

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**LACEY PARKS**  
CULTURE & RECREATION



Accomplishments from:

- Parks, Culture and Recreation
- Parks Maintenance

Pictured:  
Lacey Spring Fun Fair

# Lacey Parks

## PARK INVENTORY AND FEATURES

# 1,269 Acres

518 DEVELOPED  
751 UNDEVELOPED

# 35

PARK PROPERTIES  
(9 NOT FULLY  
DEVELOPED)

# 26

DEVELOPED  
PARKS & TRAILS



### TRAILS

## 4

Trails

## 7.2

Miles of Trails



### SPORT FIELDS

## 12

Baseball/Softball Fields  
(4 more needed)

## 18

Soccer/Football/Rugby Fields  
(4 more needed)

## 9

Tennis Courts

## 13

Basketball Half Courts



### PARKS

## 23

Youth/Child Playgrounds

## 17

Picnic Shelters

## 5

Pickleball Courts

## 1

Youth Fishing Dock

## 1

Disc Golf Course

## 1

Skate Park



# Athletic Facilities

The long-standing joint use partnership with North Thurston Public Schools allows many sports organizations access to fields and facilities.

## REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX



**90,780+**

Tournament and League Attendance

**345**

Days Used at the Regional Athletic Complex

**11,389.50**

Hours Rented / Booked By Users / Tournaments

**\$513,223**

RAC Recreation and Rental Revenue



## COMMUNITY FIELD AND FACILITY USE

**7,138**

Hours Of Field Use Scheduled - School Fields

**6,977**

Hours of Field Use Scheduled - City Fields

**1,938**

Hours Of Pool Use Scheduled To User Groups

# Recreation

The Parks, Culture and Recreation Department includes 17.5 full-time staff responsible for implementing the wide variety of community recreation offerings such as;

- Aquatic Programs
- Community Buildings & Park Rentals
- Daycamp & Teen Programs
- Lacey Museum
- Special Events
- Sports and Fitness Programs

# 284,425

HOURS OF RECREATION  
GENERATED INCLUDING  
EVENTS

# 74,361

PARTICIPATION IN  
EVENTS/PROGRAMS



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 222,615

Total Hours of  
Recreation Generated

### 66,148

Total Attendance at Events

### 35

Total Events Offered

- 3rd of July Fireworks
- Breakfast with Santa
- Children's Day
- Children's Entertainment Series (6)
- Cultural Celebration
- Lacey in Tune Concerts (10)
- Lacey Loves to Read
- Lighted Parade and Tree Lighting
- Family Fish In
- Movies in the Park (4)
- Play in the Park Series (5)
- Lacey Spring Fun Fair
- Signing Santa



## RECREATION PROGRAMS

### 61,810

Total Hours of  
Recreation Generated

### 8,213

Total Enrollment

### 661

Programs / Classes Offered

### \$628,927

Total Revenue



# Recreation Sponsorships

- Special Events
- Regional Athletic Complex Banners



## SPONSORSHIPS

**\$66,700**

Total Dollars Generated  
Special Events

**11,000**

Total Dollars Generated  
RAC Banners

**48**

Total Sponsors

- TwinStar Credit Union
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Interstate Batteries
- Capital Heating & Cooling
- Fastenal
- Capital Development Company
- Lacey Collision
- BECU
- Molina Healthcare
- Lemay
- Grand Canyon University
- Lacey Library
- Olympia Federal Savings
- Heritage Bank
- T-Mobile
- State Farm Ins - Kevin Hayward
- Del Taco
- Navy Federal Credit Union
- Umpqua Bank
- South Sound YMCA
- Am Fam Ins - Christopher Boston
- US Martial Arts
- Lacey Professional Firefighters
- Country Financial - Mike Oliver
- The Joint Chiropractic
- Intercity Transit
- PNW Marketing & Travel
- Girl Schouts of WW
- Little Gym
- Puget Sound Energy
- ULINE
- Black Hills FC
- Meconi's Subs
- O'Reilly Auto
- Kel-Chuck Glass
- Home Town Property
- Wembley Soccer Shop
- Mayan Mexican Restaurant
- Thurston Co Football League
- Seasons Teriyaki
- Chinqually Booters Soccer/TCU
- Reliable Electric
- TEC Equipment
- Farrelli's Pizza

