

## Park Standards & Performance

The parkland managed by Vancouver-Clark parks & Recreation is categorized into two systems: Urban Parks and Regional Parks. Each offers a slightly different experience.

The Urban Park system consists of urban-level parks within the Vancouver urban growth boundary. These properties include neighborhood parks (3-5 acres in size), community parks (15-100 acres in size), and open space (i.e., forested areas, wetlands). Developed park sites within the Urban system offer space for active and intensive recreation, including sports fields, play equipment, and ball courts.

The Regional Park system consists primarily of conservation and habitat properties countywide. The system include regional parks (i.e., Lewisville, Lacamas Lake), special facilities (i.e., Harmony Sports Complex), and greenway corridors (i.e., E Fork Lewis River, Salmon Creek).

The department's ability to provide adequate open space and recreation opportunities to residents of the county is, in part, measured against adopted park standards for each system. Here's how we measure up:

### **Urban Park System:**

Acquisition standard: 6 acres / 1000 people  
Population\* (2000): 251,348  
Acres needed to meet standard: 1,508 ac  
Current Acreage: 1,526 ac  
Current Surplus / (Deficit): 18 ac  
Development standard: 4.25 acres / 1000 people  
Population\* (2000): 251,348  
Acres needed to meet standard: 1,068 ac  
Current Acreage: 653 ac  
Current Surplus / (Deficit): (415) ac

*\*Note: Population for Vancouver urban area only.*

### **Regional Park System:**

Acquisition standard: 10 acres / 1000 people  
Population (2000): 340,011  
Acres needed to meet standard: 3,400 ac  
Current Acreage: 2,300 ac  
Current Surplus / (Deficit): (1,100) ac  
Development standard: 18% of total site  
Acres needed to meet standard: 612 ac  
Current Acreage: 417 ac  
Current Surplus / (Deficit): (195) ac

Refer to [park acquisition](#) and [development](#) programs for additional information.

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## Property Acquisition Program

In order to keep pace with rapid growth in the county, Parks & Recreation has an aggressive property acquisition program in place. By purchasing property today, we are securing open space and recreation opportunities for our grandchildren. Since 1997, the department has acquired 1,454 acres throughout the county. If you know of or own property that would be a valuable addition to the park system, please contact us at 360-619-1116.

Acquisitions are funded primarily through Park Impact Fees, Conservation Futures, grants, and donations. Since 1997, the department has received over \$15,543,000 in grants and donations for property acquisitions.

The Board of Clark County Commissioners adopted the [Conservation Futures](#) levy in October 1985. Conservation Futures funds are based on property tax revenues and may be used for acquisition purposes only. Funds may be used to acquire interest in open space, farm, and timber lands.

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are development fees charged in the Vancouver urban area to new housing units to provide for new parks in developing neighborhoods. PIFs provide dedicated funds to buy and develop park sites. To date, 55 new park sites have been acquired with PIFs since 1996. [Click here](#) to see a map of the sites.