PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT

CHAPTER 6

INTRODUCTION
This Element, in conjunction with Table 9.0 of the Capital Facilities Element, Plan Policy, and relevant background information in the various other Comprehensive Plan Elements, is the functional equivalent of a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan for Benton County.

This Element provides the framework that will help guide future decisions of the Benton County Park Board on matters related to parks and recreation facilities needs.

One of the main responsibilities of the Benton County Parks Board is to provide long-range leadership, goals and policies for the sound development and operation of Benton County Parks. This responsibility is met primarily through the development of a long-range comprehensive parks and recreation plan. This Element is the long-range policy document for Benton County.

Historically, the County’s Parks and Recreation Plan has been a separate document from the Benton County Comprehensive Plan. However, the 1991 legislative changes to Washington State Planning Law, (i.e., GMA), though not requiring the integration of the Parks and Recreation Plan with the County Comprehensive Plan, do make it logical to integrate the two into a single document, as it is done herein.

This Plan Element applies to a twenty year planning horizon, with major review for possible revisions occurring every five years as part of the overall review of its parent document.

BACKGROUND OF THIS PLAN ELEMENT
The lineage of this Park and Recreation Element, as well as the information and capital projects shown in Table 9.0 of Chapter 9, begins with the 1977 Benton County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, which was superseded by the 1982 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, for which an "Update" was adopted in 1990.

The 1982 Comprehensive Plan was truly comprehensive, it was selected for an award by the Washington State Association of Planners. It departed from the 1977 Plan in that while the earlier Plan covered only parks and park facilities within the unincorporated areas of the county, the 1982 plan inventoried and addressed parkland and resources in all county government jurisdictions including school districts.

The 1990 update refocused on only county facilities, which is also the focus of this Element, except for specific goals and policies relating to the integration of existing and planned non-motorized trails, and Greenways across all jurisdictional boundaries. The intent here is to create a countywide recreational trail system connecting the major parks and facilities, and rural and urban community centers of all jurisdictions.

With the exception of minor changes related to updating information, and
a significant new focus on the county's role as a regional park facilities provider, the goals, policies, and textual substance within this Element, are essentially those which were adopted in the 1990 update of the 1982 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan.

Responsibility For Implementing The Provisions Of This Element
Unlike other Plan Elements in this document, this Element contains goals, objectives, and actions outside of those in Chapter 3, which is where all the Goals and Policies for other Plan Elements reside. The reason for this is that the responsibility for policy making, and decisions relating to the implementation of this Element, once it is adopted by the Board of County Commissioners as a part of the Comprehensive Plan, lies principally with the Benton County Park Board rather than the Board of County Commissioners.

The Park Board's public process and knowledge is the origin of the goals and objectives within this Element. Therefore, it is appropriate that goals and objectives specific to recreational facilities identified in this Element be separate from those in Chapter 3, which are the sole province of the Board of County Commissioners.

Park Planning, Management and Maintenance
Park maintenance is the responsibility of the County Facilities and Parks Department. Park planning, capital facilities, and operations and maintenance are overseen by the Director of the Facilities and Park Department, who provides administrative support to the seven member Benton County Parks and Recreation Board which advises the Benton County Board of Commissioners.

After coordination with appropriate county departments, the Park Board submits its planning and capital projects to the County Board of Commissioners for adoption. Park budgets are the province of the Board of Commissioners.

State Requirements for Recreation Planning
In 1964 the Marine Recreation Land act (R.C.W. 43.99) created the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (I.A.C.). This act designated the I.A.C. as the administering agency for a grant-in-aid program made available to state and local agencies. The name of the Agency was changed to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) in 2007.

Eligibility for attaining funds requested through the R.C.O. is contingent upon the requesting agency's completion and adoption of a comprehensive parks and recreation plan. This plan must contain a minimum of the required elements and be filed with the R.C.O. in Olympia. Once an agency has complied with the requirements set by the R.C.O. for parks and recreation comprehensive plans, that agency becomes eligible to apply for funding assistance from the state for a five-year period.

