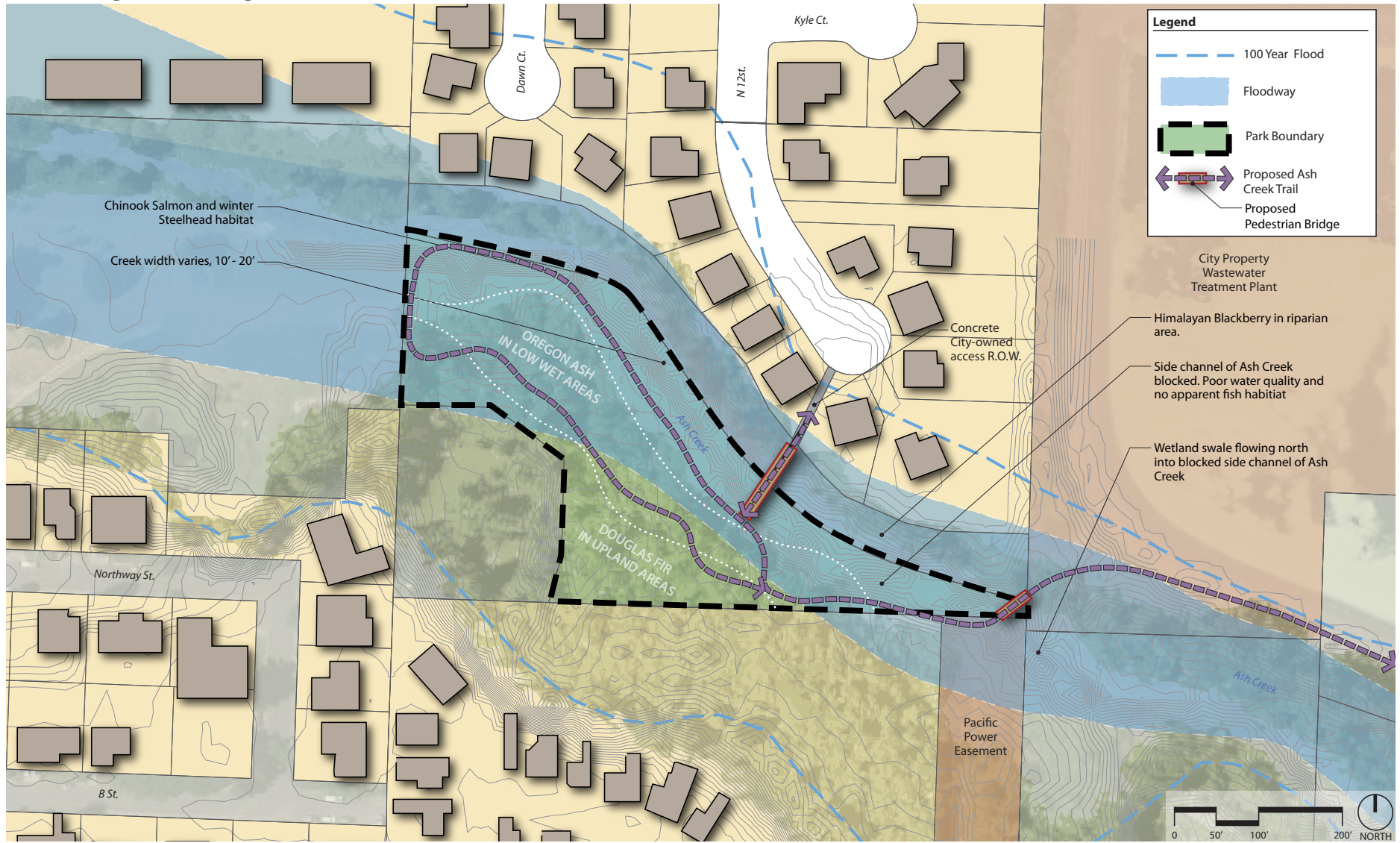
Total Acreage

4.00 Acres

Classification

Conservation Area

Section VI: Figure 5 - Wildfang Park



Parks, Trails, and Open Space System Master Plan: **Wildfang Park**
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, OREGON

SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

PIONEER PARK

Pioneer Park is located at the corner of 7th Street and C Street. The open lawn area of the park is set amongst tall evergreen and deciduous trees. Facilities on the site include a children's playground that is well maintained, benches, and a portable toilet. The park is also located at the junction of the South Fork and Main Stem of Ash Creek. The site has unimproved foot paths that lead down to Ash Creek's intact native riparian zone.

