



1/22/2026

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 210 W 6TH AVE**

---

6:00 PM

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Roll Call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval of August 28, 2025 Minutes

**4. VISITORS**

- a. Afton Dunham

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Recreation Update
- b. Introduction to Jared
- c. Adopt 2026 Work Plan
- d. Adopt 2026 Meeting Schedule

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7. POLL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF**

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M. IN CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**9. CONCLUSION**

# RECREATION UPDATE

# BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Presenting: Chase Wharton and Haley Pink

Prepared by: Anthony Carlascio

Staff: Brandon Lange, Frenchie Grandmaison, Julia Lang,  
Greg Sambrano, and Teresa McKeirnan



# TEAM UPDATES



1

A strong, dedicated team, proudly recognizing Greg's 27 years of service and the commitment of our staff.

2

Succession planning & shadow program

3

Investing in Our Team: Continued focus on professional development, training, and growth



# 2025 SUCCESSES

Open Counter

Sponsor Fund Allocation

Data-Driven Insights

COMING SOON...



# Parks and Recreation By The Numbers

2025 Total Park Visits

3,493,229

All City Parks



3.16%

Increase over 2024

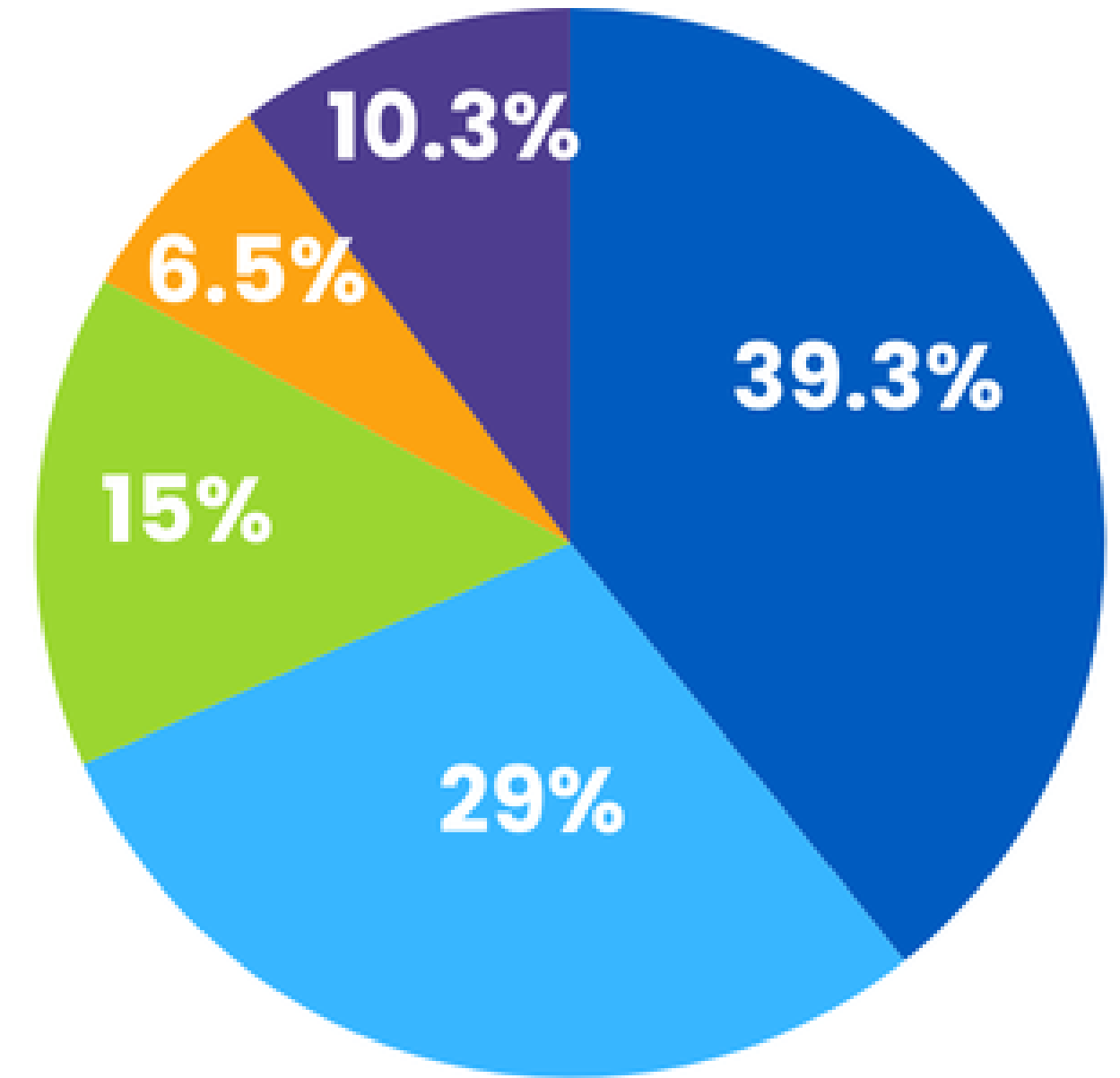


50 Miles +

1 in 5 unique park visitors are from more than 50 miles away and considered a "traveler" to our destination.



# EVENTS By The NUMBERS



# SPECIAL EVENTS



**Water Lantern Festival**      1 Day      11.8k Visits



**Water Follies**      3 Day      50.8k Visits



**River of Fire**      1 Day      23k Visits

*River of Fire is the largest Single day event in the Tri-Cities*



# Event highlight:

## Lacrosse Shootout - April 25-27, 2026



80  
Teams

k - 8 Boys  
and Girls

Individual Visitors from  
50+ Miles

4,166 ppl

50.5%

Est.  
Economic  
Impact

\$380K

# Additional EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Salmon Summit | April 29 & 30, 2025:

- 2-day environmental education event held at Columbia Park
- More than 2,500 students attend per day
- Over 30 participating schools



## Family Fun Day | July 10, 2025

- Glow Party sponsored by Numerica Credit Union
- Hosted at Numerica Pavilion
- Free of charge to all community members
- 1,100 ppl in attendance
- Bounce houses, graffiti wall, balloon twister, dance floor, interactive arena, laser tag, and many more



