
**City of Castle Rock
&
Castle Rock School District
Park & Recreation Plan**

DRAFT

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This document represents a substantial update of the 2011 Park and Recreation Plan completed jointly by the City of Castle Rock and the Castle Rock School District under the auspices of the Castle Rock Park Board. According to Washington State requirements, park and recreation plans must be updated every six years to retain eligibility for a variety of grant and funding opportunities. Besides the statutory requirement, the six-year timeframe also provides a means to set realistic goals and objectives based on a relatively short temporal scope.

This plan was developed by the Castle Rock Park Board (in conjunction with the Castle Rock School District) using the results of the 2010/11 City of Castle Rock/Castle Rock School District Park and Recreation Survey (see Appendix A for more information) and other public outreach/planning efforts. It is designed to meet or exceed all Washington State requirements as listed in the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Planning Policy Guidelines and will be updated on a regular basis.

Working on this plan was particularly exciting because a great number of projects have been completed over the last six years, proving the validity of park planning and providing a push to accomplish more. The following list provides a brief outline of the specific accomplishments made between 2005 and 2010:

- Constructed the two-lane Al Helenberg Boat Launch on a four acre tract of land along the Cowlitz River within the North County Recreational Facility for the purposes of providing a recreational and emergency services boat launching site to the region. The first phase of access and parking was also completed.
- Extended trails and added fields and a concession structure to the Sports Complex within the North County Recreational Facility.
- Extended the Riverfront Trail on the east side of the river. Improvements include enhancing the ADA accessible ramp and constructing a trailhead parking lot and a viewing platform by the river. Plans call for adding a restroom and signage.
- Improvements were made to the Skate Park and BMX Park.
- Began incorporating welcoming Entrance Features at Lions Pride Park (2 of 3 phases completed).
- Private developers constructed a paved, lighted multi-purpose trail extension and a mini park as part of a two residential subdivisions. The city negotiated a \$25,000 fee-in-lieu of park land dedication for a third subdivision. Those funds will go towards playground equipment at the North County Recreational Facility.

- Constructed habitat enhancement in and along Whittle Creek.
- Adopted a Fee In Lieu of Land Dedication (FILO) ordinance providing developers an option to address potential impacts associated with provision of recreational opportunities when subdividing land for residential purposes.
- Partnered with Pathways 2020, Cowlitz County, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, the National Park Service and Cowlitz on the Move to draft *The Castle Rock to Lexington Loop Trail* conceptual plan, which was then adopted as part of the Regional Trail Plan. The city endorsed Cowlitz County's efforts to fund and develop the Cook Ferry Trail just outside city limits as the first phase of this regional loop trail system.
- The city is in the process of annexing approximately 275 acres west of the Cowlitz River including the properties where the Castle Rock fairgrounds, the Castle Rock Race Park, and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) dredge spoil site referred to as "The High Banks" are located. A new Parks, Recreation and Open Space zoning district was drafted to help property owners, elected officials and citizens manage the recreational-based properties.

As evident from above, the entire community has many reasons to celebrate the expanded park and recreation opportunities available to them. Despite the highlighted successes, there are still numerous projects that deserve attention, are very much needed and will hopefully lead to a fully integrated park and recreational network unique to a city this size.

This document will ensure that adequate facilities exist for current and future Castle Rock residents, providing a new/updated set of goals, objectives and guiding principals for the prioritizing, funding, acquisition and development and/or rehabilitation of parks and recreational facilities/opportunities in and around Castle Rock. Hopefully, six years from now, a series of accomplishments such as those listed above will be included in the next plan.

Organization

The next chapter represents the heart of the plan and includes the goals and policies that will direct park and recreational development in and around Castle Rock for the next several years. Subsequent chapters include the background information that was used to derive and support the stated goals and policies. While it may seem more logical to place the goal and policy chapter immediately after discussing demand and need, it is often customary and/or desirable to place the goal/policy section at the front of a plan, since it is viewed most often and is of chief importance.

CHAPTER II

MISSION STATEMENT, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Castle Rock Parks – Mission Statement

To provide Castle Rock residents, students and visitors alike, with a variety of recreational and leisure opportunities designed to enrich their physical health, social wellbeing and overall quality of life.

Goals

City of Castle Rock Goals:

- A. To provide, improve, maintain and facilitate a variety of year-round recreational opportunities for all age groups in the City of Castle Rock and outlying areas.
- B. To provide more areas for active and passive recreation and educational opportunities by identifying possible locations for park expansion and land acquisition.
- C. Provide for a system of parks, linear open spaces and trails oriented to urban waterways.
- D. Make recreation and tourism a building block of Castle Rock's economic development in concert with the Castle Rock Community Action Plan.
- E. Seek a variety of funding sources to fully implement the capital improvement program, including recreation and economic development funds, donations and other grant programs.
- F. Collaborate with citizens, volunteers, community groups, committees, partnering agencies, and organizations to maintain, improve, develop and promote recreational facilities and opportunities in and around Castle Rock.
- G. Utilize the Castle Rock Riverfront Park Master Plan as a guide to the phased development of the so-called "recreation corridor," including development plans for the large dredge-spoil sites on both sides of the Cowlitz River.
- H. Strive to ensure that developers set aside land or provide sufficient fee in lieu of land dedication so there are recreational facilities and opportunities throughout the city, regardless of physical barriers.
- I. Seek a variety of funding sources to support the operation and maintenance of recreational facilities so that an acceptable level of service is achieved.

- J. Continue to promote the enhancement and extension of the Riverfront Trail network. The trails should also connect to the regional system identified in the Cowlitz Regional Trails Plan, to Sequest Park, and to the central business district.
- K. Promote the use of the Exhibit Hall / Visitor Center.
- L. Promote the recreational component of the Castle Rock Library.
- M. Work with the Castle Rock School District concerning converting the Middle School into a facility for city services and a community / senior center.
- N. Work with other local cities / county officials on collaborating efforts to provide better facilities and service in a cost efficient manner.
- O. Collaborate with the Castle Rock School District and other interested groups on bicycle routes and safety information.
- P. Identify and work with the equestrian community on trails, activities and facilities for their users.

Castle Rock School District Goals:

1. The district encourages full community use of all school facilities, provided that the educational and extra-curricular functions of the district are supported at the level designated by the Board.
2. The district supports community/economic development activities in the region by making school facilities available when possible as host or support facilities.
3. The district intends to utilize real property to its fullest potential. Land that is not targeted for long-range building program needs will be properly maintained and/or developed to support additional district and community activities.
4. The district will work with other agencies to support projects that expand avenues for education, instill civic pride and provide opportunities for meaningful community service.
5. The district will work with the city to foster partnerships between youth and city, taking the lead in getting students to be involved with city planning and support groups (chamber of commerce, city council, park board, etc.)

Objectives

City of Castle Rock Objectives:

- A. Extend the Riverfront Trail on the east side of the Cowlitz River northward to Highway 504 and south to Salmon Creek. Explore partnering with Washington State Parks Commission and Washington State Department of Transportation to connect to Seaquest State Park, possibly utilizing the state's Scenic and Recreational Highways Corridor Management program.
- B. Extend the Riverfront Trail on the west side southward to Arkansas Creek, cross the creek, and link to the Regional Trail System on Cowlitz County land (Camelot area). Explore opportunities to develop equestrian trails near the fairgrounds as part of the multipurpose trail system. Construction will likely occur in phases.
- C. Pursue opportunities to enhance multipurpose trails so they provide recreational uses for the greatest range of population (i.e. walkers, joggers, runners, bicyclists, equestrians, etc.) and also satisfy a transportation component in a multimodal transit management program. Include the safe crossing of the Cowlitz River as part of such a plan.
- D. Work closely with the Castle Rock School District, North County Recreation Association, Castle Rock Fair Board, Mount Saint Helens Motorcycle Club, State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), State Department of Transportation, State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Cowlitz County, private individuals and organizations to continue further development of recreational opportunities.
- E. Continue to improve, upgrade and maintain the Skate Park to ensure it meets the needs and desires of the public. Make improvement to the Skate Park by adding additional equipment and utilizing some of the space for ½ court basketball courts.
- F. Continue to improve, upgrade and maintain the BMX Track to ensure it meets the needs and desires of the public. Consider partnering with Growlers Gulch Racing group, a group of local cyclist enthusiasts, to enhance the BMX Track by improving the course and installing a Pump Track facility.
- G. Make improvements to Castle Rock/DNR land (the "High Banks" land) on the west side of the Cowlitz River. Pursue opportunities to partner with a private developer to improve and market a portion of the site as an RV Resort. Other possible improvements include parking facility construction, development of access ramps to public fishing sites on the Cowlitz River and Arkansas Creek and installation of erosion control measures. Fish habitat enhancement and educational opportunities could also result. A day-use area along Arkansas Creek should also be provided. A bridge crossing Arkansas Creek should be constructed or installed in order to extend the city's trails to the Regional Trail System.

- H. Construct restrooms at the trailhead (Riverfront Trail) located behind the high school to serve users of the trail system, the Sports Complex and boat launch.
- I. Promote a strong sense of the community and provide an inviting welcome into the city for visitors and residents through the continuing development of gateway facilities.
- J. Continue the planning and design work on a community center that will tie the community together and house a variety of facilities (including a swimming pool) and events (see Appendix B for more details).
- K. Continue developing and constructing the regional boat launch on the Cowlitz River.
- L. Continue development of neighborhood parks and mini-parks (“pocket parks”). Development of park facilities in the area east of I-5 and northwest of Cowlitz Street around Cherry Street is a priority.
- M. Work towards developing a community park at the city-owned dredge spoil site on the east side of the Cowlitz River in the area known as “The Big Bend” using the Riverfront Park Master Plan as a guide.
- N. Ensure that new residential developments dedicate land for park areas, provide improvements to existing facilities, or provide monetary compensation to the City of Castle Rock for the acquisition, development and maintenance of recreational facilities.
- O. Develop a pedestrian bridge or provide for another means of safe crossing over the Cowlitz River, directly linking the east and west segments of the Riverfront Trail along with other recreational facilities.
- P. Publish a pamphlet and utilize the World Wide Web to promote recreational opportunities in and around Castle Rock for distribution to the public.
- Q. Provide outdoor kitchen areas at Lions Pride and/or “The Rock” Community Park.
- R. Improve “The Rock” Community Park by rebuilding the scenic lookouts and trails alongside the Cowlitz River.
- S. Encourage the private development of a recreational vehicle (RV)/campground on the west side of the Cowlitz River south of Whittle Creek on State DNR land and city-owned dredge spoils. Funds generated from the campground could be used to support park and recreational operations. A public day-use area would also be included. Continue pursuing a land exchange with the DNR.
- T. Add additional features to the Sports Complex including an additional soccer field, basketball courts, expanded concession stand, large picnic areas, play structures, open space/play fields, a community garden, improved trail system, and improved parking.

- U. Add additional features to the Al Helenberg Memorial Boat Launch including a canoe/kayak slip, ADA accessible restrooms, a fish cleaning station and sufficient paved parking.
- V. Improve the Castle Rock Library facility by developing a computer area, complying with ADA standards, adding storage in the basement, upgrading the heating system, paint and repair the interior and exterior, replace windows and promote reading programs.
- W. Initiate discussions with the DNR and State Legislatures concerning the conveyance of the land at exit 48 along the Cowlitz River to the City.
- X. Make improvements to the “Jail” Park and the Lion’s Volunteer Park.

Castle Rock School District Objectives

The Castle Rock School District #401 in partnership with the City of Castle Rock, seeks to accomplish the following Objectives:

1. Continue to improve and expand the community garden, orchard and berry patch.
2. Construct an outdoor classroom.
3. Complete and expand the riverfront trail and exercise stations, adding open and covered picnic facilities and a playground supported by community volunteers, donations and grants.
4. Finish phase 1 of the park plan for fields with the construction of a full size baseball field.
5. To review, evaluate and improve the elementary fields and gym and the middle school fields, gym and fitness center to enhance safe use and access.

CHAPTER III

PLANNING AREA AND INVENTORY

Description of the Planning Area

Castle Rock, sometimes nicknamed the "Gateway City," is mostly situated between the Cowlitz River and Interstate 5 (I-5), 120 miles south of Seattle, Washington. The city is 60 miles north of Portland, Oregon and 60 miles south of Olympia, Washington. Spirit Lake Highway connects the city to the Mount Saint Helens area, one of the most popular and spectacular tourist attractions in Washington State. Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument is managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and is visited by hundreds of thousands of people annually.

Castle Rock is the northernmost city in Cowlitz County, with a population of 2,150 in 2010. The city is located along the eastern banks of the Cowlitz River approximately two miles south of the junction of the Cowlitz and Toutle rivers.

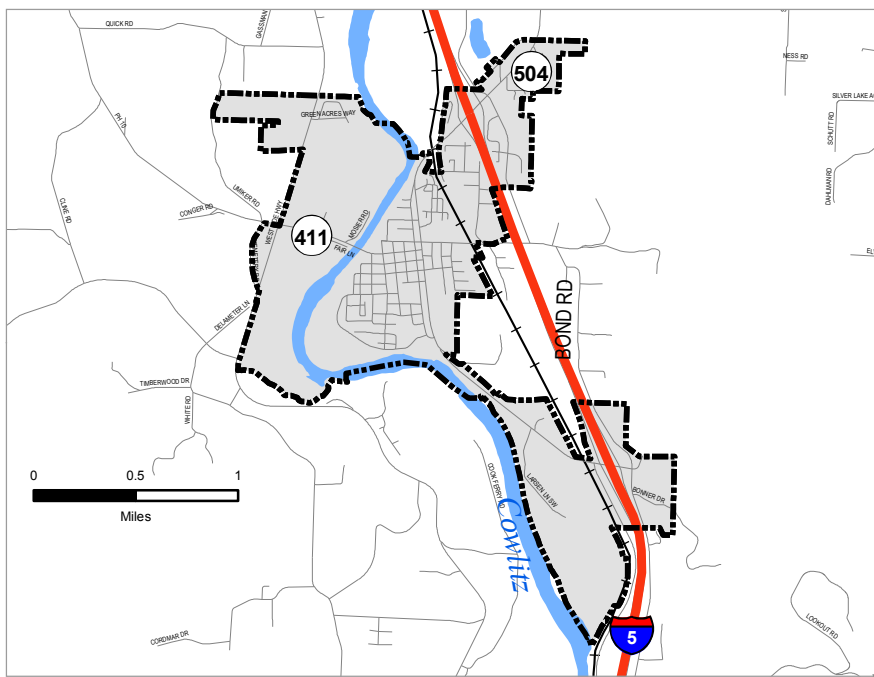
Castle Rock is centered primarily on the donation land claim of Eliza and William Huntington, who settled the area in 1852. They named the town after a large volcanic rock formation approximately 200 feet high which resembled a castle. During the period of active riverboat transportation on the Cowlitz River, "The Rock" formation was a major geographical landmark in Cowlitz County.