Facilities Review

The park contains playground equipment that appears to be well maintained and in good condition. There are 3 benches scattered on site and one picnic table. There is no picnic shelter at this time. A portable toilet is located at the north end. There is a hose bib near the paved parking at the southern of the park.

Access

The park is located at the intersection of North 7th Street and C Street. There are no sidewalks on the park property for connectivity. Adjacent neighborhood blocks have sidewalks.

City of Independence Parks Master Plan 1996 Recommendations

Pioneer Park was designated as a mini-neighborhood park.

Purpose and use Recommended by 1996 Master Plan

An area in which residents of the neighborhood can enjoy Ash Creek natural area, socialize, and recreate informally.

Proposed facilities 1996 Plan

Clear middle canopy vegetation (everything between 2' and 5' high) to within 20' of Ash creek to open up the park and make it appear less threatening. Widen footpaths or construct new ones and surface them with bark. Add benches along interior paths close to Ash Creek. Replace restroom with one that is clean, ADA accessible, and brightly lit. Update the playground equipment.

Observations

To date, the playground has had a recent facilities update with two new large pieces of play equipment. Additional benches appear to have been placed on site and the park appears open and free from vegetation that obstructs views to its interior. The overall park is inviting for neighborhood play. No path system has been implemented.

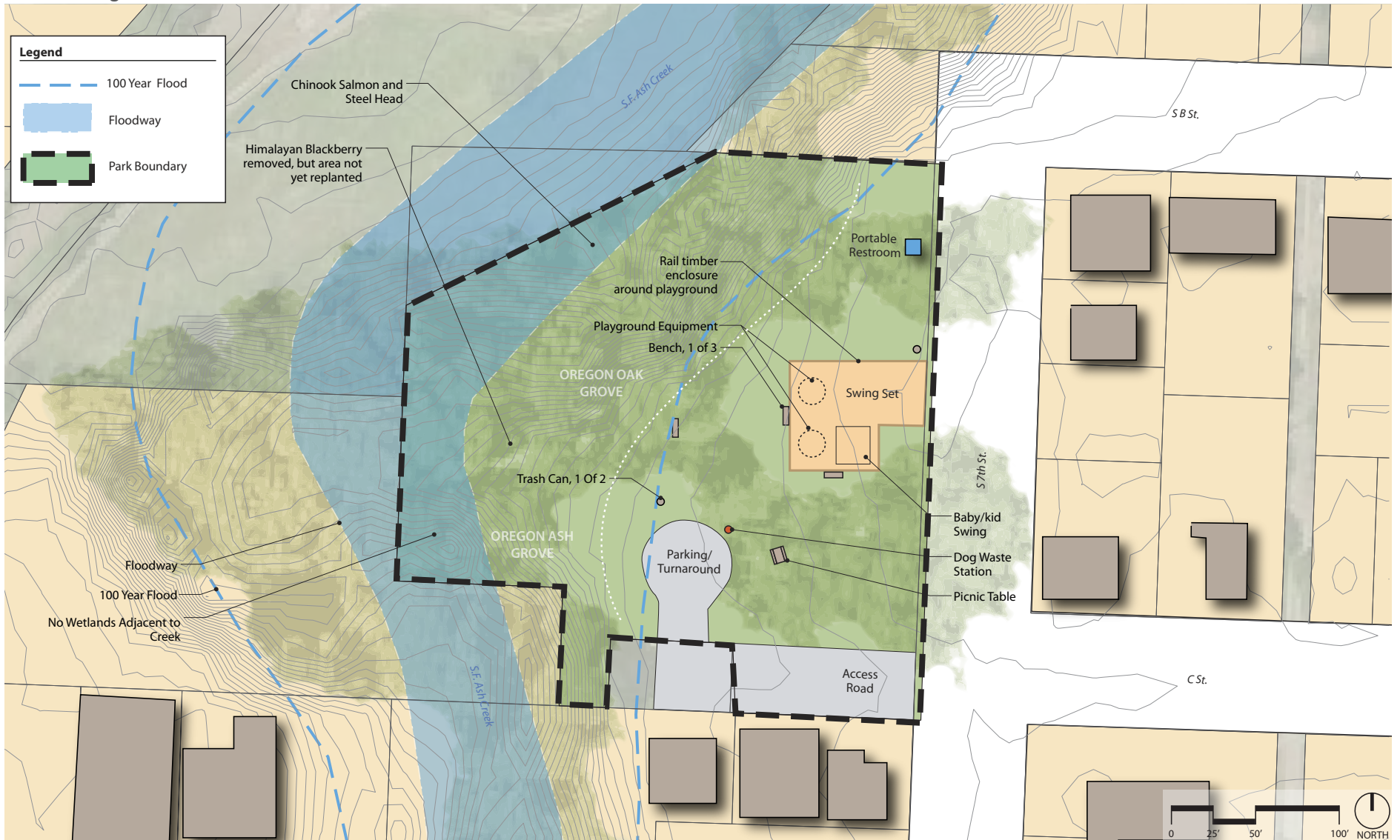
Total Acreage

1.95 Acres

Classification

Mini-Neighborhood Park

Section VI: Figure 6 - Pioneer Park



RIVERVIEW PARK

Riverview Park is located in historic downtown Independence between B Street and C Street and adjacent to Main Street. Completed in 2005, the Riverview Park Amphitheater is the centerpiece of Riverview Park. In 2008, a centerpiece fountain was added to the plaza level welcoming visitors to Independence. The amphitheater hosts numerous events including the River's Edge summer movie and concert series and has become the living room for independence and front porch to the Willamette River.

In 2012, the City opened the Willamette River Trail, a 5k soft surface trail loop that runs from the Riverview Park Amphitheater to the North Riverfront Ballfield Complex and back. The trail passes in and out of the Willamette River's riparian zone offering excellent bird watching and nature viewing opportunities, and also passes the Independence Dog Park. Primary access for the trail is from the north side of Riverview Park where a pedestrian bridge crosses Ash Creek. The Willamette Trail Running Club has been instrumental in volunteer efforts to create and maintain the Willamette River Trail.

Facilities Review