Goals, Objectives, Actions
Following are Goals, Objectives, and Actions to guide implementation of this Element. Where an "action" is shown, if capital expenditures are
necessary to carry it out, the expenditure will be shown in Table 9.0 of Capital Facilities Element, Chapter 9. Where county resources for other than capital expenditures are necessary to forward an action, the resources must be allocated in the appropriate department(s) annual budgets.

Chapter Nine also contains a discussion of possible funding sources for parks and recreational improvements page 5, and a rough prioritization of capital project expenditures related to "actions."

**GOAL 1:** Provide the people of Benton County with park facilities adequate to meet present and future needs within a well-managed park system.

Action: Develop Horn Rapids Park Master Plan (see Plan Map, Appendix 6-1);
Action: Consider incorporation of Tapteal concepts for Horn Rapids Park into the Horn Rapids Park Master plan.

**Objective 1:** Develop a park in the Benton City-Prosser area.

**Objective 2:** Encourage Prosser's efforts to acquire and develop park land.
Action: Coordinate with and support to the extent possible Prosser's efforts to acquire and develop park land.

**Objective 3:** Develop bike/hike trails as funding and land rights permits.
Action: Develop a bike/hike trail from Kennewick to Two Rivers Park;
Action: Complete bike/hike trail from Johnson Road to Yakima Co. line; and,
Action: Together with the cities of W. Richland, Richland, and the Tapteal Greenway, plan and develop a bike/hike trail from Columbia Point to Horn Rapids Park.

**GOAL 2:** Provide access to County Parks facilities to the sponsors of appropriate recreational and educational programs.

**Objective 1:** Continue to make County Parks facilities available to recreation/education program sponsors.
Action: Increase efforts to raise sponsors’ awareness level that the facilities are available.

**Objective 2:** Continue to support and encourage the development of the Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility and the miniature aircraft association facility.

**GOAL 3:** Provide for the preservation of important open spaces and wildlife habitats in Benton County Parks facilities.

Action: through signage, vehicular barriers, education and enforcement, limit vehicular access to natural areas within the existing County Parks system.

**GOAL 4:** Preserve the County's historic resources for future
generations.

Objective 1: Limit such lands under County management to non-consumptive uses such as trails, viewpoints, and passive park lands.

Action: work closely with museums, historic interest groups, and private citizens to identify and preserve historic resources.

Objective 2: Promote educational programs, signage, and public awareness of the county's historic resources.

Objective 3: Hold Hover Park and Wallula Gap Preserve in reserve for future development.

GOAL 5: Achieve a countywide trail and path network that functionally links county regional park facilities, city urban parks, and rural community centers and recreational areas.

Action: once the Tapteal Greenway is adopted as part of the Parks and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan, annually fund a capital improvement(s) within the Tapteal Greenway Plan.

Action: work with cities and County Public Works Department to coordinate and develop a plan for future trails within the county.

EXISTING CONDITIONS
Inventory Of Park Land Capital Facilities
Benton County currently owns, or operates under lease, eight recreational properties consisting of:
- four parks (3 large parks, plus one neighborhood park, i.e., Vista Park
- a vista point
- one shooting facility
- two natural park preserves

Of the eight properties, only Two Rivers Park in Finley has substantial facilities improvements. The remaining sites have minimal improvements beyond access roads and not all properties have access.

Table 6.0 provides specific information on ownership/lease, size and level of development at each park. The location of park properties are shown on the County Parks and Trails Map, (figure 6-0) at the end of this chapter. Each park is described briefly below:

Two Rivers Park lies on property leased from the Corps of Engineers about two miles east of Kennewick near the community of Finley. Approximately 16 acres at the west end of the park have been developed for picnicking and swimming. This area is closed during the evenings. A boat launching ramp, docks, and parking lot were developed in 1987 at the east end of the park. Both developed areas are heavily used during the summer season. Although there is significant visitation during weekdays, the most substantial recreational usage is on the weekends, especially summer holiday weekends. The area between the developed ends of the park is mostly a natural wildlife area and undeveloped beach.

Since the park lies on the Columbia River shoreline, artifacts of archaeological significance may be
present within its boundaries. A survey performed for the 1987 boat launching ramp project found no artifacts.