The eruption of Mount Saint Helens in 1980 forever changed the cultural and physical geography of the Castle Rock region. The eruption sent tons of ash and volcanic debris flooding through the Cowlitz River Basin and the city. The 10 years following the eruption (1980-1990) were marked with the first population decrease in a 10-year period since 1940. A downturn in logging beginning in the 1980s also contributed to the exodus of residents and a decline in the local and regional economy.

Despite the events of the last 30 years, Castle Rock is poised for rejuvenation and opportunity. With a desirable natural environment, small-town appeal, affordable housing, good schools and recreation opportunities galore, Castle Rock is a prosperous community with an exciting past and great potential for a bright future. By design, parks and recreational opportunities play an important and prominent part in the community and will continue to be a tie that binds.

Regarding the spatial boundaries of the planning area, the Castle Rock city limits mostly demarcate the specific area, as these are the only lands under the jurisdiction of the city (Figure 1). The Castle Rock High School and grounds (including the North County Recreational Sports Complex and Al Helenberg Memorial Boat Launch) were annexed in 2008 and the Mount Saint Helens Motorcycle Club arena, Castle Rock Fairground and the dredge spoil lands on the west side of the river are part of 275 acres currently in the process of being annexed into the city.

**Figure 1
Service Areas**

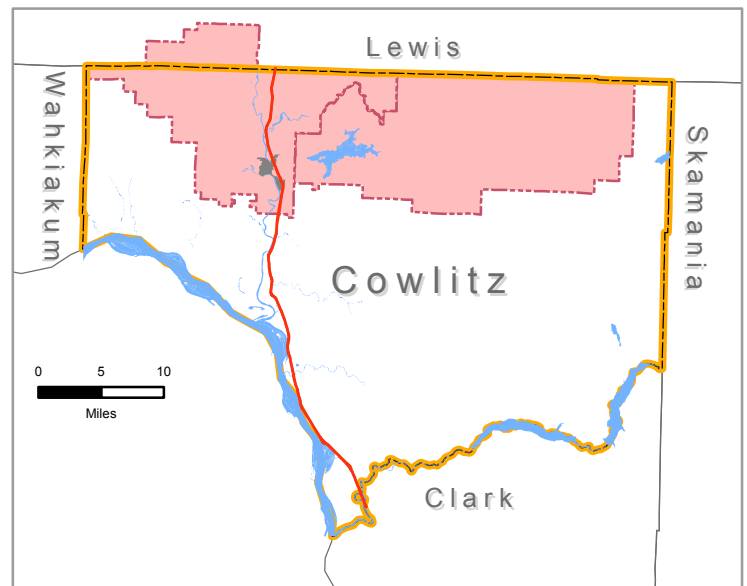


The City of Castle Rock

The population of the City of Castle Rock is estimated at 2,150.

North Cowlitz County

The Northern Cowlitz County population is comprised of residents of the Castle Rock and Toutle Lake School Districts, which together equal approximately 11,420 people.



Southwest Washington/Northwest Oregon

The SW WA/NW OR population is comprised of residents of Cowlitz, Clark, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Yakima Counties in Washington and Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Hood River, Multnomah, and Washington Counties in Oregon. The estimated population is 3,703,315 people.

This planning effort recognizes and delineates multiple service areas, which are:

1.The City of Castle Rock. The less intense recreational facilities such as mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks, are intended to serve city residents. When natural or man made barriers isolate a neighborhood, the service area is divided into subareas and are examined at the Census Block level.

The population of the City of Castle Rock is estimated 2,150.

2.Northern Cowlitz County. As the only city in north Cowlitz County, Castle Rock serves as the recreational focal point for surrounding rural residents. Rural residents are actively involved with regional sports leagues, school recreational opportunities and utilize community-wide parks and trails as well as the fair grounds, senior center, exhibit hall and library.

The Northern Cowlitz County population is comprised of residents of the Castle Rock and Toutle Lake School Districts, which together equal approximately 11,420 people.

3.Southwest Washington/Northwest Oregon. Because the stretch of the Cowlitz River in and around Castle Rock includes some of the best recreational fishing locations in the Pacific Northwest, the Al Helenberg Memorial Boat Launch serves residents of Southwest Washington/Northwest Oregon. Additionally, the city's business community is currently implementing its strategic marketing plan that includes developing and promoting certain regional facilities that will attract recreation tournaments and tourists. Finally, during the public outreach portion of this planning effort, a large group of bicycling enthusiasts approached the Parks Board about developing a "Pump Track" addition to the existing BMX course and survey results demonstrate it is likely to draw visitors at the greater regional level.

The SW WA/NW OR population is comprised of residents of Cowlitz, Clark, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Yakima Counties in Washington and Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Hood River, Multnomah, and Washington Counties in Oregon. The estimated population is 3,703,315 people.

When discussing the new concept of multiple service areas, it is important to note that a facility may provide a variety of amenities intended to serve multiple populations. For instance, the North County Recreation Facilities includes the Al Helenberg Memorial Boat Launch that serves residents of Southwest Washington/Northwest Oregon. The facility also includes the Sports Complex that serves recreators from North Cowlitz County. Finally, the master plan calls for installation of playground equipment that will serve local residents. While this is the largest recreational facility with unique offerings, many of the recreational facilities serve at least two populations.

Population and Demographic Trends

The 2010 Population Estimates provided by Washington State Department of Financial Management and Portland State Population Research Center are the most recent population estimates available. Table 1 below, illustrates changes in total population between 2005 and 2010 for the various service areas.

Table 1. Percent Population Change, 2005-2010, Various Service Areas

Year	2005 Population	2010 Population	Change	% Change
Castle Rock	2,140	2,150	10	0%
North County	10,748	11,420	672	5.9%
SW WA / NW OR	3,449,950	3,703,315	253,365	6.8%

Estimate provided by the Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2010 and Portland State Population Research Center

From 2005 to 2010, Castle Rock gained in population by 10 people. Table 2, depicts projected growth based on three different scenarios. Population growth in the City of Castle Rock is expected to remain at around one percent or less annually through at least the next decade, although population projections are always speculative. For instance, the city has a variety of industrial and highway business zoned land that could potentially bring additional jobs to the area and cause an accelerated rate of growth if they were developed.

Unlike a comprehensive plan, which discusses growth and population on a 20-year timeframe and is updated at various intervals, park and recreation plans must be updated on a six-year schedule to retain eligibility for state funding. As a result, population has only been projected through the year 2020, because this plan will presumably be updated sometime around 2017 and will benefit from the updated Comprehensive Plan update figures in terms of selecting an appropriate and representative growth rate.

Table 2. Castle Rock population projections 2010-2020

Year	.50% Growth	1.0% Growth	1.5% Growth	2.0% Growth
2010	2,161	2,172	2,182	2,193
2015	2,215	2,282	2,351	2,421
2020	2,271	2,399	2,533	2,673

2010 Census data has not been released prior to the drafting of this plan and so the demographic information from the 2000 Census is still the most current.

Table 3 and Figure 2 provide further analysis of Castle Rock population characteristics in 2000. Overall, population is fairly evenly distributed between the various age groups, with the highest percentage of residents falling between 35-49 years of age. Between 1990 and 2000, there has been almost a 67% increase in residents aged 50-64 and nearly a 24% decrease in residents ages 20-34. This suggests that Castle Rock’s population as a whole is aging and that fewer young people/families are moving to, or remaining in the city, although there was nearly a 20% increase in residents aged 35-49.

These population trends and information become especially important when planning for parks and recreational opportunities of the future. Understanding the geographical distribution of Castle Rock’s population is also very critical to the placement of facilities. A detailed examination of population distribution within Castle Rock occurs in a forthcoming section (Chapter IV) as part of the *Demand and Needs Analysis*.

Table 3. Castle Rock population distribution by age and sex, 2000

Age Groups	Male	Female	Total
0-9	159	178	337
10-19	177	171	348
20-34	156	201	357
35-49	226	231	457
50-64	157	185	342
65+	110	179	289
Total			2130

In terms of population characteristics for the outlying region (service area), it is somewhat challenging to summarize the area. Census Tract 20.01, runs west of Castle Rock, from just north of Lexington northward to the county line. Census Tract 20.02 includes Castle Rock and the area north to the county line and west towards Silver Lake. Table 4 provides population figures for the two Census tracts with the population of Castle Rock subtracted from Tract 20.02. As clearly shown, the outlying area has an older demographic than the City of Castle Rock, with approximately 61% of the population being age 35 and over (as opposed to 51% within Castle Rock).

Table 4. Age distribution by Census Tract with the City of Castle Rock’s population removed from the counts for Census Tract 20.02

Census Tract	Age Groups & Population Counts (2000)						Total
	0-9	10-19	20-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
20.01	323	452	414	737	731	679	3,336
20.02	417	542	477	863	689	384	3,372
Total	740	994	891	1,600	1,420	1,063	6,708
Percentage of Total	11%	15%	13%	24%	21%	16%	100%

Source: Census 2000

Table 5. Existing recreation facilities in and around the City of Castle Rock (page 1 of 3)

Name	Park Type	Map Label	General Location	Size	Developed	Primary Activity	Facilities/Features
North County Recreation Sports Complex	Regional Park	2	Access just south of High School 5180 West Side Highway	72 acres	Phase 1 completed	Active recreation, community sports	
Al Helenberg Memorial Boat Launch	Regional Facility	3	Access just south of High School 5180 West Side Highway	2 ramps	Phase 1 completed	Boat access to the Cowlitz River for recreation and emergency responders	
Fairgrounds	Special Use	4	Just over the A St. Bridge, south of PH 10	15 acres	Yes	Various fair-related activities	Outbuildings, stage, grounds, etc.
Motorcycle Club Facilities	Private Recreation Facility	5	Adjacent to the Fairgrounds	20 acres	Yes	Motorcycle races and similar events	Stands, racetrack, concession stand, etc.
City/DNR Dredge Spoil Land (west) "High Banks"	N/A – undeveloped	6	South of the fair and motorcycle grounds	70 acres	No	Passive and active recreation	Unimproved trails, fishing, etc.
City-Owned Dredge Spoils (east side) "Big Bend"	Community	7	Between the Cowlitz River and Dike Road	30 acres	No	Passive and active recreation	Unimproved trails, fishing, etc.
BMX Track	Community Park	8	West end of Warren St. SW, off of the Riverfront Trail	.5 acres	Partially	Active recreation, bike riding	BMX bike course (jumps, mounds, etc.)

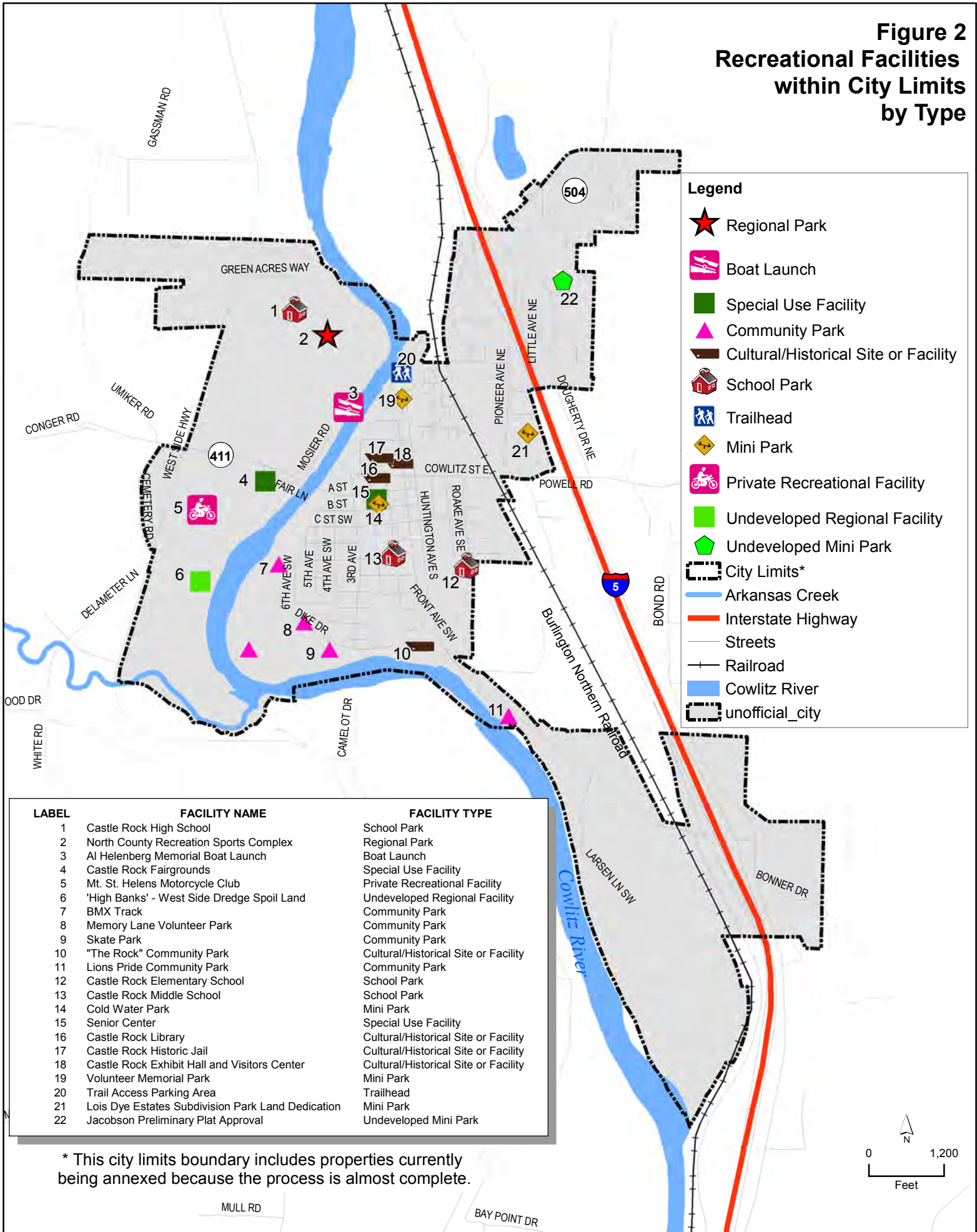
Table 5. Existing recreation facilities in and around the City of Castle Rock (page 2 of 3)