A large majority of the site rests within the 100 year flood plain with much of the site in the floodway and accordingly, many of the facilities are strategically placed to avoid impacts of seasonal flooding. The Willamette River is reaching west towards the park and eroding some areas of the eastern bank of the Willamette River while depositing sediment in front of the decommissioned boat launch area. The decommissioning of the boat launch area will require the removal of the existing pilings and the asphalt ramp in the near future. This area has been identified as a possible site for a canoe/kayak launch site in the Valley Concrete Concept Plan Report. The oversized parking area once served the boat launch but the site no longer needs to accommodate large oversize vehicles with boat trailers; however, the parking lot accommodates significant parking needs for summer programs in the park.

The pump building/restrooms at the main Riverview Park are relatively new and appear to be in good condition. The park contains playground equipment that appears to be well maintained and in good condition. Benches around the playground area are in poor condition and need replacement. Two portable ADA compliant restrooms are screened from the playground via a wooden, sight-obscuring fence. Recently, a disc golf course was implemented by local residents and volunteers. The disc golf receptacles are placed in various areas on the park site.

Access

Riverview Park is easily accessed from downtown on Main Street. Sidewalks are provided to the park and an ADA accessible route is provided down to the waterfront.

City of Independence Parks Master Plan 1996 Recommendations

Riverview Park was designated a community park.

Purpose and use Recommended by 1996 Master Plan

Develop this park not only as a centerpiece of the park system but as an image maker for the entire community. It should be the focus for the community's recreational and social needs and activities serve the populations of Independence and Monmouth and draw visitors from elsewhere in Polk, Marion, Linn, and Benton Counties. It should create a memorable image for the community.

Acquire adjacent land to the south and to the north as it becomes available. Utilize the Valley Concrete and Gravel site for river oriented commercial development (such as a restaurant or inn), a community center, a sternwheeler docking facility and a courtesy dock for visitors. Designate land to the north for uses which can withstand occasional flooding, such as sports fields, walking and bicycling trails. Continue investigating options for revetment and dredging.

Proposed facilities

Accessible courtesy dock, picnic tables and shelter, amphitheater, restrooms and water fountain, play equipment, bicycle and vehicle parking, sports field and restrooms, pet exercise area, riverfront bicycle/pedestrian trail, river promenade and overlook, sternwheeler landing, community and meeting center.

