



## **BOARD MEMBERS**

**Jason Linkem, Chair**  
**Mike Dannat**  
**Matthew Evans**  
**Trudee Barfield**

## **ORTING PARKS ADVISORY BOARD**

104 Bridge St S. Orting, WA 98360

**September 1, 2021, 6:30pm - Virtual**

## **ORTING PARKS ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA**

### **Virtual Meeting Information**

**Meeting URL - [https://bluejeans.com/765265321/3316?src=join\\_info](https://bluejeans.com/765265321/3316?src=join_info)**

**Meeting ID - 765 265 321**

**Participant Passcode - 3316**

### **Want to dial in from a phone?**

**Dial one of the following numbers:**

**+1.408.419.1715 (United States (San Jose))**

**Enter the meeting ID and passcode followed by #**

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER W/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL.**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 3. OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Parks Plan Update
  - B. BMX Park/Skate Park/Pump Track
  - C. Gratzer Park Update
  - D. Pavement – Pave Parking Area in Main City Park
  - E. Town Gazebo
  - F. Fountain upgrades in North Park
  - G. Land Acquisition – Behind Hidden Lakes Development
  - H. Sign for ADA Spinner
  - I. Meeting minutes July 7, 2021
- 4. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT**
- 5. NEXT AGENDA /ACTION ITEMS/ ROUND TABLE REVIEW**
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**

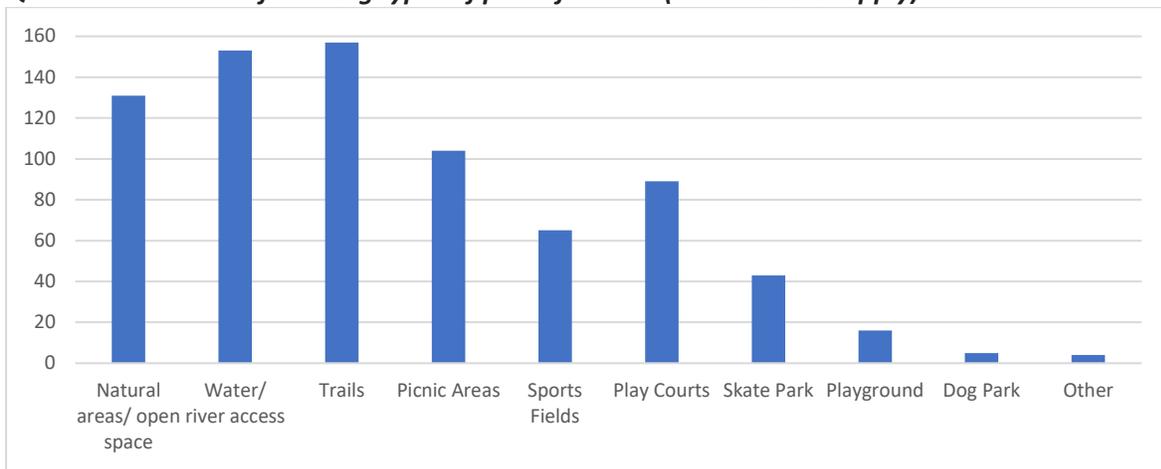


<b>TO:</b>	Parks Board	<b>DATE:</b>	September 1, 2021
<b>FROM:</b>	Emily Adams, AICP - Contract City Planner	<b>MEETING TYPE:</b>	Monthly Meeting
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Preliminary Parks Survey Results		