Name	Park Type	Map Label	General Location	Size	Developed	Primary Activity	Facilities/Features
Memory Lane Volunteer Park	Neighborhood Park	9	Western end of Michner St.	1 acre	Yes	Passive and active recreation location for adjacent neighborhood	Covered picnic tables, swings, slide, grassy areas
Skate Park	Community Park	10	West end of Third Ave. SW, off of the Riverfront Trail	.5 acre	Partially	Active recreation, skateboarding and roller blade users	Skateboarding facilities
The Rock Community Park	Cultural/Historical Site or Facility	11	West of Huntington Ave., south of Dike Road	3 acres	Yes	Passive recreation, trails, etc.	Trails, covered picnic area atop the hill
Lions Pride Park	Community Park	12	Along Huntington Ave., south of "The Rock"	7.9 acres	Yes (room for expansion)	Picnicking, access to Riverfront Trail, sightseeing	Picnic tables, restrooms, parking, RV waste disposal
Cold Water Park	Mini-Park	15	Adjacent to the Senior Center	2,500 sq. ft.	Yes	Neighborhood playlot	Slide, play structure, swings, etc.
Volunteer Memorial Park	Mini-Park	20	North entrance to Castle Rock along Huntington Ave.	.25 acres	Yes	Passive use park for picnicking and resting	Covered picnic bench, Harry Truman Memorial, plants
Lois Dye Estates Subdivision Park Land Dedication	Mini-Park	22	607 Tia Court NE., near Pioneer Ave	.27 acres	No	Neighborhood playlot	Vacant land to be developed with amenities chosen by future residents

Table 5. Existing recreation facilities in and around the City of Castle Rock (page 3 of 3)

Name	Park Type	Map Label	General Location	Size	Developed	Primary Activity	Facilities/Features
Jacobson Preliminary Plat Park Land Dedication	Mini-Park	23	11000 Dougherty Dr	.4 acres	No	Neighborhood playlot	Vacant land to be developed if subdivision is finalized
Castle Rock Library	Cultural/Historical Site or Facility	17	137 Cowlitz St. W	3,750 sq. ft.	Yes	Passive use for reading, lectures, crafts, internet use	Library facilities
Castle Rock Exhibit Hall and Visitors Center	Cultural/Historical Site or Facility	19	147 Front Ave. W	6,100 sq. ft.	Yes	Passive use for leisure, social, entertainment and educational outlet	Exhibits and displays
Castle Rock Historic Jail	Cultural/Historical Site or Facility	18	65 Jackson St. SW	360 sq. ft.	Partially	Passive use for picnicking, resting and enjoying history	Historic jail, landscaping
Senior Center	Special Use Facility	16	Behind City Hall	2,600 sq. ft.	Yes	Leisure, social and entertainment outlet for seniors	Large rooms with tables and kitchen facilities, etc.
Castle Rock Elementary School	School Park	13	700 Huntington Ave.	43 acres	Yes (room for expansion)	School-related activities, public use after hours	Numerous features, see prior pages for list
Castle Rock Middle School	School Park	14	615 Front Ave. SW	4.5 acres	Yes	School-related activities	Tennis courts, open field, ball field
Castle Rock High School	School Park	1	5180 Westside Highway	107 acres (72 = Sports Complex)	Yes	School-related activities, public use after hours	Numerous features, see prior pages for list

Figure 2 Recreational Facilities within City Limits by Type



Legend

- ★ Regional Park
- 🚤 Boat Launch
- 🏟️ Special Use Facility
- 🏠 Community Park
- 🏛️ Cultural/Historical Site or Facility
- 🏫 School Park
- 🚶 Trailhead
- 🚲 Mini Park
- 🏍️ Private Recreational Facility
- 🟩 Undeveloped Regional Facility
- 🟩 Undeveloped Mini Park
- ⬛ City Limits*
- 🌊 Arkansas Creek
- 🛣️ Interstate Highway
- 🛣️ Streets
- 🚂 Railroad
- 🌊 Cowlitz River
- ⬛ unofficial_city

LABEL	FACILITY NAME	FACILITY TYPE
1	Castle Rock High School	School Park
2	North County Recreation Sports Complex	Regional Park
3	Al Helenberg Memorial Boat Launch	Boat Launch
4	Castle Rock Fairgrounds	Special Use Facility
5	Mt. St. Helens Motorcycle Club	Private Recreational Facility
6	'High Banks' - West Side Dredge Spoil Land	Undeveloped Regional Facility
7	BMX Track	Community Park
8	Memory Lane Volunteer Park	Community Park
9	Skate Park	Community Park
10	"The Rock" Community Park	Cultural/Historical Site or Facility
11	Lions Pride Community Park	Community Park
12	Castle Rock Elementary School	School Park
13	Castle Rock Middle School	School Park
14	Cold Water Park	Mini Park
15	Senior Center	Special Use Facility
16	Castle Rock Library	Cultural/Historical Site or Facility
17	Castle Rock Historic Jail	Cultural/Historical Site or Facility
18	Castle Rock Exhibit Hall and Visitors Center	Cultural/Historical Site or Facility
19	Volunteer Memorial Park	Mini Park
20	Trail Access Parking Area	Trailhead
21	Lois Dye Estates Subdivision Park Land Dedication	Mini Park
22	Jacobson Preliminary Plat Approval	Undeveloped Mini Park

* This city limits boundary includes properties currently being annexed because the process is almost complete.

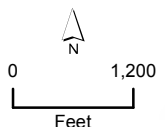
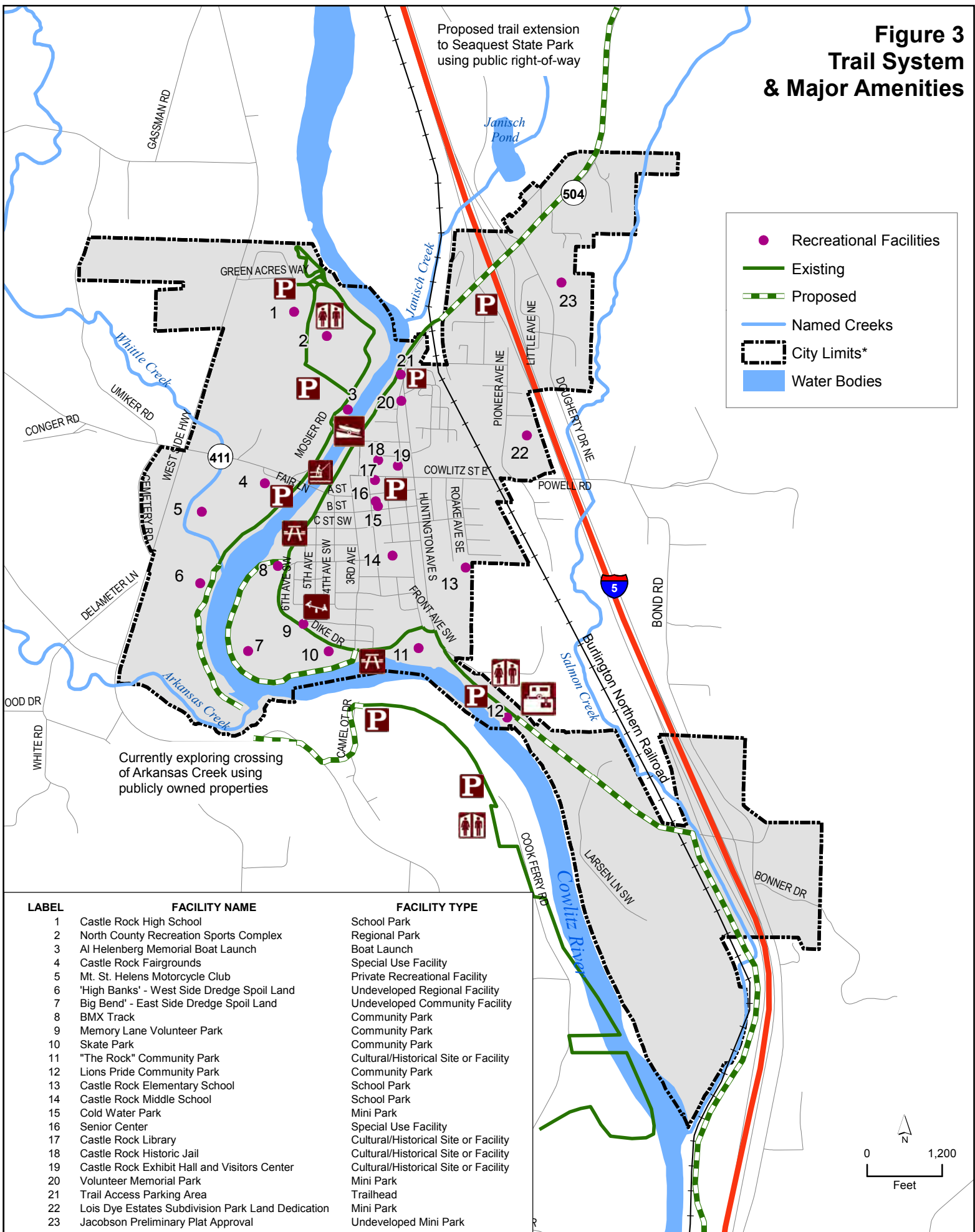
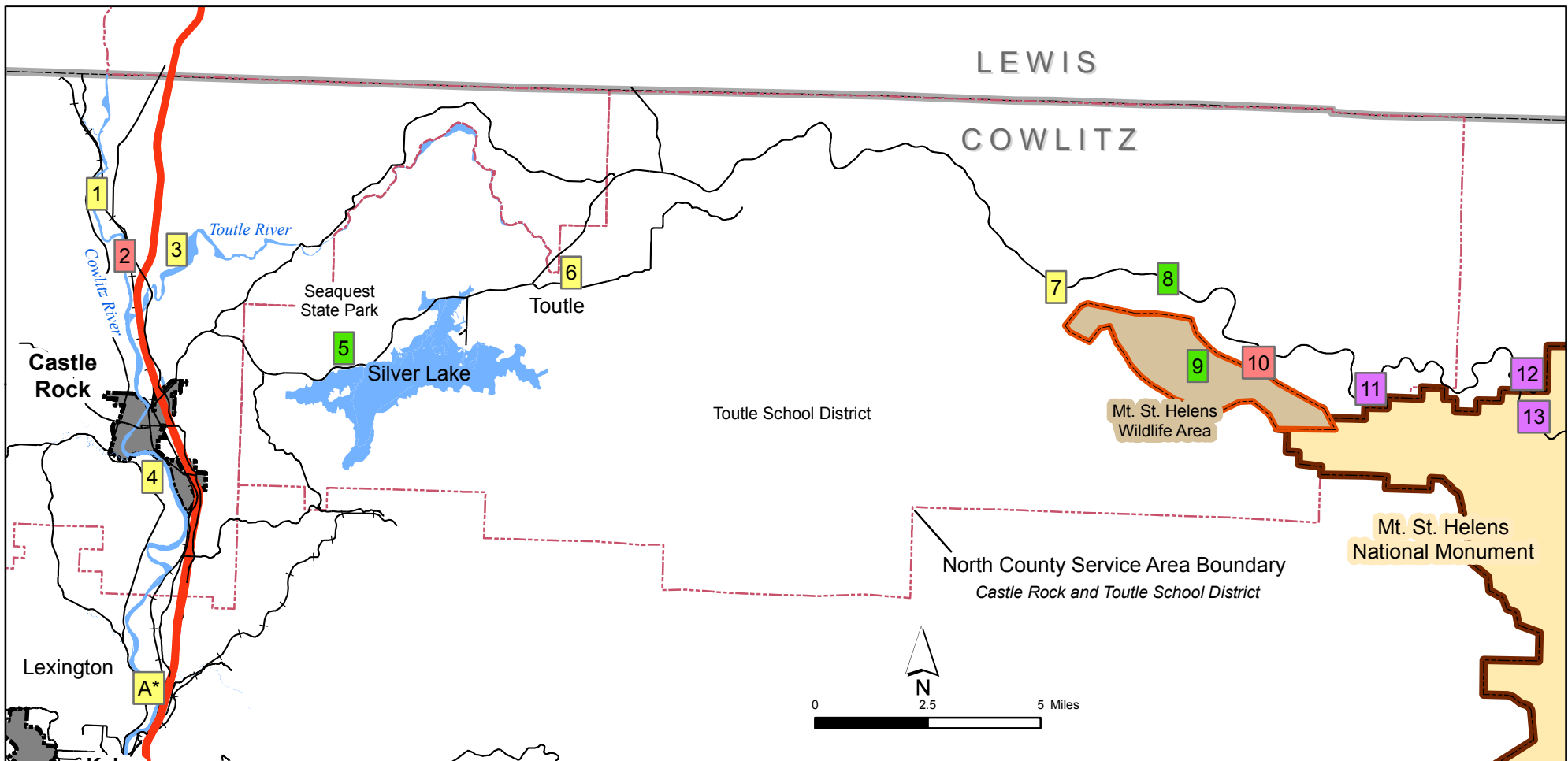


Figure 3 Trail System & Major Amenities





A* = Riverside Park, the closest Cowlitz County Community Park outside the North County Service Area

LABEL	FACILITY NAME	OWNER
1	Hog Island Access	Cowlitz
2	Toutle River Park RV Resort	Private
3	Toutle Park Area (LT-1) Site	Cowlitz
4	Cook Ferry Trail	Cowlitz County
5	Seaquest State Park	State - PRC
6	Harry Gardner Park Site	Cowlitz
7	Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center	Cowlitz
8	Hoffstadt Bridge Viewpoint	State - DOT
9	Mt. St. Helens Wildlife Area	State - WDFW
10	Mt. St. Helens Forest Learning Cent	Weyerhaeuser
11	Elk Rock Viewpoint	Federal
12	Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center	Federal
13	Coldwater Lake Facilities	Federal