Observations

The amphitheater, restrooms fountain, riverfront bicycle/pedestrian trail, picnic tables, play equipment and bicycle and vehicle parking are all facilities that have been implemented since the 1996 Parks Master Plan. Other proposed facilities have not implemented to date including river promenade and overlook, sternwheeler landing, community and meeting center.

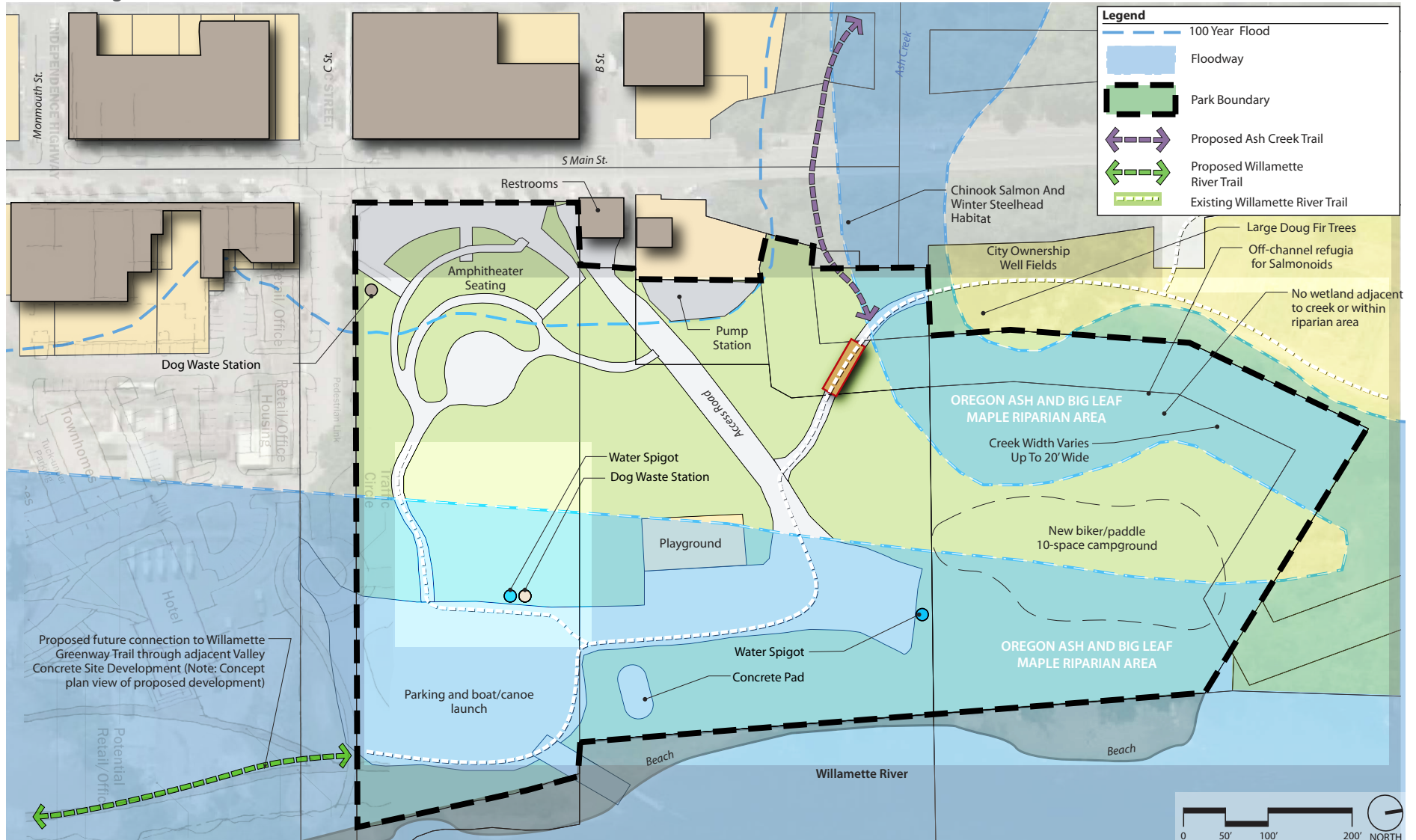
Total Acreage

13.53

Classification

Community Park

Section VI: Figure 7 - Riverview Park



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

SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 GREENWORKS

MT. FIR PARK

Mt. Fir Park is a rather long linear 7 acre park that runs north to south between F Street and Becken Road. The park's eastern border is directly parallel to the South Fork of Ash Creek. A wetland restoration project is underway along the former Mt. Fir Lumber Mill pond site to the west. The Polk County Master Gardeners has developed vision plans for the site which are shown in the plan enlargement for Mountain Fir Park. Polk County Master Gardeners Program is supported by the OSU Master Gardener Program and to provide research based gardening information and educational opportunities to the residents of Polk County. They do this through classes and plant problem clinics in various locations throughout the year. The demonstration gardens at the Polk County Fairgrounds are practical examples of home horticulture principles that are the foundation of the Master Gardener Program. The Mountain Fir Park is an example of a demonstration site which they have named the "Inspiration Garden at Mt. Fir Park". The vision includes a gathering place/pavilion, a Bee and Butterfly garden, Perennial Garden, Rain Garden, Vegetable Garden, Children's Garden, Joy of Roses Garden, Medicinal Garden, Berries Garden, and Fruit Trees Garden.

Facilities Review

A 10' x 20' picnic shelter in good condition is located in the park. There is no lighting, power, or water available at the shelter. A single, non-ADA compliant restroom occupies a portion of the northern part of the site. A small wood potting shed is also located in this part of the site, but remains locked. The Polk County Master Gardeners owns the building, and occupies much of the site to the south. Those areas contain raised beds, a drive/walking path to the south end, a and hose bid.

Access

The main entrance to the park is located directly off of F Street to a gravel parking lot. An open lawn area provides access to the formalized gardens and raised beds. There is an additional entrance from G Street which leads to a gravel path which accesses the park areas to the south. The southern limits of the site are bound by Becken Road which is a private road.

City of Independence Parks Master Plan 1996 Recommendations:

Mt. Fir Park was designated as a mini-neighborhood park.

Purpose and use Recommended by 1996 Master Plan

Provide an area in which resident of the neighborhood can socialize and recreate informally. Provide an outdoor play area for youth ranging in age from toddler to adolescent.

Proposed facilities

Implement picnic table and shelters, play equipment, basketball hoops (lighted), unstructured play (lighted), restrooms and a water fountain.

Observations

A picnic shelter has been built in the past three years and covers a single picnic table. There is no play equipment, basketball court, restrooms or water fountain on site.

