



Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board Meeting Agenda

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for meeting information.

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

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 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes*

5. Public Comment

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

6. Business Items

- A. **Rainier Vista Park Improvements Update**
Bogdan Tirtu, Project Manager
- B. **Workplan Update**
Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner
- C. **2027 Budget Requests**
Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner
- D. **September Parks Tour**
Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner
- E. **2026 Presiding Office Nominations and Elections***
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**

Attend Remotely 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_5uhXdBU2QcWS_kgiY-g8Ug

Website: <https://cityoflacey.org/government/public-meetings/>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLifCLH_SHA

Phone: (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247 (Webinar ID 839 1912 9657)

Verbal Public Comment

Each speaker is limited to three minutes. Comments are welcome on matters connected to City business or specific agenda items.

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_5uhXdBU2QcWS_kgiY-g8Ug
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 3, 2026

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, Gary Larson, Annette Roth

Commissioners Absent (excused): Michelle Gipson

Commissioners Absent (unexcused): Aryan Kumar

3. Land Acknowledgment

Commissioner Roth read the land acknowledgment.

4. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Dykstra moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Davies seconded. Motion carried.

B. Approval of May 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Davies moved to approve the minutes. Commission Roth seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Business Items

A. Recreation Supervisor Retirement

Jeannette Sieler, Recreation Supervisor
Sue Falash, Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager Falash celebrated Recreation Supervisor Sieler's tenure with Lacey Parks, Culture and Recreation.

B. Lacey Parks, Culture and Recreation Management Intern

John Cates, Management Intern

This item was removed from the agenda on June 1, 2026.

C. Regional Athletic Complex Project Update

Jen Burbidge, Director
Brett Boogerd, Capital Projects Engineer

Capital Projects Engineer Boogerd and Director Burbidge presented updates to the Regional Athletic Complex Project.

7. Reports

A. Commissioners

Vice Chair Davies inquired about the anticipated ground breaking for the Rainier Vista pickleball court project. Commissioner Dykstra inquired whether staff tracked departmental feedback received by the public; Senior Parks Planner Wilson stated that staff does. Commissioner Larson shared a concern that spray paint was left at Greg Cuoio Park; Senior Parks Planner Wilson reiterated that the park is not open to the public and will check into the concern.

B. Chair

Chair Wheeler shared appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Parks, Culture and Recreation Board over the last nine years.

C. Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager Falash reported that Lacey Spring Fun Fair was last month, summer registration generated \$47,079.94 on opening day, recruitment is underway for the anticipated Recreation Supervisor vacancy, hiring for part time summer staff is underway.

D. Parks Maintenance Supervisor

Senior Parks Planner Wilson provided the Parks Maintenance Supervisor report.

Senior Parks Planner Wilson shared a summary of the work that Parks Maintenance staff completed since the previous board meeting.

E. Senior Parks Planner

Senior Parks Planner Wilson celebrated Chair Wheeler's tenure on the Parks, Culture and Recreation Board and reported recruitment efforts for the anticipated commissioner vacancy will begin soon. Senior Parks Planner Wilson further reported that a new Youth Commissioner representative will be assigned in September; the Bush Park playground grand opening was last week; the Long Lake property project is underway; work is still being finalized on Greg Cuoio Park; and the Rainier Vista Pickleball project 60% design plans are being reviewed; and a small project to repave a section of trail and the basketball court at Wonderwood Park will begin soon.

F. Director

Director Burbidge reported the Parks, Culture and Recreation edition of the Lacey Community Academy was in May; the 5th Grade Activity Night event hosted by North Thurston Public Schools and the Boys & Girls Club was last month; the background and potential of a secondary public facility district in the region; staff met with neighbors of Wanschers Park in May regarding the replacement of Lift Station 4; and the Lacey Museum and Cultural Center grand opening is June 13, 2026.

8. Adjourn

Chair Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Lacey Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board

2026 WORK PLAN

Approved: Approved December 3, 2025, Updated March 4, 2026 ~~August 5, 2026~~

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. Long Lake House Demo	All	In Progress Completed	Spring 2026
8. Bush Park Playground Replacement	All	In Progress Completed	Spring 2026
9. Wonderwood Park Trail & Court Upgrades (Sunset)	All	Upcoming Agenda In Progress	2027 Summer/Fall 2026
10. Long's Pond Dock Replacement	All	Upcoming Agenda	2027
SPECIAL PROJECTS			
11. City Council Public Art Donation Policy Review	All	Upcoming Agenda Completed	Spring 2026
12. Financial Assistance Policy Review	All	Upcoming Agenda	Winter 2026 2027
13. Park Facilities Security Camera Expansions	All	Upcoming Agenda Completed	Winter Spring 2026
PARK RULES			
14. Metal Detecting Update	All	Upcoming Agenda	Winter 2026 2027
15. Ebikes & Escooters Update (with partners)	All	Upcoming Agenda	Winter 2026 2027
16. Affixing Signs Update	All	Upcoming Agenda	Winter 2026 2027
17. Mobile Vendors in Parks Consider & Research	All	Upcoming Agenda	Spring 2026 Winter 2027
PLANNING			
18. RAC Improvements Planning & Design	All	In Progress	2026

Task	Responsible Commissioner	Status	Target Completion date
19. McKinney House and Parcel Assessment	All	In Progress Complete <u>d</u>	Winter 2026
20. Lake Lois Habitat Reserve – update interpretive signage & brochure	All	Upcoming Agenda	Spring 2026 Winter 2027
21. Rainier Vista – Pickleball and Ping Pong	All	Upcoming Agenda In Progress	Fall 2026
22. Wanschers Park Lift Station	All	Upcoming Agenda	Spring 2026 TBD
23. RAC Lights LED Conversion	All	TBD	Pending funding
24. Huntamer Park Improvements	All	TBD	Pending funding