### In Kind

- 94.5 Roxy
- Mixx 96 FM
- KGY Radio
- The Olympian
- Oly arts
- Showcase Magazine
- Pints & Quarts



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**\$10,616.5**

Financial Assistance  
Allocated

**\$7,874**

Financial Assistance  
Used

**57**

Unique Households

**60**

Unique Participants

# Museum & Community Buildings



## LACEY MUSEUM

**930**  
Visitors

**323**

Virtual Program Participation

**439.25**

Volunteer Hours Donated

**\$70,830**

Grants and Donations

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES



**316**

Days Used At Lacey  
Community Center

**151**

Days Used At Jacob Smith  
House

**578**

Individual Bookings Of  
Rental Facilities

**651**

Park Picnic Shelter  
Reservations

**2,264**

Hours of Picnic  
Shelter Use

**\$337,497**

Revenue for LCC, JSH  
and Shelters





# Parks & Maintenance

## PARK MAINTENANCE AT A GLANCE

Every day the maintenance team is working throughout the City to ensure the parks and facilities are in the best condition possible for the enjoyment of our community.



**78**

Parks, Trails, and Undeveloped Properties Maintained

**615**

Trees Planted in Parks and Streets

**83**

Removal of Hazardous Trees

**610**

Trees Pruned

**1,113**

Parks work orders generated

**541**

Yards of leaves removed from Parks and Right of ways

**68**

Graffiti removal from vandalism

**18.27 tons**

Rapid Response Team Debris removal

# Parks & Maintenance

## PARK MAINTENANCE STAFF

The Public Works Parks and Facilities Maintenance Division includes 16 full-time and 17 seasonal staff. This staff is responsible for maintaining the grounds of all City-owned parks and facilities.

## MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY

### Plants and Shrubs

Weed control, pruning, and landscape bed cleanup.

### Building and Structure Maintenance

Blowing and pressure washing shelters, sidewalks, parking lots, basketball courts, tennis courts, pickleball courts, and skate park.

### Irrigation Maintenance

Installs, repairs, and maintains the automatic turf irrigation systems.

### Tree Maintenance

Pruning, tree inspections, tree planting, stump removals, leaf pickup, and watering.

### Grounds and Trail Maintenance

Weed removal, invasive removal, and trail clearing.

### Turf Maintenance

Mowing, edging, line trimming, aeration, and fertilizing

### Vandalism and Graffiti Removal

Repair or mitigation of vandalism and removal of all graffiti

### Pressure Washing

Routine cleaning of assets to prolong life and ensure sanitary conditions

### Sports Field Maintenance

Mowing, fertilizing, aeration, topdressing and renovation of sport field turf. Dragging infields, lining fields, moving bases, fences, pitching mounds, goals, and equipment necessary for user groups. .

### Equipment Maintenance

Routine preventative maintenance and repair of equipment necessary for work.

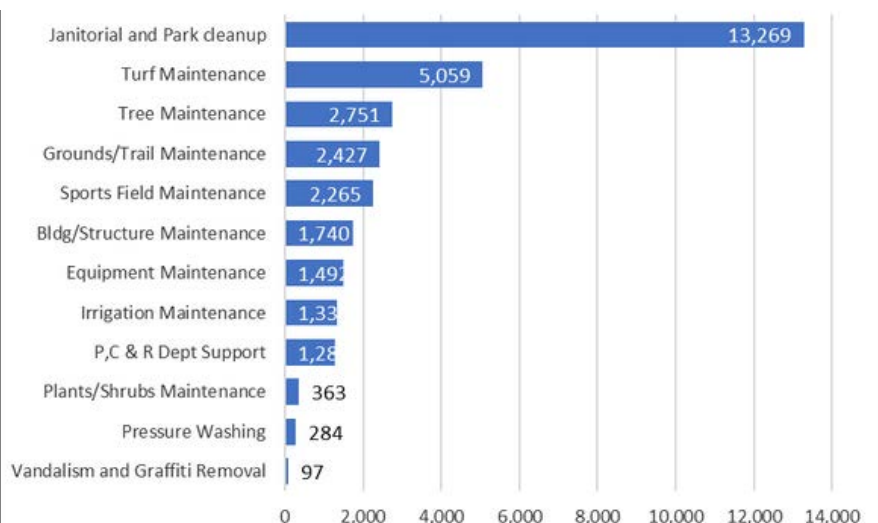
### Janitorial and Parks Clean up

Cleaning restrooms, emptying garbage cans, safety checks, playground maintenance, and general park cleanup.