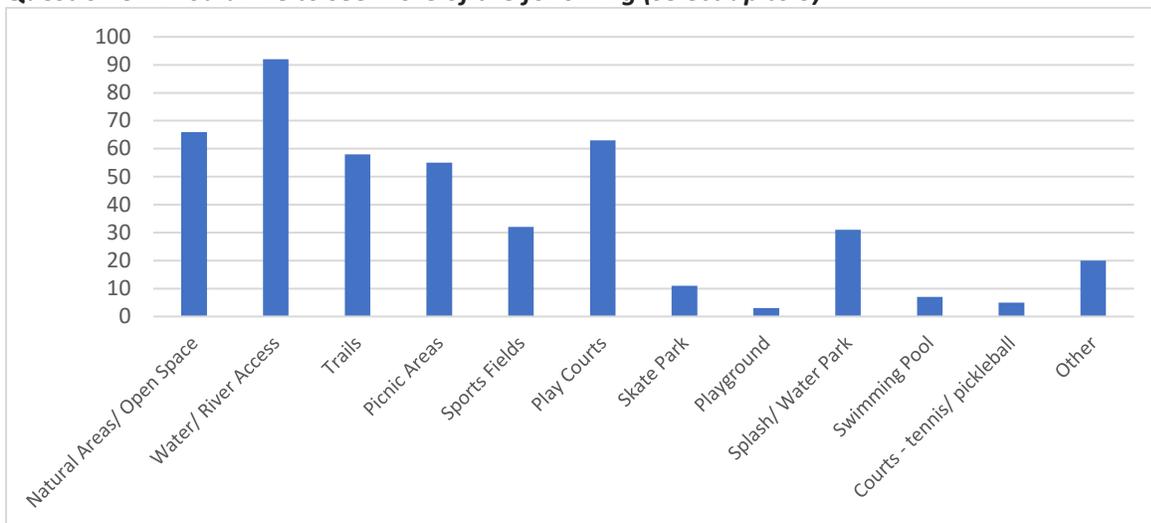
**Preliminary Survey Results**

The survey was opened May 31<sup>st</sup> to the public, since then 180 responses have been collected. A few key stats are shown below:

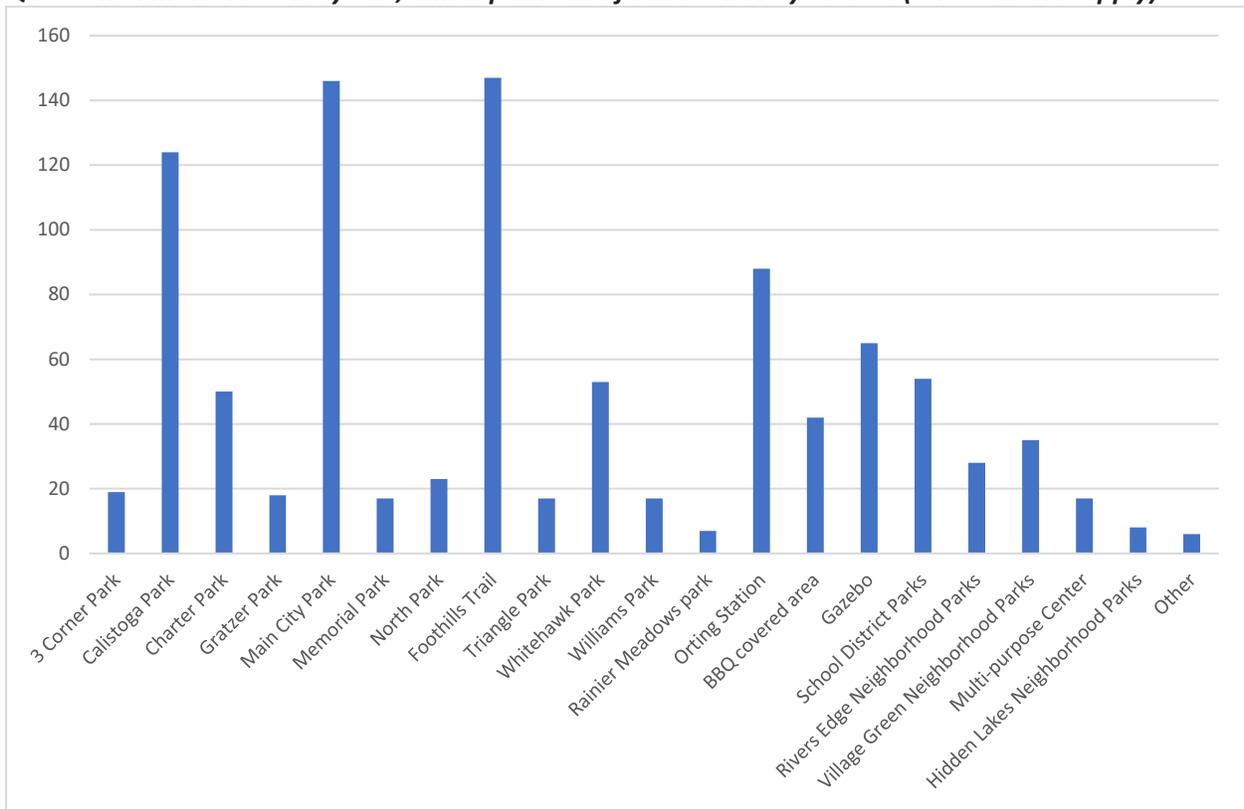
***Question 4: I use the following types of parks facilities (select all that apply)***