2027 Budget Requests

Parks, Culture and Recreation Department Requests

Budget Request	Amount	Description
Parks, Culture, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan	\$150,000	Funding to hire a consultant to complete the 2029 PROS Plan update, incorporating recent planning efforts, funding analysis, community engagement, and implementation strategies.
RAC Portable Fencing	\$6,700	Replace the portable fencing at the Regional Athletic Complex softball and baseball fields to support flexible field configurations and tournament play.
Homann Park Picnic Area Replacement	\$108,000	Replace the deteriorated asphalt picnic area at Homann Park with a redesigned, picnic pad that improves safety, accessibility, and preserves two mature fir trees. Requested in 2026
Thornbury Park Playgrounds Replacement	\$938,000	Replace the two playground structures at Thornbury Park (ages 2–5 and 5–12), swings, surfacing, and add safety fencing to create a safer, accessible, and more inclusive play area. Requested in 2026
Wonderwood Park Trails Replacement	\$163,000	Replace approximately 9,500 square feet of deteriorated asphalt trails at Wonderwood Park (Brentwood Entrance), including the main path, picnic pad, tennis court area, and connecting paths, with new paved surfaces. Requested in 2026
I-5 Bike Trail Asphalt Replacement	\$250,000	Replace approximately 8,243 square feet of deteriorated asphalt trail along the I-5 Bike Path where tree roots have caused extensive pavement lifting and damage.
Wanschers Park parking lot asphalt replacement.	\$92,000	Replace the approximately 5,200 square feet parking lot, including the entry drive and nine parking stalls, with a new paved surface. Requested in 2026
McKinney Building	\$160,000	Demolish the McKinney Building and add a historic interpretive marker, gravel, bike rack, bench, and vehicle access barriers.
Huntamer Park Pathways Replacement	\$419,000	Replace approximately 8,200 square feet of deteriorated concrete pathways with reinforced concrete. The request includes the use of reinforced concrete to withstand the heavy equipment used for holiday light installation. Recommended Funding from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Requested in 2026
RAC Improvements	\$10,900,000	Upgrade the Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) with improvements including lighting, turf conversion, seating, fencing, baseball netting, and optional soccer backstops, WiFi enhancements, and concrete paving replacement. This project will be funded through the CAR-PFD extension.
Huntamer Park Water Feature and Plaza Improvements	\$2,115,000	Improve the southeast corner of Huntamer Park by replacing the damaged climbing structure and adding a water feature, plaza improvements, seating, paths, and informal play elements to create a more inviting public space. Requested in 2026
Total	\$15,301,700	

Parks Maintenance Requests

Budget Request	Amount	Description
Maintenance Tech Position	\$144,106	This position would support the additional 1,130 annual maintenance hours needed at Greg Cuoio Park and 525 hours of grounds maintenance for the new police station. Requested in 2026
Street Sweeper Rental	\$12,000	Cost increases for street sweeper and to increase rental by two weeks annually.
Park Amenity Replacements	\$75,000	Replace 288 of the worst conditioned amenities (rated as failed or poor) from the 2025 parks condition assessment. Requested in 2026
Rainier Vista Infield Lip Replacement	\$15,550	Replace infield lip at Rainier Vista baseball fields 1, 2 and 3. Requested in 2026 (original request also included drainage repair however that was not included for 2027 in hopes to receive funding for the worst problem).
Long Lake Park Security Camera Improvements	\$8,500	Expand security camera coverage at the Park and upgrade recording devices to allow remote access.
Security Services and Certification	\$28,500	Security Services (\$15,000), and Commercial Driver's Licenses (\$13,500)
Total	\$283,656	

RAC Maintenance Requests

Budget Request	Amount	Description
Synthetic Turf replacements	\$395,456	Replace the synthetic turf on fields #3 and #4. Fields are worn and in poor condition.
Drinking Fountain Replacements	\$14,500	Replacement fountains and include water bottle filling stations.
Replace Fertilizer Spreader	\$4,000	Replacement the equipment that is 17 years old.
Total	\$413,956	

**Program Updates
Quarter 2 - 2026**

Aquatics

Aquatics staff had another bustling spring with classes, trainings, and hirings. The Aquatics Recreation Supervisor underwent recertification as a Lifeguard Instructor, hired 7 new staff for the summer session, then ran a lifeguard course for 10 staff members

Aquatics staff expertly navigated an exceptionally busy spring season with the hiring of seven new staff members and the planning required to accommodate the addition of the Olympia School District and Tumwater School District swim teams to the North Thurston Public Schools pool schedule. Throughout the spring, staff successfully onboarded and trained new employees, recertified three returning staff members whose certifications had expired, and delivered a full schedule of aquatics programming.

This spring, the aquatics program provided 330 swim lessons, lifeguard coverage for Underwater Hockey and Special Olympics, and hosted four birthday pool rentals. Parent-Child swim lessons continued on Sundays, and Aqua Fit classes remained a popular part of the regular school-year programming.

In addition, the pool hosted Lacey Fire District 3 for a week of training during spring break and reserved additional pool time during the last week of June to support their ongoing training needs in accordance with the City's partnership with the department.

Special Events

The Lacey Spring Fun Fair was a tremendous success, drawing strong community participation and positive feedback. The Special Events team has been actively preparing for two of the department's signature summer offerings—the 3rd of July Fireworks Spectacular and the Lacey in Tune concert series.

