

Chapter 6 Parks & Recreation

Introduction

Othello is the largest city in Adams County and makes up 42% of the countywide population of 20,800 (Census 2020). While the Othello School District population is over 15,000, the estimated city limits population as of 2021 (OFM) was 8725. The City has been growing about 2% per year over the last 20 years. In sparsely-settled rural Eastern Washington, Othello is a regional center, as the largest city between Moses Lake and Tri-Cities going north-south, and Yakima and Pullman going east-west. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy, with surrounding farmlands and several major food processing plants located in and around the city. Twenty percent of jobs held by Othello residents are directly in agriculture, with another 16% in manufacturing (mostly food processing). Median household income in 2019 was \$47,243, compared to the state's \$73,775 (US Census Quick Facts). Total land area is just under 4 square miles.

Othello's population is substantially younger than that of the state as whole, with 36% of the population under age 18, compared to 22% statewide, and only 9% over age 65 compared to 16% for the state. Median age in Othello is 25.9, while the median age in Washington is 37.6 years. 80% of Othello residents identify as Hispanic.

Parks & Recreation Inventory

Facility Overview

Othello Public Works Parks and Recreation Division operates 4 City Parks and owns several undeveloped sites:

Lions Park is the largest park at almost 27 acres, with a 4-field baseball/softball complex including bleachers and concession stand; community pool with wading pool, lap pool, lazy river, slide, and concession stand; basketball courts being upgraded and expanded in 2022, 4 tennis courts, playground being replaced in 2022, skate park built in 2015, soccer field, 4 reservable picnic shelters with BBQs, walking trails, street hockey rink, handball court, arboretum, and restrooms. This park is used for community-wide celebrations such as 4th of July, as well as softball and baseball tournaments. The upcoming basketball complex is expected to host tournaments as well. This park was dedicated in 1930. Many of the facilities were constructed in 1975 with IAC funds. The pool facilities were constructed in 2007 with bond funding, and the baseball/softball complex was updated in 2020 with RCO funds.

Kiwanis Park is the other large community park. Its 15 acres include walking trails, 5 reservable picnic shelters with BBQs, play areas, tennis courts (with basketball hoops for multi-use), half-court basketball, and restrooms, along with large grassy areas which can be used for informal recreation. This park hosts the annual Classic Car Show. The park was dedicated to the City in 1953, with specific restrictions that it was to be developed as a family park rather than an organized sports park. Most of the facilities were constructed in 1974 with IAC funds.

Pioneer Park is the oldest park, dating back to 1912, and is located in the middle of town on Main Street just a block from City Hall. The 1-acre site has hosted the Othello Farmers Market. Amenities include a gazebo with 3 picnic tables, a water fountain, 6 benches, and a restroom. This park features a T-33 jet to honor the City's relationship with a former nearby airbase.

Triangle Park is a 0.33-acre site donated to the City in the late 1960's. It provides shaded open space for local enjoyment. Irrigation was added to the park in 2001. The park has no off-street parking area and no amenities beyond the lawn area and trees.

The **Park Street property** is 3-acre parcel that was dedicated to the public on the 1910 Othello Realty Company's First Addition to Othello plat. It has never been developed. The surrounding area is a mix of vacant land and commercial/light industrial uses. Residential property proposed for development within a few years is located nearby but without good access to the park property.

Rock Park was dedicated to the City in 2014, along with right-of-way to make a street connection for a new subdivision. This is a 0.2-acre gravel area with no amenities, adjacent to City limits.

The **Sagestone** development donated a 100'-wide strip between the residential area and Highway 26. This area is intended to eventually be developed as a trail/linear park. There are several sidewalk connections so it can be accessed from the neighborhood.

Program Overview

The City currently organizes youth sports leagues for baseball, softball, soccer, and flag football.

The Othello School District Community Schools program hosts various recreational classes.

There are private youth sports activities such as Grid Kids football, and club teams such as Barracudas Swim Team and Bombers Baseball.

Resources

The Parks and Recreation Program is part of the Othello Public Works Department, overseen by a Parks & Recreation Coordinator and Assistant. The Parks and Recreation program has recently moved into a newly-purchased building across the street from the Public Works complex. Renovations of the building will continue into 2022. Parks are maintained by Public Works permanent and seasonal employees, who divide their time among streets, water, and sewer, in addition to parks.