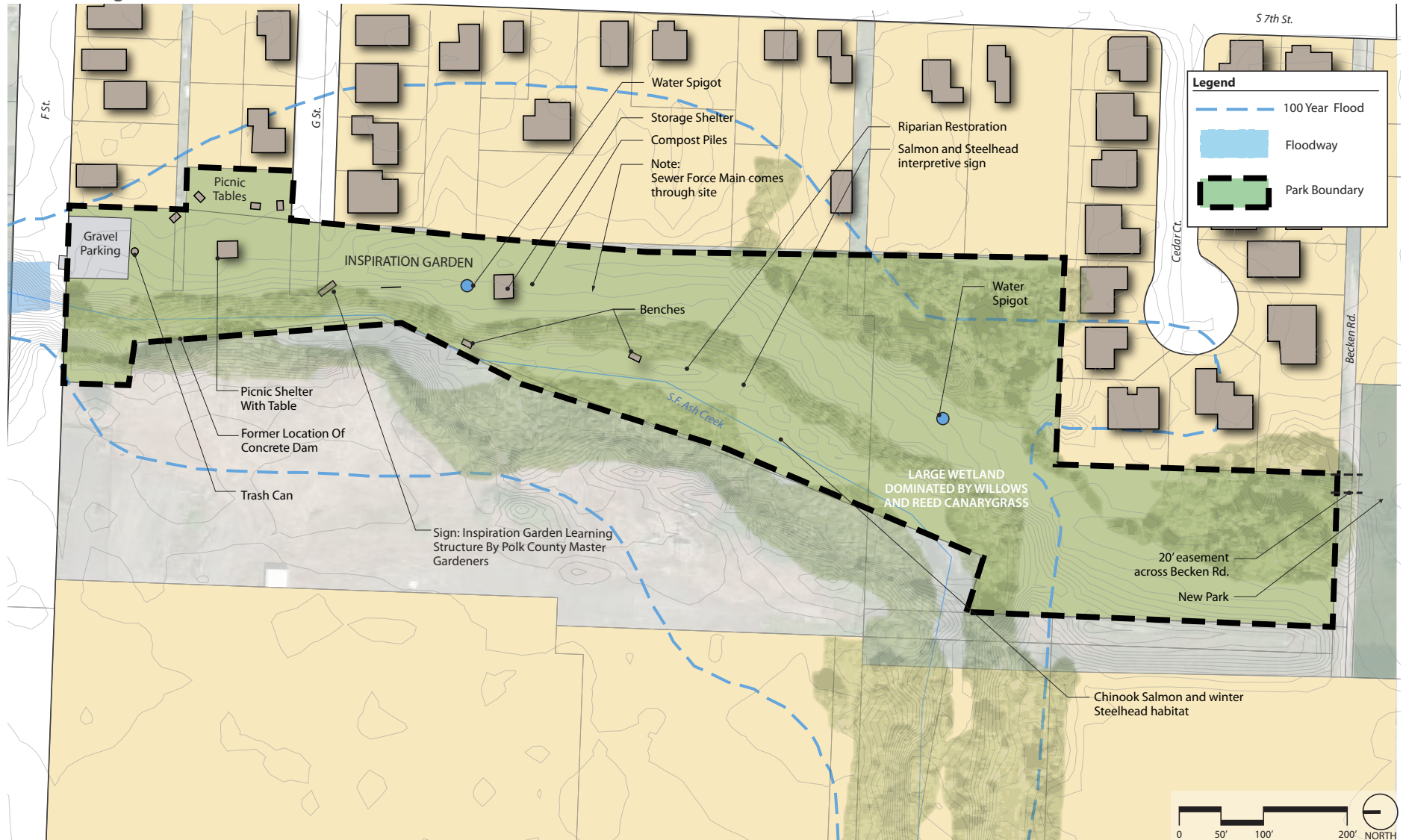
Total Acreage

7.24

Classification

Mini-Neighborhood Park

Section VI: Figure 8 - Mt. Fir Park



HENRY HILL PARK

Henry Hill Park is a small neighborhood park joined with a small aquatics facility. The park is located on I Street between South 4th Street and South 5th Street. The pool is the only public pool in Independence and offers a vital role for teaching swimming and offering water sports recreation in the summer months. Henry Hill Park is directly adjacent to Henry Hill Elementary School buildings and grounds which currently house the Central School District. Maintenance of District buildings, grounds, and equipment is the responsibility of Central School District 13J's maintenance and custodial staffs. Landscape maintenance is contracted out by the District.

Facilities Review

The park contains a 10' x 20 picnic shelter with 3 picnic benches and a trash can. There is a small, half-court basketball play area and pathway leading to an informal gravel parking area to the South on I Street. The picnic shelter is constructed on a concrete slab-on-grade, and is covered by a roof supported on six 6" x 6" pressure treated wood posts. The roof is composition shingles over plywood on 2 x wood trusses. The structure is in sound condition. There is no lighting, power, or water in the shelter. There is a playground area with two swing sets and a large arborvitae hedge along the north side of the park.

The Aquatic complex consists of two pools, a Pump Building, and a Changing/Bath/Restroom Building. The Changing/Bath Building is to be demolished and rebuilt and plans have been completed for that project. The project is needed both to replace a dilapidated structure, but also one that isn't code compliant. The Aquatic facility is owned by the city and operated by the YMCA.

Access

Access to the park is provided on I Street, South 4th Street and South 5th Street. A small gravel area on the southern edge of the park provides informal parking.

City of Independence Parks Master Plan 1996 Recommendations

Henry Hill was designated as a neighborhood park.

Purpose and use Recommended by 1996 Master Plan

Although this park does not meet the SCORP definition of a neighborhood park/playground in terms of acreage, it could function as one if Henry Hill Elementary School property was available for public use. This park has the only swimming pool in Independence.

Proposed facilities

Plant shade trees which can tolerate poorly draining soil along the south and west sides to provide shaded areas for the use of parents or caretakers who are watching children at the pool. Provide bicycle racks so that bicycles can be stored efficiently and securely. Add picnic tables and benches on the west and south sides to make it convenient for parents to watch their children play and swim. Join forces with the Central School District and MIKI to renovate the school district softball fields, light the basketball courts, and reach an agreement about public use of existing or new restroom facilities.

Observations

It is unknown if the trees were planted at Henry Hill as recommended. It is also unknown if the bicycle racks were implemented. There is a new picnic shelter with three picnic tables and a trash can. The City of Independence has architectural plan drawings for updating the Pool house as funds become available. It is intended to reach out to the Central School District as a part of this system plan to consider a relationship between Henry Hill Park and the school grounds.