In preparation for the 3rd of July event, staff met with the various departments and partner groups involved to review responsibilities, event logistics, safety procedures, and individual job assignments. These planning meetings help ensure everyone understands their role and contributes to a safe, well-organized, and successful community celebration.

Preparations for the Lacey in Tune summer concert series are also complete. Seasonal staff have been hired and trained and are ready to welcome the community to another exciting season of family-friendly entertainment. The team looks forward to providing high-quality events that bring residents and visitors together throughout the summer.

Staffing transitions within the department have also progressed smoothly. Jeannette's last day with the department was June 18, marking the end of her dedicated service. Erika was promoted to the Recreation Supervisor position, effective July 1, ensuring continued leadership and support for the Special Events, Sponsorships and Marketing division.

To help maintain operations during the recruitment process for the vacant Recreation Coordinator position, Lily's position was temporarily increased to 40 hours per week. This additional support will help ensure continuity of programs, events, and departmental responsibilities until the position is filled.

Community Recreation

Our Lacey Teen Late Night series wrapped up another successful school year of program, hosting 8 events and over 2,750 teens. We interviewed 35 applicants for summer part-time positions and onboarded 18 of new staff.

The second quarter was very successful for Community Recreation, highlighted by strong participation across youth, teen, and adult programs. Leading the way, the Lacey Teen Late Night program generated more than \$15,000 in revenue during the final three events of the school year while welcoming nearly 1,000 teens. The Lacey Teen Leadership Committee played an instrumental role in the program's success by assisting staff and volunteers with event supervision and helping create a safe, welcoming environment for participants.

Youth program participation continued to grow across several classes, including Tiny Movers Dance, Groove and Move Beginner Hip Hop, Ballet, and Toddler and Preschool Explorations. Staff also hosted a successful Spring Break Day Camp at Mt. View Elementary, where 31 children enjoyed a week filled with swimming, games, and recreational activities.

Adult recreation programming also experienced strong participation. Popular excursions included trips to the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, Maifest in Leavenworth, and a visit to the Jakob Two Trees troll in Issaquah. The most well-attended adult fitness classes this quarter were Hip Hop Step and Belly Dance, demonstrating continued interest in active and engaging recreation opportunities for adults.

Facilities and Rentals

Rentals for picnic shelters and Depot Park began April 1st and brought in \$21,750 in rental fees from April-June.

The Community Center hosted activities, events, and meetings 87 out of the 91 days of quarter 2, and two of those missed days were federal holidays!

Rentals for picnic shelters and Depot Park began on April 1 and generated \$21,750 in rental revenue from April through June. As June through August is typically our busiest rental season, we look forward to reporting those figures in the third-quarter update.

The Huntamer Park rental season also began in June, with five nonprofit organizations hosting community events in the park. Revenue from Huntamer Park rental fees has already exceeded the total collected during the same period in 2025, demonstrating continued strong demand for the facility.

The Lacey Community Center and Jacob Smith House continue to experience high levels of use. Including both rentals and recreation programs, the Lacey Community Center had scheduled activity on 87 of the 91 days during the second quarter. The Jacob Smith House hosted recreation programs on Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the spring, in addition to week-long specialty camps that began during the summer season. Community Recreation continues to provide classes and programs four days per week across these facilities, ensuring consistent opportunities for community engagement and participation.

Regional Athletic Complex

The Regional Athletic Complex generated more than \$146,000 during Quarter 2. Staff successfully hosted 15 softball tournaments (generating over \$36,000 in revenue), managed 448 individual soccer field bookings, and coordinated 504 individual softball, baseball, and fastpitch bookings. The economic impact for Baseball Complex Tournaments in quarter 2 was \$4,237,476.00

Quarter 2 featured a full schedule of tournaments, league play, camps, and championship events, at the softball complex:

- TCYF Opening Day
- BHYB End-of-Season Tournament
- West Central District 4 Girls 1A & 3A Championships
- WIAA 3A State Championship
- USSSA Girls Fastpitch Championship
- Multiple youth baseball and girls fastpitch tournaments
- Adult slow-pitch tournaments
- Mariners Grand Slam Camp (returning for another year)
- USA Softball 12U State Tournament to close out June
-

League play also expanded throughout the quarter with the launch of State Agency, Church, and Senior Softball leagues.

The soccer complex maintained exceptionally high utilization throughout 1uarter 2, hosting a variety of events and camps:

- Soccer, rugby, and the Gaelic Games tournaments
- Practices and matches for the men's and women's USL soccer teams
- TCYFL's second season of Friday Night 7-on-7 football, attracting more than 400 players and spectators each week
- Multiple Skyhawks Youth Camps

The complex also continued to serve its core user groups, including SWSA, CCSA, TCU, BHFC, BBR, Olympia/Thurston Lacrosse, NHSL, Saint Martin's University, SPSCC, TCYSA, River Ridge, U-Lax, and TC Soccer Academy.

Every field was booked nearly every weeknight—many with multiple reservations per evening—demonstrating exceptionally strong demand throughout the quarter.

The Regional Athletic Complex was additionally honored to serve as the host venue for several community events, including the Juneteenth Celebration and the Poly Festival.

Youth / Adult Sports

Staff coordinated 2,908 field reservations for 26 unique user groups, bringing in \$32,150.69 in revenue. We orchestrated 41 youth sports classes and programs for 260 participants.

Our parks and athletic fields were busy throughout the second quarter as the spring sports season was in full swing. Across the community, staff coordinated 2,908 athletic field reservations, generating \$32,150.69 in revenue. We also welcomed several new recurring user groups, including an ultimate frisbee league and an adult baseball league. In addition, Rainier Vista Park hosted seven tournaments across the softball fields and pickleball courts, further demonstrating the high demand for our athletic facilities.