***Question 5: I would like to see more of the following (select up to 3)***



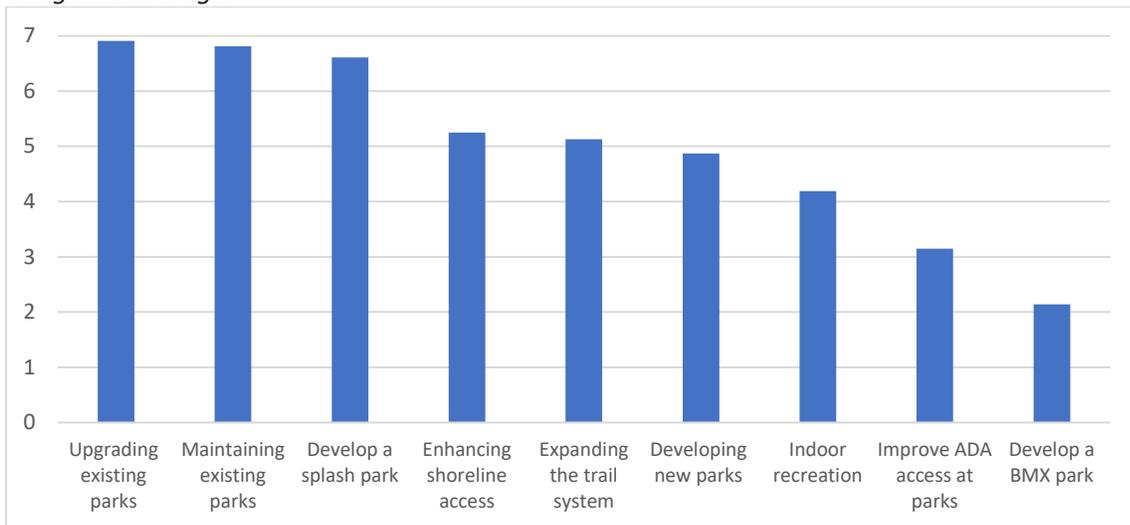
**Question 8: In the last two years, which parks and facilities have you used (select all that apply)?**