**Horse Heaven Vista** is located on top of the Horse Heaven grade on State Highway 221 southeast of Prosser. It is a beautiful overlook of the Lower Yakima Valley. The vista is jointly maintained by the State Department of Transportation (provide chemical toilets in the summer months) and the County Parks Department (mostly litter control and maintenance of the shelter, picnic tables and an interpretive sign).

**Vista Park** is located on Umatilla Avenue in the Tri-City Heights residential development. The Vista Women’s Club maintains this neighborhood park. County park staff have monitored the operations and provided guidance in the repair of play equipment, irrigation supplies and general advice on the care of park improvements.

**Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility** is located approximately six miles north of Benton City adjacent to Horn Road. The County has a land use agreement with Washington Department of Wildlife and a Recreation and Public Purpose Lease (R&PP) with the Bureau of Land Management who administers the terms and conditions of the leases as a single unit.

In January 1988, Benton County signed a lease/concession agreement with the Tri-Cities Shooting Association Inc. (a.k.a., Rattlesnake Mountain Public Shooting Facility Committee). According to the terms of the agreement, the committee has the responsibility for the development and operation of the range. The Shooting Association opened the Range on November 4, 1989. They are open for public use from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends. Their future plans are to hire a caretaker and operate an additional day during the week when their revenues allow.

**Hover Park** is located approximately ten miles southeast of Kennewick along the Columbia River on property leased from the Corps of Engineers. Presently undeveloped, this park has good potential for future use. It has a pleasant beach area in a protected lagoon. The park shoreline has a considerable stand of native trees while the open areas are crisscrossed with dirt roads. The Burlington Northern Railroad bisects the property. Only that portion of the property landward of the railroad right of way has public access at present. Access to the riverside portion of the park must be obtained from The Port of Kennewick, which owns the adjacent property to the east and has a railroad crossing that could serve as public access to the park. A few anglers fishing from the shore visit the park primarily on summer weekends.

The first wagon train to the area, the Longmire Wagon Train, crossed the Columbia River on rafts near the park in 1853. The first major ferry crossing from Wallula was in the vicinity, and the park is in proximity of the original Hover town site, established in 1898.

**Horn Rapids Park** is located approximately six miles downstream of Benton City, on the north shore of the Yakima River. The Park is about 784
acres in size, of which 20 acres is developed to campground (22 sites), paved boat launch, paved trails, picnic/lawn area, primitive horse camp, and a model plane facility (leased to a club). The park has showers and restrooms, and a pump station for recreational vehicles. Use of Horn Rapids Park has increased steadily over the past several years since its opening. The upstream areas are natural open space and used primarily as horse/hiking trails and wildlife habitat. Horn Rapids Park functions as an outdoor educational center for activities by area schools. Each spring a “Salmon Summit” is held at the Park allowing students to learn about the outdoor environment and participate in the release of salmon smolts into the Yakima River.

Ongoing projects include construction of a new multipurpose building, habitat restoration, and trail development.

Currently activities such as, equestrian rides, archery, golf, etc., occur under the auspices of private organizations, all of which provide potable water and chemical toilets during their stay. An approximately 3-acre site is leased by a model airplane club which has constructed limited facilities for its use.

The potential of Horn Rapids Park as a major regional recreational area is further discussed later in this chapter.

**Badger Mountain Preserve** is 574 acres of natural terrain and vegetative cover located on the upper ridges and south slopes of Badger Mountain. Shrub steppe vegetation, primitive trails, expansive views of the Columbia Basin, and steep slopes characterize the site. Designated a Natural Park in the Benton County Comprehensive Plan, the site will remain as undeveloped open space for public use as a passive recreational and aesthetic amenity and a natural habitat preserve. The preserve was purchased in partnership with public, private and state funds.

**Wallula Gap Preserve** is located on the eastern slope of Benton County above Lake Wallula across from the 'Sister's Peaks' in Walla Walla County. The three parcels that comprise the park were deeded to the county in 1984 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. At present the only access to the property is by water. Access by land will require an easement across private property.