Youth sports programming also had a successful quarter, with 41 classes serving 260 participants. One highlight was our Sport Sprouts Golf program, which was able to move outdoors this year. Holding the class outside allowed staff to design a custom mini-golf course, creating a fun and memorable experience that was a big hit with participants.

Summer leagues are now underway, with adult outdoor volleyball and pickleball in full swing. Little Lacey T-Ball has also taken over the Rainier Vista Park fields during the week, with 33 teams and 316 young athletes participating in the league, making for an exciting start to the summer recreation season.

Front Desk / Customer Service

With summer in full swing, staff are fielding more customer questions as the community is out, engaging with our parks, and it's *all hands on deck* for the busiest season of our recreation programs and special events!

Across all transaction types (registrations, refunds, user credits, financial assistance, etc.), the front desk processed over 910 transactions totaling approximately \$289,200 during quarter two, in addition to assisting residents over the phone and at City Hall with numerous questions about our recreation offerings and parks.

Staff oversaw summer registration featuring 520 unique offerings, which made for quite the high-volume registration period. They collected program information from the department, proofed accuracy of offerings, created and formatted offerings in our recreation software, triaged needed changes from other staff.

With the start of summer, staff are fielding an increased amount of customer questions regarding our parks, picnic shelters, programs, and events. The busy season also means front office staff are supporting programmers more by helping triage waitlists, payments, and various administrative tasks.

The Executive Assistant developed a program to provide a consistent orientation program to new full-time employees to the Parks, Culture and Recreation department. This program centralizes new hire training and allows the employee's supervisor to focus on job-specific training.

Marketing and Metrics

The Marketing and Metrics Committee held its first meeting with its new members. Staff are excited about developing a new strategy to gather information that we feel is relevant to our department currently.

Marketing and Metrics committee is in the process of evaluating its workplan and goal. Staff are eager to create action plans tied to data collection to ensure those efforts have a clear direction and purpose.

Facebook Metrics (May 26, 2026 – June 22, 2026)

- Views: 66.1k (down 22.5%)
 - From followers: 19.3% (down 34.8%)
 - From non-followers: 80.7% (up 14.7%)
 - Viewers: 29,522 (up 9.9%)
- Interactions: 543 (down 31.2%)
 - From followers: 265 (down 43.1%)
 - From non-followers: 278 (down 13.9%)
- Visits: 1.4k (down 56%)
- Follows: 152 (down 17.4%)
 - Unfollows: 7 (down 50%)
 - Net follows: 145 (down 14.7%)

Instagram Metrics (May 26, 2026 – June 22, 2026)

- Views: 3.3k (down 47%)
 - From followers: 53.9% (up 8.9%)
 - From non-followers: 46.1% (down 8.7%)
- Reach: 1.3k (down 42.4%)
 - From followers: 302 (up 4.9%)
 - From non-followers: 1,014 (down 49.1%)
- Interactions: 142 (down 44.3%)
 - From followers: 85%
 - From non-followers: 15%
- Follows: 16 (down 63.6%)
 - Unfollows: 3 (down 40%)

June Newsletter Metrics

- Sent: 8866
- Delivered: 8750
- Opened: 4018
 - Mobile: 53%
 - Desktop: 47%
- Open rate: 45.9% (down 0.5%)
- Clicks: 97
 - Mobile: 40%
 - Desktop: 60%
- Click rate: 1.1% (down 0.8%)
- Bounces: 116
- Unsubscribed: 7

Museum

The Lacey Museum and Cultural Center launched its very own dedicated Facebook and Instagram accounts. The Lacey Museum Grand Opening on June 13, 2026, hosted 145 people. The Museum's merchandise store also opened this quarter, with great success.

The Lacey Museum and Cultural Center launched its Facebook and Instagram accounts, an essential part of the marketing campaign for the Lacey Museum Grand Opening event. After a month and a half on Facebook, we have 125 followers. After a month on Instagram, we have 88 followers.

The Museum Grand Opening held on June 13, 2026, was a smashing success with guests enjoying roving magician performances, rock painting, button making, tours, a scavenger hunt, and refreshments. We had 145 people in attendance. The museum store also launched on the day of the grand opening.

Museum staff developed a community outreach for *Out of Many, One*, a state history museum initiative for America250. After over 100 votes, online and in various locations, the community chose the photograph of the treaty tree as the best representative of the American experience in Lacey. An exhibit of the top 5 choices opens in July.

Parks Planning and Development

The past few months have brought significant progress across the park system, highlighted by the opening of the new Bush Park Playground and the continued design of both the Rainier Vista Park and the Regional Athletic Complex improvements.

The new playground at Bush Park officially opened! It has already become a popular destination for families.

Work continues on the final items needed prior to the opening of Greg Cuoio Park. Separately, the Thurston Conservation District crews removed 3,600 pounds of invasive ivy at Greg Cuoio Park and will continue with restoration and native planting efforts in the coming months. This partnership is helping improve the health of the park's natural areas while preserving important habitat along Woodland Creek.

The design process for Rainier Vista Park Improvements Project continues to move forward. The project includes new pickleball courts, baseball safety netting, and outdoor ping pong tables. Planning and design efforts also continue for future improvements at the Regional Athletic Complex to meet the growing demand for sports programming and events.

New security cameras are now operational at Rainier Vista Park and the Lacey Community Center, marking a major milestone for the project. These cameras will help improve safety, security, and monitoring at some of our busiest facilities. Work continues on network components at the Depot Building.