Park Land Inventory

Developed Parks	Size
Lions Park	26.9 ac
Kiwanis Park	15.2 ac
Pioneer Park	1.0 ac
Triangle Park	0.33 ac
Total developed	43.43 ac
Undeveloped park land	
Park St. Property	3.18 ac
Rock Park	0.2 ac
Sagestone Linear Park	2.17 ac
Total undeveloped	5.55 ac
Total of all parks	48.98 ac
49.98 acres/8725 population = 5.61 acres/1000 population	

See the Park Map for park and trail locations.

Annual Maintenance and Operational Costs for Each Site	
Pool Maintenance & Operation	\$549,558
Lions Park	\$209,420
Kiwanis Park	\$118,334
Pioneer Park	\$7,785
Triangle Park	\$2,569
Total Parks & Rec Maintenance & Operational Budget	\$887,666

Facility Inventory

Lions Park

Facility/amenity		Number/size	Condition	Usage
Baseball/softball complex				
	Baseball/softball fields with lights	4	Completely rebuilt 2020	Sometimes used for soccer. April-June Little League. 4 Men's softball tournaments hosted 2021. 11 rentals June-Sept. Parks staff evaluation: Fields are sufficient for current demand.
	Concession stand/ Restrooms	900 SF	Restrooms remodeled 2020	Concession stand used during tournaments and Little League.
	Bleachers	28	Need to be replaced. Bleachers are bent, have been welded, and are constantly being moved due to events.	Used & moved frequently, for park events, swim meets, and City functions.
	Soccer field w/lights	1	Field is smaller than regulation size. 2 goals provided, but players must bring own nets. Shares space with baseball outfield.	46 rentals Apr-Oct. 2021. Rented most weekends in summer. Oct. 2021 rented every Tues-Fri. Many requests for more soccer facilities, indoor and outdoor.
	Tennis courts w/lights	4	Lights were upgraded to LEDs in 2019. Courts are in adequate condition.	Used by High School during tennis season.
	Basketball courts	4 (2022)	2 existing courts will be replaced with 4 new courts in 2022	Existing courts used frequently, despite current poor condition.
	Playground	1 (30,000 SF)	All equipment and playground surface will be replaced in 2022	Used frequently in spring & summer, mostly by families & children.
	Walking trails	~2000 lineal feet.	In need of renovation (public complaints that trails are uneven, difficult for pushing a stroller, riding bikes and scooters.)	Would be used more if in better condition.

Facility/amenity		Number/size	Condition	Usage
			New north-south trail through middle of park is being added 2022 (~700 lineal feet).	
Restrooms		3	Restroom outside ballfield fence scheduled for renovation in 2025	Used frequently during park operating hours, especially during youth sports and tournaments.
Horseshoe pits		4 sets	The wood around the pits has deteriorated and should be replaced.	1 set shows signs of use. Requests from the community to convert to cornhole.
Picnic shelters		4	Shelter #1, 2, & 3 scheduled for renovation 2024	Shelters 1-3 reserved 8%-35% of summer Saturdays in 2021, and 2%-22% of summer weekend days in 2019. Shelter #4 (large) reserved 62% of summer Saturdays 2021 and 33% of summer weekend days in 2019. Requests from community for another large shelter.
Handball court		1	No complaints from the public about condition.	Rarely used (observation of Park staff and neighbors). Frequent target of graffiti.
Othello Community Pool		23,000 SF total outdoor area of pool complex. 7275 Sf water recreation; 178,392 gallons	Constructed 2007. Maintained as needed	Has never been over 50% capacity. About 30 after-hours reservations in 2021.
	Lap pool	3000 SF surface area. 155,600 gallons		
	Zero-depth wading pool	2600 SF surface area		
	Lazy river	1100 SF surface area.		

Facility/amenity	Number/size	Condition	Usage
	22,792 gallons		
Slide	155'		
Spray toys	2		
Concession stand open to pool and general public	1		
Covered shelter areas	3		
Picnic tables	6		
BBQ	1	Unused.	BBQ has never been rented out or used since installation. Could be removed.
Dan Dever Memorial Skate Park	6000 SF	Constructed 2015. Frequent target for graffiti but structures are in good condition.	Used frequently
Arboretum		Good condition, provides shade for families during BBQs.	Rarely used. Used mostly for shade/picnicking during 4 th of July event.
Street hockey rink	9000 SF	Scheduled for renovation 2024.	Used for court soccer on a daily basis. Some hockey use.
Shuffleboard concrete pad	1	Concrete is sound, but has not been painted for shuffleboard in years. Conflicts with route of new walk path, so need to evaluate how or if to retain.	Occasional use as dance floor for events and tournaments, and as practice space for large group dances.