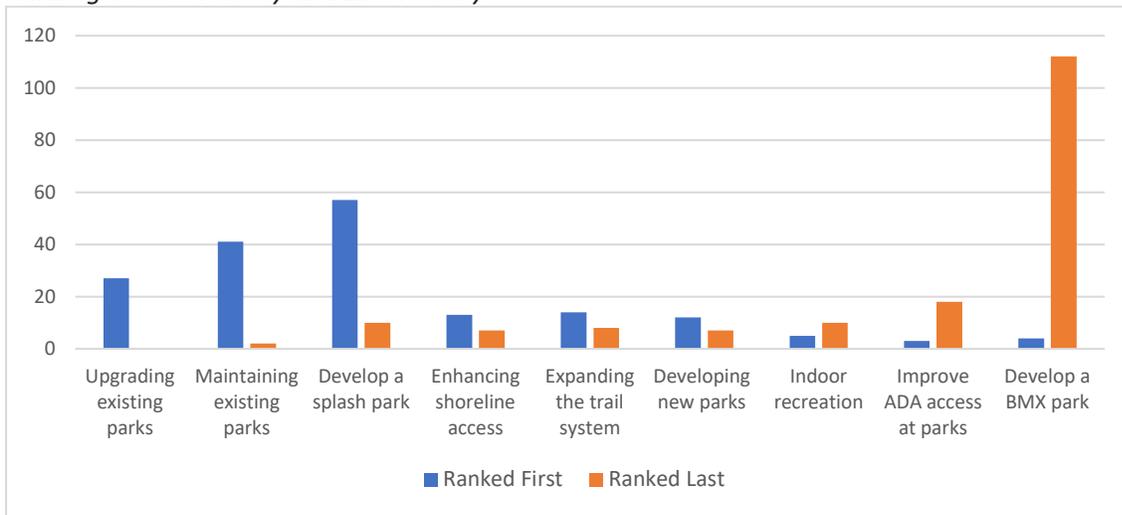
When asked which park they used the most the majority answered Main/ City Park with 79 indicating that, followed by Foothills Trail (35) and Calistoga Park (35). The next closest was Whitehawk (10).

**Question 11: What should the City focus its parks efforts and funding on (rank in order of importance, with number one as the most important).**

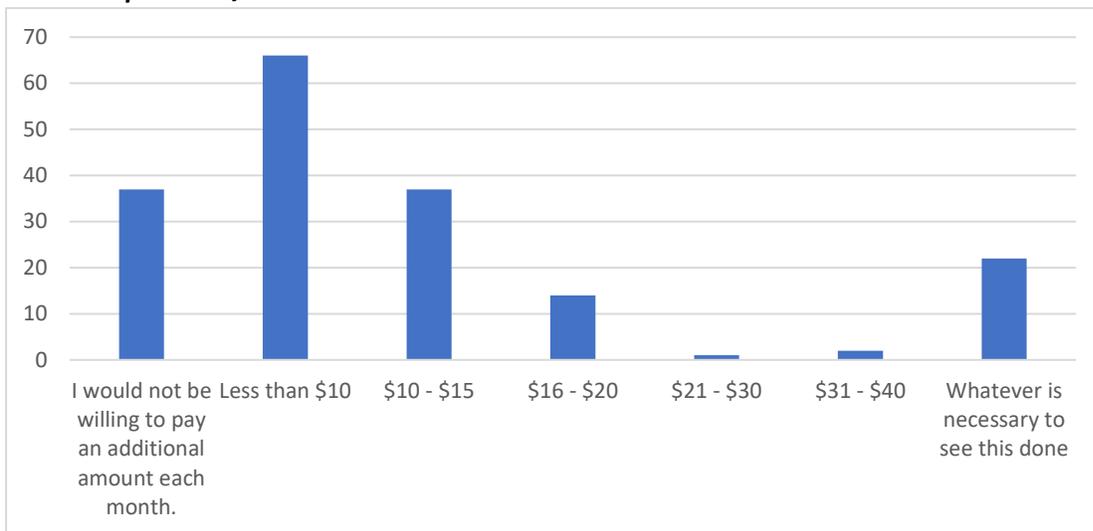
*Weighted Average:*



**Ranking as First Priority and Last Priority**



**Question 12: How much would you be willing to pay per month (through a bond, or tax increase) for a multi-use park and/or recreation center?**



The follow up question asked if they were willing to pay, what would they most like to see at the multi-use park/ recreation center. The number one answer for the weighted average and amount of people who ranked it first was a swimming pool. Community/ civic center was ranked second in the weighted average and priority ranking. The lowest weighted average and one to receive the least amount of first ranking was open space. Indoor gym, playgrounds, and athletic fields/ play courts are all in the middle of the pack.