Lacey City Council agreed with the recommendation of the Parks Board and Historical Commission to demolish the McKinney Building. Staff will prepare a budget request that will include a trailhead, and interpretive signage.

A small improvement project is moving forward at Wonderwood Park (Sunset entrance) to replace aging pavement and address areas affected by root heave. The project will also improve access to the playground by creating a direct pathway, making it easier and safer for families to move through the park.

The new trail maps and kiosks project is in full swing. These updates will help visitors better navigate parks and trail systems throughout the city. Improvements will make it easier for residents and visitors to find amenities, explore trails, and learn more about the parks they visit. The project is part of an ongoing effort to improve the overall park user experience.

Parks, Culture & Recreation Correspondence

Correspondence	Response
1.13.26 Linda T. (HOA Management Company for Ivy Hill Neighborhood) Hi Jenny, This letter is to formally request an immediate resolution regarding the strip of land located between the cul-de-sac and the fence line at Southwick Lake. For several years, the IVY HILL Homeowners Association (HOA) has voluntarily maintained this area in order to prevent overgrowth, accumulation of debris, and unsafe conditions. This maintenance has been performed without compensation, despite the property not being owned by the HOA. At this time, the HOA no longer has the financial or operational capacity to continue maintaining this parcel. The current condition of this area presents a significant fire hazard and safety concern to both residents and surrounding properties. Immediate action is required to prevent further risk. The HOA is requesting one of the following solutions: 1. That the City sell or quitclaim deed the property between the cul-de-sac and the fence line to the HOA; or 2. If the City is unable or unwilling to transfer ownership, that the City provide a written commitment to assume full responsibility for cleaning and maintaining the area on a regular and ongoing basis. This matter has reached a point where continued inaction is no longer acceptable. The HOA cannot continue to shoulder the burden of maintaining City-owned property without authorization, liability protection, or compensation.	Reply from Senior Parks Planner, Jenny Wilson Hi Linda We are exploring options related to your request for the City to relinquish ownership of the property adjacent to your neighborhood or assume responsibility for its maintenance. We recognize that this area has become an important feature for the neighborhood and appreciate your patience as we evaluate potential options and determine the most appropriate path forward. Because the property was dedicated to the City as part of the subdivision development and identified as a protected wetland buffer associated with Southwick Lake, this is a complex matter requiring legal review, coordination among multiple City departments, surveying, and evaluation of environmental constraints before any long-term solution can be considered. We understand the HOA's concerns regarding maintenance of the property. At this time, the City will manage the property consistent with other City-owned wetland buffer areas, where maintenance is generally limited to hazard tree removal and invasive vegetation management. As we continue evaluating available alternatives, we ask that no additional structures, improvements, alterations, or maintenance activities occur on City property. This will help protect the City and the HOA while a long-term solution is being evaluated. We will keep the HOA informed and provide updates as information becomes available. We also recognize that the neighborhood may prefer a higher level of maintenance than the City is able to provide. If the HOA is interested, we would be happy to discuss a temporary

We respectfully request a written response outlining the City's intended course of action as soon as possible so that this issue can be resolved without further delay. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important safety and property matter.	maintenance agreement that would allow the HOA to continue maintaining the property while a long-term solution is evaluated. Such an agreement would define the allowable maintenance activities and include appropriate insurance and liability provisions. Please let me know if the HOA would like to explore this option. We appreciate the HOA's patience and cooperation as we work toward a resolution. Thank you Jenny
5.26.26 Clare M. Hi there. I go to the RAC office to walk and run and lately there are young men on motorbikes speeding down the sidewalks across the soccer fields everywhere. Endangering kids on Rollerblades, runners, and walkers. I have noticed staff going by in golf carts and don't say anything to them. It doesn't seem feasible that it would be legal for them to be speeding around on the sidewalks there on motorbikes. Hopefully there's something you can do to keep this park safe for everybody. Thank you	Reply from Senior Parks Planner, Jenny Wilson Thank you for reaching out. Currently, Lacey Parks rules state: <i>"Do not operate a motor vehicle or motorized device of any type anywhere other than designated roadways or parking areas"</i> We are seeing an increase in bikes/escoters within our parks however they aren't prohibited under our current rules because they aren't motorized. Ebikes need to have pedals and be under 750 watts making visual identification difficult. We recognize that e-bikes can reach higher speeds and may create challenges related to safety and enforcement and have included the issue as a topic for further consideration by our Parks Board for possible rule updates. We'll be looking at a range of options to help ensure our parks remain safe and accessible. Again, thank you for sharing your concerns.
6.1.26 Sean C. Dear Jenny Wilson, I am writing to you as a parent of a soccer player who frequently uses Thornbury Park in Lacey. Over the past two months, I have observed that the current facilities are	Reply from Senior Parks Planner, Jenny Wilson Hi Sean, Thanks for reaching out and sharing your experience at Thornbury park.