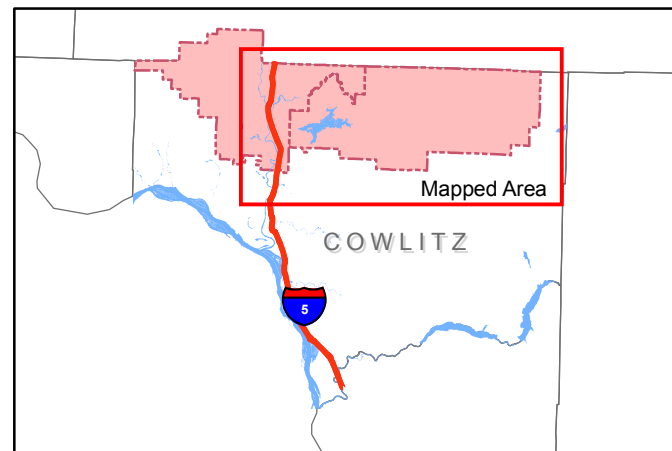
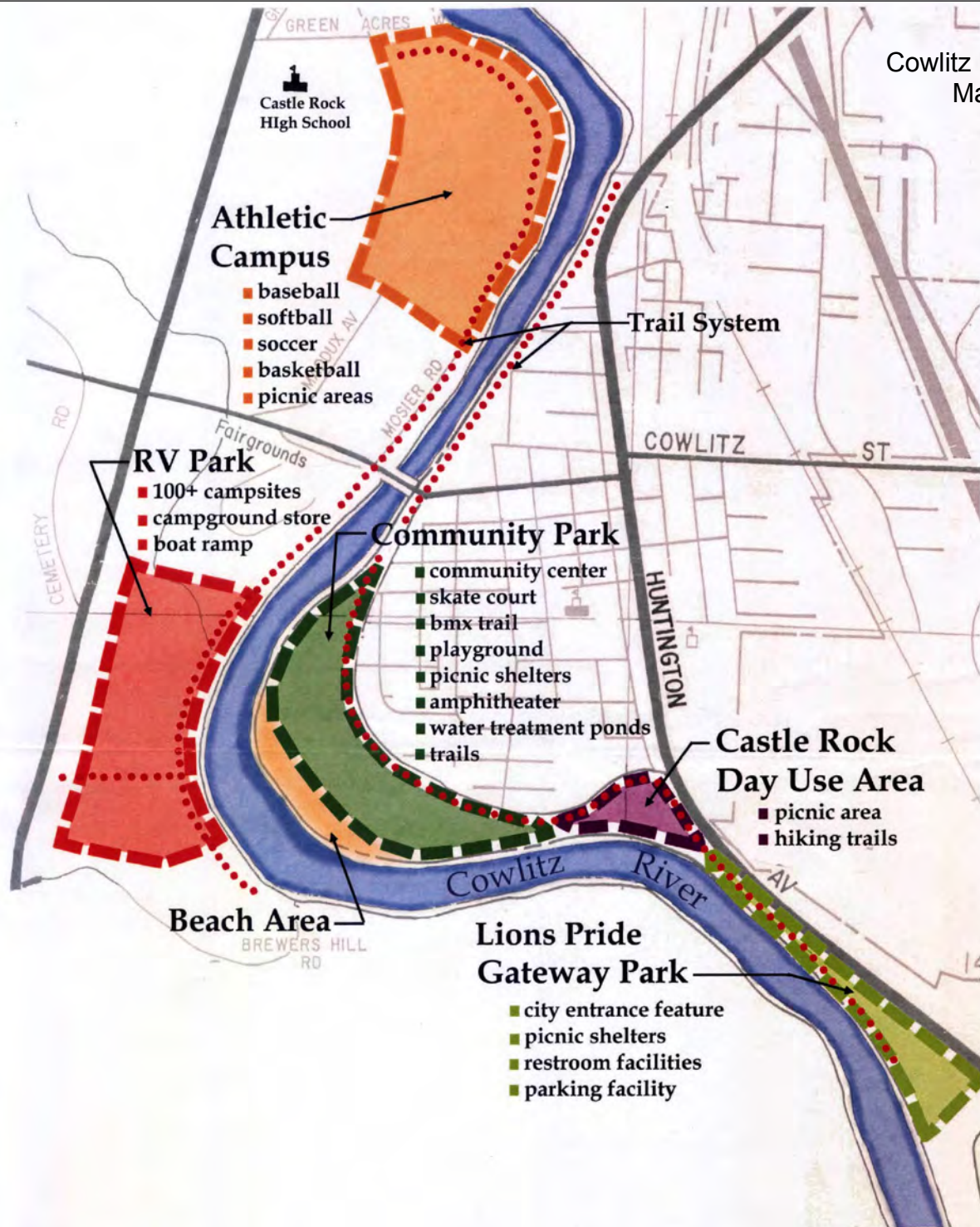


Figure 4
North County
Service Area

Figure 5
Cowlitz Riverfront
Master Plan



Cowlitz Riverfront Master Plan

City of Castle Rock, WA



Not to Scale

Robert W. Droll
Landscape Architect, PS
(360)456-3813

Inventory of Existing Facilities

The following pages provide a brief summary of recreational opportunities and parks in and around the City of Castle Rock. For the most part, these facilities are under the jurisdiction of the City of Castle Rock or the Castle Rock School District, although some are owned and/or operated by private entities, or Washington State (Department of Natural Resources). All size notations are approximate. For a condensed index of parks and recreational facilities please see Table 5 on pages 14-16. See reference map (Figure 2, Page 17) for city facility locations. Park classifications are discussed in more detail in the next chapter.

Lions Pride Park

Location: Huntington Avenue along the Cowlitz River at the southern entrance to the city, just south of “The Rock.”

Size: 7.9 acres

Classification: Community Park

Features/Description: Lions Pride Park is located at the southern gateway to the City of Castle Rock and serves as a starting point for those wishing to access the Riverfront Trail. Additional recreational activities include river viewing and picnicking. Access to the Cowlitz River is limited because of steep banks in the area. Site features include six covered picnic areas with benches and barbeque grills, permanent restroom facilities, a paved driveway and three paved parking spots, including one handicap accessible space and an RV waste disposal station. The park is also within the proximity of where entrance improvements have been completed and where future enhancements are planned. Overall, a significant portion of the site remains undeveloped with room for possible expansion, including on the east (or north) side of Huntington Avenue.



The Rock Community Park

Location: West of Huntington Avenue just south of Dike Drive

Size: 3 acres

Classification: Cultural/Historical

Features/Description: The Rock Community Park consists of a small and steep hill with rock cliffs dropping off into the Cowlitz River. The city is named after this formation and it has deep historical value to the community. The park is mostly unimproved, but does have some walking/hiking trails (non-paved) scattered throughout. There is a trail to the top of the hill, where a picnic shelter and bench are located.



“The Big Bend” - City-Owner Dredge Spoils – East Side of Cowlitz River

The City of Castle Rock owns approximately 30 acres of land along the east side of the Cowlitz River west of Dike Drive. The area was used to place dredging material (dredge spoils) that were removed from the Cowlitz River in order to deepen and clear the river channel after Mount Saint Helens erupted. Currently, the site provides a few limited recreational functions and has many possibilities for future development. A brief look at existing developed facilities within the dredge spoils site occurs below.

◆ *Skate Park*

Size: Around .50 acre

Classification: Community Park

Features/Description: Constructed in late 2003, Phase I of the Skate Park includes a variety of features such as ramps and 17,000 square feet of smooth asphalt surface. Additional improvements are planned as funding allows.



◆ ***BMX Trail***

Size: There are bike trails throughout much of dredge spoils, but the developed BMX portion is relatively small (less than an acre).

Classification: Community Park

Features/Description: The BMX tract is located west of Warren Street (north of the Skate Park) and was constructed in 2003. The tract provides a series of jumps and mounds for the bike-riding public and is used extensively by the youth of the community.



Memory Lane Volunteer Park

Location: North of the Skate Park at the western end of Michner Street.

Size: Approximately 1 acre

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Features/Description: Memory Lane Volunteer Park is a fairly small facility that is owned and operated by the city. The park features one covered picnic bench, two swingsets, one slide and one big toy apparatus. There is some limited open space available and planted evergreen trees that have been dedicated along the memorial walk.



Volunteer Memorial Park

Location: North entrance of Castle Rock, north of Barr Street, between Front Street and Huntington Avenue.

Size: Around .20 acres

Classification: Special Use

Features/Description: Memorial Park is owned and maintained by the local Lions Club. The park provides open space and picnic opportunities to local residents and travelers just passing through. The park also contains the Harry Truman Memorial Monument. Other site features include a covered picnic bench area with two tables and many varieties of trees.



Senior Center

Location: Corner of 2nd Avenue and A Street (behind City Hall)

Size: Leased space equals 2,600 square feet

Classification: N/A

Features/Description: The Castle Rock Senior Center is a non-profit organization led by a board of directors. They lease space from the city at the City Hall building. The center provides a leisure, social and entertainment outlet for seniors, with many nutritional, health, recreational and fitness programs for seniors.



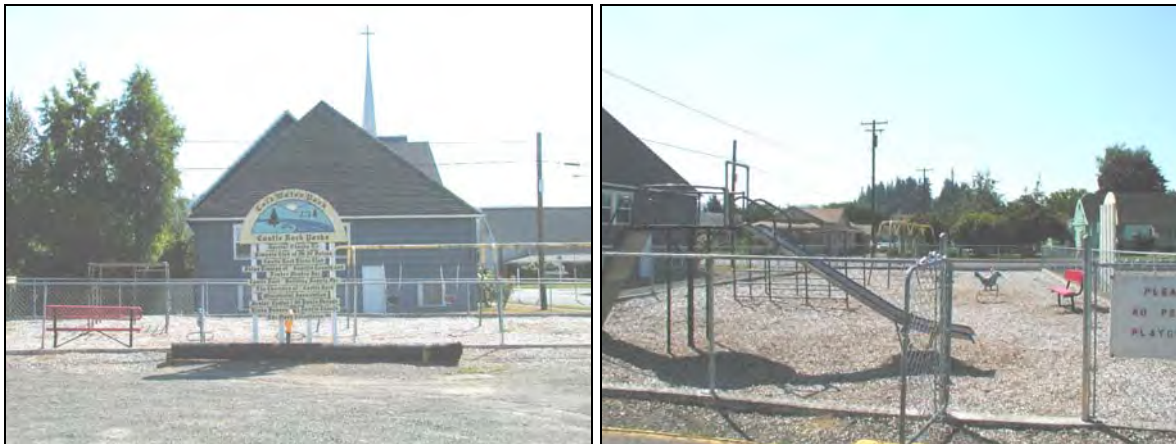
Cold Water Park

Location: Adjacent to the Senior Center

Size: Approximately 2,500 square feet

Classification: Mini-Park (local playlot)

Features/Description: This small park provides the immediate area with a small playlot for younger-aged children. It features a slide, two rockers, one bench, one set of swings with four swings and a play structure. This newer park (constructed post-1998) provides an excellent example of how even a small lot, or portion of a lot, can be transformed into a site with recreational value.



Fairground & Motorcycle Club

Location: West side of Cowlitz River, along Fair Lane

Size: *Fairground:* Approximately 15 acres *Motorcycle Club:* Approximately 20 acres

Classification: Special Use (Fairground), Private Recreation Facility (Motorcycle Club)

Features/Description: The community fairgrounds and motorcycle club are adjacent to one another and are located in the area currently being annexed into town. The fairgrounds are managed by the Castle Rock Fair Board and are primarily used to house the community fair (“Mountain Mania”). The motorcycle track is managed by the Mount Saint Helens Motorcycle Club and is used for motorcycle races and other similar events. The fairgrounds contain characteristic buildings and facilities typical of small community fairs including several barns and outbuildings, a small stage and a variety of other features. The motorcycle grounds include a racetrack, grandstands and a concession stand and ticket booth.



City/DNR-Owned Dredge Spoils – West Side of Cowlitz River

Location: West side of Cowlitz River, south of PH 10 and east of SR 411 (south of Fairground and Motorcycle Club land)

Size: Around 30 acres (city) 40 acres (DNR)

Classification: N/A – Undeveloped

Features/Description: On the west side of the Cowlitz River, the City of Castle Rock and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) jointly own and manage these dredge spoils. Although the spoils are largely undeveloped, there is a dirt road, which provides access to the river and a series of mostly unimproved trails. The area provides a popular fishing, swimming and picnic spot and has the potential to be developed into a community park, RV park or multi-purpose recreational site.



Riverfront Trail

Location: The Riverfront Trail runs along the east side of the Cowlitz River from Lions Pride Park to near N. Huntington Ave/SR 411. On the west side of the Cowlitz River, the trail extends from near Green Acres along the backside of the high school grounds adjacent to the Sports Complex south to Mosier Road and from the fairgrounds south to Whittle Creek.

Size: East Side = 1.9 miles total
West Side = 2.1 miles total

Classification: Multi-Purpose Trail System

Features/Description: The Riverfront Trail network is a trail system located mostly along the Cowlitz River dike. Trail amenities include trail lighting, benches and viewing areas. An ADA accessible ramp joins the trail to downtown Castle Rock. The trail connects residential, commercial, school and recreational areas to one another, providing a safe mode of travel for the entire community. The trail is widely used by walkers, bicyclists, joggers, skateboarders and dogwalkers.





Lois Dye Estates Subdivision Park Land Dedication

Location: 607 Tia Court NE., near Pioneer Ave in SubArea 2.

Size: Around .27 acre

Classification: Dedicated land for creation of a Mini-Park

Features/Description: In the course of designing a new single family residential development, ABT Development dedicated a tract of land for a public park and \$10,000 towards improvements. The amenities of the park will be decided after a percentage of the residents build their homes and take ownership of the surrounding properties.

Jacobson Preliminary Park Land Dedication

Location: 11000 Dougherty Drive NE in SubArea 1.

Size: Around .4 acre

Classification: Non-Dedicated land for creation of a Mini-Park

Features/Description: In the course of negotiating improvements necessary to demonstrate satisfaction of local and state subdivision requirements in order to achieve preliminary plat approval for a mixed use commercial/residential development, Jacobson Investments proposed to dedicate a tract of land for a public park. Also included in the designs are lands necessary for trail connection easements. While the preliminary plat approval is binding, the subdivision is not final and the land is not dedicated to date.

Castle Rock Exhibit Hall and Visitors Center

Location: 147 Front Ave. SW

Size: Approximately 6,100 square feet

Classification: Cultural/Historical Site or Facility

Features/Description: The Castle Rock Exhibit Hall and Visitors Center features exhibits that convey the impact of the Mount St. Helens eruption on the area. As a historical museum there are displays on logging and rivers as well as Mount St. Helens. Exhibits include a working replica of a sawmill and a steam tractor. Other exhibits include logging equipment and historical photographs. The Exhibit Hall is open 9 am to 6 pm daily. Admission is free, donations accepted.



Castle Rock Library

Location: 137 Cowlitz St. West

Size: Approximately 3,750 square feet

Classification: Cultural/Historical Site or Facility

Features/Description: In addition to customary materials found in a library, the Castle Rock Library is pleased to offer:

- Storytime – youth reading program held every Tuesday at 10:45 a.m.

- Public computer and internet access
- Specialty collection of local history and genealogy



Castle Rock Jail

Location: In the back lot of 65 Jackson St SW

Size: Approximately 3,750 square feet

Classification: Cultural/Historical Site or Facility

Features/Description: There is an opportunity at this historic facility for passive recreation such as picnicking and an interpretive sign discussing local history among landscaping.