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<b>TO:</b>	Parks Board Mayor and City Councilmembers	<b>DATE:</b>	September 1, 2021
<b>FROM:</b>	Emily Adams, AICP Contract City Planner	<b>PROJECT TYPE:</b>	Parks Plan Update
		<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Level-of-service Standard

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**Summary**

The City of Orting has outdoor facilities in comparable quantities to other nearby cities. The City falls a bit short when compared to other cities in park acreage per 1,000 residents. However, with the City mostly built out and little room to acquire any more parkland, it makes sense to focus on facilities rather than acreage. Staff recommends amending the adopted level-of-service standards (LOS) to reflect that.

**Parks Level-of-service Standards**

A “level-of-service” refers to the amount and quality of recreation facilities that are necessary to meet current and future needs. The level-of-service tool may be used when developing a demand and need analysis to address quantity, quality, distribution, and access criteria.

In order to be eligible to apply for recreation and conservation grant programs offered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) cities must complete a comprehensive parks and recreation or habitat conservation plan. The plan is required to include an element addressing ‘Demand and Need Analysis’. The RCO does not require, but it is strongly recommended, a determination of a level-of-service for park and recreation planning is used as a measure to indicate strengths and weaknesses of parks and trail systems, suggesting where additional resources may be needed.

**Current Orting Level-of-service Standard**

The City’s level-of-service (LOS) standards were established in the initial 2003 plan, and have been modified as necessary over the course of the previous updates. Currently the LOS standards are:

- Total Park Land – 8 acres per 1,000 population
  - Mini-Parks – 1 acre per 1,000 population
  - Neighborhood Parks – 2 acres per 1,000 population
  - Community Parks – 5 acres per 1,000 population
- Fields and Courts – 1 per 1,000 population (located in parks)
- Trails – 1 mile per 1,000 population
- Natural Resource Areas – 14 acres per 1,000 population

**Existing Demand and Level-of-service**

The following numbers are based solely on public parks in the 2015 PROS plan. Private facilities and schools are not included. Calculations were done using the adopted LOS (above) and the City’s current population per the OFM estimate of 8,635 people.

Type of Park	Total Acreage/ Amount	Adopted LOS	Amount Required	Surplus/ Deficit
Mini-Park	2.13 acres	1 acre per 1,000 population	8.635	-6.505
Neighborhood Park	26.4 acres	2 acres per 1,000 population	17.27	9.13
Community Park	17.5 acres	5 acres per 1,000 population	43.175	-25.675
<i>Total Parks</i>	46.03 acres	8 per 1,000 population	69.08	-23.05
Natural Resource Area	126.6 acres	14 acres per 1,000 population	120.89	5.71
Fields and Courts	5.5	1 per 1,000 population	8.635	-3.135
Trails	2.3 miles	1 mile per 1,000 population	8.635	-6.335

### Level-of-service Standard Options

With this update, a key part is making sure the level-of-service standards for land and facilities meet the community's needs and preferences for parks and recreation. The 2015 plan indicated that the community was satisfied with the quantity of available parks and open space but wanted to see overall enhancements to the park system in the form of added features and improvements to existing facilities. Through feedback such as this, the 2015 plan added a LOS for natural resource areas of 14 acres per 1,000 population. A similar trend has been seen with the 2021 survey responses. Current results (with 180 responses) indicate citizens most want to see the current parks upgraded (most popular response) and maintained (second most popular response).

In addition to documenting feedback from the community, we have also analyzed the City's parks and service offerings against the performance metrics published in the National Recreation and Park Association 2021 Agency Performance Review. This publication allows a city like Orting to compare its parks with similar sized communities. Finally, we also have compared Orting to other nearby cities.

### The National Recreation and Park Association Benchmarks

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides a nationwide bench marking tool for parks and recreation. The NRPA Agency Performance Review is an annual report that summarizes the benchmarking data contributed by nearly 1,100 park and recreation agencies to the Park Metrics database. The report presents the median nationwide benchmarking numbers for metrics including residents per park, acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, population per outdoor park and recreation facility, and miles of trail. The data is categorized by jurisdiction size, with the City of Orting being in the category of less than 20,000 residents. The following Park Metrics were published in the 2021 Report and serves as a benchmark for the City of Orting's own level-of-service. It is important to note each individual jurisdiction has individual needs for parks and recreation spaces and while NRPA data can serve as a benchmark the needs for the City of Orting may differ from this. It should also be noted that what is considered to be included in the City's parkland acreage and recreation facilities may differ between jurisdictions that contributed to the NRPA metrics.

Analysis of the park metrics data when compared to Orting (including public and private parks) shows the following:

*Table 1: NRPA Park Metrics and the City of Orting’s Current Level-of-service*

Park Metric	Orting	NRPA: All Agencies	NRPA: Less than 20,000 Residents
<b>Residents Per Park</b>	411	2,277	1,235
<b>Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents</b>	6.54	9.9	12.4
<b>Miles of Trail</b>	2.3	12	3

The community has indicated residents would like to see overall enhancements to the park system in the form of added features and improvements to existing facilities. The NRPA 2021 Agency Performance Review shows the five most common types of outdoor parks facilities and the median number of residents per facility are as follows. For Orting, the numbers are calculated using the City’s current population per the OFM estimate of 8,635 people and includes public and private parks and school facilities and accounts for the current Grazer park Phase 2 construction happening now.

*Table 2: NRPA and Orting: Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities – Population per Facility*

Type of Facility	Orting	NRPA: All Agencies	NRPA: Less than 20,000 Residents
<b>Playgrounds</b>	1,079	3,607	2,132
<b>Basketball Courts</b>	1,727	7,187	4,051
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	NA	5,089	2,748
<b>Diamond fields: baseball and softball</b>	1,233	6,763	3,000
<b>Rectangular fields: multipurpose</b>	2,878	8,750	3,895

### Community Benchmarks

Review of similar sized communities in close proximity to Orting can serve as a benchmark for the City to compare how the City’s level-of-service metrics compares to similar communities in the region. Most communities publish level-of-service metrics for both neighborhood parks and community parks. A summary of the adopted level-of-service metrics and the actual level-of-service provided at time of the community’s most recent plan publication is presented in the table below.

*Table 3: Neighborhood and Community Parks Level-of-service*

Jurisdiction	Neighborhood Park (acres per 1,000 residents)		Community Park (acres per 1,000 residents)	
	Adopted	Current	Adopted	Current
<b>Orting</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2.03</b>
<b>Bonney Lake</b>	NA	NA	6.5	3.69
<b>Buckley</b>	1.0	0.21	5.0	1.96
<b>Eatonville</b>	2.0	2.07	NA	NA
<b>Enumclaw</b>	2.62	1.81	3.59	7.68
<b>Milton</b>	1-2	0.69	5.8	6.6
<b>Sumner</b>	NA	NA	1.0	0.94

Some communities also publish level-of-service standards for outdoor park and recreation facilities. A summary of the most common facilities and associated adopted and current levels of services is shown in the table below.

*Table 4: Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities – Population per Facility (adopted level-of-service)*