**State & Corps Parks**

**Crow Butte** is located 15 miles west of Paterson. The park is located on the historic Lewis & Clark Trail. It is also adjacent to the McNary National Wildlife Refuge a wintering grounds for hundreds of thousands of migratory waterfowl each year. The park encompasses 1,312 acres and 33,910 feet of freshwater shoreline.

State Parks acquired the park from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1978 under a 25-year lease. The park provides 20 picnic sites, 3 picnic shelters, 50 full hookup sites, a group camp area, 2 residences, a comfort station, a trailer dump station, a 750 foot unguarded beach, 3 boat ramps, a boat basin, a bath house, and a two bay shop/office. Activities at the park include boating, camping, fishing, picnicking, sightseeing, swimming, water skiing, windsurfing, and bird
watching.

**TABLE 6.0 COUNTY PARKS: LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT AND CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Developed</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badger Mountain Preserve</td>
<td>574.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>574 N.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horn Rapids Parks</td>
<td>784.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>234 L.R.²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>550 N.P.³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bateman Island (Corp. Lease)</td>
<td>173.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Park (Corp. Lease)</td>
<td>433.0</td>
<td>310.0</td>
<td>290 L.U⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>143 P.⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vista Park</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>N.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Rivers Park (Corp. Lease)</td>
<td>210.0</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>134 L.R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>76 N.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hover Park (Corp. Lease)</td>
<td>145.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseheaven Vista</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Vista</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallula Gap Preserve</td>
<td>163</td>
<td></td>
<td>N.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>600+</td>
<td>Regional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(450 ac. of BLM land, 650 ac. of WDW land, all used under terms of a lease administered by BLM)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>3,584.8</td>
<td>949.3</td>
<td>1,427</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Plymouth Park** is located 1.2 miles west of the Umatilla Bridge in Plymouth, Washington. The park is operated by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. The park has 32-tent/RV pull through campsites, 16 of those with full hookups. Park amenities include paved campsites; tent pads, grass, shade, fire pits/grills, hot showers, and trailer dump station.

The day-use area provides covered shelters, tables, fire pits/grills, swimming

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1 1990 Benton County Parks Plan Update
2 Large Regional Park
3 Natural Park
4 Benton County sub-leased Columbia Park to the Cities of Richland and Kennewick in 1989. Under the terms of the lease, the Cities have the responsibilities of repair, maintenance and law.
5 Large Urban Park
6 Parkway
area, grass, shade, drinking water, cold showers, and restroom facilities with handicap access.

The park has boating facilities that include a 2-lane launch ramp, handling dock, tie-up dock, and parking area.

**Recreation/Park Use**

Many of the county’s rural residents recreate in natural areas suitable for hunting, fishing and hiking. A reading of the “visions”, “goals” and “objectives” of the Paterson-Plymouth and Finley Area Citizen’s Planning Advisory Committees (Rural Element pages 7 and 33) for example, verifies the appreciation rural residents have for the natural environment and wildlife as a recreational resource.

In the more remote planning areas of the county, such as Paterson/Plymouth and Finley, recreational opportunities are often provided by federally owned waterfront lands which lie along the hydroelectric pools behind each dam.

Local citizen's requests and interests for improvements at these resources, whether they be federally or county owned lands, generally focus on improved vehicular and boat access.

However, “natural area” recreation is only one type of opportunity. There is also an unmet demand for recreational opportunities that rely upon a higher level of facilities and improvements in more developed parks.

**Availability Of Improvements On Park Lands**

With the exception of the Prosser rural area, it appears that the county has sufficient acreage designated for public recreational use. However, there is a recognized shortage of improvements and amenities to support use of that acreage.

This shortage exists in contrast to strong support for such facilities within the rural population. More than 50 percent of respondents to a county survey of rural residents feel it either very important or important to maintain and enhance recreational opportunities.

TABLE 6.0 shows that in the aggregate, only 39.3 of the 1523.8 acres of county owned park property is developed.

**Horn Rapids Park**, which is designated as a regional park consists of 784 acres along 5 miles of the Yakima River. Currently, roughly 20 acres is developed as picnic area, campground, model airplane facility, hard surface trails, and a boat launch.

Similarly, only 17 of the 210 acres of **Two Rivers Park** are developed (parking area, boat launch and dock facility, caretaker’s residence). There are no improvements at **Hover Park**, **Badger Mt. Preserve, or Wallula Gap Preserve**.

**Connecting Links To Park Lands**

Improved public recreational trails are lacking throughout most of the rural county. Citizens groups involved in the comprehensive planning process of each rural community identified trails as important and desired. Trails were proposed (see Map 6-0 at the end of this chapter for locations countywide).
Tapteal Greenway

Within the approximately 30 miles of the lower Yakima River from Bateman Island upriver to Benton City, public land ownerships amount to significant rivershore acreage and linear miles. These public ownerships are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Linear mi.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army Corps.</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richland</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Richland</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFW*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton Co.</td>
<td>784</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1322</td>
<td>21.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Washington Fish & Wildlife

The Tapteal Greenway Plan seeks to link these ownerships with a system of trails and paths over the 30-mile reach of river, and to use or improve each public property according to an overall plan. This would make the greenway greater than the sum of its parts if each property was to be left vacant, or improved as a single piece without regard to the whole.

This plan would connect via trails and bikeways, north Richland, Columbia Point and thirty miles of Lower Yakima River environments extending up-river from its confluence with the Columbia, to a Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife river shore access point at the Benton City bridge on SR-225.

The Tapteal Greenway Plan was accomplished jointly through a planning effort involving local, state and federal interests.

The Tapteal Planning Process

The Lower Columbia Audubon Society (LCBAS) obtained a technical assistance grant for the fiscal year 1993 from the National Park Service’s (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) to help define the potential for a greenway along the lower Yakima River.

The project began in May 1993, with a gathering of public landowners and managers (Richland, West Richland, Benton City, Benton County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Washington Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT). A field trip of the study area was followed by a “visioning” session. In a very positive start, the group decided to pursue the greenway idea.

Tapteal Vision

The Tapteal Greenway is a corridor where wildlife, natural vegetation, and people co-exist, which provides opportunities for non-motorized recreation, education, and habitat protection planned and managed for future generations through community involvement and interjurisdictional cooperation.

In August of 1993, after conceptual support by the Benton County Park and Recreation Board had been affirmed, the Benton County Board of Commissioners sent to all Mayors and City Councils a request for their commitment to a joint city/county preparation of a Recreational/Resources Plan (a “Greenway”) along the lower Yakima River.

By September of 1993 all cities
responded favorably in writing, whereupon the Benton County Park and Recreation Board also requested of the Board of Commissioners permission to participate.

In March of 1994, the Board of Benton County Commissioners by Resolution #94-108, adopted the Parks and Recreation Board's Position Statement favoring Linear Parks and Greenways. Following this exchange of letters and actions, a public planning process was begun. After numerous public meetings on work products produced by citizen subcommittees, a Preliminary Draft of a Lower Yakima River Greenway Plan and Plan Map was produced in December 1994 and was reviewed in additional public meetings.

Once the Draft Plan was created a core group of volunteers and local jurisdiction representatives identified two additional courses of action, from which other actions to realize the concept would evolve.

Tapteal Greenway As A Tax Exempt Entity
The first course of action was the establishment of a private non-profit organization to organize, establish a membership, and pursue activities which would give the Greenway substance and legitimacy. This, in addition to the renaming of the Greenway as the "Tapteal Greenway", has been accomplished. The Tapteal Greenway is a 501C3 tax-exempt, non-profit volunteer organization. It has a 16 member Board of Directors that meets monthly to plan Greenway implementation, educational activities and projects. A goal is to improve stewardship, conservation, and recreation on public lands within the Greenway.

Integration of the Greenway Into Local Comprehensive Plans
The second course of action was for the representatives of local planning jurisdictions within the greenway to cooperatively integrate the "Tapteal Greenway" plan into the comprehensive plans being prepared by each agency pursuant to state planning law. This would give local jurisdictions access to grant funds to help realize the Greenway Plan. It is anticipated that once the local jurisdictions and the Tapteal Greenway join in true partnership to accomplish the greenway plan, it will fast become a reality.

Because each planning jurisdiction has proceeded at its own rate of speed through its planning process, "seamless" integration of the greenway plan across jurisdictional boundaries has not occurred. However, each jurisdiction has integrated the Greenway into its own Comprehensive Plan. Seamless integration across jurisdictional boundaries is a future "action" supported by goals and policies within this Plan (Chapter 3).

CURRENT TRENDS
Recreational Demand
Demand for public recreational opportunities and facilities is increasing, and will continue to increase as both the urban and rural populations of the county grow, and as the growth in overall state population results in "out of area" visitors looking for recreational opportunities (Washington population growth is 100,000 per year).
A 1994 public survey conducted by the county Parks and Facilities Department to define recreational "needs" within the county, rated the following facilities "types" the most highly desired:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type Facility</th>
<th>Rating Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-bicycle/equestrian trails</td>
<td>1742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-waterfront parks</td>
<td>1509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-athletic playfields</td>
<td>1074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-overnight camping</td>
<td>1072</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A 1992 survey of rural residents elicited the following countywide responses to questions relating to recreational facilities. Responses strongly favor an expanding provision of public lands and facilities for outdoor recreation as county population grows.

As the local economy diversifies (in contrast to the atrophy characteristic of the Hanford plutonium production era), and begins to resemble the conventional socio-economic fabric of other mixed urban/rural areas, the range of recreational demands and pursuits will broaden. To the extent that the county and cities are successful in developing a visitor serving/tourism sector, recreational demands from out of town visitors will combine with local demands.

**FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

**Key Opportunities To Meet Demands**

Capital expenditures to enhance recreational use of county parklands should be prioritized to focus first on locations that have current facilities deficits, and/or on park lands where the provision of additional recreational facilities can leverage other recreation related economic and visitor benefits beyond the park itself.

Though all county park lands are in need of attention relative to facilities enhancement, two locations offer key or "threshold" opportunities: Two Rivers and Horn Rapids Parks.

**Two Rivers Park** currently suffers from overuse relative to the available facilities. The general condition for the boat launch and dock facilities are that they are simultaneously in need of repair, and used to capacity. The repair needs stem largely from the facilities’ open exposure to wave energy and floating debris. As a priority, the county is pursuing funds to construct a protective barrier that will
reduce repair costs and make the facilities more useful. This Park is in need of a major upgrade/expansion to meet current use demands. It is a popular park with direct water access. Expanding its capabilities will address a current need. Planned capital improvements are indicated in Table 9.0 of Chapter 9.

**Horn Rapids Park** is a regional park located in an area of growing and encroaching populations. The park is 10 minutes from the Benton City commercial area and approximately 20 minutes from the City of Richland. It is also the point of connection between the Hanford Site's 120 sq. mi. Arid Lands Ecology Reserve and the rich wetland and riparian environments of the lower Yakima River floodway and delta. This is a point of connection for distinctly different ecosystems where the potential to yield unique biological, recreational, cultural (tribal), and educational opportunities exists. The park has significant history as a WWII detention facility whose detainees maintained the Army's orchards, vineyards and farmlands on the Hanford Project.

Within the unincorporated area, the land and water resources of the park are the central element of the Tapteal Greenway Plan.

Development of Horn Rapids Park according to its Master Plan (see Appendix page 50) would provide a regional destination point, as well as an activity center for the Greenway. From the park, campers, bicyclists, equestrians, boaters, runners, etc., could travel over routes having continuity not only along the main stems of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers, but also to running and bicycling routes up Rattlesnake Mountain, and to Benton City, and around through Badger Canyon or Red Mountain. The park would also be a key location for the future recreational trail through the Hanford Site.

The capital projects for Horn Rapids Park are shown as scheduled improvements in Table 9.0 of Chapter 9.
Existing and Proposed Facilities

--- COVERAGE KEY ---

TRAILS

EXISTING

PROPOSED

PARKS

1. HORN RAPIDS PARK
2. HORSEHEAVEN VISTA
3. VISTA PARK
4. TWO RIVERS PARK
5. HOVER PARK
6. WALLULA GAP PRESERVE
7. RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN SHOOTING FACILITY
8. BADGER MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Map Figure 6-0