Castle Rock School District Facilities

The Castle Rock School District maintains facilities at three locations identified and discussed in more detail below. With all school district facilities it is important to keep in mind that although a variety of recreational exist, some are not accessible to the general public outside of organized school activities/events. For the facilities listed below, an approximate area estimation is given for outdoor recreation space. This was estimated by deducing building footprint, parking areas, access roads and landscaped areas from total acreage figures. As with the above sites, all area calculations are general and approximate in nature.

◆ *Castle Rock Elementary School*

Location: 700 Huntington Ave. S

Site Area: Around 43 acres

Outdoor Recreation Area: Around 39 acres

Classification: School Park

Features:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 – Large swing set (6 swings) | 2 – Baseball and/or softball fields |
| 1 – Full-court basketball court | 1 – Gymnasium* |
| 1 – Large play structure with benches | 1 – Tether rope area |
| 1 – Covered play area with basketball | 1 – Tot playground |
| 1 – Quarter mile track | 2 – Paved play areas |
| 3 – Soccer fields (2 are standard sized) | 2 – Grassy play fields |

* Gymnasium open to the public during non-school hours

Comments: The outdoor facilities at Castle Rock Elementary School are accessible to the public during non-school hours. There are no gates that preclude pedestrian access or have the potential to be locked. Therefore, it is assumed that the facilities are basically open to the public after school and during holidays, breaks/vacations and weekends.



◆ ***Castle Rock Middle School***

Location: 615 Front Ave. SW

Site Area: Approximately 4.5 acres

Outdoor Recreation Area: Around 2 acres

Classification: N/A

Features/Description:

1 – Grass field/play area

1 – Gymnasium*

1 – Unimproved baseball/softball field

1- Fitness Room

The fitness room includes 25 pieces of high-tech exercise equipment, including 13 cardio machines and 12 weight machines. It has rest rooms but no showers.

* Gymnasium open to the public during non-school hours

Comments: The grassy field and unimproved ball field are open and accessible from Hibbard Street. The tennis courts are being reviewed and will likely be converted to basketball courts. Overall, the site features very few recreational options, but could be improved to better serve the community.



◆ ***Castle Rock High School & Sports Complex***

Location: 5180 Westside Highway

Site Area: Around 107 acres

Outdoor Recreation Area: H.S. Recreation = 25 acres Sports Complex = 72 acres

High School Features:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2 – Baseball fields | 2 – Softball fields |
| 1 – Stadium with football field | 1 – All-weather track (8 lanes) |
| 4 – Tennis courts | 1 – Practice football field |
| 1 – Soccer field | 1 – Indoor gymnasium (school use only) |
| 1 – Weight room (school use only) | |
- Forum/lunch room with kitchen, classrooms and a small theater
Library open in the summer to the public

Sports Complex Features (in development):

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 5 – Baseball/softball fields | 1 – Soccer fields (potential for two) |
| 1 – Large parking lot | • Future concession stand/restrooms |
| • Potential for basketball & volleyball courts | • Access to the Riverfront Trail |
| • Possible boat launch | |

Comments: The Sports Complex is currently under construction and will be a phased project. The sports complex represents a partnership between the North County Recreation Association and the Castle Rock School District, with much of the work being done by volunteers. The

Riverfront Trail runs partially through the complex and people accessing the trail will be able to utilize the parking lot at the complex. When completed, the complex could be host to sports tournaments and will serve as a recreational focal point for the entire region. Baseball and softball league play should began in the spring of 2005.

High School Photographs



Sports Complex Photographs



Riverfront trail along the backside of the complex



Boat launch and fields at the complex



Ball fields

CHAPTER IV

DEMAND AND NEED ANALYSIS

In the context of parks and recreation, demand and need can be assessed in several different ways. From discussing participation trends and evaluating existing facilities to reviewing demographic data, there are many options available to communities of all different sizes. As stated in the Planning Policies #2 pamphlet published by the RCO (2000), “A small community with minimal needs may rely on a simple process, such as personal observations and informal talks” (5), to analyze need. The City of Castle Rock chose to evaluate demand and need by utilizing a hybrid approach that included:

- Review of demographic information (including age characteristics)
- Review of existing standards/classifications from the 2005 Park Plan
- Review of existing documents and community planning efforts
- Inventory and informal evaluation of existing facilities
- Soliciting of public comment via a survey and during public meetings/hearings
- Informal discussion and personal observations of the Park Board, City Staff and others

General population information and demographic trends were presented and discussed in the previous chapter, as was the inventory and evaluation of existing facilities. The discussion below includes a review of park and recreation standards with an analysis of the spatial distribution of the population and examination of the community survey results. This chapter concludes with a summary of park and recreation needs based on a careful assessment and integration of the aforementioned factors affecting demand.

Park and Recreation Standards

Facility standards provide a way to measure the amount of park and recreational space needed to meet the demands of a community. This Park Plan utilizes both numerical standards produced via the “population ratio method” and qualitative statements derived from analysis of population distribution, survey results and other sources of information. These standards are not meant to be inflexible requirements and should be placed in the context of the expressed need discussed in the “survey results” section.

It is also critical to point out this planning effort recognizes three distinct service areas: the City of Castle Rock, Northern Clatsop County and Southwest Washington/Northwest Oregon. These service areas have been substantiated via league and/or facility registrations, survey results. For instance, it is known that 75% of the Senior Center members live outside city limits. Additionally, day use registration for the boat launch demonstrate users from throughout Southwest Washington and Northwest Oregon.

Park and Facility Classifications

The following general park classifications and service area and size standards were established by examining the classification system outlined in the National Recreation and Park Association’s publication entitled, “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines” (1996). Local factors were also considered and thus the following listings may be modified from the national guidelines. The listed “standard” is a population-derived figure (ratio) and is similar to the one used in the 2005 Park Plan (fractional units have been rounded). For a comprehensive list of existing park and recreation facilities and their associated classification, please see Table 5 (pages 16-18). The expressed need for the year 2016 assumes a one percent annual growth rate.

Mini-Parks (“Pocket Parks”)

A mini-park is the smallest park classification and is designed to address limited recreational needs of a small geographical area or to account for unique recreational opportunities. This park classification may include active and passive recreation activities including small play areas, scenic overlooks, landscaped public areas, along with picnic and sitting areas. A mini-park does not function in isolation, but instead is ideally part of a network of parks located within close proximity to all residents.

Service Area	Size	Standard
<i>¼ mile or less</i>	<i>2,500 sq. ft. – 1 acre</i>	<i>1 park per 750 people</i>

Location Guidelines:

1. Must serve a specific recreation need and be easily accessed by the target user-group
2. Could ideally be established in conjunction with a residential plat on dedicated land
3. If possible, should be linked to other parks via greenways and trails

Need Analysis:

Current Supply:	2 facilities (Cold Water Park and Lois Dye Estates Subdivision)
Standard:	3 facilities (2,150 pop. x 1/750)
2011 Need:	1 facility (numerical need - current supply)
2017 Need:	1 facility in addition to 2011 need (2,399 pop. x 1/750 - current supply)

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks serve an immediate population generally within close walking distance and provide playground equipment for small children and limited areas for outdoor games and the like. Ideally, a neighborhood park also incorporates facilities for other age groups in addition to children. Neighborhood parks are the basic unit of most park systems and serve as the recreational and sometimes social focus of the neighborhood with the focus on informal active and passive activities.

Service Area	Size	Standard
<i>½ mile</i>	<i>1.5 – 5 acres</i>	<i>1 facility per 1,500 people, with a minimum of 1 acre per 1,000 population</i>

Location guidelines:

1. Can be reached by a majority of users without need to cross or use a major arterial, railroad, or highway.
2. Priority should be given to lands/facilities that have expansion potential.

Need Analysis:

Current Supply:	1 facility (Memorial Volunteer Park) 1 acre (approximately)
Standard:	1 facility (2,150 pop. x 1/1,500) 2.2 acres (2,150/1,000 x 1)
2011 Need:	0 facilities (standard - current supply) 1.2 acres (standard - current supply)
2017 Need:	1 additional facility (2,399 pop. x 1/1,500 - current supply) 1.4 acres (2,399/1,000 x 1 - current supply)

Community Parks

Community parks serve more than one neighborhood. They can be of any size but are generally larger than a neighborhood park, usually large enough to include several ball fields, spectator seating and any number and type of other facilities, such as tennis courts, picnic shelters, natural areas and flower gardens and a swimming pool. A community park may be small and limited in

what it offers but have a community-wide draw because of location and special features. In Castle Rock, community parks are utilized by many unincorporated residents.

Service Area	Size	Standard
<i>1/2 – 3 miles</i>	<i>As needed to serve the populace (ideally 5-30 acres)</i>	<i>1 facility per 10,000 people, <u>or</u> a minimum of 5 acres per 1,000 population</i>

Location guidelines:

1. Should serve three to seven neighborhoods.
2. Should be located within walking distance of older children and adults.
3. Should be located with consideration for future expansion.
4. Should be located adjacent to a junior or senior high school whenever possible.

Need Analysis:

Current Supply:	2 facilities (“The Rock” and Lions Pride) 11 acres (approximately)
Standard:	0 facilities (2,150 pop. x 1/10,000) 10.8 acres (2,150/1,000 x 5)
2011 Need:	0 facilities (standard - current supply) 0 acres (standard - current supply)
2017 Need:	0 additional facilities (2,399 pop. x 1/10,000 - current supply) 1 acre (2,399/1,000 x 5 - current supply)

Bikeway and Pedestrian (Multi-Purpose) Trails

Multi-use trails are designed as pathways that can be utilized by pedestrians, bicyclists, in-line skaters and others. Trails can be comprised of segments of road, street, highway, railroad right-of-way, dike and natural or developed pathways. In Castle Rock, the Riverfront Trail is a multi-use trail that has been constructed mostly on the dike along the Cowlitz River, connecting various parks and recreational facilities. The Riverfront Trail will be the focal of point of trail development and there are several planned extensions (see map on page 18).

The 1998 Park Plan included a population-derived standard, which was based on estimated users, and the 2005 update supplemented that information with survey results to provide a better understanding of trail use and to suggest improvements and trail extensions.

Standard: N/A

Location guidelines:

1. Should serve as links between neighborhoods, schools, and all neighborhood, community, urban area and regional parks.
2. If possible, they should emphasize the natural environment and be designed accordingly.
3. Allow for uninterrupted movement through the city and outlying area and protect users from vehicular traffic.
4. Assist in the formation of a cohesive and comprehensive park and recreation system.

Special Use & Private Recreation Facilities

Special use facilities may be located anywhere and are determined by design and use rather than dimensional standards. Special Use facilities in and around Castle Rock include the Fairground, city-owned east side dredge spoils (includes the Skate Park and BMX Track) and Memorial Park. Although, Memorial Park is privately-owned, it was classified as “Special Use” because of its open accessibility to the public.

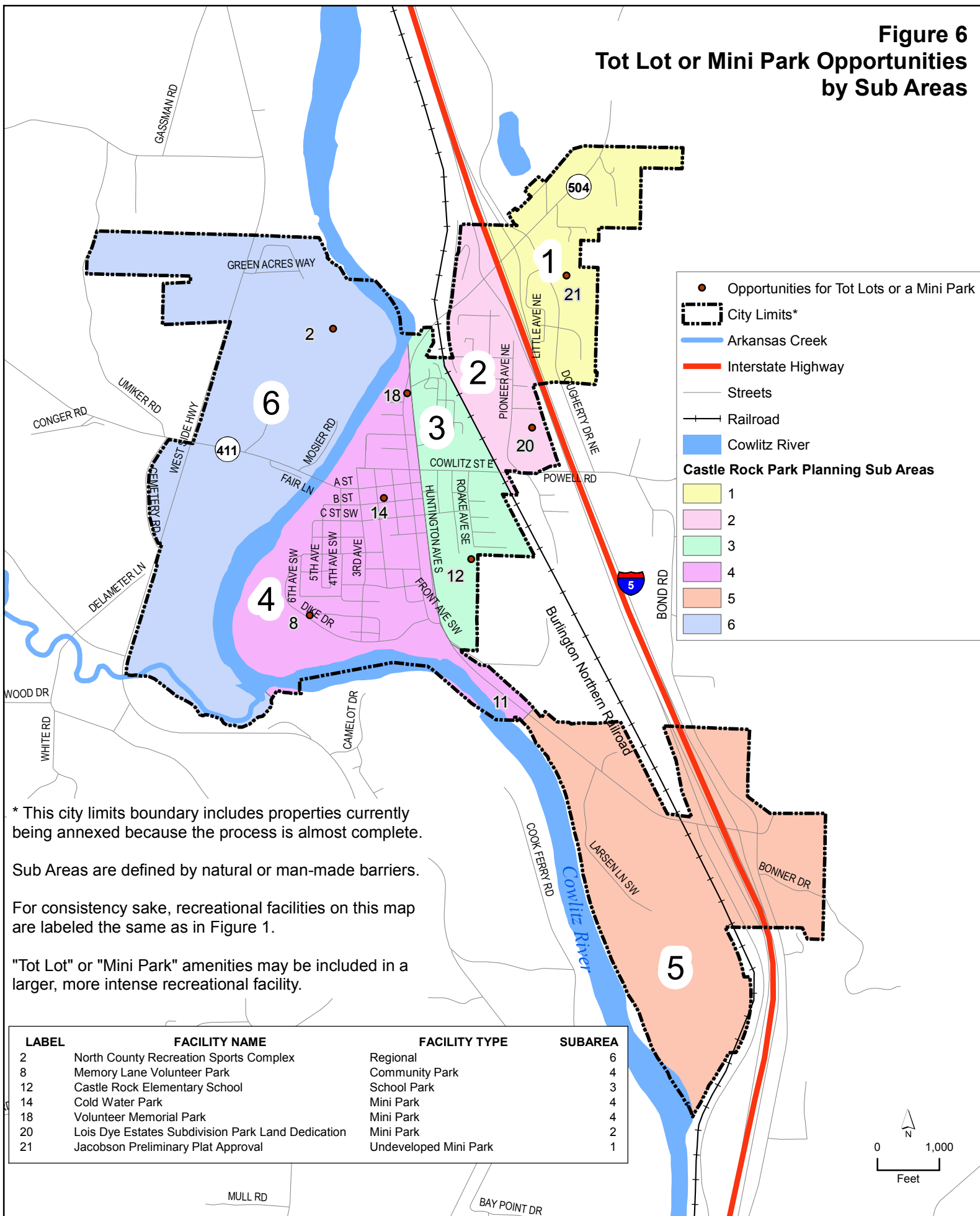
Summary

Based primarily on the numerical analysis done above, it would appear that the Castle Rock area is in need of the following recreational facilities:

- A mini-park should be added to Subarea 1.
- An additional neighborhood park is needed. Presently (2011), there is a need for more than one additional acre of neighborhood park land.
- Additional multi-use trails and extensions and/or connections (e.g., pedestrian bridge) of the Riverfront Trail are needed.