Total Acreage

0.63

Classification

Neighborhood Park

Section VI: Figure 9 - Henry Hill Park



INDEPENDENCE SPORTS PARK

In 2007, the City of Independence partnered with Olsen Agriculture and the State Transportation and Growth Management program to create a conceptual design for the development of Olsen's 66 acre property north of town. Much of the property is located within the floodplain of the Willamette River, rendering those areas unbuildable. The conceptual design process explored possible uses for the buildable portions of the land, and also examined the feasibility of developing the low land for use as city ball fields. The City of Independence worked with the Oregon National Guard to develop the North Riverfront Ball Field Complex. Phase I of implementation included construction of an access road, parking lot, boat launch, boat dock, and restroom facilities for the 50 acres of park land. North Riverfront Park is also the northern limit of the Willamette River Trail, a soft-surface walking/jogging path that starts in Riverview Park and follows the Willamette River north to North Riverfront Park. The looped trail is approximately 5 kilometers round trip.

Facilities Review

The facilities for the North Riverview Park are brand new and include a parking lot, access road, restroom, life jacket station, boat launch and boat dock.

Access

Access to the North Riverview Park is provided for vehicles off of North Main Street and Deann Drive. Pedestrian and bicycle access can use the city sidewalks to reach Deann Drive or use the Willamette River Trail for access to the park from Riverview Park downtown.

City of Independence Parks Master Plan 1996 Recommendations

The land north of the boundaries of Riverview Park was identified as a desirable acquisition area for fostering connectivity to the Willamette River.