### Parks, Culture & Recreation Support



## TOTAL STAFF HOURS BY CATEGORY





# 2023 Highlights



## PARKS MAINTENANCE

- Coordinated the installation of an 80' pole and platform for Osprey to nest at Wanschers Park..
- Reduced the compaction of Rainier Vista's volleyball courts by 120%.
- Repaired bulkhead supporting the bridge at Woodland Creek Park
- Generated 1,142 park related work orders
- Improved pickle ball court at Lakepointe by re-painting lines and installing a fence around the court.
- Removed graffiti from 93 events.
- Removed 510 yds of leaves from Parks
- Designed new park rules signs.
- Tree work:
  - Planted 553 Seedlings
  - Planted 62 2" C street trees
  - Removed 83 hazard trees
  - Pruned 610 City owned trees
- Rapid Response Clean-Up Team formed to assist with collection and clean up of homeless camps and nuisances on public property in Lacey. During 2023 the team responded to:
  - Removed 18/27 tons of debris.
  - Cleaned 36 camp sites
  - Cleaned 191 Roadside cleanups
  - Sanitized and returned 1015 shopping carts.
  - Removed graffiti from 33 acts of vandalism
  - Removed 52 hypodermic needles

## CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

- Converted RAC parking lot lights to LED.
- Re-surfaced three basketball courts at RAC
- Began construction on the parking lot project at Regional Athletic Complex
- Expanded holiday light display at Huntamer Park to include animated light display to music
- Master planning for the 400+ acre Greg Cuoio Park & Greenways located in northwest Lacey reached the 100% completion mark.
- Replaced fencing surrounding Rainier Vista skate park
- Thurston County Pickleball Association committed \$25,000 toward the construction of new courts at Rainier Vista Park

# 2023 Highlights



## PROGRAM & PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Hosted 2023 Cascade National Championships. 70+ teams from all over the country.
- Began the parking lot project at Regional Athletic Complex
- RAC won the bid to bring back 10U USA Fastpitch tournament, 3A State
- Over 3,000 individual bookings at RAC.
- 31 Little Lacey Youth Baseball teams. 278 players.
- 26 Youth Basketball teams. 252 players.
- Added Archery Tag, Cross Country and Pickleball Leagues.
- 623 Shelter Reservations

## PLAYBOOK

Your guide to recreation, activities, and parks in Lacey



- We were awarded the following grants:
  - Awarded \$15,000 Diversity in Local History Grant to fund Oral History Project
  - Received \$50,000 from Lacey Historical Society for museum exhibits, and archives.
  - Received \$5,000 from the Lacey Historical Society for a historic marker for the Jacob Smith House.
  - \$12,500.00 Nisqually Charitable Funds
  - \$42,000 from Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction through North Thurston Public Schools for Playground Pals program.
- Partnered with Senior Services for South Sound to open Cooling Shelters during the extreme heat.
- Added Sensory Recovery room to Cultural Celebration, Lacey Fun Fair & Childrens Day.



- 657 campers at two-day camps over the course of 8 weeks
- Expanded Sponsorships.
- Worked with Sports Commission to coordinate new way to find economic impact for tournaments held at the RAC. In 2023, direct impact was \$15,285,110 to the local economy.
- Expanded light display at Huntamer to include Xlights animated display
- PARC Foundation of Thurston County donated \$6,000 toward the Financial Assistance Program.
- The Museum held 9 History Talks! serving 505 people.
- Opened Journey Stories, a Smithsonian poster exhibit, visited by 414 museum visitors.
- Launched Stories of the South Sound oral history project in order to fill gaps in museum research and collections.



# Partnerships & Budget

## PARTNERSHIPS

Partners are essential to the City of Lacey and the Parks, Culture and Recreation Department to provide programs to the community in the most cost-efficient way possible for the City of Lacey community.



## VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT



**\$67,097**

Value of Volunteer Time

**2,711**

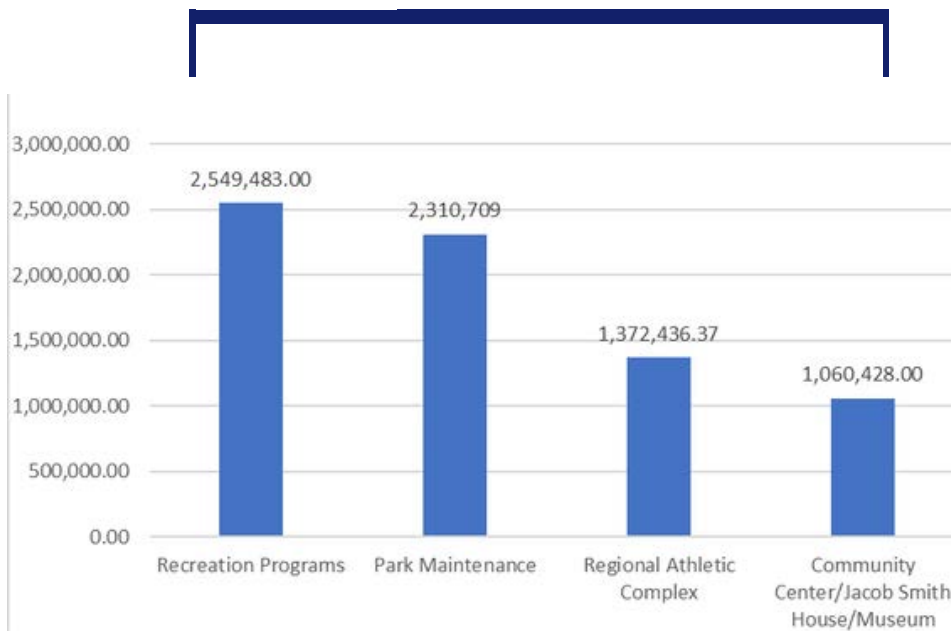
Hours at Events / Programs

**652**

Hours in Parks

## COST OF PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION

TOTAL EXPENSES  
\$7,293,057



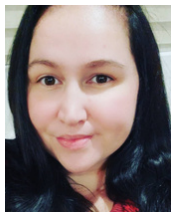
Revenues are generated by program and rental fees, but Parks, Culture & Recreation is funded primarily by the City's general fund.

# PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION BOARD COMMISSIONERS' MESSAGE

## PARKS BOARD COMMISSIONERS



WENDY  
GOODWIN  
CHAIR



KAMBER  
GOOD  
VICE CHAIR



ARAM  
WHEELER



GARY  
LARSON



CHRIS  
PORRAZZO



HILARY  
DYKSTRA



BILL  
FOSBRE

In addition to the accomplishments that have been highlighted in this annual report, we would like to note some of the other Park Board and Parks, Culture and Recreation happenings from 2023.

### **Greg Cuoio Park & Greenways**

Significant work continued toward the 90% design of Greg Cuoio Park Phase 1A. Construction of the park is expected to begin in early 2025. Two significant grants were awarded for the project totaling almost 1 million dollars from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office and the Washington State Department of Commerce.



SARAH TOWNE  
YOUTH REP.



NATE CLAY  
YOUTH REP.

### **Lacey Parks, Culture and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Update**

A significant accomplishment was completing the 6-year update to the Lacey Parks, Culture and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. This is a guiding document for the future of the department and incorporates significant community input. The top takeaways from the public input were a pool, indoor recreation/playground, spray parks, and preservation of open spaces, additional trails, and natural areas.

### **Community Partnerships**

Many community partners value the mission of Lacey Parks, Culture and Recreation and have committed or donated toward park projects. Gateway Rotary committed \$110,000 toward the playground replacement at William A. Bush Park, Thurston County Pickleball Association committed \$25,000 toward the construction of new courts at Rainier Vista Park, and the PARC Foundation of Thurston County donated \$6,000 toward the Financial Assistance Program

### **Lacey Parks, Culture and Recreation Enhancement Program**

The community is enthusiastic to donate and add amenities to our parks. The Parks Board approved and launched the Enhancements Program to provide a streamlined and equitable way to consider additions and ensure contributions are well documented, celebrated, and shared with the Parks Board and City Council. In 2023, a free little library was built at Wonderwood Park, and two large stadium bleachers were donated.

### **Parks Rules Sign Update**

The park rules signs were updated using icons and a more visually appealing design that is easy to read.