inadequate for the high volume of visitors the park receives each weekend. Specifically, there are no permanent bathroom facilities available, and the existing portable units are often depleted of hand sanitizer & toilet paper. Given the consistent attendance at this park, I believe it is essential for the city or county to prioritize the installation of permanent, fully functional restrooms. As a resident of Olympia & Lacey, I trust that the Parks and Planning department will recognize this as a necessary improvement for the health and convenience of our community. Thank you for your time and for considering this request.	For the immediate issue, I have passed the issue along to our sports staff who coordinate with the portable restroom vendor on service issues like this. They have been working with the company and had previously asked them to restock on Tuesdays and Fridays. It appears, however, that someone may be accessing supplies during the short window between Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. We will follow up with the vendor to explore additional options. Regarding permanent restrooms, these are not typically included in neighborhood parks. Restrooms could be considered in the future if there was strong community support during updates to the Lacey Parks, Culture, and Recreation (LPCR) Comprehensive Plan and if funding becomes available. A key challenge we face is limited funding alongside a system-wide need to address aging infrastructure. In 2018 and again last year Lacey voters were asked to consider forming a Metropolitan Park District (MPD), which would have provided a stable, long-term funding source for park development, maintenance, and acquisition. Both measures did not pass, which means many previously identified projects will be delayed or may not move forward. I encourage you to participate in the survey process when we do our next comprehensive plan update and provide feedback for restrooms. Our surveying will likely start in late 2027. Thanks again for sharing your suggestion.
6.4.26 Joshua H. Dear Lacey Parks Team and City Administration, I am reaching out to ask for guidance regarding filming permissions at Greg J. Cuoio Community Park. I am very interested in capturing footage of the parks grassy field,	Reply from Senior Parks Planner, Jenny Wilson Hi Joshua, Thanks for reaching out. Sounds like a really interesting project. We don't have a permit process for filming within our parks. Since our parks are public spaces there are no restrictions on filming. That

but I understand the site is currently closed to the public for safety and active construction. Could you please advise me on the proper protocol for this request? Specifically, I would appreciate guidance on the following: Permit/Permission: Is a permit required for filming on this property? (Noncommercial equipment, i.e. My phone - Not for monetary or advertising purposes) Site Safety: Would I be able to safely observe the field and cover the parks grounds? For context, my project calls for recording the park's empty field using only my phone as recording equipment. I plan to take one to three 10 second "still-shots" of the field and should take no more than 30 minutes of filming effort. The purpose of this project is for my academic studies at SPSCC in film photography, as well as the personal interest of this public landscape. Thank you for your time and for helping me ensure that my request aligns perfectly with city guidelines and job site safety protocols. I look forward to hearing from you. Best regards, Joshua	being said, the park is not open yet and I can't grant you early access. As soon as the park is open, we will post it on the City of Lacey Facebook page. Once open, there should be no safety issues with the site although there may be other park users in the space that you may need to work around. I would also suggest being cautious about filming children – while not prohibited in public spaces – it can be very alarming to parents. If timing doesn't work out, I would be happy to recommend an alternate park location for your project. just let me know. Thanks, and good luck on your project. Jenny
6.8.26 Alan R. Ms. Burbidge This is Alan Rathbun. I have contacted you several times over the previous years about your property. While my frustration over planned development is long past, I have contacted your office several times about maintenance along Shepard Way NE. Recently storm damage felled a tree over the sidewalk and one of my neighbors cleaned it up. He apparently also contacted your office about further cleanup and staff did a very minimal of just throwing debris into your property.	Reply from Director, Jen Burbidge Hi Alan, Thanks for reaching out and sharing your concerns. For undeveloped park properties, maintenance efforts are generally limited and focused on hazard mitigation including periodic hazard tree assessments and noxious weed control. We appreciate neighbors keeping us informed of issues and are willing to respond when concerns arise.

The City wants a new taxing district in order to pay for park development and maintenance. The service provided by your staff in maintenance of this undeveloped property do NOT give us cause to support increased funding. Alan Rathbun	It appears a small tree fell and the branches were removed and placed within the undeveloped property. This is an acceptable practice in both undeveloped and developed parks, provided it does not create a safety issue, fire hazard, or unsightly condition. Downed wood can provide habitat and soil nutrients as it decomposes. One of the maintenance supervisors reviewed the site and found the cleanup work acceptable. For future non-emergency concerns, we encourage residents to use our LaceyWorks reporting system. It helps us track requests and respond efficiently. Please feel free to share the LaceyWorks reporting system with your neighbor as well. We certainly do not want residents to feel obligated to remove fallen trees or address maintenance issues themselves. Thanks again, Jen
6.10.26 Marilyn A. Good morning Ms. Wilson... I'm reaching out to you today to see if you happen to have any information regarding the grounds caretaking schedule for McAllister Park in Lacey? We cherish this park and enjoy walking it every day. We treat it as if it's our own 'home away from home'. I even keep a bag with me to pick up trash left by the "ne'er-do-wells" who never pick up after themselves. Unfortunately, in its present state it's difficult to walk and enjoy the pathways due to the high grass and narrowing paths. When mowed, my husband and I have space to walk side-by-side and hold hands! Please reach out...we would love to get back to walking this beloved park while we still can.	Reply from Senior Parks Planner, Jenny Wilson Hi Marilyn Thanks for reaching out. Maintenance staff will mow the park in approximately 2 weeks. They don't mow earlier because there are ground nesting birds that lay their eggs in the Park each year. Thanks for your patience! Jenny