Jurisdiction	Type of Facility (facilities/population)							
	Baseball/Softball Field		Soccer Fields		Tennis Courts		Basketball Courts	
	Adopted	Current	Adopted	Current	Adopted	Current	Adopted	Current
<b>Bonney Lake</b> (City + School facilities*)	1/1,500	0.81/1,500	1/3,000	0.56/3,000	1/3,000	0.97/3,000	1/3,000	2.5/3,000
<b>Buckley</b> (City + School facilities)	1 /2,000 (softball)	0.43/2,000 (softball)	1/3,500	NA (0)	1/4,000	NA (0)	1/3,500	0.75/3,500
	1 /2,000 (baseball)	1.73/2,000 (baseball)						
<b>Eatonville</b> (City + School facilities)	1 /4,000	6.9/4,000	1/3,000	2.07/3,000	1/ 1,700	2.9/1,700	NA	NA
<b>Sumner</b> (City + School facilities)	1 /2,000 (softball)	1.46/2,000 (softball)	1/3,000	0.62/3,000	1/3,000	2.5/3000	1/1,000	1.36/1,000
	1 /5,000 (baseball)	2.62/5000 (baseball)						

\*Bonney Lake school facilities are divided in half to determine the deficit or surplus to account for the fact that they are not always available to the general community.

The City of Orting currently categories levels of service for outdoor park and recreation facilities more broadly. Fields and courts are combined, and the adopted level-of-service is 1 per 1,000 population (located in parks). There are 15 fields and courts meaning the current level-of-service is 1.74 per 1,000 population.

### Discussion and Recommendation

When comparing with similar sized communities in the region Orting had the highest number of acres of Neighborhood Parks per 1,000 residents at 3.06 acres. Orting’s adopted level-of-service for Community Parks (5 acres per 1,000 residents) is similar to the adopted standards of nearby communities however current levels of service (2.03 acres per 1,00 residents) fall short of this.

As the City has limited space for additional parks it may be appropriate to focus on metrics associated with outdoor facilities rather than park acreage per 1,000 population. This does not require adding park acreage and reflects the needs of the community shown in the responses to the community survey.

When comparing the City’s outdoor recreational facilities to data from the NRPA Orting has more playgrounds, basketball courts, and diamond-fields per capita than the median for all agencies. When comparing this type of level-of-service to similar communities the data is less comparable as Orting combines fields and courts in its adopted level-of-service of 1 per 1,000 residents. Moving forward the City may choose to adopt more specific levels of service for outdoor recreation facilities and use the

benchmarks in the NRPA data and similar communities, as well as community feedback from previous surveys to establish appropriate standards in the upcoming plan update.

Evaluating a park system’s level-of-service according to park classification (e.g., mini, neighborhood, regional, etc.) is based on an NRPA document<sup>1</sup> that was last published in 1996. The approach is simple but has inherent flaws. This approach does not necessarily reflect how parks are used. Sometimes smaller parks are regional draws and function more a community or regional parks rather than the mini-park or neighborhood park classification that would be applied based on acreage alone. In Orting, City Park would be categorized as a neighborhood park even though it functions as a community park.

Staff’s recommendation is to consider evaluating the park system in the aggregate with particular focus on facilities and other improvements within parks. Because the City is largely built out with no urban growth area, there are limited opportunities for acquisition of additional park land. Notwithstanding this, there are opportunities to improve existing resources and craft service metrics that reflect local preferences.

The NRPA has published performance metrics that allow cities such as Orting to evaluate park service offerings and improvements with similarly sized communities. Based on our review of the 2021 NPRA Agency Performance Review report and our evaluation of the parks and recreation resources of other nearby cities under 20,000 population, we are recommending the following standards be used by the City to evaluate level-of-service for parks and recreation facilities:

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Type of Facility	Recommended LOS (facilities/population)
<b>Baseball/Softball Field</b>	1/2,000 (softball) 1/2,000 (baseball)
<b>Multi-Use Rectangular Field</b> (e.g. soccer, football, lacrosse)	1/3,500
<b>Basketball Courts<sup>1</sup></b>	1/3,500
<b>Tennis/ Pickle/ Racquetball Courts</b>	1/4,000
<b>Playground/ Big Toy</b>	1/1,000
<b>Special Facilities</b> (e.g. skate park, splash park, BMX park)	2/10,000
<b>Trails</b>	.25 miles/1,000
<b>Parkland</b>	8.5 acres/1,000

<sup>1</sup> Two half courts is equivalent to one court

<sup>1</sup> Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. NRPA. 1996.



## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Jason Linkem, Chair  
Mike Dannat  
Matthew Evans  
Trudee Barfield  
Vacant

## **ORTING PARKS ADVISORY BOARD**

104 Bridge St S. Orting, WA 98360  
**July 7, 2021, 6:30pm**

### **ORTING PARKS ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA**

**July 7, 2021 6:30pm**

#### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER W/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL.**

Chair Linkem called the meeting to order at 6:38, followed by roll call.

**Present:** Board Members Barfield, Dannat, Evans, and Chair Linkem.

**Staff:** Kim Agfalvi, Acting City Clerk

#### **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

#### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. BMX Park/Skate Park/Pump Track**

The Board discussed looking for companies that would provide bids/design work on a pump track. It was acknowledged that they would need bids from three different companies to present to Council. The Board also discussed having Emily Adams, City Planner, add the pump track to the City of Orting Parks Plan.

**Action:** Research pump track companies and get quotes on how much it will cost for their design services. Ask Emily Adams, City Planner, to add the pump track to the City of Orting Parks Plan.

##### **B. Parks Plan Update**

Kim Agfalvi provided an update on the City of Orting Parks plan, and that the City had been hosting a booth at the Orting Valley Farmers Market to gain input on the City parks. Citizens were asked which parks were their favorites, and asked what improvements they would like to see at the local parks.

**Action:** Update Parks Advisory Board members on the Parks Plan Survey, and the status of the Farmer's Market booth.

##### **C. Gratzer Park Update**

Kim Agfalvi provided an update on the Gratzer Park expansion. She stated that the landscaping company is waiting for drainage materials and then they will begin importing other materials.

**Action:** Keep item on agenda for future updates as the project continues construction and update Board members on the status.

##### **D. Pavement – Pave Parking Area in Main City Park**

The Board discussed paving of the parking lots in the main City park. They stated they would like to move forward with the project, so the City can continue to be ADA friendly.

**Action:** Present item to CGA Committee at their next meeting and report back to Parks Advisory Board.



**E. Town Gazebo**

The Board stated they would like to see some updates completed on the town gazebo. They suggested pressure washing, cleaning, staining of wood, and general maintenance would need to be done.

**Action:** Bring back to Parks Advisory Board meeting on August 11, 2021.

**F. Fountain upgrades in North Park**

The Board discussed upgrades to the fountain, to include concrete stamped to look like river rock, upgrades to the fountain and columns for water to shoot out of, along with a possible brick wall that would double as extra seating, and a plaque that would acknowledge donors of the original structure.

**Action:** Research a design and bring back to Parks Advisory Board meeting on August 11, 2021.

**4. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT**

Kim Agfalvi briefed on a possible Parks and Recreations sports program for the fall of 2021, to include soccer, dance, and tumbling. She also briefed that staff is researching a new online registration program that can be used to replace Sportsites, which the City is no longer using.

**5. NEXT AGENDA /ACTION ITEMS/ ROUND TABLE REVIEW**

**Land acquisition** - The Board discussed the possible acquisition of land from Pierce County that is located behind the Hidden Lakes neighborhood.

**Action:** Add to the agenda at the August 11, 2021 meeting.

**Sign for ADA Spinner** – The Board discussed adding a sign that explains how the ADA spinner works. It was mentioned to a Board member that citizens are not clear on the proper use of the equipment.

**Action:** Add to the agenda for the August 11, 2021 meeting.

**Next meeting** – The board discussed and decided to move the Parks Advisory Board meeting from the originally scheduled date of August 4, 2021 to August 11, 2021 due to conflicts with vacations of members.

**Action:** Move meeting date to August 11, 2021 at 6:30pm at Orting City Hall.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Linkem adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm.

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*Kimberly Agfalvi, Acting City Clerk*

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*Jason Linkem, Chair*