The findings above represent only one part of the demand/need assessment process. The following discussion, analyzes the spatial distribution of people and parks in an attempt to better understand the demand and need by particular geographical areas.

Figure 6 Tot Lot or Mini Park Opportunities by Sub Areas



* This city limits boundary includes properties currently being annexed because the process is almost complete.

Sub Areas are defined by natural or man-made barriers.

For consistency sake, recreational facilities on this map are labeled the same as in Figure 1.

"Tot Lot" or "Mini Park" amenities may be included in a larger, more intense recreational facility.

Park and Trail Needs: Analysis by Subareas

The 2005 Park and Recreation Plan partially analyzed park need by looking at population distribution and proximity to recreational facilities by examining census block groups. Unfortunately, the 2010 Census data is not available during this planning effort, and so the 2000 Census information is the most current relevant demographic information.

The city was divided into six subareas (see Figure 6) based on physical barriers (e.g., roads, rail, etc.) and data was obtained by analyzing block-level data from the 2000 Census that was grouped in accordance with the five subareas.

Some man-made barriers within Castle Rock include Interstate Five (I-5), the Burlington Northern Railroad, the Spirit Lake Highway and the Cowlitz River. Interstate Five and the railroad divide northeast and southwest Castle Rock, while the Spirit Lake Highway is a barrier in northeast Castle Rock. Huntington Avenue and other higher traffic roads also serve as barriers because pedestrians and cyclists are less likely to cross for reasons of safety or inconvenience.

Study Area Subareas

The subareas are numbered 1-5 and are labeled from north to south. The first subarea (#1) is located east of I-5 and features mainly commercial development. There is some land zoned for low-density residential development and a significant portion of the city's Urban Growth Boundary lies east of I-5 and is slated for future low-density residential growth. As it stands now, this area has a small residential population of 158 people (see Tables 6-7) and does not warrant immediate park development (there are no existing parks in this area). However because this area will receive future growth, the city should consider parkland dedication with future subdivision and plan accordingly. The lands east of Dougherty Drive are for the most part undeveloped or underdeveloped. Much of the housing in this area consists of apartment dwellings, which are located between I-5 and Dougherty Drive. The Dougherty Drive area does not currently have a large population but has the potential for additional residential development.

The city has negotiated a park land dedication at 11000 Dougherty Drive as part of a mixed commercial/residential development, but the development has stalled with the stagnant economy and it is unknown whether the dedication will be finalized.

The second subarea (#2) is bordered by I-5 and the railroad to the east and west, the city limits to the north and Cowlitz Street to the south. Around 265 people call this area home. The area is zoned for low-density residential and could grow significantly as a result of a proposed subdivision. There are some scattered undeveloped lots and acreage along with a few underdeveloped lots. Thus, the "Jim Town" area will eventually accommodate some growth. There are no park areas in this region and an additional park in this area may be useful as the area is bounded by two prominent barriers that limit accessibility to nearby park facilities.

Table 6. Castle Rock 2000 Census age stratification based on subarea classifications*

Age Categories	Subarea Classifications					
	1	2	3	4	5	Total
0-9	21	33	62	216	5	337
10-19	28	32	66	215	7	348
20-34	26	38	75	210	8	357
35-49	27	58	113	243	16	457
50-64	39	48	73	169	13	342
65+	17	56	55	149	12	289
Total	158	265	444	1202	61	2130
Percentage of Total Pop.	7.42%	12.44%	20.85%	56.43%	2.86%	100%

* Please note Subarea 6, west of the Cowlitz River, was outside city limits in 2000

Table 7. Percent distribution of age groups by study area

Age Groups	Study Area Groups					
	1	2	3	4	5	Total
0-9	6.23%	9.79%	18.40%	64.09%	1.48%	100%
10-19	8.05%	9.20%	18.97%	61.78%	2.01%	100%
20-34	7.28%	10.64%	21.01%	58.82%	2.24%	100%
35-49	5.91%	12.69%	24.73%	53.17%	3.50%	100%
50-64	11.40%	14.04%	21.35%	49.42%	3.80%	100%
65+	5.88%	19.38%	19.03%	51.56%	4.15%	100%

The third subarea (#3) includes around 20% of the city’s population (444 people) and is bounded by the railroad tracks on the east and Huntington Avenue to the west. The land within this area is a mix of low and high residential, commercial, industrial and public (e.g., school site, etc.) land. Future residential growth is likely limited because of the varied zoning and existing density, although some in-fill development is likely. Other than school facilities, there are no parks or recreational opportunities in the subarea; however, all portions of the area are within a

quarter mile of other parks and facilities including the Riverfront Trail, Memorial Park and “The Rock” Community Park, to name a few. Overall, this subarea is not in need of significant park projects, however if the opportunity presents itself, a mini-park or neighborhood play area should be pursued.

Subarea four (#4) is the largest region in terms of population with around 1,202 people (52% of total city population) and includes the majority of parks and recreation facilities. The area also accounts for approximately 62% of people aged 10-19 and 64% of children 0-9 years old. Besides the downtown commercial area, most of the subarea consists of single-family residences, with some multi-family units north of B Street and sparsely scattered southward. This region is basically fully developed, save some limited in-fill development opportunities. Everyone that lives in this subarea is within very close proximity (easy walking distance for most) to some sort of park or recreation facility. The mostly undeveloped (except for the Skate Park and BMX Track) dredge-spoil site is located within this area.

The last subarea (#5) is located south of “The Rock” and extends eastward past I-5. The majority of land in this area is slated for heavy commercial/light manufacturing, industrial and general commercial purposes. Accordingly, the area features a very small population (61 people) and is expected to grow very little in terms of residential population. Except for Lions Pride Park, which serves as a gateway to Castle Rock and access point for the Riverfront Trail, there are no park or recreational facilities located within the region.

Although the City of Castle Rock is not growing significantly in population, it is important to consider that the city serves as the recreational outlet for many rural residents who live in unincorporated Cowlitz County. Furthermore, there are a variety of improvements that could be made to existing facilities to better serve the present-day population.

Summary

The subarea population distribution analysis suggests that most residents are provided adequate access to park and recreational facilities except Subarea 1, east of I-5 where future population growth will likely occur.

Community Survey Results

In December, 2010 into January, 2011, a survey was distributed to solicit citizen input and to ensure the adopted plan best addresses the desires, concerns and needs of the community. Nearly 450 surveys were distributed to residents, students, businesses and community groups. The survey was also conducted online. 710 people responded to the survey. It provided valuable information about possible improvements to existing facilities, direction on the procurement and development of new parks/features and on the overall level of service provided. See Appendix A for a copy of the survey and full results with respondent commentary.

Summary of Survey Results – City and County Residents

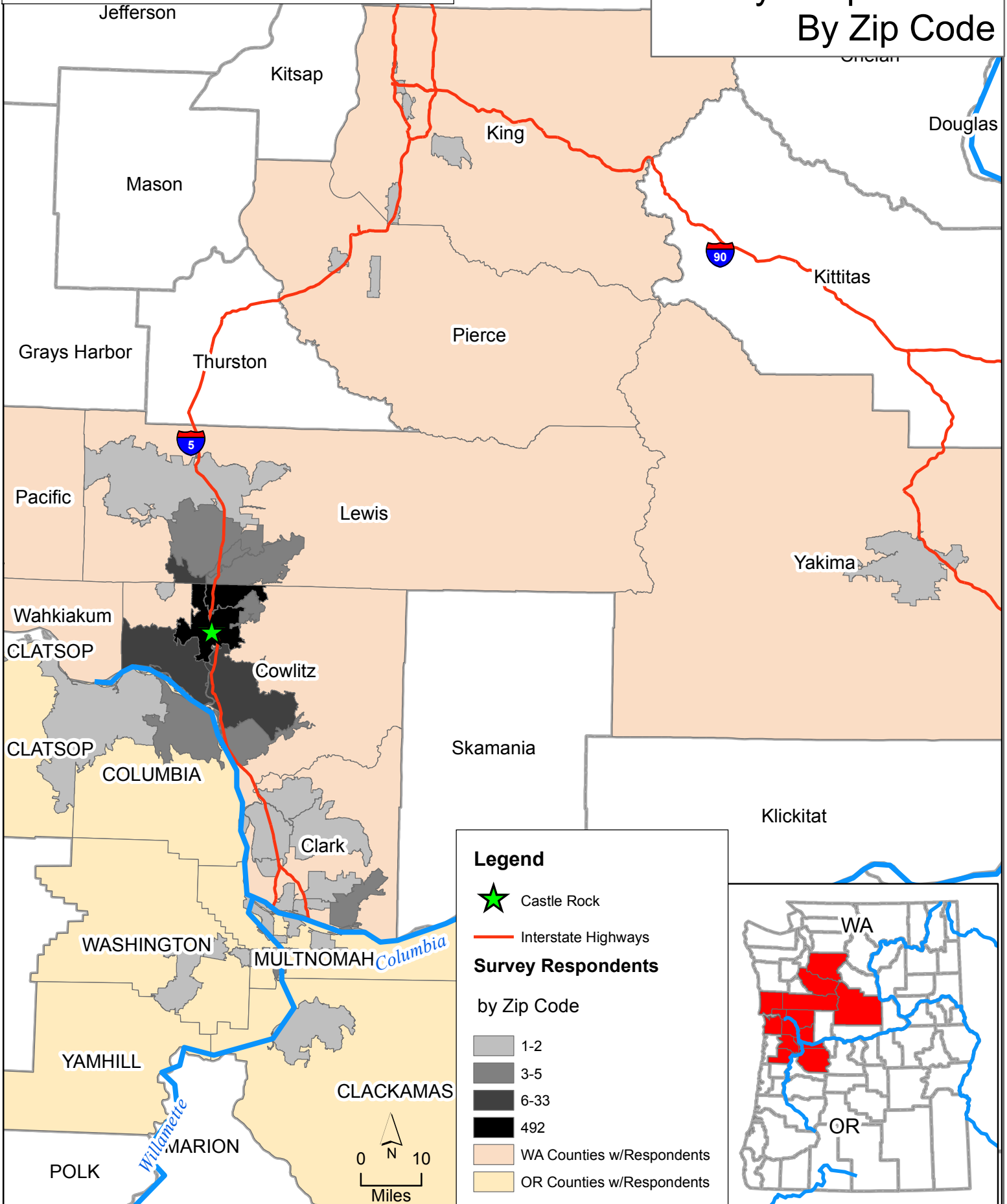
The following summary results display the results of the more than 710 returned surveys:

- Of the 710 respondents, 483 live in the 98611 zip code (68%). These are the “local respondents”
- Of the 483 respondents living in the 98611 zip code, 247 (51%) live inside the City of Castle Rock limits. The city residents represent approximately 35% of the total respondents.
- The Riverfront Trail is widely used by the community with over 72.5% of local respondents using the trail system. More than 31.4% of respondents report using the Riverfront Trail at more than once a month.
- The Riverfront Trail system (72.5%), the High School Recreation Fields (65.6%) and the Elementary School Playgrounds (58.2%) are used by the largest percentage of local respondents.
- Some facilities, such as the Castle Rock Exhibit Hall and Visitor’s Center and the Library had unexpectedly high number of non users (72.1% and 56.6% respectively). This response, together with specific comments, identified a need to promote local facilities, resources and programs.
- 41.5% of local respondents and 69% of regional respondents said they have used the boat launch at least once.
- Most every facility rated good or excellent in quality. The Skate Park (31.8%), Junior High Playgrounds (24.3%) and BMX Track (23.6%) ranked poor in quality.
- Over 59.4% of respondents stated they had increased their physical activity because of new facilities such as the Riverfront Trail.
- Overall, there appears to be strong community support for multi-use trails, a multi-use sports complex (in progress) and a community center that could also potentially house a swimming pool.
- The survey provided valuable information on needed improvements at many facilities, particularly at the BMX Track, Skate Park and middle school fields.
- 46.3% of local respondents and 74% of regional respondents stated they would use a “Pump Track” at the BMX Track. The Pump Track has the ability to be a regional draw for the city.
- More than 73.4% of respondents were willing to pay at least \$5 annually to support parks and recreation facilities. More than 40.9% were willing to pay at least \$20 a year.

The Regional Service Area has been defined using the zip codes of survey respondents.

Snohomish

Figure 7 Survey Respondents By Zip Code



Discussion and Conclusion

To conclude the demand and need analysis a short comparative review between this section and the previous sections must be done. Based on the earlier mathematical analysis and survey results, it is clear the city is in need of additional trails, a mini-park in Subarea 1 and a community center. There is large support to maintain and improve existing facilities. There also appears to be a strong need and desire for a broad-based large community park that could house a variety of facilities and features not currently available, or not available in one place. Such a facility is a priority and could fulfill the need for an additional neighborhood park, thus allowing for a concentration of resources and funds.

Although Castle Rock has two Community Parks, they are of limited size, have limited accessibility and do not have many features. For instance, “The Rock” is steep and difficult to access for many and offers a picnic shelter, benches and hiking trails. Likewise, while Lions Pride provides great access to the Riverfront Trail along with some picnic opportunities, other recreational offerings are limited. Therefore, there is a need for a broader multi-use community park that could include a community center, playgrounds, community gardens and other facilities. The 30-acre dredge spoil site (city-owned) west of Dike Drive provides an excellent opportunity for just such a facility. A community park on the large dredge-spoil site also offers an opportunity for the construction of a community center that could house a swimming pool and other amenities.

Currently there is one “community center” type organization in Castle Rock, the Senior Center. The Castle Rock Senior Center is a non-profit organization led by a board of directors. The Senior Center is relatively small and does not have the space needed to serve other age brackets. One large community center could serve all ages providing indoor facilities entertainment and recreation facilities especially for night activities and the many rainy days. It could provide meeting rooms for continuing education classes, clubs and other organizations. It would provide a safe place for all ages to meet and could be a stop along the Riverfront Trail.

Another important consideration with planning for park and recreation facilities is future changes in projected recreational participation. The Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation’s 2003 report entitled “Estimates of future participation in outdoor recreation in Washington State,” illustrates some interesting trends. While many of the categories are not applicable to the City of Castle Rock, several key findings are of some relevance. The growing popularity of trail-related activity including walking, running, bike riding and similar activities is expected to grow significantly in the coming years, as shown in Table 8. Older communities typically value leisure activities and passive recreation, while younger age groups are looking for active recreation outlets.