Thank you so much,	
6.24.26 John C. John called with questions about extending the Woodland Trail (from Woodland Creek Community Park to Marvin Road). They were interested in a general update on the project status, and would like to advocate for the project.	Reply from Senior Parks Planner Jenny Wilson: The woodland trail extension project has been discussed regionally and is in the Thurston Regional Planning Council's Regional Trails Plan, updated in 2023. The goal would be for partners to work together to extend the trail by 3 miles. The first step would be to acquire the railway from BNSF. If BNSF was willing to abandon the railway, regional partners could work toward the trail extension goal, pending funding.
6.29.26 Jim K. Follow Up from Accident Reported in April and Included in May Correspondence I recently walked Wonderwood and was glad to see that the path my wife broke her wrist at has now been revised to a much more safe condition (asphalt removed and path graveled). This is the outcome we hoped to see when we reported the fact that she had broken her wrist on that path. Jane is still going to Physical Therapy and doing recommended exercises to improve the functioning of her wrist. She is slowly regaining the ability to eat with that hand and beginning to write with it (although she can't yet sign any documents with any semblance of her old signature); she hopes to begin driving again soon. Over the last month we've been getting reports from our health insurer (Kaiser) about the costs incurred to date (June 18) which have now mounted to nearly \$28,000 and will probably ultimately reach \$30,000 by the time Jane is done with her physical therapy. Fortunately, because I was a state employee and have Medicare coverage, our out of	Reply from Director, Jen Burbidge Hi Jim, Thank you for the additional information, and very glad to hear Jane is healing. I've attached the claim form again here, and am providing the City's contact info should you change your mind (or have any questions): Bracy DiLeonardo at Bracy.DiLeonardo@CityofLacey.org or 360-412-3185 Thanks again, and sending you continued well wishes. Take good care,

pocket expenses have only been about \$400 to date (probably \$600 by the end of PT therapy) plus non-medical expenses for clothing and bedding adjustments of another \$200. Given that, and assuming we don't hit any unforeseen complications, we've decided not to file to the city for compensation; we'd rather see the monies spent on continued walk path improvements. But we thought you might appreciate an indication of the cost magnitude of such accidents since not everyone is fortunate to be in our financial and insurance position—and therefore would be more inclined to file for compensation.

Jim K.

7.9.26 Julie K.

Called to express frustration about the field use at Lakepointe Park and how it impacts the neighborhood.

She lives on Beltway Loop which experiences the greatest impact of overflow parking. Because the street is a loop, it is particularly challenging because there is no alternative exit, adding to the congestion. She had a meeting with neighbors and reported these primary concerns:

- Children have reportedly been struck or nearly struck by vehicles due to increased traffic.
- Driveways are frequently blocked by vehicles belonging to soccer participants and spectators. (Julie understands residents can contact law enforcement when this occurs.)
- Fire hydrants are being blocked by parked vehicles.
- Curb ramps are blocked, preventing ADA access to sidewalks.
- Parking congestion typically occurs between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and Saturday mornings.

Reply from Recreation Manager, Sue Falash

Good Afternoon,

Thank you very much for sharing this information with our Parks Planner, Jenny. We appreciate you taking the time to bring your concerns to our attention.

This is an issue we have been actively working through, not only at Lakepointe Park but at several neighborhood parks as the demand for recreational space continues to grow alongside our community's increasing population.

We have been working closely with our user groups to help minimize impacts on surrounding neighborhoods and to encourage parents and participants to be respectful of nearby residents while using our parks. As part of this effort, we will also be updating our park use information packets to further emphasize that while we recognize the importance of providing access to neighborhood parks for recreation, we also value and respect the quality of life of the neighbors who live adjacent to these facilities.

There is no simple solution to this challenge, but I want to assure you that we are actively working with user groups and community members to help reduce these impacts wherever possible. While we may not be able to eliminate the issue entirely, we are committed

• Several neighbors regularly pick up litter left behind on their street after games and practices. • The cumulative impact has become difficult for residents because these conditions occur nearly every evening and every Saturday throughout the season. • People are selling their homes because it is unbearable. • Julie noted that both neighbors and soccer families are frustrated by the amount of parking available vs. players. Julie offered several ideas that she believes could help reduce parking congestion: • Increase the time between scheduled games does not provide enough time for one group to leave before the next arrives. • Stagger game start times between fields. • She also previously suggested changing the field orientation so people are encouraged to park on other streets, not just the closest (Beltway Loop). The neighborhood would prefer to work collaboratively with us on a solution.	to finding ways to better balance recreational opportunities with the needs of our neighborhoods. Thank you again for reaching out and for sharing your concerns. Your feedback is valuable as we continue to improve how our parks are managed.
There have been ongoing concerns about a few groups playing cricket at Woodland Creek Community Park. The primary concern is public safety, as cricket involves batting a hard ball that could strike other park users. The groups have been using two areas of the park: • The walkway and open space near the picnic shelters. • The field within the disc golf course.	7.11.26 Director, Jen Burbidge provided this information and direction to Lacey Police while assigned overtime shifts at Woodland Creek Community Park: We have a safety issue at Woodland Creek Park involving a group that regularly plays cricket on walking paths and in heavily used park areas. Cricket is similar to baseball - a hard ball is pitched and struck with significant force using a wooden bat. The sport is designed to be played on a large field with a designated central pitch not in areas where pedestrians, children, and other park users are present.

The following provides background information on the concerns and the previous options offered.

4.8.26 Mark H., South Puget Sound Disc Golf Association:

Mark went to play disc golf on Monday evening and there were two cricket games happening at Woodland Creek Community Park when he arrived at about 6:00pm. There was a men's game happening on the disc golf course extension (holes 10-14) that made those holes unplayable. There was also a women's game happening on the park side with the picnic shelters and playground. He talked with someone from the group and was told that they had been playing next to Nisqually MS, where the construction just started.

6.17.25 Leslie C.

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? You cannot 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.

8.12.24 Isaia V. – Response provided to Isaia through the Enhancement Request process. The request was for a permanent pitch at Woodland Creek Park

Thank you for submitting an Enhancement Request for a cricket pitch within a Lacey Park. We considered your request and determined

This group most frequently plays on the paved path near the White House (shown in red on the below map), but they have also used the open grass area beyond the bridge. Both locations create significant safety hazards. The walking path creates a safety risk for pedestrians, playground visitors, and people using the nearby picnic shelters. The open grass area creates a hazard for individuals using the disc golf course. Regardless of where the group plays within Woodland Creek Park, the nature of the sport places other park visitors at risk of being struck by a hard-hit cricket ball.