Kiwanis Park

Kiwanis Park was given to Othello under a grant condition that it would differ considerably in character from Lions Park. The emphasis on Kiwanis Park is family and individual recreation. It states in the deed for Kiwanis Park:

“No organized team sports will be encouraged within the park. The park uses will emphasize impromptu recreational activities associated with family or small group picnicking. The tennis courts will be the only city-owned courts in this part of the city. Jogging and bicycling will be encouraged on almost one mile of trail within the park, and a children’s play area and multi-use court will serve the recreational need of a wide range of age groups.”

Facility/amenity	Number/size	Condition	Usage
Picnic shelters	5	All in need of renovation	Shelters 1 & 2 reserved about 70% of summer Saturdays in 2021. Shelter 1 reserved 61% of summer weekends in 2019, and Shelter 2 reserved 31%. Shelters 3-5 reserved 12-38% of summer Saturdays in 2021 and 7-28% of summer weekend days in 2019.
Tennis courts	2	No lights. The courts were completely renovated in 2016, with new concrete, new nets, and a new chain link fence.	Used mostly as a futsal court, sometimes for basketball. Parks staff has not observed any use for tennis, but it may be used by the High School during tennis season.
Basketball courts	2 sets of hoops in the tennis courts. 1 half-court slab. =0 dedicated full courts.	No lights. One court shares space with tennis, other court is only half size.	Parks staff has not observed either court used for basketball. Planning Commission has seen both used for basketball.
Playground areas	3 areas with play equipment	North playground area in need of renovation	Often used by families in the area.
Walking trails	~1300 lineal feet	Badly cracked. In need of renovation (public complaints that trails are uneven, difficult for pushing a stroller, riding bikes and scooters.)	Would be used more if in better condition.
Restrooms	2	North restroom in need of lights and renovation	Used often during park open hours. The newer restroom locks automatically after closing time.

Pioneer Park






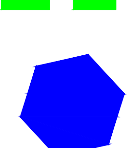
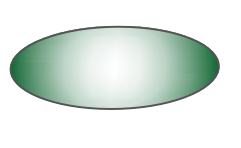

Facility/amenity	Number/size	Condition	Usage
Gazebo/picnic shelter	1	Adequate	No reservations in 2021. Sometimes used as a sleeping shelter by people who are homeless.
T-33 Jet	1	Maintained by the US Air Force	N/A
Restroom	1	In excellent condition.	Does not show any sign of being inadequate for needs.

Triangle Park

Since this park seems to offer no benefit to the neighborhood, the Planning Commission recommends that the City remove it from the Park Inventory. If removal is not possible or desired, the Planning Commission recommends developing an amenity such as a pickleball court to provide some value for the maintenance expenditures.

Facility/amenity	Number/size	Condition	Usage
Irrigated lawn and trees	0.33 acres	Adequate. The site used to have picnic tables, but the chains were cut and the tables stolen.	No usage observed by Parks staff.

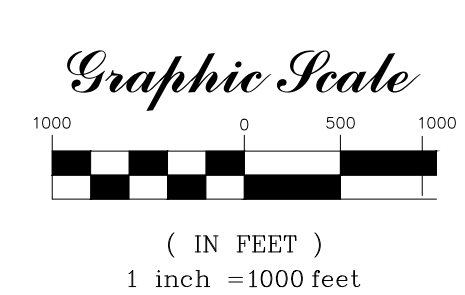
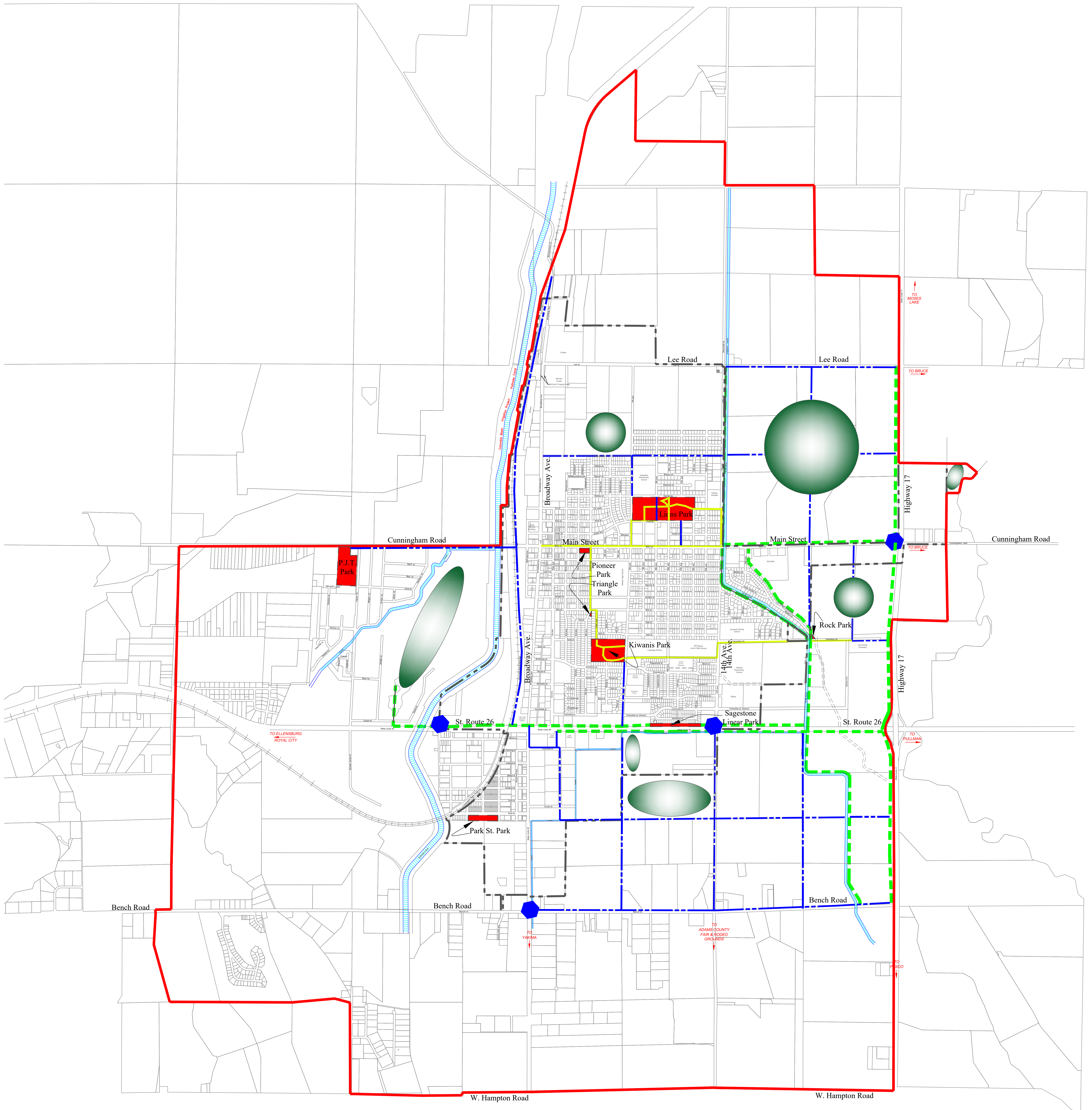
School District facilities are not included in the inventory because they are for a limited age range and they are not available to the community during school hours.

-  City Limits
-  City Growth Boundary
-  Existing Trails
-  Proposed Trails
-  Greenway Trails
-  Gateway Feature
-  Potential Recreation Facilities
-  Parks



CITY OF OTHELLO

Parks & Trails Plan - 2022



Parks & Recreation Goals & Objectives

1. Explore, identify, and invest in growth opportunities for parks and recreation.
 - a. Objective: Perform a feasibility study for adding new parks, including a soccer complex and an eco park/nature park.
2. Focus on unique amenities for all parks.
 - a. Objective: Have at least one unique feature or amenity in every park.
3. Incorporate better distribution of amenities increasing neighborhood access to recreation activities.
 - a. Objective: All housing areas should have a general-use park within a half-mile distance.
4. Ensure general-use parks have sufficient open space for informal activities.
 - a. Objective: Each general-use park should have no more than half its area developed with formal facilities.
 - b. Objective: Informal space in general-use parks should be retained in pieces large enough to be usable, at least 100' by 100'.
5. Periodically identify and prioritize future needs and facilities.
 - a. Objective: Future needs and facilities should be reviewed and prioritized annually as part of the budget and Capital Facility Plan process.
6. Develop partnerships to invest in recreational opportunities.
 - a. Objective: For every project, explore opportunities for outside entities to invest in the project.
7. Maximize park safety.
 - a. Objective: Install a security camera system at each park.
 - b. Objective: Ensure there is adequate lighting of all facilities, and visibility from surrounding streets.
 - c. Solicit feedback from the public about safety concerns related to parks.
 - d. Revisit safety needs every year.
8. Increase accessibility and usability of the parks for all community members and visitors.
 - a. Objective: Provide at least 25% inclusive features at playgrounds.
 - b. Objective: Recreation needs to be available to all age groups and be inclusive of all abilities.

Future Needs Analysis

The City of Othello strives to provide the best possible facilities and quality of life for residents and visitors, within the constraints of fiscal responsibility. After reviewing maintenance needs, community needs based on staff/Commission/Council observations, and community preferences expressed in a recent survey, the City has determined the following priorities for parks and recreation in the next 6 years:

- There were several projects already budgeted and funded for 2022 that matched with community desires in the survey, including better facilities for basketball and playgrounds, and more walking trails, showing that past funding decisions are in line with what the community wants.
- More and better soccer facilities were a clear need in the survey, despite possibly less than representative response on the survey from the soccer-playing segments of the population. For this reason, new soccer fields are an urgent need and were added to the projects for 2022.
- An eco park/nature park was one of the top 3 choices of the community for new facilities. The City is exploring a unique opportunity to acquire suitable land and partner with a national organization for restoration and development; therefore, this project is scheduled for 2023.
- Replacement of one restroom was already scheduled for 2025, and the survey underlined staff's feelings that maintenance is a concern at other restrooms, so restroom maintenance was added as a project for 2023.
- Similarly, maintenance of the existing paths in parks was a need known by staff and also mentioned frequently in the survey. Therefore, this project was added for 2023.
- Adding art and murals to existing walls has helped to deter graffiti in other locations. Therefore, this was added as a project in 2023. It is hoped that this could be a low-cost project, maybe in partnership with local artists.
- Pickleball is a sport gaining a lot of interest in other communities. It is family-friendly and relatively low cost, and there was definite interest expressed in the community survey. In order to provide new opportunities to the community, this project was added for 2023.
- The City has been working for several years on an evolving project that includes a farmers market, food truck court, and event center. This was the number one choice on the survey, with 42% selecting it as one of their top 3 hopes for the future. The City continues to look for the right location for this project, and intends to apply for funding in time for 2024 construction.
- A splash pad has been a community wish for a long time, and the survey confirmed people are still interested. The City has applied previously for funding for this project, and will take what it learned in the previous funding cycle to try again to secure funds for this project in 2024.
- Improving the street hockey rink was shown as a need on the survey, as well as being a known to staff as a need. The City had previously planned to renovate the rink in 2024. Based on discussions with a major proponent of the rink, less expensive renovations will be adequate to greatly improve the functionality of the rink, freeing up more funding for other projects with a wider participant base, such as futsal.
- Futsal courts are a known need, since existing park facilities such as tennis courts and street hockey rink are currently used daily for futsal. Therefore, building official courts was moved up to 2024 from its previous place in 2025. Since there are currently places that can be used, this project is less urgent than some. It is anticipated that additional courts will be needed, so more courts are planned for 2026.

- In order to prioritize projects that would be used daily, such as futsal, the stage at Lions Park that would be used only occasionally for special events was pushed back to 2025.
- In the Planning Commission's review and the survey results, it became apparent that Othello parks have a capacity shortage. There just isn't enough land for all the facilities a city of our size should be providing to its residents. While Othello's population has more than tripled since 1960, the park land inventory has barely increased in the 60 years since then. Therefore, land acquisition is a need that was added for 2024.
- Picnic shelters in the 2 main parks are reserved frequently, and used without reservations even more frequently. Maintenance of the shelters was already a known need that was emphasized by the survey results. Renovations of 3 Lions Park shelters was already scheduled for 2024, and maintenance of Kiwanis shelters was added for 2025.
- There has been strong demand from the community for more large shelters, and this was emphasized on the survey. Adding a shelter to one park is scheduled for 2026, with the second one beyond the 6-year time frame of this plan.
- The storage room at Lions Park is in need of renovation, but not urgently, so it is scheduled for 2025.
- The bleachers are moved multiple times per week in the summer, so they get damaged and bent over time. Replacement is scheduled for 2025, with a possibility of increasing the number so they can stay in place and don't need to be moved as much.
- The playground equipment at both major parks is quite old, and the survey shows the importance of updates. Lions Park Playground is being replaced in 2022, and Kiwanis is scheduled for 2026.
- In order to adequately plan for the future, large known periodic costs such as the pool heat exchange and backwash tanks sand replacement are included as future expenses, expected in 2029 due to the 10-year maintenance cycle for these items.
- Kiwanis Park has several basketball facilities, but no dedicated lighted full-size courts. The existing half-court slab and hoops in the tennis courts are used frequently, so it would serve the surrounding neighborhood to have upgraded facilities. However, since the deed restriction for Kiwanis wouldn't allow use for organized play, this item becomes a lower priority so is scheduled beyond this 6-year plan.
- Othello lacks facilities for indoor sports during the winter, other than school gyms. Therefore, it would be very useful to have indoor facilities. However, the high capital costs of such facilities means they are beyond the scope of this 6-year plan. The City will focus on more attainable facilities for now, and work toward providing indoor facilities in the future.
- More walking trails was highly desired by the community in the survey; however, the City doesn't currently have much of a place to put them. It is hoped these trails could be incorporated into the proposed eco park/nature park. Therefore, the trail expenditure is scheduled out beyond the 6-year timeframe of this plan.
- Because of Othello's small geographic size and compact development, all existing neighborhoods are in reasonable proximity to at least one community park.

Facility/amenity	Current Number or Size	Additional needed to Meet Current Demand	Notes
Adequate			
Arboretum		0	
Baseball/softball fields	4	0	Existing fields rebuilt in 2020
Concession stands	1 Lions Ballfields (900 SF) 1 Pool = 2 total	0	More may be needed in future to serve new development, such as a soccer complex.
Handball court	1	0	Community interest in handball is low.
Horseshoe pits	4 sets	0 Maintenance needed if these facilities are retained.	Community interest in horseshoes is low. Some of the horseshoe pits could be replaced with a different feature, such as cornhole.
Skate Park	6000 SF	0	Existing skate park built 2015.
Swimming Pool	7275 Sf water recreation; 178,392 gallons	0	Some community interest in adding an indoor pool.
Zero-depth wading pool	1	0	
Spray toys	2	0	
Lazy river	1100 SF; 22,792 gallons	0	
Slide	155'	0	
Lap pool	155,600 gallons	0	
Tennis courts	4 Lions 2 Kiwanis =6 total	0 additional needed.	
Maintenance/Replacement Needed			
Bleachers	28	Existing need to be replaced.	
Picnic shelters	4 Lions 5 Kiwanis 1 Pioneer = 10 total	Maintenance needed.	
Playground	1 Lions 1 Kiwanis = 2 total	More inclusive play equipment needed, such as a sensory/musical playground.	Inclusive features will be included in Lions Park Playground 2022.

Facility/amenity	Current Number or Size	Additional needed to Meet Current Demand	Notes
		Kiwanis Playground in need of update. Pathways to existing playgrounds need to be improved to be accessible.	Musical features may be included.
Restrooms	3 Lions 2 Kiwanis 1 Pioneer = 6 total	Maintenance and upgrades needed, especially at Kiwanis.	1 at Lions scheduled for replacement 2025.
Street hockey rink	1	Renovation needed for hockey, but relatively low cost (new fence on inside of posts would greatly improve playability).	Renovations on CFP for 2024. Alternate facilities for futsal needed so rink can be freed up for hockey.
Walking trails		Maintenance/reconstruction of existing trails needed.	
New Facilities Needed			
Basketball courts	2 Lions 2 Lions 2022. Kiwanis courts are in tennis court + 1 half-court = 4 total dedicated (when Lions finished)	1 dedicated full-size lighted court needed at Kiwanis (not for organized sports, per deed restriction)	Lions Park 2 existing courts will be replaced with 4 new courts Summer 2022.
Eco park/nature park with wildlife and hiking trails	0	1	Strong community interest. Will require land acquisition.
Farmers Market/ Food Truck Court/ Event Center	0	1	Top choice of community for new facilities. CFP 2024
Futsal	0	3-5	CFP 2025
Indoor sports court (especially for activities during the winter)	0	1 hard court for basketball, volleyball, gym space (~5000 SF)	Strong community interest; will require land acquisition and substantial funds to build and operate.
		1 turf area for baseball, soccer, football field (~30,000 SF)	
Pickleball	0	1	This sport is gaining a lot of interest in other cities; some

Facility/amenity	Current Number or Size	Additional needed to Meet Current Demand	Notes
			community interest here currently.
Picnic shelters	4 Lions 5 Kiwanis 1 Pioneer = 10 total	2 (1 each Lions & Kiwanis)	Public requests for additional large shelters. Survey: More shelters was one of the top 3 facilities that people wanted more of.
Soccer field	1 Lions (small, no nets, overlaps with baseball fields) = 0 total full-size fields	6-10 additional fields needed, including a complex for tournaments.	Strong community interest in soccer. Soccer was top choice on survey of what people wanted more of. Land would need to be acquired for this.
Splash pad	0	1 (Planning Commission recommends locating at Kiwanis Park)	Strong community interest. CFP 2024
Stage	1 portable stage in need of repair	Permanent stage needed at Lions for events such as 4 th of July celebration.	CFP 2025
Walking trails	~3300 lineal feet in parks. 4.8 miles "walk path" (not maintained by City)	1.5 miles	Strong community desire for more trails, second only to soccer. Lions Park Connectivity Trail will be added Summer 2022. Additional trails will be needed to meet demand. Could be addressed in the eco park/nature park with hiking trails.

**CITY OF OTHELLO
2022 - 2027 CAPITAL FACILITY PLAN**

Department/Project	Source	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Future
GENERAL FUND								
General Administration								
Camera System (various locations, including City Hall & parks)	GF Reserves / REET/A	238,000				60,000		
SUBTOTAL GENERAL ADMIN.		238,000	0	0	0	60,000	0	
Parks & Recreation		Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Future
RCO - Dream Courts Basketball Zone (YAF)	Grant/Reserves	467,000						
RCO - Pride Rock Playground (WWRP-LWCF)	Grant/Reserves	1,000,000						
Lions Park connectivity Trail	Grant/Reserves	40,500						
Conduit and Jboxes for Lions Park trail lighting	REET	40,000						
Lit reader board (by new PW bldg)	GF Reserves	25,000						
Building upgrades for Park & Rec	GF Reserves	50,000						
Bike and Pedestrian Plan	Grant	30,000						
Soccer fields	Reserves	\$200,000						
Eco park/nature park with hiking trails	Grant/Partnerships/Reserves		3,000,000					
Restroom Maintenance	Reserves		100,000					
Path Maintenance	Reserves		100,000					
Art/Murals	Reserves/Donations		75,000					
Pickleball	Grant/Reserves		50,000					
Farmers Market/Event Center	Grant			3,780,000				
Splash Pad	Grant/Reserves			400,000				
In-Line Skate Rink Renovation (heavy-duty fence inside posts)	Grant/Reserves			30,000				
Shelter Renovation (Lions 1, 2, & 3)	Grant/Reserves			80,000				
Futsal Court	Grant/Reserves			125,000				
Property acquisition for new parks (40-60 acres)	Grant/Reserves			2,000,000				
Performance Stage (Lions Park)	Grant/Reserves				250,000			
Replace Lions Restroom (outside ballfield fence)	Grant				240,000			
Renovation to Storage Room - Lions Park	Grant/Reserves				65,000			
Bleacher replacement	Reserves				60,000			
Picnic Shelter Maintenance (Kiwanis)	Reserves				20,000			
Kiwanis Playground Upgrade	Grant/Reserves					300,000		
Futsal (second court)	Grant/Reserves					125,000		
Picnic shelters (additional large shelters)	Grant/Reserves					200,000		200,000
Heat Exchange - Pool (10 yr cycle) (for 2029)	Reserves							54,000
Backwash tanks sand replacement - Pool (10 yr cycle) (for 2029)	Reserves							26,000
Basketball court with lights (Kiwanis)	Grant/Reserves							150,000
Indoor sports court (hard court)	Grant/Reserves							2,000,000
Indoor sports facility (artificial turf)	Grant/Reserves							12,000,000
Walking trails (new) (might be included in eco park)	Grant/Reserves							2,500,000
SUBTOTAL PARK DEPT.		1,852,500	3,325,000	6,415,000	635,000	625,000	0	16,930,000

Public Involvement

Parks and recreation are important to all segments of the community, so the City has used a variety of methods to reach out to the community:

1. Staff that works on parks and recreation provided a lot of input they have gathered over the years, as well as specifically asking questions of parks & rec users.
2. The Planning Commission has been very involved in the process and has engaged individual community members on various aspects of the plan.
3. The Planning Commission Chair presented at meetings of local service clubs, including Beta Club and Rotary Club.
4. The Park Plan update was on the Planning Commission agenda and discussed every month from July 2021 to Jan. 2022 (7 meetings).
5. Information about the Park Element/Park Plan update was posted on a Park Plan Update page on the City's website at <https://www.othellowa.gov/ParkPlanUpdate> with a link from the Long Range Planning page (<https://www.othellowa.gov/LongRangePlanning>).
6. The City convened a stakeholder meeting Dec. 3, 2021, which included the Council Parks & Rec Committee, Othello Planning Commissioners, Adams County Planning Commissioners, the Othello Housing Authority, the Port of Othello, the Othello Chamber of Commerce, Adams County Parks & Recreation District #1, staff, landowners, and residents. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss community priorities.
7. Several Planning Commissioners explained the Plan and their process so far to the Council Parks & Recreation Committee on Jan. 7, 2022.
8. Public hearings were held by the Planning Commission Jan. 18 and City Council Jan. 24, 2022.
9. City Council formally adopted the update Feb. 28, 2022.
10. As well as taking informal input throughout the process, the City mailed a short survey with all 2000+ utility bills Nov. 30, 2021 and publicized the online survey link multiple times on the City website, Facebook, and Instagram. In addition, paper copies (with survey link & QR code) were available at City Hall, Public Works, and Parks & Rec. Furthermore, staff attended the Miracle on Main Street/Holiday Parade and Festival Dec. 4, 2021, to engage the community on parks and take more survey input. We felt it was important that the survey be brief to encourage people to finish it, so the questions focused on the most important issues for the updated Parks Plan: Where is more investment needed in existing facilities, and what new facilities does the community want to see? We received 74 paper responses and 165 online responses, for a total of 239 responses, with 8 of those in Spanish. These results were used to determine priorities.

Survey Summary:

Existing Facilities		Percent
What do people want more of?	Soccer fields	44%
	Walking trails	44%
	Picnic shelters	42%
What do people think needs better quality?	Park restrooms	62%
	Basketball courts	47%
	Playgrounds	45%

Existing Facilities		Percent
What existing facilities are not needed?	Horseshoe pits	47%
	Handball	38%
What existing facilities are great the way they are?	Skate park	66%
	Baseball/softball	63%
	Tennis courts	51%

In regard to the facilities that need better quality, the City was already working toward these improvements even before the survey: Funding for Lions Park playground and basketball courts was obtained several years ago so these facilities will be completely rebuilt in Summer 2022, a park restroom replacement was in the adopted CFP for 2025, and funding was obtained in 2021 for a new trail across Lions Park to be completed in 2022. Based on the survey results, additional facilities and maintenance were added to the 6-Year CIP in the Park Plan, which will be used to amend the CFP that is part of the budget.

For new facilities, each respondent was limited to their top 3 choices, in order to develop priorities. Here is what was preferred, from most popular to least:

Rank	Potential New Facilities	Percent	In CFP
1	Farmers Market/Food Truck Court/Event Center	42%	2024
2	Indoor Sports Facility/Gym Space (for basketball, volleyball, etc.)	39%	Future
3 (tie)	Eco Park/Nature Park with wildlife and hiking trails	38%	2023
3 (tie)	Indoor Sports Facilities/Artificial Turf (for baseball, football, soccer, etc.)	38%	Future
5	Splash Pad	29%	2024
6	Outdoor Soccer Complex	27%	2022
7	Workout Stations/Adult Outdoor Fitness Equipment	21%	*
8	Stage at Lions Park	19.3%	2025
9	Futsal/ Soccer Court	18.8%	2024
10	Pickleball	8%	2023
11	Musical Playground	7%	*

** These items may be included in the Lions Park Playground Project (Summer 2022).*

There were also multiple write-in votes for Hockey/Street Hockey/Ice Rink (9), Indoor Pool (6), and Dog Park (5). For comparison, there were 15 votes for Musical Playground, so the write-in ideas should be explored at some point.

Based on this input, the CFP adopted Dec. 13, 2021 no longer matches the 6-Year CIP adopted with this Parks Element, so it will need to be amended to incorporate the community priorities that weren't addressed.