Table 8: Estimated increases in outdoor recreation compared to current levels

Activity	Estimated Participation Increase by 2013	Estimated Participation Increase by 2023
Walking	+23%	+34%
Hiking	+10%	+20%
Outdoor Team and Ind. Sports	+06%	+12%
Bicycle Riding	+19%	+29%
Picnicking	+20%	+31%
Camping – Developed (RV Style)	+10%	+20%
Nature Activities	+23%	+37%
Motor Boating	+10%	N/A
Sightseeing	+10%	+20%

Note: Adapted from IAC 2003: Estimates of Future Participation in Outdoor Recreation in Washington State

Taking into account the older demographics of Castle Rock and the high use of existing trails (and support for additional trails), these projections provide further justification for the construction of more trails in and around the city, even if population growth in Castle Rock remains low.

Recreational Use for Tourism

The entire analysis was primarily for the area inside the city limits. The recently annexed areas west of the Cowlitz River are existing and potential recreation facilities to serve area residents and to draw visitors and outside dollars. This section discusses the recreational opportunities as an economic component of the city's adopted Strategic Marketing Plan.

Castle Rock is already a major gateway to the Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument. As a result, many tourists travel through Castle Rock to reach the bountiful attractions of the mountain area. Accordingly, the city has drawn businesses (e.g., motels, restaurants, convenience store/service stations, etc.) to serve this tourist traffic. However, Castle Rock with its many assets can do more to attract tourism to the area.

The Castle Rock area economy traditionally has been very dependent upon timber and wood products industry. Because of several factors, these jobs are no longer plentiful. Castle Rock has almost no industrial base to provide jobs and a tax base. Drawing more outside dollars of tourists and travelers will provide a major boost to the local economy.

The Castle Rock area has assets that can make it a recreation destination in its own right. The Mount Saint Helens eruption in 1980 left the Cowlitz River clogged with debris. To avoid

disastrous flooding, the river needed to be dredged. State and federal agencies acquired land along the river to place dredge spoils. Much of these lands have now been transferred over to local governments such as the city, Castle Rock School District and Cowlitz County. As a condition of transfer, the lands must be maintained for public use. Consequently, much of the lands along the Cowlitz River in the Castle Rock area are set aside for public use.

The recreation facilities inside the city limits will be primarily designed to meet the needs of the local residents. Exceptions to this rule include larger community parks and the Riverfront Trail, which is located both in and out of the city and the boat launch, which have a broader target. The fairgrounds already hold events that draw from a wider geographical area. The motorcycle racing facilities feature nationally sanctioned races, drawing racers and spectators alike from throughout the state and beyond. The Cowlitz River is one of the premier steelhead and salmon fishing rivers in the region. It draws fisherman from outside the local area from Cowlitz County and other locales. Castle Rock is an enthusiastic sports town and has hosted and will continue to host sports tournaments. Castle Rock needs to capitalize on its existing assets and use the undeveloped lands to enhance existing facilities and provide a further draw for visitors.

The city of Castle Rock and DNR lands south (down river) from the fairgrounds and motorcycle racing facilities are undeveloped but are currently used by fishermen and others. Unfortunately, they have also drawn unsafe firearms use, garbage dumping, reckless and destructive all-terrain driving and transient camping. Efforts are underway to prevent vehicle access to the area in order to avoid the above mentioned problems. The DNR, City of Castle Rock, Mount Saint Helens Motorcycle Club, private landowners and others are working to build permanent access to the property and a parking lot. Vehicle access from beyond the parking lot could be restricted. The DNR and city lands have a much greater recreational potential beyond walk-in fishing and shoreline access.

The city is considering locating a recreational vehicle (RV)/campground on its dredge-spoil property on the west side of the Cowlitz River. Facilities would include improved access to the river, including a day-use area. The campground could also serve events (provide accommodation opportunities) happening at the fairgrounds, motorcycle club and the high school/Sports Complex, as well as serve tourists heading for the mountain or other visitors. The adjacent DNR land should be included in development plans. The city could contract with a private firm to build, operate and maintain RV facilities with a portion of the revenues going to the city to support parks and other services.

The facilities on the west side of the river should be fully linked with the Riverfront Trail. A simple bridge crossing of the Cowlitz River would connect west and east side trail users. In the more distant future, the trail should be extended southward to the lands owned by Cowlitz County. The property is mostly undeveloped and was given to the county on the condition that it be maintained for public use.

Appendix B includes the Castle Rock Riverfront Park Master Plan, which details conceptual plans (with preliminary cost estimates) for the large dredge-spoil sites on both sides of the Cowlitz River.

CHAPTER V

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND FUNDING OPTIONS

Table 9: Capital Projects 2011 – 2016 (page 1 of 3)

	Project	Possible Funding Source	Facility Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	Extend the Riverfront Trail on the east and west sides of the Cowlitz River and link to the Castle Rock – Lexington Trail Loop and Sequest State Park on SR 504	RCO, ALEA, CY, CV, P, CC, LWC, WSDOT	T		\$200,000 Westside		\$200,000 Eastside		\$200,000 SR504
2	Make improvements to the BMX Track with a Pump Track facility	RCO, CY, P, CV, LWC	SU	\$15,000	\$125,000				
3	Make improvement to the Skate Park by adding additional equipment and utilizing some of the space for basketball courts	RCO, CY, P, CV	SU	\$2,000 Basketball court	\$10,000 Skate equipment		\$10,000 Skate equipment		
4	Construct a North trail head on the east side trail with restrooms	RCO, ALEA, CV, CY, P, LWC	T					\$85,000	
5	Incorporate entrance features welcoming residents and visitors at all the entrances into the city	CC, CY, P, CV, H&M	N/A			\$75,000 South Huntington		\$50,000 North Huntington	\$25,000 Westside
6	Develop mini park at Lois Dye Estates							\$20,000 (match \$10,000 obligated funds)	
7	Continue with the land swap with the DNR for the property on the west side known as the “high banks”	CYCC, DNR, P	N/A	14,000					
8	Improve and market the high banks site for an RV Resort	CY, CC, H&M, P	N/A		\$65,000				
9	Continue planning and design work on a community center (including a swimming pool) and / or large community park	CDBG, CY, CC, P, CV	CP						\$30,000

Table 9: Capital Projects 2011 – 2016 (page 2 of 3)

	Project	Possible Funding Source	Facility Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
10	Provide outdoor kitchen areas at the Lion's Pride Park, the "Rock" Community Park or at a large community park that is yet to be built	RCO, CY, P, CV	CP						\$15,000
11	Add additional features to the sports complex	RCO, CV, CY, P, CC	CP, SC	\$30,000 Trail	\$50,000 Babe Ruth field \$10,000 Garden / Orchard Improve.	\$10,000 Batting cages \$20,000 Basketball courts	\$75,000 Outdoor classroom \$35,000 Playground Equip.	\$75,000 Minor & Softball Fields	\$5,000 Sand lot Volleyball courts
12	Improve the "Rock" Community Park by rebuilding the scenic lookouts and trails along the river side	RCO, ALEA, CY, CV, CC, P, LWC	CP						\$40,000
13	Develop a safe crossing over the Cowlitz River linking the west and east side segments of the Riverfront Trail system	WSDOT, RCO, CC, CY	T				\$100,000 Survey & Prem. design	\$200,000 Eng.,spec., & permits	\$750,000 Construction
14	Publish a guide listing the available park and recreational opportunities in and around Castle Rock for distribution to the public	H&M, CY, CC, P	N/A		\$4,000				
15	Continue habitat enhancement opportunities on the Whittle, Arkansas, and other nearby creeks by partnering with the schools and other organizations	RCO, ALEA, WDFW, SR, CY, CC, CV, P	SU	\$25,000 Janish Creek		\$20,000 Whittle Creek		\$100,000 Arkansas Creek	
16	Evaluate playground facilities throughout the current recreational facilities through a survey	CY, CV, P	N/A					\$2,000 Survey need	

Table 9: Capital Projects 2011 – 2016 (page 3 of 3)

	Project	Possible Funding Source	Facility Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
17	Improve the Castle Rock Library facility by developing a computer area, complying with ADA standards, adding storage in the basement, upgrading the heating system, paint and repair the interior and exterior, replace windows and promote reading programs	CY, P, CV, CC, GF	SU	\$40,000					
18	Collaborate with the Castle Rock School District and other interested groups on bicycle routes and safety information	WSDOT, CY	T	\$322,000					
19	Make improvements to the “Jail” Park and the Lion’s Volunteer Park	CY, H&M, CV, P	NP		\$5,000				
20	Promote and assist with the development of the school / community garden opportunities	CY, SD, CV, P	CP, SC, SU	\$10,000	\$5,000				
21	Complete Phase 2 of the Regional, Al Helenberg Boat Launch	RCO, CV, CY, P, CC, POL	BL, SU, SC		\$650,000				

Funding Key:

ALEA	Aquatic Land Enhancement Account	P	Private
CC	Cowlitz County	POL	Port of Longview
CV	Civic Organizations	RCO	Recreation Conservation Office
CY	City	SD	School District
GF	Gates Foundation	SR	Salmon Recovery
H&M	Hotel & Motel Tax	WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
LWC	Land and Water Conservation Fund	WF	Weyerhaeuser Foundation
		WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation

Funding Options

The previous table above identifies possible funding for projects listed on the Capital Facilities Plan. A brief discussion is warranted so that alternative funding sources can be identified as specific projects are implemented and other sources of funding are required. Although there are other methods of funding specific projects, the possibilities listed below represent the most common sources of funding. Funding strategies include local, state and federal funding sources.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) - Public Access Program Department of Natural Resources

This program provides matching grants to state and local agencies to enhance public access on and from the recreational use of aquatic lands. Projects must be located on navigable waterways. Funds for this program are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of aquatic land resources such as sand, gravel and shellfish. Grants are available in three categories: acquisition, development and interpretation.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account - Wetland Stewardship Program Department of Natural Resources

This program provides grant monies to state and local agencies to acquire wetland sites, which shall be committed to long-term educational and research uses. Sites must be on or associated with navigable waterways. Funds for this program are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of aquatic land resources such as sand, gravel, and shellfish. This program began in 1992.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC)

The IAC is a state office, which allocates funds to local and state agencies for the acquisition and development of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year. The WWRP program specifically targets urban wildlife habitat, trails, critical habitat, natural areas, local parks and water access. The state legislature approves the IAC funding recommendations (other funding programs are available through the IAC for motor-boating facilities, off-road vehicles, etc.).

Park Land Dedication or Fee in Lieu of Land Dedication, Impact Mitigation through SEPA

Under state code, cities can require subdivision developers to dedicate land for park use. Under the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 82.02, a developer can voluntarily submit a fee instead of land dedication. Under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), if a development (e.g. an apartment complex) will have a impact on the park system that can be demonstrated, the city can require the developer to provide mitigation such as land dedication, park improvements or fees. Appendix C provides more information on the above. The City of Castle Rock does not plan under the Growth Management Act and cannot charge impact fees.

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation State of Washington, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation

The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act (Initiative 215). The IAC administers several grant programs (generally on a matching basis) for recreation and habitat conservation purposes. Depending on the program, eligible project applicants can include municipal subdivisions of the state (cities,

towns, and counties, or port, utility, park and recreation, and school districts), Native American tribes, state agencies, and in some cases, federal agencies and nonprofit organizations. Grants are awarded by the Committee based on a public, competitive process which weighs the merits of proposed projects against established program criteria.

IAC grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from un-reclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, and more recently, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition funds (a separate summary has been prepared for the WWRP program)

User Fees

User fees can be charged for a wide range of activities, including parking, and special park uses such as corporate picnics, camping, regattas, and other special events. While some user fees are implemented to reduce vandalism and control park usage, some user fees could generate additional revenues to implement other elements of the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

Community Development Block Grants

These are federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that are administered by the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. They may be used for community facilities such as community centers and properties by the jurisdiction must demonstrate a definite benefit to local low-to-moderate income households. Often CDBG funds can be used as a match with other state or federal dollars for a public purpose project.

Donations

Individuals may choose to make additional land available for public use by donating their land to the city. Donations can be used as match for additional acquisitions through state grant programs, effectively doubling the size of most donations.

Park and Recreation District

A park and recreation district for the Castle Rock area could be formed via the election method given in the Revised Code of Washington Chapter 36.69. Once formed, the district could pursue voter-approved funding for new park facilities and/or maintenance and operation of park facilities.

Transportation Enhancement Funding (TEA-21)

The Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) authorized funding for Transportation Enhancement Activities which includes historic preservation, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and scenic beautification. ISTEA requires each State DOT to set aside at least 10 percent of its STP funds for use only on Transportation Enhancements.

CHAPTER VI

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & PLAN ADOPTION

By nature and very often by statute, community-planning efforts represent a public process that is designed to fully incorporate the general public in the decision-making process. With respect to park planning, the RCO requires that all park plans submitted for grant consideration, specify how public comment was solicited and incorporated into the plan.

The Castle Rock Board of Park Commissioners (“Park Board”) is the body charged with developing this plan. The public involvement process consisted of numerous public outreach efforts. Early on in the update process, a letter was distributed to key community groups soliciting input, informing them of upcoming meetings and providing a timeline of the update process. The Castle Rock School District and School Board was an active participant in the planning process and contributed goals and objectives specific to their facilities and property. Monthly Park Board meetings were also open to the public and advertised, although turnout was generally light during the course of the update.

The hallmark of public involvement in this plan, was a community-wide survey that included the distribution of 450 surveys to area residents, students and community groups. The survey was also offered online, and the fact that almost twice as many responses were received than printed surveys distributed, shows the community was engaged through social media. Approximately 35% of the respondents actually live within the city limits. This is important because it demonstrates a sizeable service area boundary for the City of Castle Rock, the North Clatsop County and Southwest Washington/Northwest Oregon.

A public hearing was held by the Park Board to consider the draft plan on March 23, 2011 prior to submittal to the Castle Rock City Council for their consideration. Copies of the draft plan were made available on the city’s website and at City Hall and the Castle Rock Library. Notices were also posted in local newspapers and a letter was mailed to various community groups notifying them of the draft plan and the public hearing. The final plan was adopted by the Castle Rock City Council on _____ .

APPENDIX A
SURVEY RESULTS

1. In the past 12 months, about how many times if ever, has anyone in your household used the following community parks and recreation areas and facilities?