This has been an ongoing issue for several years. Parks staff have repeatedly asked the group to stop playing in these locations and directed them to more appropriate facilities. Most recently, on May 7, Sue Falash contacted the group and instructed them to stop. The group refused to comply. The police non-emergency number was called.

From a safety standpoint, this situation is no different than allowing a group to play baseball on a walking path or in the open grass next to a playground. We would not permit that activity because the risk to other park users is obvious, and the same principle applies here.

The City does provide an appropriate location for cricket at the Regional Athletic Complex, where a portable cricket pitch can be installed

we do not currently have a suitable location for a permanent pitch because a permanent cement cricket pitch would reduce existing facility uses.

Your request identified Woodland Creek Park, Rainier Vista and the Regional Athletic Complex as potential locations.

Woodland Creek Park's open field has an underground infiltration facility for reclaimed water that the construction of a pitch could damage. In addition, the grassy area has concrete pads that make it dangerous as a sports/running field.

A permanent pitch between two soccer fields at the Regional Athletic Complex or Rainier Vista would prevent alternative field configurations. The soccer fields are at times re-configured to allow the infield grass to rest and for other sports users.

We have identified some near-term solutions:

- Oly/Capital Stars Cricket Club has a portable pitch they store at the RAC. The club has agreed to share it; please get in touch with Hemant Saini at hemant4.007@gmail.com to coordinate use at the RAC. To rent the fields at the RAC, please contact Sean Finney at Sean.Finney@cityoflacey.org
- You are welcome to purchase and bring a portable pitch for daily use at any field we rent. You can find a complete list of fields, rates, and how to rent the fields here <https://laceyparks.org/facilities/sports-fields/>

Our first step in identifying a long-term solution is determining the community-wide need for cricket through the next update to the Lacey Parks, Culture and Recreation [Comprehensive Plan](#). We will include more specific questions about cricket interest and

on the athletic fields. Despite having access to a suitable venue, this group continues to play at Woodland Creek Park.

To address the issue, we are currently using some overtime detail hours to have officers present at Woodland Creek Park to assist with enforcement. Because staff have repeatedly educated the group and asked them to stop, we are requesting enforcement under Park Rule 23, "Engages in disorderly conduct." Specifically, if officers observe an individual batting during the overtime detail, we are requesting the batter be trespassed from all City-owned parks.

B. A person who commits any of the following acts within a park, parkway, trail or other recreational facility owned, operated or used for recreational purposes by the City of Lacey shall, pursuant to Section 2.44.060 and 2.44.070 of the Lacey Municipal Code be subject to a civil fine of up to \$100.00 and/or shall be subject to trespass from all City owned, or jointly owned, parks, parkways, trails, and other recreational facilities for a period of one year from the date of the violation:

1. Uses park facilities outside of standard park hours, which are 7:00 a.m. to dark, unless otherwise posted.

22. Uses profane, threatening, or abusive language.
23. Engages in disorderly conduct.

If you have any suggestions for additional enforcement options or other solutions, we would appreciate your input.

Jen Burbidge

7.23.26 Recreation Manager, Sue Falash

Met onsite a cricket lead that uses the field area to discuss the issue and discuss options.

the need for cricket fields. The Comprehensive Plan is our guiding document for future projects based on community input. This enhancement request determination will be presented to the Parks, Culture and Recreation Board at the October 2nd for their review. Thank you again for your willingness to volunteer your time for this project.	
7.19.26 Friends of Wanschers Park We were hoping for an update on your progress on offering to buy neighborhood properties. Who have you contacted? What is the updated list of properties that are possibilities for the lift station? Thank you for your updates, ~Friends of Wanschers Park	Reply From Utility Engineer, Justin Knox Thank you for checking in. At this point, there isn't a significant amount of new information to share. We have had several internal discussions and are currently preparing a letter of interest to send to the owners of the identified parcels. Because this effort is still in the early stages, we don't yet have updates on specific property owners contacted or a finalized list of viable properties to share. As the process moves forward and we have meaningful developments, we will be sure to provide an update to the group. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like a status update on the project, please don't hesitate to reach out.
7.24.26 Gary Allison Gary Allison came in to report concerns at Lake Lois Habitat Reserve. He has observed drug use, needles, and illegal activities by park users and vehicles parked along Lake Lois Rd. He has previously called the police with no response after over an hour of waiting.	Senior Parks Planner Jenny Wilson met with Mr. Allison and provided this follow up information. Thanks for meeting with me today to talk about Lake Lois Habitat Reserve. I really appreciate you taking the time to come in and share your experiences and concerns. Just wanted to follow up on a few items we discussed.

As you suggested, I will take a look at the street parking and do some research on the parking regulations and any background information.

If you notice anything in the park that needs to be cleaned up, feel free to contact me or use the [LaceyWorks](#) program I mentioned. Because Lake Lois is so large, LaceyWorks is especially helpful since you can drop a pin at the exact location where service is needed.

I know you didn't get a response the last time you called police, but please continue to report any observed illegal activity. Hopefully, that was an isolated incident due to a high call volume, and response times will be better in the future. I also wanted to share that the Police Department has an [online](#) process for submitting feedback or for filing a complaint.

City Council meetings are every Tuesday at 6pm at Lacey City Hall. Public Comment (up to 3 minutes) is welcome in-person, remotely, or written. At the bottom of each agenda are the full guidelines for public comment. [Here](#) is the agenda for the next meeting on July 28th.

Thanks again for your care for our parks and taking the time to meet with me.