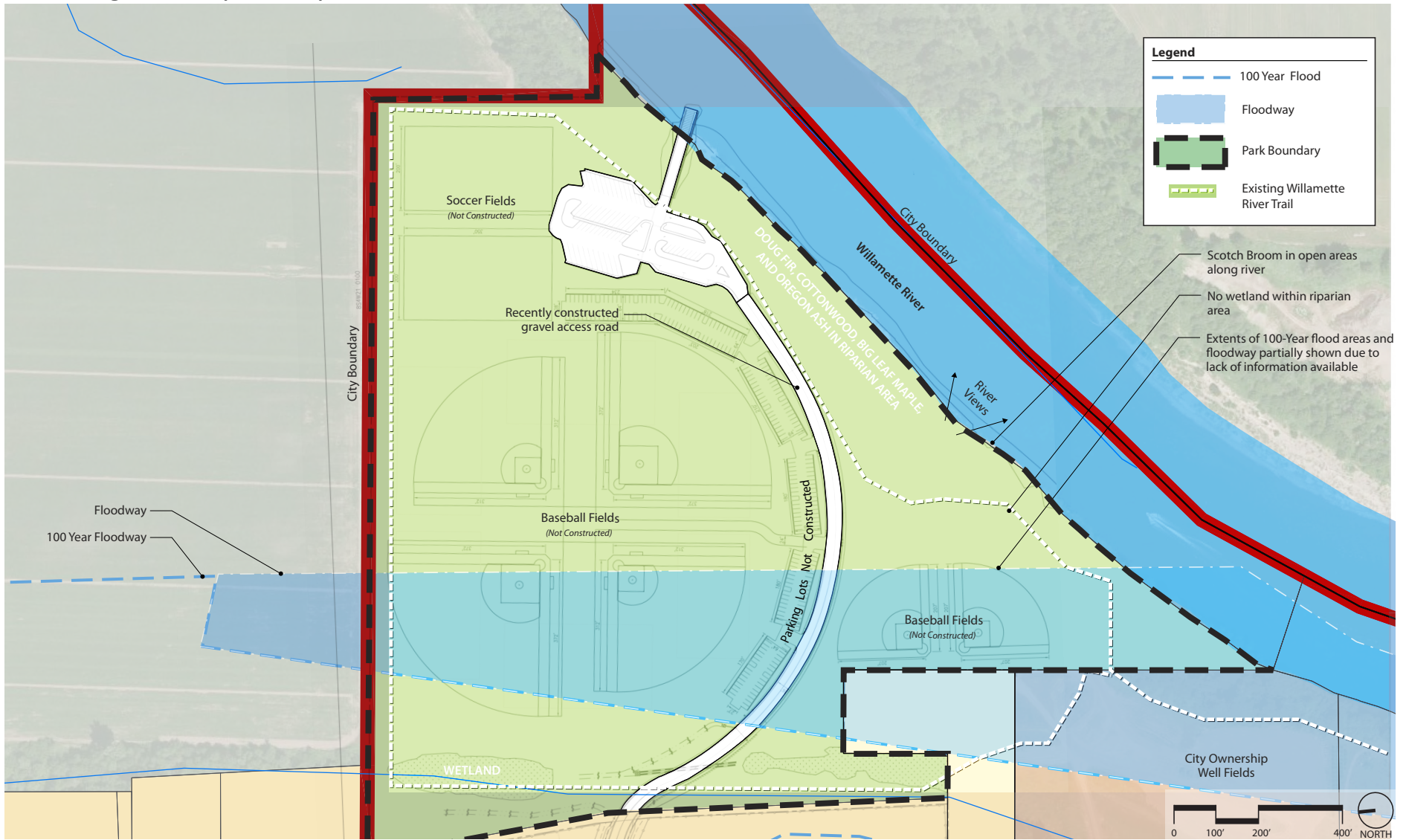
Total Acreage

77.53

Classification

Community Park

Section VI: Figure 10 - Independence Sports Park



Parks, Trails, and Open Space System Master Plan: Independence Sports Park
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, OREGON

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE #1-OCTOBER 7TH, 2014



DOG PARK

The Independence Dog Park is located on Grand Street just east of Highway 51, about 1/4 mile north of downtown. Conceived by a group of community volunteers in 2011, the Independence Dog Park is fast becoming “the” place to go for dog people in Independence. Totalling just over two acres, the park has separated areas for small dogs and big dogs, a pet waste station, shady trees, and a water station for dogs and their owners.

Facilities Review

The facilities include new chain link fences and signage.

Access

The park is accessed via the Willamette River Trail which starts in Riverview Park downtown and runs north all the way to the North Riverfront Ballfield Complex and boat ramp. There is a small gravel parking area accessible off of Grand Street.

Total Acreage

5.69

Classification

Special Use Park

Section VI: Figure 11 - Dog Park



UNNAMED PARK

This property is an undeveloped city property and does not contain improvements at the time of the site visit. The property is long strip of land between South 7th Street and South 8th Street north of Chestnut Street. This property is approximately 100 feet wide by 700 feet long.

12.2 Facilities Review

There are currently no facilities in Unnamed Park.

12.3 Access

Access is provided via Chestnut Street and the cross streets of south 7th Street and South 8th Street. There are sidewalks throughout the neighborhood. Currently, the property does not have any sidewalk improvements.

12.4 City of Independence Parks Master Plan 1996 Recommendations

The Unnamed park site was identified in the City of Independence Parks Master Plan 1996 recommendations as a mini-neighborhood park for acquisition and development. The intent of the mini-neighborhood park was to create a park within a five minute or one quarter mile radius) walk for all residents without having to cross major arterials in the community.

Total Acreage

1.52

Classification

Mini-Neighborhood Park

Section VI: Figure 12 - Unnamed Park



Section VI: Figure 13 - City of Independence Existing Total Park Inventory provides a comprehensive review of the existing parks, trails, and natural resources in the Independence parks system. Overall, Independence owns and maintains 114.27 acres of parks, trails, and natural resources for public use.

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE-EXISTING TOTAL PARK INVENTORY			
PARK NAME	CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATION	TOTAL ACREAGE	SUBTOTAL
Mini-Neighborhood Parks			
Pfaff Park	Mini-Neighborhood Park	2.18 acres	12.89 acres
Pioneer Park	Mini-Neighborhood Park	1.95 acres	
Mt. Fir Park	Mini-Neighborhood Park	7.24 acres	
Un-Named Park	Mini-Neighborhood Park	1.52 acres	
Neighborhood Park			
Henry Hill Park	Neighborhood Park	.63 acres	.63 acres
Community Parks			
North Riverview Park	Community Park	77.53 acres	91.06 acres
Riverview Park	Community Park	13.53 acres	
Special-Use Park			
Dog Park	Special-Use Park	5.69 acres	5.69 acres
Natural Areas			
Wildfang Park	Conservation Area / Open Space	4.00 acres	4.00 acres
Total Parks Acreage			114.27 acres