	0	1-4	5-10	11-15	16+	Weekly	Daily	Response Count
Riverfront Trail	32.4% (204)	24.0% (151)	11.6% (73)	5.4% (34)	12.7% (80)	8.9% (56)	4.9% (31)	629
Lions Pride Park	59.1% (357)	21.2% (128)	8.9% (54)	3.3% (20)	3.8% (23)	3.0% (18)	0.7% (4)	604
Senior Center	73.8% (449)	13.8% (84)	4.6% (28)	1.3% (8)	2.3% (14)	3.1% (19)	1.0% (6)	608
Coldwater Park	81.7% (474)	11.9% (69)	2.9% (17)	1.0% (6)	1.0% (6)	0.7% (4)	0.7% (4)	580
"The Rock" Community Park	57.3% (340)	25.3% (150)	9.6% (57)	3.4% (20)	2.2% (13)	1.3% (8)	0.8% (5)	593
Lion's Club Volunteer Park	83.9% (494)	9.8% (58)	2.9% (17)	1.5% (9)	0.8% (5)	0.5% (3)	0.5% (3)	589
Memorial Volunteer Park	85.0% (499)	10.4% (61)	2.6% (15)	0.7% (4)	0.3% (2)	0.7% (4)	0.3% (2)	587
Skate Park	52.8% (331)	19.8% (124)	10.7% (67)	5.4% (34)	5.4% (34)	2.7% (17)	3.2% (20)	627
BMX Bike Track	57.4% (352)	18.8% (115)	10.1% (62)	4.6% (28)	5.1% (31)	1.1% (7)	2.9% (18)	613
Library	60.1% (362)	21.9% (132)	7.1% (43)	1.8% (11)	4.2% (25)	3.7% (22)	1.2% (7)	602
Exhibit Hall	75.4% (451)	17.1% (102)	3.2% (19)	1.8% (11)	0.7% (4)	1.3% (8)	0.5% (3)	598
High School Recreation Fields	38.7% (242)	19.5% (122)	13.4% (84)	6.6% (41)	12.5% (78)	4.3% (27)	5.0% (31)	625
Elementary School Playgrounds	47.2% (290)	21.8% (134)	9.4% (58)	5.7% (35)	6.4% (39)	3.7% (23)	5.7% (35)	614

Junior High Playgrounds	66.2% (397)	7.7% (46)	5.7% (34)	2.3% (14)	4.3% (26)	4.8% (29)	9.0% (54)	600
Fitness Center at the Middle School	65.9% (397)	7.3% (44)	4.5% (27)	3.0% (18)	4.8% (29)	9.1% (55)	5.3% (32)	602
Dredge Spoil Land	74.9% (435)	11.0% (64)	5.5% (32)	3.6% (21)	2.9% (17)	1.4% (8)	0.7% (4)	581
Fairground Facilities	54.8% (332)	30.7% (186)	8.1% (49)	3.0% (18)	2.5% (15)	0.5% (3)	0.5% (3)	606
Mt. St. Helen's Motorcycle Club Grounds	79.3% (474)	10.9% (65)	5.4% (32)	1.7% (10)	1.3% (8)	1.0% (6)	0.5% (3)	598
Boat Launch	61.1% (367)	21.3% (128)	7.2% (43)	3.7% (22)	3.5% (21)	2.3% (14)	1.0% (6)	601
North County Sports Complex	58.8% (352)	13.2% (79)	7.5% (45)	5.0% (30)	9.3% (56)	3.8% (23)	2.3% (14)	599
answered question								678
skipped question								32








2. How would you rate the parks/facilities listed below using the following scale?

	A-Excellent	B-Good	C-Fair	D-Poor	Response Count
Riverfront Trail	32.7% (186)	45.9% (261)	17.0% (97)	4.4% (25)	569
Lions Pride Park	14.9% (73)	47.7% (234)	28.9% (142)	8.6% (42)	491
Senior Center	18.0% (84)	44.4% (207)	27.7% (129)	9.9% (46)	466
Coldwater Park	10.9% (47)	43.4% (188)	32.1% (139)	13.6% (59)	433
"The Rock" Community Park	14.0% (65)	47.5% (220)	30.9% (143)	7.6% (35)	463
Lion's Club Volunteer Park	9.4% (40)	46.8% (200)	33.0% (141)	10.8% (46)	427
Memorial Volunteer Park	8.7% (37)	46.9% (199)	33.5% (142)	10.8% (46)	424
Skate Park	10.0% (50)	28.6% (143)	29.6% (148)	31.8% (159)	500
BMX Bike Track	9.8% (49)	32.8% (164)	33.8% (169)	23.6% (118)	500
Library	12.3% (60)	43.1% (211)	30.3% (148)	14.3% (70)	489
Exhibit Hall	13.3% (61)	47.0% (215)	28.9% (132)	10.7% (49)	457
High School Recreation Fields	27.6% (140)	46.5% (236)	19.3% (98)	6.5% (33)	507
Elementary School Playgrounds	26.9% (136)	45.8% (232)	22.1% (112)	5.1% (26)	506
Junior High School Playgrounds	11.7% (56)	29.6% (141)	34.4% (164)	24.3% (116)	477
Fitness Center at the Middle School	34.9% (160)	38.3% (176)	19.6% (90)	7.2% (33)	459
Dredge Spoil Land	9.3% (41)	36.6% (162)	36.8% (163)	17.4% (77)	443
Fairground Facilities	11.9% (57)	40.1% (192)	35.3% (169)	12.7% (61)	479
Mt. St. Helen's Motorcycle Club Grounds	10.1% (43)	47.4% (202)	30.0% (128)	12.4% (53)	426
Boat Launch	34.8% (169)	38.5% (187)	16.9% (82)	9.9% (48)	486
North County Sports Complex	33.5% (162)	41.8% (202)	15.7% (76)	8.9% (43)	483
				Comments	132
				answered question	617

3. How do you believe park and recreation facilities are funded?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Local Taxes		57.8%	365
Grants		40.1%	253
State Funds		37.9%	239
Donations		46.8%	295
answered question			631
skipped question			79






4. What would you be willing to pay annually to support park and recreational facilities?

		Response Percent	Response Count
\$0		28.3%	175
\$5		16.2%	100
\$10		15.2%	94
\$20		18.3%	113
\$50		12.0%	74
\$75		2.4%	15
\$100		7.6%	47
Comments			105
answered question			618
skipped question			92















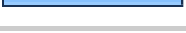

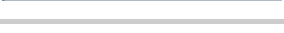





5. What recreational opportunities would you or other members of your household like to see available or expanded? Please rank your top 3 choices (1-3) with 1 being the highest priority.





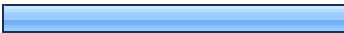








	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Outdoor recreation	1.65	790	480
Indoor recreation	1.97	806	410
Children's activities (age 0-9)	2.18	679	311
Youth activities (ages 10-18)	1.92	837	435
Adult activities	2.25	582	259
Senior activities	2.31	555	240
Other	2.38	398	167
answered question			569
skipped question			141

6. What should the city and/or school district concentrate its efforts on? Please check one.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Maintaining existing park facilities		11.9%	75
Improving existing facilities		27.0%	170
Acquiring/developing new facilities		12.9%	81
All		45.2%	285
None		3.0%	19
answered question			630
skipped question			80

7. Of the following activities, please check all those that you or other members of your household participate in on a yearly basis.




		Response Percent	Response Count
Play at playground		51.2%	331
Horseshoes		15.0%	97
Bird watching		11.4%	74
Gardening		34.2%	221
Picnicking		31.2%	202
Sightseeing		32.6%	211
Photography		36.5%	236
Walking		72.6%	470
Hiking		48.5%	314
Jogging		50.5%	327
Bicycle riding (road)		47.3%	306
Bicycle riding (off road)		43.6%	282
Motorcycle (dirt/off road)		25.7%	166
4-wheeling (ATV)		36.2%	234
4x4 driving (dirt/off road)		26.9%	174
Swimming (outdoor)		56.1%	363
Swimming (indoor)		41.9%	271
Skateboarding		22.1%	143
Soccer		27.7%	179
Softball		19.0%	123
Baseball		29.8%	193
Football		38.8%	251


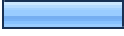


Basketball		34.0%	220
Tennis		13.3%	86
Track		21.8%	141
Boating		35.2%	228
Fishing		51.5%	333
Water skiing		16.8%	109
Golf		15.9%	103
Hunting		38.9%	252
RV camping		24.4%	158
Tent camping		48.8%	316
Weights/lifting		43.1%	279
Horseback riding		17.5%	113
Shooting targets		34.0%	220
		Other	60
answered question			647
skipped question			63

8. How many members of your household participate in a league?

		Response Average	Response Total	Response Count	
	Baseball	0.82	321	391	
	Softball	0.54	208	382	
	Soccer	0.67	268	401	
	Football	1.12	447	400	
	Basketball	0.84	329	391	
				answered question	479
				skipped question	231

9. Would you support an off-road bicycle "Pump Track" in Castle Rock?

		Response Percent	Response Count	
	Yes 	50.8%	335	
	No 	13.2%	87	
	I need more information 	36.0%	237	
			answered question	659
			skipped question	51



10. How many times a year would you use a "Pump Track" in Castle Rock?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
0		36.5%	224
1-2		17.9%	110
3-4		12.1%	74
5 or more		33.6%	206
answered question			614
skipped question			96

11. What is your Zip Code?		Response Count
		640
answered question		640
skipped question		70





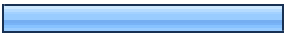








12. Of the following types of parks and recreation areas/facilities, please prioritize as to their importance to your household. Please check one box for each using the following scale:

	1-Very Important	2-Somewhat	3-Not Important	Response Count
Community Pool	45.2% (283)	34.0% (213)	20.8% (130)	626
Small parks each located 1/2 mile from most neighborhoods	23.9% (143)	51.2% (306)	24.9% (149)	598
Large multi-use community parks located within two miles of most neighborhoods	36.5% (219)	45.2% (271)	18.3% (110)	600
Natural open space with limited development	40.0% (235)	39.4% (231)	20.6% (121)	587
Multi-use sports areas	57.5% (345)	32.0% (192)	10.5% (63)	600
Multi-use trails	57.6% (351)	33.0% (201)	9.4% (57)	609
Community gathering place, multi-use community center	28.8% (172)	48.3% (289)	22.9% (137)	598
Other	34.1% (128)	37.6% (141)	28.3% (106)	375
answered question				641
skipped question				69






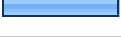


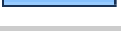

13. Has your level of physical activity increased because of improvements to local facilities?



		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		60.9%	385
No		39.1%	247
answered question			632
skipped question			78

14. What improvements do you feel are most needed at the ONE facility you use most frequently? Please identify the name of the facility and check all that apply.



		Response Percent	Response Count
Maintenance of lawn and athletic fields		39.6%	224
Tree and landscaping materials maintenance		23.9%	135
Additional landscaping, trees, beautification		27.8%	157
Trail and walkway maintenance		41.1%	232
Cleanliness of restrooms		42.1%	238
Removal of trash		39.3%	222
More parking		25.1%	142
More picnic areas		25.7%	145
Additional lighting		26.0%	147
Upkeep of playground equipment		27.6%	156
Additional features		30.6%	173
No improvements are needed		11.7%	66
Other		18.4%	104
	Name of Facility:		302
	answered question		565
	skipped question		145

15. If the City were to expand its park system, what facilities would you most like to see? Please check your TOP TWO choices only:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Swimming Pool		63.8%	379
RV Park		7.4%	44
Additional Parks		16.3%	97
Multi-Purpose Community Center		22.6%	134
Additional Athletic Fields		27.3%	162
Expansion to the Library		17.0%	101
Increased access to Cowlitz River		21.0%	125
Canoe/Kayak		10.3%	61
Additional Trails		16.8%	100
Open Space		11.6%	69
		Other	98
answered question			594
skipped question			116

16. Do you encounter any accessibility problems for challenged persons getting to a park, recreation, trail or school site?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		11.9%	72
No		88.1%	532
If yes, please describe the problem(s)			63
answered question			604
skipped question			106

17. On average, how much time do you spend on the Internet daily for recreational purposes?		Response Count
		548
answered question		548
skipped question		162



18. Do you have Internet access at home?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		88.0%	564
No		12.0%	77
answered question			641
skipped question			69

19. Please record the number of household members in each of the following age categories including yourself. Also

Male							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
0-9 years	43.3% (97)	44.2% (99)	7.1% (16)	3.1% (7)	0.4% (1)	0.4% (1)	0.0% (0)
10-19 years	9.0% (36)	52.2% (210)	26.6% (107)	8.5% (34)	2.2% (9)	0.2% (1)	0.0% (0)
20-34 years	34.1% (85)	55.4% (138)	7.2% (18)	0.4% (1)	1.6% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
35-49 years	10.2% (40)	80.8% (316)	5.9% (23)	0.5% (2)	0.3% (1)	0.8% (3)	0.3% (1)
50-64 years	38.7% (82)	55.7% (118)	2.4% (5)	1.4% (3)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
65+ years	62.9% (88)	30.0% (42)	2.9% (4)	0.7% (1)	0.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Female							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
0-9 years	45.9% (90)	37.8% (74)	10.7% (21)	3.1% (6)	0.5% (1)	0.5% (1)	0.5% (1)
10-19 years	10.9% (37)	51.9% (177)	26.4% (90)	6.7% (23)	2.1% (7)	0.9% (3)	0.0% (0)
20-34 years	28.6% (67)	63.2% (148)	2.6% (6)	1.7% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.9% (2)
35-49 years	9.2% (33)	80.8% (290)	5.6% (20)	0.8% (3)	1.4% (5)	0.6% (2)	0.0% (0)
50-64 years	41.4% (77)	51.6% (96)	2.2% (4)	1.1% (2)	0.5% (1)	0.5% (1)	0.5% (1)
65+ years	59.2% (77)	33.8% (44)	2.3% (3)	0.8% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.8% (1)	0.0% (0)



20. Do you live in the City limits of Castle Rock?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		41.4%	268
No		58.6%	380
answered question			648
skipped question			62

21. How many years have you lived in the Castle Rock area? (record 0 if less than one year)

	Response Count
	605
answered question	605
skipped question	105

22. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about parks and recreation facilities offered by the City of Castle Rock, the Castle Rock School District, or other providers?

	Response Count
	248
answered question	248
skipped question	462

2. How would you rate the parks/facilities listed below using the following

	Comments	
1	bmx track and the spoil land around would be a great place to improve	Dec 27, 2010 4:49 PM
2	Looking forward to using the boat launch.	Dec 28, 2010 3:15 AM
3	Upgrades to BMX Track would be beneficial to the youth population.	Dec 28, 2010 10:22 PM

APPENDIX B

COWLITZ RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN