Sense of Place Clark County Youth Commission Policy Report to the Clark County Council June 2018

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Introduction



Who We Are

The Clark County Youth Commission is a youth-driven advisory board and leadership development program established by the Clark County Board of Commissioners in April 1998. Members, aged 11-19, aim to represent all the diverse youth living in Clark County.

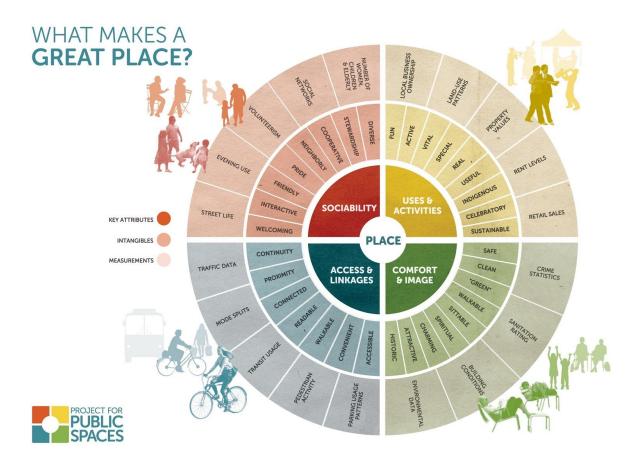
What We Do

Members provide a youth-oriented point of view to the work of the Clark County Councilors, county departments, and community organizations. The Youth Commission informs these groups about issues important to youth, makes suggestions on how to address these issues, and provides advice on how to build positive partnerships with youth.



Research-Based Recommendations

Placemaking Overview



Placemaking: placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value. More than just promoting better urban design, placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution.¹

www.pps.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Oct-2016-placemaking-booklet.pdf.

Hashemnezhad, Hashem, et al. "Sense of Place and Place Attachment." International Journal of Architecture and Urban Development, vol. 3, no. 1, Dec. 2015.

¹ "Placemaking." Project for Public Spaces, Oct. 2016.

www.academia.edu/24868072/Sense_of_Place_and_Place_Attachment.

Starter: Imagine a place you'd want to grow up and live in. Think of a place where you could follow your dreams. Imagine a place you'd like to call home. Describe your dream place.

Our dream place includes:

- Acceptance
- Bookstores and libraries
- Coffee shops
- Dog parks
- Empathy
- Historic sites
- Joy is spread
- Landscape: mountains, cliffs, rivers, lake shore, forests, light fog
- Local food options
- Museums

- Near the ocean
- Outdoor spaces
- Potential. Filled with possibility for things to happen
- Quiet and calm with ocean sounds and crickets
- Sense of community
- Small and local businesses
- Youth programs and retreat centers



Recommendation: More public spaces for youth to connect. A major part of youth development is social interactions. By increasing this (through having more public spaces), we can achieve a higher percentage of youth growth and development.

Ideas:

- Near public schools
- After-school groups
- Emphasizing welcomeness no matter your knowledge/skill level
- Murals
- Clubs
- Fair (mini)
- Farmers market (Saturday market)
- Mega/flea garage sale
- Aesthetic things
- Vending machines
- Elevators everywhere (awkward conversations meeting strangers)
- Random power outlets everywhere
- Sky spirals with power outlets and Ethernet cables at the top

- Coffee shop in the middle of blue space
- You can have somewhere to socialize or be alone, but being alone doesn't make you feel awkward
- Activities, icebreakers, art labs
- Clubs, groups with specific likes

Recommendation: Focus on finding what the population would like to see changed/added in the community and address audiences it would affect. Using different methods, find what would be most useful and appealing by conducting surveys and observing what the population prefers to see in a community. More accessibility in the community, creates a space that people want to live in. A community people want to be part of. Strategic placemaking for example, is targeted and goal-oriented which sustains focus in hopes of maximum achievements.

Recommendation: "Focus on making these green spaces more accessible for all ages, therefore more welcoming. For example, fields kept healthy, little parks for kids, ramp for wheelchairs, etc." –Kate, Aaron, Jatin

Recommendation: There may be opportunities to improve the physical and creative attributes of green spaces. These may include keeping the vegetation healthy, and emphasizing the extensiveness of the space as well as bright colors (often associated with happier times in tropical "paradises"). There should be a feeling of freedom, yet also one of security, a difficult balance to find. An example of this may be a long grassy field gated in. (We speak on green spaces because they are spaces we have familiarity with). We should keep the citizens in mind, since they are the the target audience. The spaces should be accessible to all kinds of people, from different lifestyles. However, we should make safety our top priority in the parks. The space should be a safe, welcoming environment for citizens to gather in. It should be rather quiet in green spaces to maintain the peace, but this doesn't matter so much in blue spaces. –Kate, Aaron, Jatin

Recommendation: Our idea was to evaluate the quality of places by looking at the key elements and surveying the community. –Samauri, Angela, Ian, Emily

- This can be used by evaluating the places we already have before improving and creating new community spaces.
- Use key elements listed below to evaluate places
- These details and points create more examples that show how important the different parts are to a community.
- The key elements of Quality Places are:²
 - Mixed uses
 - Quality public spaces

² "Placemaking." Project for Public Spaces, Oct. 2016.

www.pps.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Oct-2016-placemaking-booklet.pdf.

- Broadband-enabled
- Multiple transportation options
- Multiple housing options
- Preservation of historic structures
- Community heritage
- Arts, culture and creativity
- Recreation, and
- Green spaces.

General Placemaking Project Recommendations



After considerable research, the Youth Commission formed the following recommendations during a general meeting on April 19, 2018, for placemaking projects that can happen anywhere in any county.

Priority Placemaking Recommendations:

- 1. More well-known creative places
- 2. Art exhibits for the general public including three dimensional art and ceramics
- 3. Clark County Cultural Center
- 4. Sports venues for public use: basketball, football and tennis
- 5. Waterfront hangout places along the Columbia River

Complete Set of Recommendations:

Ideas are presented in alphabetical order and color-coded to the Youth Commissioners who developed/approved them.

Sherman, Kari, Kalyn, Charmony Ava, Symphony, Sophie, Mackenzie Wilson, Jatin, Tiaira, Angela Samauri, Amy, Ian, Drevon

- Aesthetics improved
- Aquarium in Clark County, incorporating underground design
- Art exhibits for the general public including three-dimensional art and ceramics

- Bookstore like Powells but with better parking
- Botanical gardens with butterfly zones
- Charging ports incorporated into public places (for cellphones and other electronics, like airports have)
- Clark County Cultural Center
- Coffee shops or booths incorporated into parks and other public spaces
- Coffee shops or carts added to nature areas
- Coffee shops that are youth-centric and have themes
- Community center for youth
 - Welcoming for all youth
 - Higher-scale Marshall Center
 - Café
 - Homework area
 - Arcade/games
- Community projects for all to get involved in
- Cons, like the Comic Con, brought to Clark County
- Develop an art district downtown Vancouver incorporating murals, statues, ceramic designs and more
- Dog show and other animal-related events
- Drive-in theater
- Fountains (like Portland) added all over as a placemaking strategy
- Free swimming lessons
- Gardens added all over as a placemaking strategy
- Green and blue spaces blended into all areas of the county
- Hobby areas
- Marble incorporated into urban design
- More accessible parking so we don't end up like downtown Portland
- More aesthetic paintings in public spaces
- More well-known creative places
- Murals
- Music space
- Public transit via water systems
- Safety nets on island
- Shopping center with antique shop/thrift center
- Sport venues for public use: basketball courts, football fields, tennis
- Sports programming that's more accessible
- Swimming areas for the public
- Swimming areas that are private and for rent
- Teenager-friendly restaurants. In downtown Vancouver you see bars, businesses, and more bars. Generally they all close early, too
- Trees added into urban planning design
- Waterfront hang-out places along the Columbia River

Community Identity through Art Overview

Recommendation: Public Art Trails³

We recommend that an art trail should be implemented into the Clark County community to help expose local artists, both adult and youth, as well as to bring more attention to our community from outsiders by drawing them in with such art. This would help to raise a good population because we would have people who care about the fine arts and their community involvement coming to Clark County.

In addition to this, we would be able to keep the community members we already have, because the art trail would be a connection to the community that they wouldn't want to leave, either because they were involved in the creation of it (which is why it is important to involve youth art in the trail), or because they feel an emotional attachment which they would want to share with others and their future friends and families. A unique trail like this would keep and bring people to Clark County because it would be something that you couldn't find anywhere else.

Idea Brainstorm:

- Contest
- Glass Paneling
- Go to schools, offer art
- Art around (flowers, garden)
- Natures plaques
- (not on native trails)

³ "Recipes for Building Community Identity." University of Utah, 2012.

https://partners.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2016/09/Community-Building-Recipe-Book2.pdf. "Roaring Twenties." A&E, History Channel,

www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties/videos/the-roaring-twenties.

Mizic, Jessie. How the Arts Build Community Identity and Pride. TAC Talks , Washington State University , http://www.digitalcommons.tacoma.uw.edu/tactalks/2014/spring/8/.

- Writing space for people to write or pinboard for people to put notes
- YC field trips to possible trails
- Interactive art pieces (kinda like kids' toys in doctors' offices)
- Everyone can use it!
- Community wall (flyers, add your own art)
- Contest at each school to have an art piece from each school in Clark County
- Focus on keeping quality of art (dry)
- Name it after someone, flower, place
- Art submission contest
- Glass frames for new art/acrylic
- UV protection on glass/acrylic to protect artwork
- Locks to protect them from theft
- Rotate artwork
- Monthly rotation with multiple parks
- Clark County Fair
 - \circ art show
 - \circ Winners
 - parks
 - Community parks
 - Neighborhood association, HOA
- Lewis and Clark as main art trail, 47 miles along each direction when complete
- Scavenger hunt for "art-ifacts" –Eddie
- Monthly art feature on county Facebook or social media
- Create art competitions to determine pieces to be shown
- Public graffiti wall/mural
- Incorporate the type of art to be in with the nature or include it
- Split sections of the trail into specific art genres
- Nature tunnels/bridges that incorporate galleries of art
- Community wall
- A gazebo full of art with walls of different materials, chalkboard, corkboard, etc. Benches, floral wall, fairy lights
- Poetry slams
- Choose one specific place to revitalize

Art & Identity Focus Group Discussion

On January 18, 2018 the Youth Commission held an internal focus group to further develop ways art can contribute to a sense of identity in Clark County.⁴

Question 1:

"The power of the arts is that it can help define a movement, brand a community and set it apart from others." Thinking about Clark County culture, identity or community, are there any aspects that could benefit from being more defined – set apart from other counties or other parts of the county?

Responses:

- "What sets apart other counties from us is being equal to everyone. Also, the cultures are different and at Clark County we have many people with cultures that live around us here. Art here helps a lot because it could represent something that nobody ever thought about." –Jatin
- "Graffiti, Fort Vancouver, Jazz festival." Anonymous
- "Vancouver is hub of something. It has an excitement factor." -Samauri
- "Things that define us in Clark County include our architecture, geography and how we encompass both rural and urban places and being close to Portland. Also, the nature like Columbia Gorge, technology in Clark County, farmers markets and local businesses." –Mackenzie
- "Nature defines us in Clark County." Samauri
- "Clark County is defined by a transition period. We are moving into a new age but also stuck because we have rural areas. Being in transition is part of who we are right now." –Samauri
 - "In any major location we could have a display board showing 'where we started' and 'where we are now.' This could help emphasize how we're in transition." -Eddie. "One stereotype surrounding Clark County is rain. We could use rain in art as part of our identity." -Eddie
- "'Art could make a movement in Clark County creating a sense of belonging. We could look at where we are now and make our identity defined so people think of things and say, 'Oh that's so Clark County.' Things like nature, architecture and places." –Valentina
 - "We don't have a strong, unique identifier. We need to build something special for us." -Eddie
 - "We should make a visual that reminds us who we are, something unique to us." –Valentina
 - "Something that has a Vancouver charm." –Sophie

⁴ "Roaring Twenties." A&E, History Channel, <u>www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties/videos/the-roaring-twenties</u>.

Mizic, Jessie. How the Arts Build Community Identity and Pride. TAC Talks, Washington State University, <u>http://www.digitalcommons.tacoma.uw.edu/tactalks/2014/spring/8</u>/.

- "Lots of our personality involves hiking. Hiking is one of the biggest attractions to the area. We could commission art along trails." –Ian
 - "We could create a trail that's specifically an 'art trail." –Tim
 - "There's a trail in La Center and part of it is covered with a wood arch/tunnel. Inside there is a bunch of flyers and events that are going on around La Center. We could do this except with art. We could make an art submission contest and people who win get their art placed in the trail." –Sophie
 - "I view parks as a small ecosystem. We could include facts about nature, weather, animals native to the area and events in history in the art." –Eddie
 - "The Casey Center has two trail loops with similar signs on it about the ecosystem. We could use this as a frame of reference." –Ian

Question 2:

"Arts can be used in communities to encourage healing and celebration." What is something in Clark County you wish was celebrated/celebrated more? How can art assist with this?

Responses:

- "Art is relaxing and helps culture grow." Michael
- "We could host some sort of art convention like at the Farmers Market." -Ian
- "We could make ballot box/suggestion box-type containers where people could post weekly submissions about what they appreciate about the community or ideas for improvement." -Eddie

Question 3:

What is one aspect of Clark County or life as a young person you'd like preserved in a collective memory?

Responses:

- Small town aspect of Clark County. Connection between people. –Valentina
- The charm. Small businesses and small schools. –Aaron
- The traditions, things like the Vancouver tree lighting ceremony. –Sophie
- Community events like around the holidays 5k running events. -Michael
- Small town vibe and traditions. Also, "We are naturey." -Eddie
- Events at Esther Short Park with artists, music and more. –Mackenzie
- How in tune with nature we are in the community. Every town/city has a park and it feels familiar. –Ian

Urban Planning Socratic Seminar Recommendations

On April 14, 2018, the Youth Commission held a Socratic Seminar to develop recommendations for urban planning and design. Reflecting on two academic research journals, they recommend the following for Clark County. Their recommendations have been paraphrased by Youth House staff who were taking notes and recording for them.⁵

- Build houses that are not "copied + pasted" or cookie-cutter
- Focus on architecture that has a sense of nostalgia and evokes emotional responses
- History boosts place attachment. Incorporate history into modern-day design
- Build parks in rural areas, too, because even though there is nature, you can't access it without a park
- Make parks that support free play and exploration. "When I was a child I would run all over everything. Sometimes it's just the feeling of being free that we need like when we were younger. Playgrounds can feel constrictive. Build better playhouses with ropes between them and netting, so people are kept safe as they explore."
- Use urban design and placemaking as a way to remind people they *belong*
- Placemaking doesn't need to be extravagant. "I lived in a log cabin with no electricity and had to make my own fun."
- Put more parks with forests near schools to boost place attachment
- Green spaces are important but also aim to have houses with personal space, like bigger yards when able or access to private personal green spaces
- Avoid gentrification when introducing green spaces to lower-income urban environments
- Some of the best places where many youth on the Youth Commission feel place attachment are where they can be alone. Incorporate public green and blue spaces that also offer opportunities for alone time
- Include public greenhouses that boost a sense of nostalgia by teaching young kids how to grow plants. For lower-income families, allow opportunities to grow plants and interact with the greenhouse at no cost. Include opportunities to eat what you've grown
- Lewisville Park is a model park in terms of blue and green spaces and it's not too far away. Keep this park in mind as an example for what youth are looking for.

Hashemnezhad, Hashem, et al. "Sense of Place and Place Attachment ." International Journal of Architecture and Urban Development, vol. 3, no. 1, Dec. 2015.

www.academia.edu/24868072/Sense_of_Place_and_Place_Attachment.

⁵ Wolch, Jennifer R., et al. "Urban Green Space, Public Health, and Environmental Justice: The Challenge of Making Cities 'Just Green Enough." Landscape and Urban Planning, vol. 125, 2014, pp. 234–244., doi:10.1016/j.landurbplan.2014.01.017. <u>http://ced.berkeley.edu/downloads/research/LUP.parks.pdf</u>



Blue and Green Spaces Overview

Blue space: an urban design term for visible water. Attractive blue spaces such as waterfront parks, harbors, ports, marinas, rivers, open air streams, canals, lakes, ponds and fountains are thought to improve quality of life.⁶

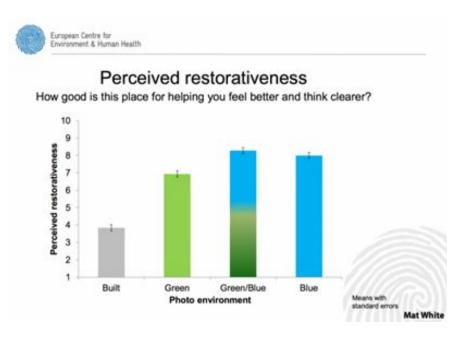
Green space: an area of grass, trees, or other vegetation set apart for recreational or aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban environment.

⁶ Roe, Jenny, and Caroline Brown. "Blue Health: Water, Health & Well-Being." The James Hotton Institute, Dec. 2012.

www.crew.ac.uk/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/publication/Blue%20 health%20 salutogenic%20 summary.pdf.

Townsend, Mardie, and Rona Weerasuriya. "Beyond Blue to Green: The Benefits of Contact with Nature." Deakin University Australia, Apr. 2010. <u>https://das.bluestaronline.com.au/api/prism/document?token=BL/0541</u>.

Wolch, Jennifer R., et al. "Urban Green Space, Public Health, and Environmental Justice: The Challenge of Making Cities 'Just Green Enough." Landscape and Urban Planning, vol. 125, 2014, pp. 234–244., doi:10.1016/j.landurbplan.2014.01.017. http://ced.berkeley.edu/downloads/research/LUP.parks.pdf



Recommendation: Create more blue spaces in Clark County. Parks, lakes, and other water features should be considered to improve citizens' mental health and sense of belonging. A focus on especially blue spaces is recommended, due to a majority of research revealing more of the general public would prefer them. The additions of these blue spaces would help increase tourism and make locations more inviting. As cities continue to expand, we need to take as many of these opportunities as possible to keep them prospering.

Recommendation: County government utilizing the available water/blue spaces in public development (housing) to generate revenue and increase public health. Bodies of water have proven to be the most appealing to citizens and work to improve the health of those around them. These areas provide citizens with visual charm and opportunities to pursue sustainable futures within their communities. When compared with green and urban spaces, blue spaces generally yield the same positives as the others, and could be beneficial additions to city development. In terms of environmental psychology, these spaces are healthier as well as attractive, and will draw more people to the county. They also have been proven to keep stress levels in check.

Recommendation"Because blue spaces are more preferred over green spaces, the Councilors should strive to create more blue spaces in Clark County." –Eddie, Austin, Ava, Charmony

- "Improve psychological state of citizens and improve mental health. More parks, lakes and water features should be built." –Eddie, Austin, Ava, Charmony
- "Research found that blue spaces are more preferred than green spaces." –Eddie, Austin, Ava, Charmony
- "The additions of water attractions in Clark County would increase tourism and make locations more inviting." –Sophie, Ian, Tim

- "Due to the increase of population there would be greater stress that can be easily released by visiting blue spaces." –Sophie, Ian, Tim
- "Cities around the world will continue to expand. If you want to remain as prosperous as possible then you will want to make every possible advantage available to them." –Timothy, Ian, Sophie

Recommendation: "County government utilizing the available water/blue spaces in public development (housing) to generate revenue and increase public health." –Samauri, Sherman, Amy

- "Blue spaces provide the citizens with better health (as referenced in Quote #2) and are the most appealing. With this aspect, the value of living areas with blue spaces would increase, creating more revenue." –Samauri, Sherman, Amy
- "Blue spaces provide citizens with visual appeal and sustainability." –Samauri, Sherman, Amy
- "When compared with green and urban spaces, blue spaces generally encompass the positives that green spaces provide and could be a beneficial addition to city development." –Samauri, Sherman, Amy
- "In terms of environmental psychology, these spaces are healthier and will attract more people to the county. They also have been proven to keep stress levels in check. Generate more revenue through 'green acts.' Visual appeal is also something to keep in mind." –Amy, Samauri, Sherman

Recommendation: "Combine urban and rural elements as the population increases." –Wilson, Valentina, Daniel

- "Increase in public health; benefit from new elements making city/town more enjoyable to live in." –Wilson, Valentina, Daniel
- "Possibly an economic benefit, from the 'vertical form." Wilson, Valentina, Daniel
- "Having available activity spaces that incorporate blue and green spaces for people of all ages." –Jatin, Drevon, Tiaira
- "Make urban areas more 'rural,' meaning that more rural elements are introduced into an urban setting. Add water elements and trees to create green and blue spaces." –Valentina, Wilson, Daniel

Recommendation: "County Councilors should strive to create more blue spaces in Clark County. More parks, lakes and water features should be built." –Eddie, Austin, Ava, Charmony

Some of the ideas we came up with for adding blue spaces include more simple things such as fountains and art pieces (more specifically artistic and plaza-style fountains, water art, fountains with murals inside, street side sink, water slides down tall buildings), adding mist sprayers to public places. There are also recommendations that would be more complicated to add on, like waterfront beaches, turn ditches into "splash makers", and public aquariums. We recommend making all these solutions easy to access and generally bring more attention to renovating already existing places instead of creating new ones. Pay attention to underrated or unnoticed places to attract more people to where they already belong.

Recommendation: Field visits: aquariums, Newport or local

We ended up with some ideas about aquariums, Newport or local, and we thought about adding aquariums in libraries/other public spaces, going to school trips to aquariums, activities and clubs, volunteer to clean and feed fish, saltwater (prettier). Also, for a committee to choose and care for fish (hire fish), Koi in fountains (no coin throw-ins though), more fish, fish sticks, and put eels in them.

Recommendation: "Focus on making these green spaces more accessible for all ages, therefore more welcoming. For example, fields kept healthy, little parks for kids, ramp for wheelchairs, etc." –Kate, Aaron, Jatin

- Wheelchair ramp
- Handicap button
- Allow for animals
- Kid-friendly activities (not necessarily playgrounds)
- More events
- Outdoor movies
- Physical map (like the mall)
- Publicize the app (signs)
- Alternatives for when it's raining
- Add sculptures
- Gardens (Japanese/rose/etc.)
- Ability for everybody to visit spaces
- Safe space for everyone
- Not far away
- No charge (low-income and more appealing)
- Know your audience (advertise to appeal to groups)
- Keeping areas safe and clean
- Creating activities in open spaces (concerts)
- Community greenhouses/gardens
- App that shows you blue/green spaces and notifies the user about local events there, also a reminder like to take a healthy break
- Lower parking fees
- Give people trees and force them to come to parks
- "hydra trees" –Ava
- Petting zoos
- Water parks

Social Equity and Park Access

On May 17, 2018, the Youth Commission held a focus group to develop recommendations for urban planning and equitable access to innovative and creatively designed parks. Their recommendations have been paraphrased by Youth House staff using notes provided by youth.

The Urban Green Space Paradox: is access to urban green space – and its health-promoting and/or protective effects – distributed in ways that disproportionately advantage or disadvantage people on the basis of race, ethnicity or class? Also see gentrification.⁷

Parks and Green Space Distribution

- They are at places where families and people gather together and some parks allow you to camp there
- They are most distributed in the south and by population
- They are kind of unevenly spread out but it's because of population
- Hockinson and other areas don't have a lot of parks at all to drive people there
- Trying to spread out parks and have events could be beneficial for utilization
- In areas of poverty, there is less access to parks

Steps Urban Planners Can Take

- Look at culture and at where they are developing and how to not price out the people living there
- Make note of how many people work within a mile of where they live so the park can benefit the people living there
- Plant trees on street sidewalks
- Have the community reach out and tell them not to remove or add a park
- Inform people about what they are doing and building by having regular reports
- Cleanup areas and where people live and get rid of hazardous waste
- Green courtyard ideas so it has a national appeal
- Turn alleyways into green infrastructures
- Build replicas of monuments and more
- Take into consideration the economic state of the area as well as considering the culture

⁷ The following sources were reviewed during the park recommendation process:

Wolch, Jennifer R., et al. "Urban Green Space, Public Health, and Environmental Justice: The Challenge of Making Cities 'Just Green Enough." *Landscape and Urban Planning*, vol. 125, 2014, pp. 234–244., doi:10.1016/j.landurbplan.2014.01.017. <u>http://ced.berkeley.edu/downloads/research/LUP.parks.pdf</u>

Jennings, Viniece, et al. "Advancing Sustainability through Urban Green Space: Cultural Ecosystem Services, Equity, and Social Determinants of Health." *Advances in Pediatrics.*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, Feb. 2016, <u>www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4772216/</u>.

- The county and citizens should work together and finance urban areas for green areas. Get feedback from the community
- Find more creative ways for neighborhood parks to be designed for the people, by the people, so it feels more welcome and has more appeal or value
- Turn brownfields or old factories into parks
- Protect gardens for elderly people and have specific gardens for assisted living housing near bus stops

Ideal Parks Visioning

- Have playgrounds
- Have vibrant colors, plywood, natural materials and incorporate ropes
- Exotic and are high in elevation
- Include giant slides, trees, boardwalks and more for adults
- Build mazes, nets and high-elevation features
- Playgrounds should feel like art exhibits or modern art
- Build an interactive forest path that is elevated (walk along the treetops)
- Put net things inside a library to read while relaxing on a net
- Vancouver is very artistic. Have an artist design a park
- There are minimal parks that focus on nature. Incorporate more nature in design
- Build parks to feel like mini amusement parks

Lewis and Clark Greenway Trail Background



July 2017- "At the Parks Foundation of Clark County we are excited about the potential the Lewis and Clark Greenway Trail brings to our county! It will provide many benefits of regional trails, such as better public access to the Columbia River, ecotourism and economic development, and will enhance public health. The most exciting aspect of this effort is the wide regional support and cooperation this project is experiencing. The Lewis and Clark Greenway Trail brings together the County's three port districts, six cities, several nonprofit organizations, and many private organizations.

The trail will span an estimated 46 miles, including: the passing of several historic markers dedicated to the Corps of Discovery (a unit of the U.S. army instrumental in the Lewis and Clark expeditions); a connection between neighborhoods, employment centers, and schools in Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, and Multnomah County; joining five premier parks and trails in Clark County for pedestrians and bicyclists using 12.4 miles of existing trail; and providing equestrian access (traveling outside of the City of Vancouver limits)."

For more information visit:

- 1. <u>http://www.parksfoundation.us/lewis-and-clark-greenway-trail-a-regional-collabo</u> <u>ration</u>
- 2. <u>https://www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public_works/meeting/11387/ccpros_kelly-pab_3-27-15.pdf</u>
- 3. <u>http://www.theintertwine.org/sites/default/files/Intertwine_Bi-StateTrailsPlan.pd</u> f

Lewis and Clark Greenway Trail Recommendations by City

During the Youth Commission Winter Retreat, members reviewed packets of research on local history and culture of each city in Clark County that touches the trail. The recommendations to follow include ways to improve the trail as well as recommendations specific to the city in question.⁸

Washougal

Developed by Eddie, Mackenzie, Tim and Ian.

Summary:

The Washougal area may benefit from viewpoints focusing on seeing the untouched beauty of nature, cultural festivals or historical activities, panels and signs to give important information while on the trail, strategic placing of services (e.g. outhouses), and annual events and community centers to draw people towards this section of the trail.

Specific Recommendations:

Infrastructure

- Advertising the trail as century trail if add 4 miles more
- More publicity on trail
- Clear pathway on trail
- More park development sights to see, like statues
- Perhaps a part of the trail that branches off and takes people to a viewpoint where there is no human development, only nature, so that people can see the untouched beauty of nature
- At stops along the trail, have donation boxes with posters that tell of ideas we have on improving the county
- More visitor attractions

History

- Have tour guides and displays for people to watch or take part in
- Kiosks with QR codes for an electronic stamp book/game where they are trying to get to each location
- Have activities where people can do what the early settlers had to endure and then talk about some of their stories

⁸ Caldbick, John. "Camas - Thumbnail History." History Link, <u>www.historylink.org/File/9290</u>. Caldbick, John. "Ridgefield - Thumbnail History." History Link, <u>www.historylink.org/File/9281</u>. Caldbick, John. "Washougal - Thumbnail History." History Link, <u>www.historylink.org/File/9312</u>.

Jollota , Pat. "Vancouver - Thumbnail History." History Link, <u>www.historylink.org/File/9101</u>.

- Make interesting and engaging videos of some of the stories
- Speakers that talk about history
- Readable stands at parks describing history
- Annual cloth-making competition in honor of the Woolen Mill's impact on Washougal's growth
- Museum of Washougal history
- Host cultural festivals that celebrate the town's heritage and achievements and unite citizens. This is a proven placemaking tactic

Accessibility

- Information panels
- Share different difficulty markings along the trail
- Signs have other common languages
- More natural areas have signs that promote less phone use.

Comfort

- Pit stops away from neighborhoods
- At pit stops, have food options
- Outhouses every 6 miles or so along the trail so that people won't feel a need to find a tree or bush (people walk 2-6 mph for hiking, takes them 1-3 hours between stops)

Technology

- Kiosk that takes pictures for you, free email, small fee to print, picture-taking kiosk; printing cost \$, email free
- App providing history

Increase Activity

- Wildlife watch
- Annual events
- Community center
- Small side businesses
- Countywide events at Washougal
- Birding guidebook plus scavenger hunt (seasonal/year-round with prizes) to increase knowledge of wildlife (either on the trail or with NRW)
- Incorporate stamping stations along the trail so people will want to see various parts of it

Camas

Developed by Clara, Valentina, Angela and Ben.

Summary:

Camas may benefit from trash and recycling bins to encourage preservation of green and blue spaces, interesting facts specific to the city posted for people to see, accessibility to people with disabilities, the addition of a visitor center/community center, and partnerships with local businesses to increase activity and revenue on this area of the trail.

Specific Recommendations:

Infrastructure

- Plaques of information about foliage on trail
- Improve experiences by having restaurant and gift shop or hotel for people
- Museum of history of the trail and its creation
- Have some sort of souvenir shop kind of like Multnomah Falls
- Honor green and blue spaces by having trash/recycling bins throughout the trail

History

- Facts about the city on signs about historical things that occurred there
- Tours for visitors of the city to see the history

Accessibility

- Information/visitors' desk so they can find certain places
- Make sure areas are wheelchair-accessible and/or have alternate route for people to go, instead of stairs
- Keep the parks in good condition so it attracts more people
- Have information guides/people
- Create trails that are all/equal access. Anyone is able to go on these trails so more experience can be shared.

Technology

- "Discovery Points." In collaboration of an app, people who find these points along the trail are able to learn more about what is being highlighted
- Make an app that could track where you've been and give you "points" or something so people want to experience more of the trail.
- Maybe have a discount at local places if you post photos on Instagram or something like that
- Knowledge can be increased by visitor center
- Library on green and blue spaces in the area
- Social media pages on history events in the city

Increase Activity

- To increase revenue you could have gift shops or partner with local businesses to create events that can bring in money for Clark County
- To honor people, you could give out awards for people who have done a certain amount of the trail so it motivates them to do more. You could use an app or a brochure that would be stamped at certain locations
- Movies in the park with concessions on sale
- Scavenger hunts for kids to get prizes
- Discounts on small businesses in the areas so they can get more customers
- Create lasting partnerships by creating deals/discounts for going to local shops
- Make the activities family-friendly
- Put little informational things in front of important places such as the mill and maybe make an app so people can check off where they have been and give them info about places they are at

Vancouver

Developed by Sophie, Samauri, Jatin and Ava.

Summary:

We recommend that the Vancouver Lewis and Clark Trail have incorporated many more modern improvements, such as interactive maps/info/access to information; also scavenger hunts/apps. The Youth Commission also recommends adding more cleaner, more accessible public restrooms, more ramps for easy access, and the potential tours/runs/hiking. This would benefit the community by making parks more appealing.

Specific Recommendations:

Infrastructure

- Bathrooms along trails would be <u>wonderful</u>.
- Familiarity with those who work there
- Rest areas
- Working fountains (clean water)
- Also signage that says how many miles until completion or miles already completed could give a sense of accomplishment

History

- Historic signage, possibly statues or art displays of past historic events
- Signposts saying/giving details about historical events throughout Vancouver like at Esther Short
- Tour of larger areas of historical landmarks
- Informational opportunities that are also entertaining: songs, cartoons, animations, comedy, performances, etc.
- We can information about how the trail changed the environment

Accessibility

- ADA ramps, access
- Clear directions and signals on signs
- Phone applications
- Flexibility for transportation to shuttle people to site to increase access/utilization
- Information translated into multiple languages
- More multilingual guides!
- Ramps for wheelchairs, smooth, even trails with minimal bumps
- Little to no entrance fee
- Exclude the darker parts of the history for younger children, but allow access to those who want it
- Hold larger, public events at more green and blue spaces
- Hold more opportunities for people to visit, like school field trips
- Allow more info pertaining to the parks

- Have buses/vehicles that people can take specifically to/from parks
- Night accessibility

Comfort

- Year-long bathrooms
- Signs giving info about historical events
- Signs giving info regarding flora/fauna
- Clear pathways
- Animal accessible areas
- Places to read/relax
- <u>CLEAN</u> bathrooms with at least sink, soap and mirror

Technology

- Have an app that can check off trails/landmarks completed so you could map out smaller sections of the overall trail
- Virtual land maps and informational audio tours
- Technology like visual could honor green and blue spaces by giving more information about blue/green spaces

Increase Activity

- Possibly include scavenger hunts or a prize for the first few to complete every month
- This can improve people's experiences if we have something for people to interact with for the trail
- Bathrooms, hand sanitizer, soap
- Distance marker
- Organized learning (clock tower Esther Short)
- Immersion. Most people have phones. Feasible.
- Specialized informational settings (catered to certain people)
- Mass learning
- Hiking expeditions
- Provide tours
- Marathon routes, scavenger hunts for children/adults

Vancouver Lake Regional Park

- Honoring green and blue spaces
 - This provides or honors our city by blue and green spaces. Blue space is provided here by the lake where different kinds of fish are in the water and you can also swim in the lake. Green space is provided in the Vancouver Lake Regional Park where there is at 1.06 miles of asphalt path and 0.7 miles of gravel/dirt path and you can explore it. You can also see Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams, and Mt. St. Helens on clear day, but not all parks/lakes have this.
 - This improves people's experiences with the green and blue spaces because not every city has this and when you come to this, you can feel the green space (like the trees, air, ground, etc.). This can be good for your health but also relieve stress and other thoughts.

• Vancouver Lake Regional Park will increase people's knowledge for green and blue spaces because not everyone knows the benefit for being around green and blue spaces.

Ridgefield

Developed by Drevon, Kalyn, Sherman and Simon.

Summary:

We recommend that the Ridgefield site be more developed in the infrastructure, accessibility, technology, and activity areas.

The things to add in infrastructure may include adding bathroom and water stations along trails, incorporation of local artists, donation centers to help with the trail. Also opening native plankhouses to show the history of the people who lived in this area before us in a more modern way, maybe to reconnect with friends or just be of nature.

To better accessibility, adding audio guides along the path to describe what the historic/descriptive signs say to those that may be blind or do not understand English, or having ramps and smoother walking paths.

The bettering of technology can be incorporated in maybe having a website for the trail, to let people know what is happening with it, if there are events, also an online history tour and also the ability to have Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge workers create an Instagram account to show areas inaccessible to the public in pictures.

The increase of activities can be done by having scavenger hunts, team building at the Plankhouse for a retreat, give people in the community an opportunity to volunteer/see behind the scenes at the refuge.

Specific Recommendations:

Infrastructure

- Have bathroom/water stations every so often.
- Incorporate local artist works along the trail
- Donation jars, buy things to help the trail out
- Open a plankhouse for motel like use that allows you to live as the natives once did. Could be used to reconnect with yourself, nature, friend/partner, etc.
- Greenery in city fountain
- Activities include sections of the trail that depict Lewis and Clark's journey through the trail (example: create bronze/metal statues of Lewis and Clark interacting with the local Indians such as at Ridgefield, Vancouver, etc.

History

- Along the trail, have areas with writing that honor the wildlife around that "area" and also fill your brain with knowledge of history/facts.
- Build a statue of a family of Cathlapotle people
- Memoir memorial 3 part
- Signs talking about the history of where you are on the trail

Accessibility

- Sell audio guides to listen to along the trail
- Running options
- Plankhouse in city not in middle of nowhere

Technology

- The trail can create a website or social media pages where people can look at pics/videos of the trail
- Incorporate charging stations at benches for cell phones and other devices.
 - \$ could use a system that charges a price for an amount of time the charging station can be used
- Online tour of history interactive
- Live stream of different sections
- Have workers at the Ridgefield refuge create an Instagram account to share what's in the areas inaccessible to the public.

Increase Activity

- Scavenger hunt of animals (not disturbing)
- Team building Plank House retreat
- Games/scavenger hunts along the trail that people can come to that have to learn about history
- Give opportunities to people in the community to volunteer/see the behind the scenes at the refuge

The Lewis and Clark Greenway Trail

Summary:

We would like to include more rural and natural areas rather than urban. Focusing more on culturally significant spaces over commercialized areas.

Specific Recommendations:

Infrastructure

- Rural/natural areas
- Lewis and Clark/Native American statues. Add at least one statue per city.
- Incorporate sculptures and art
- Donation box
- Lookout points with binoculars (like Vista House in Portland, OR) read about what you're looking at
- Gift shop, restaurant, maybe hotel
- One iconic landmark

History

- Hold event in a local park that highlights history and characteristic of the town. Have local businesses show up, music performing, and activities that relate to what has shaped the town
- Set historical sites (inclusive of amenities): a place for people to learn about the place but also enjoy it from another point of view (es. Set historical house, sit in living room, take it in)
- Add to the Clark County Go mobile app for the trail: (1) have audio information, (2) historical things, local businesses, green and blue spaces, (3) finding what to do in a town
- Label history of flowers

Accessibility

- Charging station
- Information panels

Comfort

- Have refuge points for people who are hiking the trail yet need a place to sleep for the night. The hikers would need to bring their own bedding and gear. For a low price, the individual can rent out a bed space for the night along with access to restroom and breakfast (sometimes offered at specific refuges)
- Pit stops

Technology

- Kiosks with QR codes that would pull up information about the portion of the trail on your phone
- Honor trail by having an audio guide similar to museums
- Interactive app
- Live stream
- Instagram account
- App just for this trail and checkpoints

Increase Activity

- Improve experiences by making it more fun and rewarding people
- Have written up sections with each part of the trail
- Scavenger hunt/race event
- Connecting parks that are already established so people will be more inclined to go on the trail
- Connect small businesses, discounts
- Scavenger hunt for kids to get prizes (with points and get discount)
- Halloween activities

Camp Bonneville Reuse Plan

Background

Camp Bonneville was established in 1909 as a military training camp, serving that purpose until 1995. Clark County is working to clean up the site and transform it into a regional park.

The Youth Commission seeks to provide youth voice in the planning and implementation of this cleanup project. They have been asked to generate recommendations on how



the site should be used, once open to the public. For more information visit <u>https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/camp-bonneville</u>.

Recommendations for Park Design

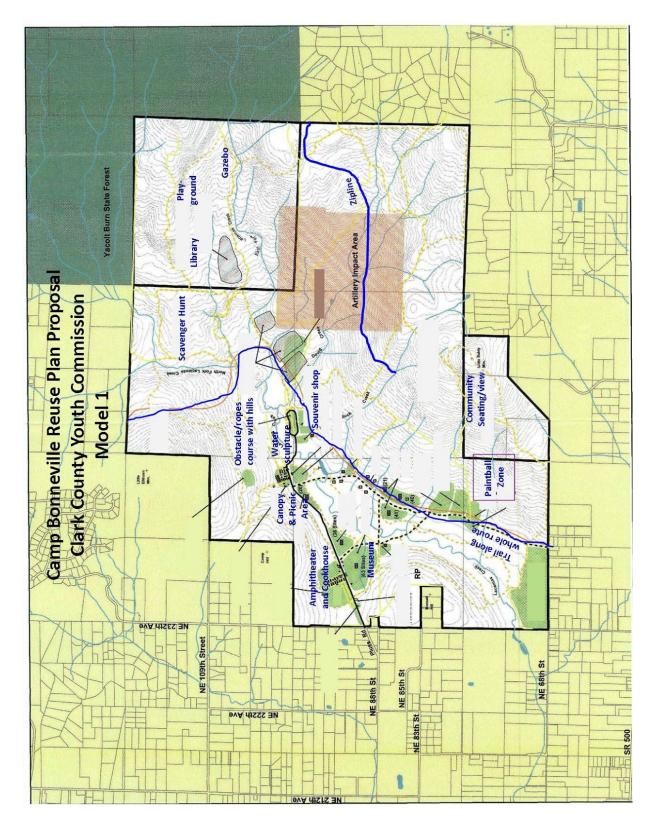
The recommendations in this section were generated during a Youth Commission meeting on May 5, 2018.⁹



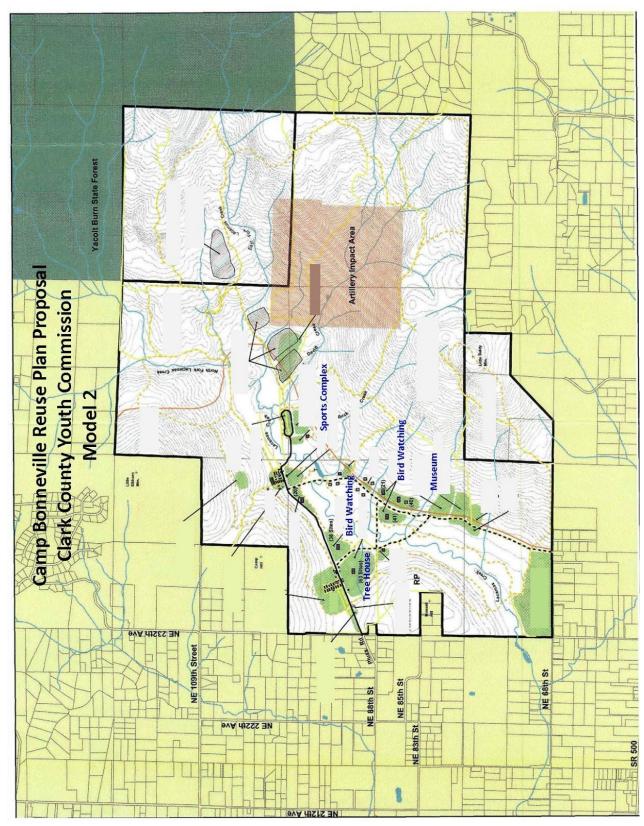
⁹ The following sources were reviewed during the park recommendation process: "Camp Bonneville: News & Information." Clark County, WA, Mar. 2016. www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/dept/files/public-works/Camp%20Bonneville/2016-03_Camp_ Bonneville_%20mailer.pdf. "Camp Bonneville Reuse Plan." Camp Bonneville Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA), Nov. 2005.

www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/dept/files/public-works/Camp%20Bonneville/CampBonnevilleR euseFinalupdate3-19-06.pdf.

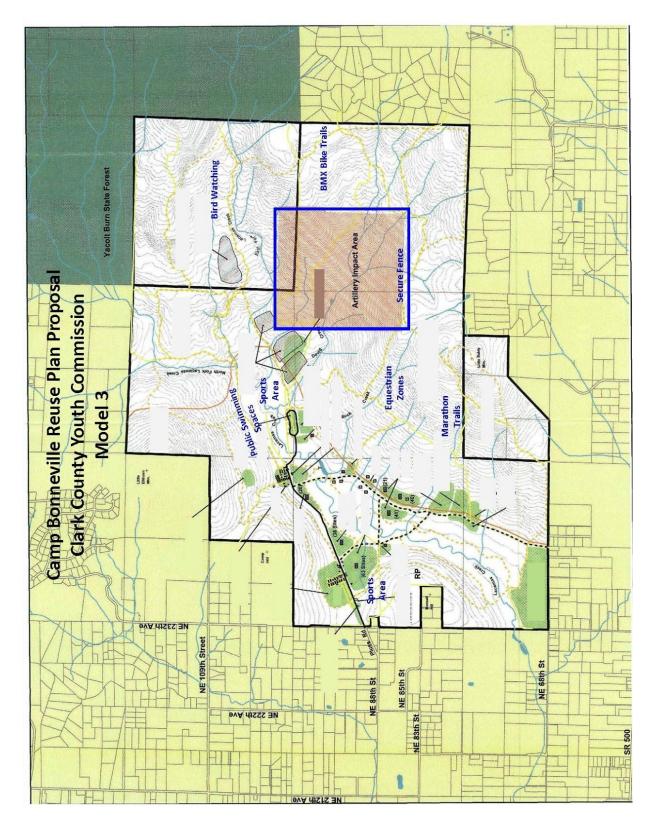
Clara, Ian, Mackenzie, Valentina



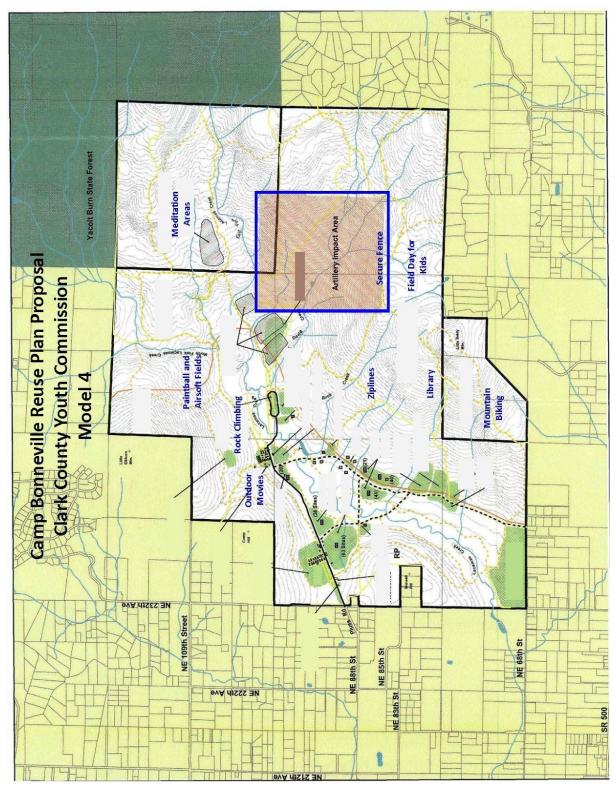
Samauri, Eddie, Jatin, Drevon



Sophie, Wilson, Ava, Sherman



Kalyn, Emily, Austin, Aaron



Reuse Priorities for Youth

Priority Reuse Recommendations:

- 1. Amphitheater for community events
- 2. Airsoft gun fields
- 3. Annual holiday events like a haunted house or an Easter egg hunt
- 4. Festivals including Earth Day, fairs, field days for kids and an annual marathon commemorating the reopening of Camp Bonneville

Complete Set of Recommendations:

Ideas are presented in alphabetical order and color coded to the Youth Commissioners who developed/approved them.

Sophie, Wilson, Ava, Sherman Samauri, Eddie, Jatin, Drevon Clara, Ian, Mackenzie, Valentina Kalyn, Emily, Austin, Aaron

- Airsoft gun fields
- Amphitheater for community events
- Anniversary celebration something to commemorate reopening
- Annual holiday events, such as a haunted house
- Athletic fields/areas and equipment rental
- Bird stations and birdwatching zones
- Communal seating area
- Constant admission (park always open)
- Cookhouse
- Fence around artillery impact area
- Festivals:
 - Earth Day
 - Annual marathon around park to commemorate reopening
 - Fairs
 - Field day for kids
- Food trucks
- Gazebo area
- Horseback riding
- Library
- Meditation spaces
- Motocross/BMX trails
- Mountain biking
- Museum: historical information about Clark County including native and other cultural backgrounds/artifacts

- Obstacle courses/ropes or skills course
- Outdoor movie viewing area
- Outdoor school zones
- Outdoor survival classes
- Paintball field
- Picnic tables/canopy area
- Playground
- Recreational activities space
- Rock climbing
- Souvenir shop
- Sports complex
- Swimming area
- Tire flipping and workout zone
- Trail around/throughout the entire park
- Various hiking trails
- Water features incorporated throughout entire park
- Ziplines

Thank you for reading our report.



Terminology

Blue space: an urban design term for visible water. Attractive blue spaces such as waterfront parks, harbors, ports, marinas, rivers, open-air streams, canals, lakes, ponds and fountains are thought to improve quality of life.

Built space: an urban design term describing a space containing mainly human-made materials like concrete, brick or wood buildings. A space devoid of natural elements like water and plants.

Camp Bonneville: a former U.S. Army base, consists of 3,840 acres in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, about seven miles north of the Columbia River. The property is largely undeveloped, and more than half of its six square miles are forested. The base was established in 1909 as a drill field and rifle range for Vancouver Barracks. Various branches of the military used the property for training until the federal government decided to close it in 1995. Clark County accepted ownership of Camp Bonneville in 2011 after the U.S. Army agreed to provide additional funding to clean up the property, with the understanding that more federal money will be needed to complete all work.

Charrette: (SHə¹ret) a meeting in which all stakeholders in a project attempt to resolve conflicts and map solutions.

City Planning: strategy or control of construction, growth and city development.

Community Identity: the feeling of fellowship with others, other than a physical location like a city or area, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals.

Gentrification: a process of transforming older and typically low-income or industrial areas of existing cities which can displace lower-income people and minorities.

Green space: an area of grass, trees, or other vegetation set apart for recreational or aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban environment.

Lewis and Clark Greenway Trail: a project in development, aiming to connect 49 miles of new and existing trails to create a regional trail spanning across Clark County from Woodland, WA to Ridgefield, WA.

Non-place: a place devoid of identity. A result of regenerating a place without considering cultural aspects.

Park Impact Fee districts (PIF districts): districts in which fees are assessed on construction of new residential housing to help pay for park acquisition and development. The program establishes level-of-service standards for urban parks, including neighborhood parks, community parks and urban open space. PIFs are collected on residential development to serve future residents, as part of the general philosophy that growth should pay for growth. PIFs are calculated, collected and spent in 10 different park

districts. Since the program's inception, PIFs have enabled the acquisition and development of hundreds of acres of parks and natural areas.

Place Attachment: the development of an effective bond or link between people or individuals and specific places.

Place Dependence: the importance of place in providing features and conditions that support specific goals and desired activities.

Placemaking: placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value. More than just promoting better urban design, placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution.

- **Strategic Placemaking:** Strategic Placemaking aims to create Quality Places that are uniquely attractive to talented workers so that they want to be there and live there, and, by so doing, create the circumstances for substantial job creation and income growth by attracting businesses that are looking for concentrations of talented workers.
- **Creative Placemaking:** in Creative Placemaking, partners from public, private, non-profit, and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired.
- **Tactical Placemaking:** Tactical Placemaking is the process of creating Quality Places that uses a deliberate, often phased/slow-over-time approach to change that begins with a short-term commitment and realistic expectations that can start quickly (and often at low cost). It targets public spaces at low risk, with possibly high rewards.

Quality Places: quality places meet or exceed criteria including the following key elements:

- Mixed uses
- Broadband/Wifi-enabled
- Multiple transportation options
- Multiple housing option
- Preservation of historic structures
- Community heritage
- Arts, culture and creativity
- Recreation
- Green & blue spaces

Rootedness: sense of belonging to a place.

Sense of place: (1st definition) either the intrinsic character of a place, or the meaning people give to it, but, more often, a mixture of both. Some places are distinctive through their physical appearance, while others have value attached to them. Less striking places have meaning and value attached to them because they are "home," and it is argued that attachment to a place increases with the distinctiveness of that place. Planners use this

argument by consciously creating or preserving memorable and singular structures to make a space distinctively different. (2nd definition) To some, it is a characteristic that some geographic places have and some do not, while to others it is a feeling or perception held by people (not by the place itself). It is often used in relation to those characteristics that make a place special or unique, as well as to those that foster a sense of authentic human attachment and belonging.

Topophilia: an effective and strong bond between people and place or environment i.e. strong place attachment applying to species as a whole, groups of people or individual experiences.

Trails:

- **Community Trail:** these trails connect popular community hubs between adjacent neighborhoods/districts such as parks, shopping, educational facilities and transportation. They provide both recreation and transportation functions.
- **Neighborhood Trail**: these trails offer quick links to important local features like parks, schools, community centers or other popular destinations, all within a single neighborhood or district.
- **Regional Trail:** these trails are long and multi-jurisdictional, connecting many different sectors of a single region to the area's popular features or destinations.

Unexploded Ordnance (UO): explosive weapons (bombs, shells, grenades, landmines, naval mines, cluster munition, etc.) that did not explode when they were employed and still pose a risk of detonation, sometimes many decades after they were used or discarded

Urban: applying to or in relation to a city or town.

Urban Green Space Paradox: is access to urban green space – and its health-promoting and/or protective effects – distributed in ways that disproportionately advantage or disadvantage people on the basis of race, ethnicity or class? Also see gentrification.

Urbanization: a noticeable yet gradual increase in concentration of people living in city and urbanized environments, as opposed to more rural or natural lands.

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