



Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board Meeting Agenda

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for meeting information.

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Land Acknowledgment

We, the City of Lacey, are on the ancestral land of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe. We acknowledge and remember those Tribal People not recognized today who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here. We recognize and respect the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek as the traditional stewards of this land since time immemorial and their role today in taking care of these lands in perpetuity. We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as they have today. We recommend that community members read the [Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854](#).

4. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- A. Approval of the Agenda*
- B. Approval of June 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes*

5. Public Comment

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for instructions on how to provide public comment.

6. Business Items

- A. **Regional Athletic Complex Updates**
Sean Finney, Recreation Supervisor
- B. **2025 Work Plan Update**
Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner
- C. **2026 Budget Requests**
Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner
- D. **September Parks Board Tour**
Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner

7. Reports

- A. Commissioners
- B. Chair
- C. Recreation Manager
- D. Parks Maintenance Supervisor
- E. Senior Parks Planner
- F. Director

8. Adjourn

*Vote Requested

Next Meeting:

Parks, Culture and Recreation Board Meeting: September 12, 2024, 12:00 p.m., Parks Tour will be held at various Lacey Parks sites, to be announced

Attend Remote or In Person

There are several ways to attend the Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board meeting:

- In Person: Council Chambers at Lacey City Hall
420 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503
- Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WTGdNdvzTIS-6utX3phXsA
- Website: <https://cityoflacey.org/government/public-meetings/>
- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fXPUo_97a
- Phone: (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247 (Webinar ID 876 3149 5694)

Verbal Public Comment

Each speaker is limited to three minutes. Comments are welcome on matters connected to City business or specific agenda items. **Ballot measure endorsements (in support or opposition) are not allowed during Public Comment. This includes comments on candidates or the Lacey Metropolitan Park District (RCW 42.17A.555).**

Prior to starting your comments, please provide your:

- a. Name
- b. City of residence or connection to the City
- c. Topic or subject matter of your comments

The opportunity for verbal public comment is available in-person or by Zoom:

- In Person: Use the sign-up sheet at the meeting location.
- Zoom: Preregister using the following Zoom link no later than two hours prior to the meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WTGdNdvzTIS-6utX3phXsA
Instructions and access details will be provided once registration is complete.

Written Public Comment

Please submit written public comments to PRPublicComment@cityoflacey.org up to two hours prior to the start of the meeting. Public comments received by the deadline will be sent to Commissioners prior to the meeting,

but will not be read at the meeting. Emailed correspondence that is received throughout the month will be included in the next available Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board packet under Correspondence.



Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Chair Wheeler called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chair Aram Wheeler, Vice Chair Laurie Davies, Hilary Dykstra, Bill Fosbre, Michelle Gipson, Gary Larson, Annette Roth

3. Land Acknowledgment

Commissioner Roth read the land acknowledgment.

4. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Davies motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Larson seconded. Motion carried.

B. Approval of May 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Gipson motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Roth seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Business Items

A. Staff Introduction: Erika Scott-Small

Erick Scott-Small, Recreation Coordinator

Recreation Coordinator Scott-Small introduced herself to the Board as a new staff member.

B. Bush Park Playground Fundraising Update

Nita Sell, President-Elect Gateway Rotary

Senior Parks Planner Wilson and President-Elect Sell shared updates on fundraising efforts by Gateway Rotary to replace the playground equipment at Bush Park.

C. Regional Athletic Complex Phase 3 Funding and Concepts

Jen Burbidge, Director

Troy Woo, Finance Director

SCJ Alliance & ALSC Architects Consulting Team

Staff reviewed the most recent Regional Athletic Complex Phase 3 concepts, funding, and recommendation that will be presented to the City Council, including an extension of the current public facility district. The Consulting Team provided a detailed review of the concepts.

D. Arbors Park Lease and Maintenance Agreement

Jen Burbidge, Director

Director Burbidge reviewed the park lease and maintenance agreement.

Commissioner Larson motioned to approve the agreement. Commissioner Dykstra seconded. Motion carried.

E. South Puget Sound Disc Golf Association Agreements

Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner

Senior Parks Planner Wilson reviewed the agreements.

Commissioner Larson motioned to approve the agreements. Commissioner Dykstra seconded. Motion carried.

F. Lacey Metropolitan Park District Presentation

Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner

Senior Parks Planner Wilson and Parks Maintenance Supervisor Jamie Oakland provided an informational presentation on the proposed Lacey Metropolitan Park District.

G. Greg Cuoio Park Financial Plan

Jen Burbidge, Director

Director Burbidge reviewed the financial plan for Greg Cuoio Community Park.

7. Reports

A. Commissioners

No reports.

B. Chair

No report.

C. Recreation Manager

Senior Parks Planner Wilson provided the Recreation Manger report.

- Lacey Spring Fun Fair was May 18-19th.
- Summer programs and events are available online at LaceyParks.org/Register

D. Parks Maintenance Supervisor

Parks Maintenance Supervisor Oakland reported that staff have performed the following since the last board meeting.

- Added 30.55 tons of pea gravel to Long Lake beach front
- Assumed maintenance responsibility for Carpenter Rd roundabout and T.C. Reservoir
- Landscaped Civic Plaza
- Investigated tree decline through parks
- Coordinated Parks asset condition assessment
- Coordinated Rainier Vista court resurfacing.

E. Senior Parks Planner

Senior Parks Planner Wilson reported:

- New off-leash dog signs have been posted in preparation for summer.
- The low bidder for the Woodland Creek Community Park bridge project was Hammersley Contracting for roughly \$328,000. Staff are finalizing the contract and schedule with the contractor.
- Staff have scheduled informational presentations for the Lacey Metropolitan Parks District Proposal with eight city commissions and seventeen community groups. A recorded version of the presentation will soon be available online.

- The Board will not be meeting in July. The September meeting of the Parks, Culture and Recreation Board will be a parks tour held on September 12, 2025.

F. Director

Director Burbidge shared that the department will be on the July 15, 2025 City Council agenda to present the 2024 Annual Report and celebrate "July is Parks and Recreation Month.

8. Adjourn

Chair Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Lacey Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board

2025 WORK PLAN

Approved: November 6, 2024 Updated August 6, 2025

Task	Responsible Commissioner	Status	Target Completion date
ONGOING			
1. Parks, Culture & Recreation Staff Updates			
2. Annual Budget, Parks Capital Improvement Program and City Capital Facilities Plan Update			
3. Grant Opportunities			
4. July is Parks & Recreation Month			
5. Annual Report			
6. Regional Trails Plan			
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS			
7. Woodland Creek Park Bridge & Fencing	All	Upcoming agenda In Progress	Fall 2025
8. Wonderwood Park Trail & Court Upgrades (Sunset)	All	Upcoming agenda	Summer 2025 <u>2027</u>
9. RAC Ballfield Safety Netting	All	Upcoming agenda	Summer 2025 <u>Design 2026, Construction 2027</u>
10. Greg Cuoio Park Phase 1A Construction	All	Upcoming agenda	Spring 2025 <u>Fall 2025</u>
11. Long's Pond Dock Replacement	All	Upcoming agenda	<u>Design 2026, Construction 2027</u> Spring 2026
SPECIAL PROJECTS			
12. Parks Improvement Funding Workgroup	All	In progress Completed	Fall <u>December 2024</u>
13. Park Facilities Security Camera Expansions	All	Upcoming agenda	Summer <u>Winter 2027</u> 2025
14. Community Garden Pilot Project / WCFE	All	In progress	Pending non-profit partner
15. Dogs Off Leash Issues, education	All	Upcoming agenda Completed	Spring 2024/ <u>Summer 2025</u>
16. Financial Assistance Policy Review	All	Upcoming agenda	Winter 2025 <u>2026</u>
17. InterCity Transit Walk N Roll Partnership	Chair Goodwin	Upcoming agenda Completed	Summer 2025
18. RAC Kiosk	All	In Progress Completed	Fall/Winter 2024 <u>March 2025</u>
19. Arbors Park Lease Agreement	All	In Progress Completed	Winter <u>June 2025</u>
20. Research Long Lake House and Possible Demo	All	In Progress	Spring <u>Fall 2025</u>
PARK RULES			
21. Metal Detecting Update	All	Upcoming agenda	Spring <u>Winter 2026</u> 5
22. Ebikes & Scooters Update (with partners)	All	Upcoming agenda	Winter <u>Spring 2026</u> 5
23. Affixing Signs Update	All	Upcoming agenda	Winter <u>Spring 2026</u> 5
24. Mobile Vendors in Parks Consider & Research	All	Upcoming Agenda	Summer <u>Winter 2026</u> 5
PLANNING			
25. RAC Phase 3 <u>Improvements</u> Planning & Design	All	Upcoming agenda	Spring 2025 <u>2026</u>
26. NTPS Young Child & Family Center Feasibility	All	In progress	Spring 2025 <u>Pending funding</u>
27. Lake Lois Habitat Reserve – update interpretive signage & brochure	All	Upcoming agenda	Spring 2026 5

Task	Responsible Commissioner	Status	Target Completion date
28. Greg Cuoio Park Phase 1A Design & Financial Plan	All	In progress Completed	Fall 2024 <u>June 2025</u>
29. RAC Wifi Pre-Design <u>Combined with RAC Improvements Project</u>	All	Upcoming Agenda	Fall 2025
30. Bush Park Playground Replacement	All	Upcoming Agenda	Winter <u>Fall 2026</u>
31. McKinney House and Parcel Assessment	All	Upcoming Agenda	Winter <u>Winter 2026</u>
32. Rainier Vista – Pickleball and Ping Pong	All	Upcoming Agenda	TBD Awaiting Grant Funding <u>Fall 2027</u>
33. RAC Lights LED Conversion	All	Upcoming Agenda	Will pursue in 2026 grant cycle <u>Pending funding</u>

2026 Budget Requests

Parks, Culture and Recreation Department Requests

Budget Request	Amount	Description
Lacey Community Center Sound System	\$18,777	Replace the failing sound system at the Lacey Community Center
Museum Store Inventory	\$5,000	Unique retail items for sale at the museum store
RAC Sound System	\$10,450	Replace the audio processor as well as replace wires at the amplifier that have been damaged.
Homann Park Picnic Area Replacement	\$94,000	Replace the asphalt picnic area at Homann Park.
Wonderwood Park Trail Replacement	\$123,000	Replace ~9,500SF of asphalt trails from the Brentwood Drive parking lot to the tennis courts.
Thornbury Park Playgrounds and Swings Replacement	\$1,171,000	Replace both playgrounds (ages 2-5 year olds & 5-12 year olds), and both sets of swings. Upgrade the playground surface with an accessible pour-in-place or synthetic turf surfacing for the play areas.
Huntamer Park Sidewalk Replacement	\$280,000	Replace the walking paths within the Northern .77-acre parcel at Huntamer Park. The estimated total concrete replacement is ~8,200 square feet.
RAC Concrete Replacement	\$526,000	Replace the permeable concrete pad in the central plaza of the RAC baseball complex with impermeable concrete or asphalt. (~37,500 sq. ft.)
Homann Park Interpretive Marker	\$5,000	Interpretive marker for Homann Park, similar to the ones at Woodland Creek Park and the Lacey Depot that honor the Homann family.
Huntamer Park Water Feature and Plaza Improvement	\$2,000,000	Improve the Southeast corner of Huntamer Park by replacing the climbing structure and adding a water feature, seat bench, seat wall, plaza area with accent paving, added paths, informal play with rocks/seating, picnic tables, and tables/chairs.
Total	\$4,233,227	

Parks and Facility Maintenance Requests

Budget Request	Amount	Description
Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center	\$140,000	Replace the roof
Lacey Community Center Beam	\$25,000	Replace the rotting beam covering the entrance on the south side of the center. Request includes roof covering.
Cuoio Park	\$411,135	The budget request includes a journey level maintenance technician position for Cuoio Park (1130 hours for Cuoio Park and 525 hours for the police station), a truck, trailer, mower, RTV and skid sprayer.
Cuoio Park	\$75,594	Annual expenses to maintain Cuoio Park once opened including; internal service support (fleet maintenance and IS), utilities, contracted services for security, and weekly servicing of sanicans.
Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan (Staff and supplies)	\$204,923	Proposed 10-year mitigation plan to pro-actively replace City maintained Ash trees before Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The budget request includes a journey level maintenance technician position, trees, planting materials and rental equipment for stump removals.
Park Amenities Replacements	\$55,000	Replace deteriorated picnic tables, benches and garbage cans in parks.
Irrigation Controller Conversion	\$83,500	Convert remaining 8 irrigation controllers at RAC and Rainier Vista to cellular communication model.
Rainier Vista Field Drainage and lip replacement	\$102,645	Remove infield lip and add drainage to poor draining soils at Rainier Vista on field 1.
Filed Painter for Rainier Vista	\$15,000	Buy a ride on sprayer to maximize efficiency of lining fields.
RAC field drainage and sod replacement	\$85,000	Replace sand and sod in poor draining areas throughout baseball complex to increase playability.
RAC Buffalo blower	\$11,000	Replace Buffalo Blower that failed beyond repair.
Total	\$1,208,797	

**Program Updates
Quarter 2- 2025**

Aquatics

Highlights:

Started 3 new program offerings for the summer quarter! Adult Lessons, Parent-Child Lessons, and Teen Lessons!

Overview

Staff has continued to do well in Aquatics, we were able to teach 314 lessons during the spring quarter and finished the quarter with no cancellations. We added Wednesday night swim lessons and were able to have classes taught at the same time as aquafit. Staff is really excited about teaching new programs this summer and spent 16 hours of in-service training for the new classes in the months of May and June to prepare for the new programs.

We also guarded for the Special Olympics season, hosted 4 rentals for Boy Scout troops/birthday parties, and ran Aquafit through the spring at River Ridge High School.

Special Events

Highlights:

Kids Fishing Event canceled

Fun Fair was a success

Overview

The Kids Fishing event, formerly the Lacey Family Fish In, which has been an annual tradition since 1997, (with the exception of COVID 2020 & 2021) was canceled this year due to the lack of support of the fish nets from WA Fish & Wildlife. We hope to find a work around to bring this event back in 2026.

Fun Fair was held May 17-18, turnout was a bit slower than normal on Saturday due to cooler temps and forecast of rain, but Sunday was super busy! so many happy people enjoying all the free fun! Saturday, we had the STEAM Fair with 20 groups providing activities and Sunday was the car show, plus this year we were able to bring back pony rides the delight of many children! This event is handled primarily by a dedicated group of volunteers that have been involved for years to help make Fun Fair the great event it is, but several are ready to step down due to age, health, so the city will need to decide how to fill those gaps for this popular community festival.

Thanks to the board members who jumped in to help staff the information booth.

Community Recreation

Highlights:

Spring was once again busy. Spring break day camp was busting at the seams. Spring classes were a hit with classes like Adult Elder Law and Voice Overs showing an increase in participation among others and our youth dance classes continue to be a success.

Overview

In May we officially completed one full school year of the returning Lacey Teen Late Nights averaging 389 NTPS teens. Our classes excelled in registration numbers with Performance Dance as a stand-out hitting a record high for its collective participation numbers across both sessions. We found success in a new co-op class offering bringing Bob Ross style instructional painting to adults in our community.

In preparation for summer, we hired on 15 new part time staff while bringing back 23 staff members from last summer. Along with the bringing on new staff we also ran our Counselor in Training program for seven future counselors. We are looking forward to a fun and busy summer!

Facilities and Rentals

Highlights:

The speakers and amplifiers were replaced in the main room of the Community Center sound system. The controls system is slated to be replaced in 2026.

Picnic Shelter and Depot rentals are busy in 2025!

Between the LCC and JSH, indoor facilities were in use 83/91 days from April-June.

Overview

The sound system at the Community Center was having issues in March. After an assessment was made, all of the speakers and amplifiers were replaced in the main room as part of an emergency fix. The system was installed when the building was built in 1996, and it is past time for an upgrade/replacement. Once the control panels and speakers in the meeting rooms are replaced (hopefully 2026), we will have a brand-new sound system.

Picnic shelter and Depot rentals have collected \$21,850 in rental fees from April-June. Our busiest rental season is June-August, so we're excited to see what the total is in October.

The Community Center and Jacob Smith House continue to be in high demand. There was something happening at the indoor facilities 83/91 days from April-June. Community Recreation continues to offer classes and programs 4 days/week in our facilities.

Regional Athletic Complex

Highlights:

The RAC had over \$150,000.00 in quarter 2 revenue. This included 15 softball tournaments with a revenue of over \$39,000. The Soccer fields hosted tournaments including soccer, Rugby and a new Gaelic Games. There was a Juneteenth celebration and the Poly Festival that the RAC hosted as well. The RAC had 534 Individual Soccer bookings and 563 individual Softball/Baseball/Fastpitch Bookings

Overview

Quarter 2 at the RAC softball complex included TCYF opening day, BHYB end of season Tournament, West Central District 4 girls 3A and 1A championship, WIAA 3A State championship, USSSA girls fastpitch championship, a couple large youth baseball tournaments, fastpitch tournaments and some adult slow-pitch tournaments. A Mariner's Grand Slam Camp was back for another year. We ended June with our 10U USA State Tournament. The State Agency started league play along with Church and Senior softball leagues starting up. I started our first summer league on Fridays to help fill a lack of teams for Church league. The soccer complex included the above-mentioned tournaments as well as hosting practices and games for the men's and women's USL soccer teams. TCYFL ran their 2nd year of 7 V 7 games on Friday nights bringing over 400 players and their parent/fans out each night. One night included some Seahawks, Seagal's, Blitz and the Drum Line. Our normal users SWSA, CCSA, TCU, BHFC, BBR, Oly/Thurston Lacrosse, NHSL, St. Martins, SPSCC, TCYSA, River Ridge, U-Lax, and TC Soccer Academy filled in during the week. All fields have been booked every weeknight some multiple times a night with only a few exceptions. We also hosted multiple Skyhawks Youth camps.

Museum

Highlights:

Exhibits: Reader rails assembled and ready for panels, panels are ready for review, and window exhibit has been installed.

Programs: Great Lacey Adventure scavenger hunt happening Saturday July 19th. Currently have 21 people registered.

Overview

Museum staff attended the Washington Museum Association conference in Chelan.

Good progress was made this month on the move to the Bell Town Center. We installed the reader rails, completed drafts of the exhibit panels, and a beautiful mural has been installed in the windows, making a perfect photo opp for the community. Staff continued to work on exhibit and merchandise development.

Several interesting acquisitions came to the museum collections, including the Greater Olympia Dixieland Jazz Society (and Jazz Festival) records and artifacts, an Evergreen Ballroom coat check tag, and records from the proposed Capitol Downs racetrack in Hawks Prairie.

The MOU with Thurston County for the printing of the Thurston County history book Water, Woods, and Prairies was signed. Preparations are underway to prepare it for the second edition printing.

Youth / Adult Sports

Highlights:

Spring youth sports season was in full affect this quarter! We had over 3,000 field reservations across our parks and the NTPS district (RAC excluded), which totals to roughly \$37,658.40. In programming, we held 43 classes with a total attendance of 258 participants.

Overview:

This spring, the fields and courts in our community were busy and full! The spring sports programs in our area requested over 3,000 field reservations across 20 groups (including LPCR). Rainier Vista in particular was busy, as it hosted eight tournaments this quarter alone, I highlighted two hosted by Thurston County Pickleball and three multi-state fastpitch events held by Thurston County Fastpitch Association. Other sports seeking reservations include baseball, cricket, slow-pitch softball, football, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, rugby, ultimate frisbee, and volleyball.

Youth programming this quarter continued to see positive community participation. We ran 43 classes with 258 total registrations. I am especially happy with the impact of our Sport Sprouts program. 10 participants in the class we ran were encouraged by their experience and signed-up for our Little Lacey Baseball & T-Ball League, including two parents who volunteered to coach. Yet another great reminder of the positive impact we provide for our community!

Front Desk / Customer Service

Highlights:

Staff oversaw a successful summer registration, attended several trainings, and made permanent web pages for all of Lacey's annual events.

Overview

- Across all transaction types (registrations, refunds, user credits, financial assistance, etc.) the front desk processed 829 transactions totaling \$294,172.19 during quarter two, in addition to assisting residents over the phone and at City Hall with numerous questions about our recreation offerings and parks.
- Oversaw summer registration which included 351 unique offerings-- collected programmatic information from staff, proofed accuracy of offerings, created and formatted offerings in CivicRec (recreation software), triaged needed changes from staff, and assisted residents once registration opened.
- Managed negotiations for the recently executed Lease and Maintenance Agreement for Arbor's Park. Managed the Agreement for Services with the Lacey Community Foundation to drafting a Five-Year Fundraising Plan for the City of Lacey.
- Attended several trainings in Quarter two: various FEMA Emergency Management courses, several supervisor trainings from Washington Cities Insurance Authority, customer service safety course, and interpretation services software training.
- Created an *Annual Event* section on the LaceyParks.org website and drafted permanent webpages for all annual events: Cultural Celebration, Lacey Spring Fun Fair, Play in the Parks, Lacey in Tune, Lacey Fireworks Spectacular, Children's Day, Lacey Holiday Lights, and Breakfast with Santa. This allows the community to learn about our great events year-round, not just during event season!

Marketing and Metrics

Highlights:

- Reached over 2,000 followers on Facebook. Instagram reached 431. Both reached primarily without ads.
- Delivered collaborative July is Parks Month content with StreamTeam, Youth/Adult Sports, Community Recreation, SPSDGA, and Facilities/Rentals.

Overview:

Facebook and Instagram reached and interacted with more community members this quarter. In particular, from Apr. 8 to Jul. 6, Facebook experienced the following: visits (up 82.7%), content interactions (up 10.7%), views (up 15.8%), link clicks (up 173.1%), follows (up 46%), and reached (down 55.7%). Instagram experienced the following: views (up 135.8%), content interactions (up 29.2%), visits (up 79.4%), follows (up 57.8%), link clicks (up 100%), and reach (up 213.6%). The data indicates folks are engaging with the content we create and following links to register. When looking at the statistics against a timeline, engagement spikes with events, registration dates, and ads. However, we are still not reaching everyone. Paid advertising, relatable and inviting content decentering our government "vibes" should amend this, but more investigation should be conducted.

The Lacey Parks, Culture, & Recreation newsletter operates as a valuable arm in our marketing. With issues released in April, May, and June, the newsletter maintains a 54.67% open rate with a 3% click rate. Hot spots on the newsletters indicate users most frequently click on registration and event links. Additionally, users open our targeted one-off event and registration emails at a lower rate of 46.33% on average. The next step would be to trace those who click the link to CivicRec to see if those folks register. Overall, this data indicates the importance of our minimal newsletter presence and the importance of a quick, direct, and easy email. As our offerings change and/or grow, it could be worthwhile to add a limit on newsletter content.

Ultimately, the data shows our digital marketing continues to connect with Lacey residents and has room to grow.

Parks Planning and Development

Highlights:

Cuoio Park Construction is underway, and Metro Parks District presentations are happening

Overview

- Construction is moving along at Cuoio Park.
- Metro Parks District community education efforts underway with 27 presentations scheduled with groups, boards/commissions to provide information.
- Two new commissioners joined Parks Board – Welcome Commissioner Gipson and Roth!
- Working two get the two memorial bench details confirmed (enhancement program).
- RAC phase 3 design concepts created and presented to parks board and council
- Partnered with Thurston County Pickleball Club to improve the tennis courts at Rainier Vista Park. They are fully funding the resurfacing and re-lining project.
- Completed the South Puget Sound Disc Golf Association maintenance and construction agreements for the Cuoio Park Disc Golf Course.
- Woodland Creek Bridge replacement project is moving along with construction anticipated for Summer/Fall.
- Began research and background efforts for 2026 budget requests
- Renewed the Arbors Park Lease Agreement
- Continued Off-Leash Dog efforts by updating signs in parks and through newsletter information.

Parks, Culture & Recreation Correspondence

Date	From	Correspondence	Response
6.3.25	Alisha G.	<p>Hi! I am a local Lacey gal, born and raised, and now a mom with 2 boys, 1 and 3. I wanted to say thanks for a fabulous park that has GATES! Whether or not the gates are there because they were required with the busy street or not I wish all parks had at least the big toy with gates. It's hard to give thanks without sharing the details of my 3 year old, he is one epic kid who is also neuro-spicey (autistic). And I had to share the many reasons why the park is fabulous - he loves trains, so does my 1 year old, there are plenty of all age kids things to do, benches, area for some chalk to be done, trash can inside the park, and plenty of slides! Now the gates, my son can sometimes be a runner and now with my 1 year old, it is impossible to take them by myself practically anywhere, I used to be locked up until their dad got home and with two rambunctious boys, they need to run it out. I have somewhere I can go with gates that I can more trust I can find them both. Now there are plenty of parents who leave and keep the gates open so I kindly ask them to shut it when they leave but I cannot tell you how much we use the park and have peace of mind. The only suggestion I would make that would be the a cherry on top, is if the gates had a bell on the outside, so when it opened and closed, you'd here it. I had one time I was getting my 3 year old who crashed with another kid and a family left and they left the gate open when they left but I was on the other side, I didn't see my 1 year old and went around to see he was trailing behind that family who left the gate open. I was able to catch him fast but the bell on the gate would have let me know it opened. Thanks again! Alisha</p>	<p>Reply from Senior Parks Planner Jenny Wilson: Hi Alisha – Thanks for the feedback, we love hearing positive experiences about our parks. Thank you for the suggestion and your generous offer to purchase the bell. We appreciate your input and will keep it in mind. At this time, we don't plan to add a bell, as it could potentially be a nuisance to other park users. Thanks again for reaching out.</p>

6.11.25	Steve H	<p>Hello, I wanted to bring up a concern about the swing set at Bush Park. One of the swings has been broken for over a year and hasn't been repaired or replaced. More recently, the functioning swing on the other side was removed as well. Now, there are only two toddler swings available, leaving older children without a place to swing. Could you please look into repairing or replacing the swings so that all kids have the opportunity to enjoy the playground again? We'd really appreciate it—it's been quite a long time. Thank you!</p>	<p>Reply from Senior Parks Planner Jenny Wilson: Hi Steve - Thanks for reaching out. In July, the park experienced significant vandalism that led to the removal of the swings and a slide. Since the playground for ages 5-12 playground is nearly 30 years old and in poor condition, we made the decision not to replace the swings right away, as we are now planning for a full replacement. We've received budget approval to move forward with the replacement project and have just started the process of gathering design concepts. We anticipate having several replacement concepts available for community input by October. Please keep an eye out for signs at the park and posts on our social media for opportunities to vote and share your feedback on the new playground design options. Thanks again</p>
6.16.25	Brad K.	<p>Good Afternoon!, I'm writing today to ask for some information about the Woodland Trail. At the eastern end of the trail there are a couple more miles of rail road tracks that are now cut-off from the rest of the train line but still appear to be owned by the rail road. There are several neighborhoods on that side of the bridge that don't currently have safe trail access including my own neighborhood. I'm sure that I'm not the only person interested in this expansion. Is it already in the works or is it a longer range project? Is there a more appropriate way for me to express interest in this trail expansion? Any info you're able to share would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!</p>	<p>Reply from Senior Parks Planner Jenny Wilson: Hi Brad -Thanks for reaching out. There have been regional discussions for some time regarding extending the trail, and it's included in the TRPC Regional Trails Plan (2023), https://trpc.org/DocumentCenter/View/12180/Regional-Trails-Plan-FINAL---December-2023 (9E). The goal would be to extend the trail by 3 miles. The first step would be to acquire the railway from BNSF. The county recently got an agreement with BNSF for their construction project, which allowed the removal of the railroad crossing at Marvin Road. However, under the agreement BNSF retained the right to put the railroad and crossing back in if needed. If BNSF was willing to abandon the railway, regional partners could work toward the trail extension goal, pending funding. To express interest, you could also reach out to Thurston County. I will add your email to the Lacey Parks, Culture and Recreation Board packet to keep them aware of the interest. Thanks and take care!</p>

6.17.25	Leslie C.	<p>Hi Jen, I try to walk the paved walkway daily in the evenings but a large group comes and blocks a large portion of the paved walkway shortly after I arrive with their cricket game. I have bad legs and sometimes have a difficult time walking in the grass due to it being an uneven surface. Is there anything that can be done so that me and others can enjoy the paved walkway? Follow up after response: You can not pass while they are playing. The batter and pitcher stand on the paved walk with a person behind the batter and a person behind the pitcher. They do not move when people approach. I don't understand why they don't use a grass area that doesn't include the paved trail. There are so many other spots in the same park that could be used.</p>	<p>Reply from Senior Parks Planner Jenny Wilson: Hi Leslie, Thanks for reaching out and letting us know about your experience at Woodland Creek Park. We are aware that there is a group using that area of Woodland Creek Park for cricket. We have previously asked them to avoid using the park for their games and recommended they instead rent/use designated sports field. We currently don't have rules prohibiting them from using the park for cricket. That being said, the walking path and field is intended for general recreational use. Although you may not feel comfortable using they path while they are playing a game, it is open to everyone. This will be shared with our parks board and we will continue working toward a solution including the possibility of a park rule change. Thanks Jenny</p>
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6.22.25	Irina O.	<p>To Whom It May Concern: We live on the edge of Wonderwood park, Stikes entrance, and it has been a struggle, especially in the summer. The park is usually open well before 7am; sometimes as early as 5am, and the cars start arriving with music and loud noises. The park doesn't usually close at dusk, as stated in the Lacey Parks' rules, but could stay open as late as 11pm or even later. In addition to this annoyance, the weekends, instead of being a time to rest and enjoy the days off, become even more problematic for us and our neighbors who live close to the park. In particular, today there was a large loud and disrespectful group, that comes to Wonderwood park often. They reserve (or at least I hope that they do) a gazebo and spend all day there, playing music so loudly that sometimes you could hear it a few blocks away. The Lacey Parks' rules say, "No amplified Music", but that not only does not stop the group from blasting it out all day long, but they also violate other park's rules as well. One of the repeated patterns is that they drive their vehicle right up to the gazebo and could keep it there all day long, blasting music from it. The children's playground is right there as well. If I were a parent bringing my child to the playground, I would find it unsafe for my child to play basically on a driveway. We had to call the police several times about these disturbances, and about a month or so ago a police officer that arrived refused to enforce the park rule about "No amplified music", because "it was a birthday party." Could you please clarify if amplified music is allowed in the park, if a group reserved the gazebo? I emailed Lacey Parks previously regarding our concerns about Wonderwood park.</p> <p>Unfortunately, even though I received a polite reply, the communication left me feeling that Lacey Parks' rules were not being followed and enforced, and our concerns were simply discarded. If No Amplified Music is still a park's rule, I would appreciate if this rule would be a part of the contract for groups when they make a reservation. I would greatly appreciate as well if the police would actually enforce the park rules. Respectfully, Irina</p>	<p>Reply from Senior Parks Planner Jenny Wilson: Hello Irina, Thank you for reaching out and for sharing your concerns about Wonderwood Park. We are aware of the issue with vehicles driving onto the sidewalk near the gazebo. Our staff have recently contacted individuals violating the park rule against this type of behavior, and directed them to move their vehicles. Large boulders were also recently installed to block vehicle access, and prevent this behavior. Unfortunately, the park users found a way around the boulders so more were added this week to prevent access. We are hopeful this issue is resolved now. Picnic shelters at Wonderwood Park are available on a first-come, first-served, basis and are not reservable. Amplified music is not allowed in the park, including in shelters, and this is one of the posted park rules. Moving forward, if you notice a pattern—such as specific days or times when a particular group is using amplified music—please let us know. If you notice the amplified music (or parking issue) in real time, we encourage you to contact our Parks maintenance staff directly at 360-413-4353 (Jamie Oakland). If staff are available, they will make an effort to visit the park and talk with parties to explain the rules and ideally gain voluntary compliance. Regarding park hours: our contracted security team is responsible for unlocking all City parks by 7:00 a.m. and securing them at dusk. To achieve this, they begin their rounds before 7:00 a.m. and may finish after dusk, depending on various factors including the need to wait for park users to leave before gates can be locked. We appreciate you letting us know about the issue and future help in a resolution.</p>
6.24.25	Sandy	<p>Reported an encampment in Wonderwood Park for two weeks on the Sunset parking lot.</p>	<p>Reply from Parks Maintenance Supervisor Jamie Oakland: Staff will locate the camp this morning and contact the Community Resource Unit if needed.</p>

6.26.25	Charlie N.	<p>Good morning, I'm writing to ask if there are any current or future plans to rebuild and modernize the skatepark at Rainier Vista. As it stands, the existing facility is outdated, limited in design, and does not meet the needs of today's skaters—whether beginners trying to learn safely or advanced riders training for higher-level performance. A bit about myself: I've been skating for over 20 years. The skateparks I grew up with quite literally shaped my life—they gave me purpose, community, and the foundation to compete internationally. That kind of impact isn't just personal; it's cultural, and it starts with local infrastructure. Since moving to Lacey, it's been difficult to maintain that same level of training due to the lack of a functional, high-quality skatepark. Rainier Vista is in a great location and has significant potential, but right now, it's underutilized because the park simply doesn't serve the community's growing needs. Rebuilding it with modern, user-friendly concrete features would create a safer, more accessible environment that encourages growth, creativity, and long-term use. It would also foster a positive, active outlet for youth in the area—something that has value far beyond just skateboarding. This isn't just about ramps and rails. It's about investing in a space that brings people together, promotes health and expression, and builds legacy. I urge you to consider taking steps toward updating Rainier Vista Skatepark and helping Lacey support the next generation of skaters. I'd love to be involved in any planning conversations or share more insight if helpful. Sincerely, Charley</p>	<p>Reply from Senior Parks Planner Jenny Wilson: Hi Charley, Thanks for reaching out and for sharing your experience, passion, and encouragement for investing in skating and enhanced features at Rainier Vista Park. Replacement of the skate park ramps is currently on our longer-term project list (6+ years out) and is dependent on available funding. Unfortunately, we have many aging park amenities across the system, and due to budget limitations, we have to prioritize replacements based on age and potential safety concerns. The ramps at Rainier Vista were replaced in 2020, which is relatively recent compared to other park features still awaiting updates or replacement. We appreciate your enthusiasm and will continue to keep community feedback in mind as we plan for future improvements. Many Thanks!</p>
7.10.25	David G.	<p>I just want to share our appreciation of one of your staff members at Rainier Vista, Joshua. He was supportive, helpful and attentive to his work responsibilities while supporting this important event for the Thurston County Pickleball Club. Our club and all the participants/attendees were extremely appreciative of all of the support Joshua provided during this past weekend. Thank you again for making this successful for our community!</p>	<p>Reply from Director Jen Burbidge: Amazing! Thanks for sharing. We will forward to Parks Board</p>

7.14.25	Guy H.	<p>This conversion of the last two remaining tennis courts to pickleball at Rainier Vista Park is a bad plan and cuts out community members from an activity that has a long and valuable history, i.e. Tennis. Tennis is a premier sport that need more encouragement in the community. Please appreciate that the lines drawn on a tennis court for pickleball is disruptive to a tennis game. The pickleball lines are confusing and disorienting. This plan panders exclusively to Pickleball players to the exclusion of tennis players. It is unfair, discriminatory, and poorly conceived. Your parks administrators should be more sensitive to the needs of all community members, not to just one aggressive faction. I vehemently oppose converting the last two tennis courts at Rainier Vista exclusively to Pickleball courts. This plan should be abandoned.</p>	<p>Reply from Senior Parks Planner Jenny Wilson: Hi Guy, Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. We truly appreciate hearing from community members who care deeply about our parks. We understand your concerns about the changes to the courts at Rainier Vista Park, and we recognize the importance of tennis in our community. The updates to the courts were planned to address needed surface repairs and to help meet the growing demand for pickleball. We've heard from many community members asking for more access to pickleball courts. In addition, Rainier Vista Park has become a hub for several regional pickleball tournaments. That said, we know it's important to support all users. The current plan maintains four dual-striped courts, which can be used for tennis and pickleball. Additionally, Wonderwood Park—just a short distance away—has four tennis courts, including two that are striped for tennis only. We aim to balance the needs of all park users and are continually listening to feedback as we plan future improvements. Thank you again for reaching out. Jenny</p>
7.21.25	Alan R.	<p>In April, I sent you the note included below (trees and shrubs protruding onto Shepard Way sidewalk). While I understand your limited resources, we would sincerely appreciate the follow-up on this request. Assuming maintenance staff gets the opportunity to visit our neighborhood, please have them look at the 8825 residence. Trees and shrubs from the park property have overgrown their shrubs and are intruding on their porch. I can't speak for them, but it's likely that these relatively new residents have no idea whose property is next door. And you clearly have the property posted with no trespassing signs.</p>	<p>Reply from Parks Maintenance Supervisor Jamie Oakland: Good afternoon, Thank for expressing your concerns about the shrubs at Meridian Campus Park. We responded to your last concern the week of May 12th and pruned the sidewalks on Shepard Way for appropriate clearance. I am sorry that we did not follow up to inform you that the work was completed. As for your recent concern, I sent a crew lead out last Friday to assess your concern. He wasn't particularly comfortable pruning without a specific complaint from the property owners, as he wasn't certain they shared your intentions. We would be happy to respond to any pruning request we get from the residents or property owners at 8825, currently we have not received such a request.</p>

7.25.25	Ulli R.	<p>Good Morning Mrs. Wilson, I am sharing some observations about e-bikes with you because I find the use of them in Rainier Vista Park and on the Chehalis Trail very concerning. I hope you can watch the attached videos as an example. Riders who use e-bikes like mopeds race through Rainier Vista Park at a much higher speed than the occasional riders of regular bicycles. I found a group of 3 young riders especially scary because of their unpredictable maneuvers. Unfortunately, the video clip only documents a small portion of their antics. As a taxpayer I also wonder if riding at relatively high speed through the grass/ball fields would cause damage. On the Chehalis Trail my walking experience is impacted by people riding at even higher speeds, so that one has no time to react even if they call out from behind. My concern is not just for myself; I have no impairments, but people with hearing issues (can't hear the danger coming) or mobility issues and of course children are at the mercy of those riders, who I suspect might not all have the skills to handle themselves safely at those speeds. I can't imagine that I am the only pedestrian who is concerned. I am wondering what could be done about banning e-bikes from parks and whether Lacey Parks is working on this issue already. Thank you for your consideration of these issues.</p>	<p>Reply from Senior Parks Planner Jenny Wilson: Hi Ulli - Thank you for reaching out and sharing your observations and concerns regarding e-bike use in Rainier Vista Par. We appreciate you taking the time to document your experience and bring these issues to our attention. Currently, Lacey Parks rules state: "Do not operate a motor vehicle or motorized device of any type anywhere other than designated roadways or parking areas, except for individuals with a mobility disability in possession of valid, state-issued proof of disability." We recognize that e-bikes, while not typically motorized, can reach higher speeds and may create challenges related to safety and enforcement. The Lacey Parks Board has identified this issue as a topic for further discussion and has added it to an upcoming workplan to explore possible rule updates or clarifications. We'll be looking at a range of options to help ensure our parks remain safe and accessible for everyone. As a note, the Chehalis-Western Trail is managed by Thurston County, so regulations and enforcement on that trail fall under their jurisdiction. You may also consider contacting their Parks Department to share your concerns directly. Again, thank you for sharing your concerns which will be shared with the Parks Board.</p>
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