### **Parks, Culture & Recreation Volunteer Program**

Approved a Parks Volunteer Program to include a policy and procedure manual and an onboarding handbook for volunteers

Sincerely,

*Board of Park Commissioners*



# PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

## LEADERSHIP TEAM



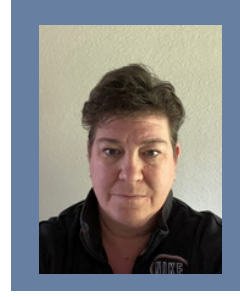
JENNIFER BURBIDGE  
DIRECTOR  
PARKS, CULTURE &  
RECREATION



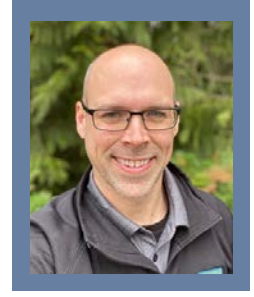
SCOTT EGGER  
DIRECTOR  
PUBLIC WORKS



SCOTT DEVLIN  
OPERATIONS  
MANAGER



SUE FALASH  
RECREATION  
MANAGER



JAMIE OAKLAND  
PARKS MAINTENANCE  
SUPERVISOR

Another great year in the books for Lacey Parks! 90% design for the new Greg Cuoio Park Phase 1A is nearly completed with just under \$1M in grant funding from the Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office WWRP – Local Parks, and the Washington State Department of Commerce. The new park is intended to open to the public by late summer of 2025.

The 2023-2029 Lacey Parks, Culture & Recreation Comprehensive Plan was approved by the Parks Board and City Council. For the plan's development, input was gathered from the public, city staff, the Parks Board, Historical Commission, Commission on Equity, Youth Council, the Planning Commission, and City Council. This is the guiding document for Lacey's parks system and includes the Parks Capital Improvement Plan giving a snapshot of needed parks projects.

In addition, several programs and policies were created and updated. The Enhancements Program and Policy was created to establish guidelines and an equitable review process for all donations, known as enhancements, proposed to improve or enhance the City of Lacey's Parks, Culture and Recreation Department, its programs, facilities, and/or parks. The Parks Volunteer Program was expanded with centralization efforts, a volunteer recognition event, and an updated handbook. The Sponsorship Policy was updated to include a review process that will ensure alignment with the department's mission, vision and goals. The Financial Assistance Policy (formerly called Scholarship Policy) was updated to better communicate its purpose and make it more accessible for community members.

Public Works Parks Maintenance Staff are continually maintaining Lacey Parks to keep them in pristine condition. We want to express our sincere appreciation to city staff for their care of the public's beautiful parks spaces and for going above and beyond with special projects! Staff conducted or managed several park improvements in 2023:

- Rainier Vista Park: Replaced the fencing around the skate park, removed a section of fence at the pickleball courts to allow easier access, installed donated bleachers, and installed sleeves and temporary fencing to baseball fields to better accommodate fastpitch tournaments
- Regional Athletic Complex: Converted parking lot lights to LED, re-surfaced three basketball courts, made several significant repairs to the large play structure, replaced worn patches on 5 synthetic fields, re-lamped 240 athletic field lights and installed donated bleachers
- Long Lake Park: Replaced approximately 75 failed buoys in the swim area
- Civic Plaza: Re-landscaped for the Gold Star Memorial installation and dedication
- Huntamer Park: Expanded the holiday light display to include an animated display sequenced to music
- Converted irrigation controllers & clocks in the parks to utilize upgraded versions with cellular communication
- Planted 553 seedlings in parks

The caliber of Lacey's parks system is among the best in the state. Lacey parks and programs are critical for the community. Free access to parks and open spaces improves overall physical and mental health and the well-being of residents by:

- Encouraging active lifestyles and reducing health costs
- Growing job opportunities and local economies
- Building infrastructure resiliency (stormwater/flood management)
- Increasing community engagement and reducing crime
- Helping clean the air thus improving public health
- Providing a tool for cities to achieve equity goals

Lacey's park system, its many programs, and services are made possible by a tremendous amount of teamwork between the Parks, Culture and Recreation Department, Public Works' Parks Maintenance, Facilities Maintenance, Water Resources, and Project Management. Further, the partnerships the City has with North Thurston Public Schools, Senior Services for South Sound, Saint Martin's University, Lacey South Sound Chamber, and many more enable the delivery of better, more efficient services. We're grateful for these partnerships that help us to achieve more for Lacey.

Sincerely,

*Jen Burbidge and Scott Egger*