# Programs By The NUMBERS



**198**

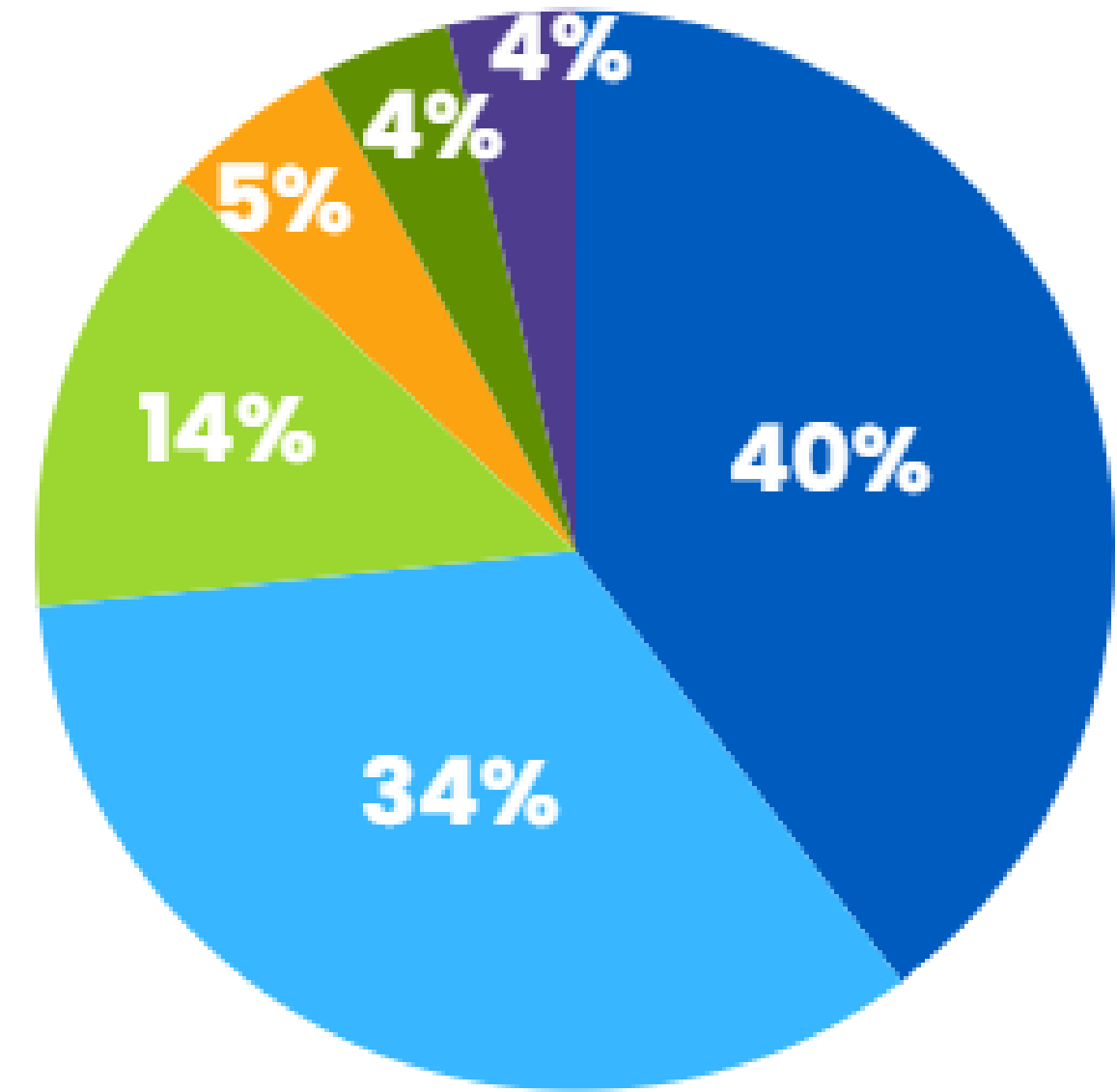
**168**

**68**

**26**

**20**

**19**



# PROGRAMS



**Swim  
Lessons**

**187  
session**

**1,454  
ppl**



**Youth  
B-Ball**

**7  
weeks**

**756  
youth**



**Youth  
V-Ball**

**6  
weeks**

**98  
youth**

# Program **HIGHLIGHTS**

## **Rec-2-U:**

- Mobile recreation program that expands access to recreation.
- Hosted at Lawrence Scott Park to showcase our new all-inclusive playground.
- 275 - 300 attendees participated in a variety of recreational activities.



## **Lifeguard Ready Training:**

- Prepares participants ages 14-24 to pass a Lifeguard Certification Course.
- Supports hiring efforts by building trained applicant pool.
- Successfully graduated 6 candidates that can apply this next spring.

# Partnership Highlight

## Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels

Supports the social and nutritional needs of older adults in our community.

Our Keewaydin Community Center serves as their largest distribution site in the Tri-Cities.

6,200  
In-Person  
Dining  
Meals



65,029  
Home  
Delivery  
Meals



# LOOKING AHEAD

Staff  
Succession,  
Transition, and  
Addition

Program  
Review &  
Barrier  
Reduction

Grants  
Program  
Launch

**THANK YOU**



(509) 585-4293



go2kennewick.com

# Jared Williams

Jared brings a well-rounded background in parks, grounds, and facilities management, with experience spanning education, municipal service, and private industry. He began his career in landscaping as a teenager and transitioned into professional grounds management in 2015 at Washington State University, where he served as a Grounds Nursery Specialist. In addition to his technical expertise, Jared spent seven years in retail management, developing strong leadership, communication, and conflict-resolution skills that continue to support his work in team and public-facing environments.

Jared has held progressive leadership roles, including three years as an in-town Crew Lead for the Richland School District and 2.5 years as Building and Grounds Supervisor at Columbia Basin College. He joined the City as an Irrigation Specialist and advanced to Crew Leader and Supervisor in less than two years, reflecting his commitment to operational excellence and professional growth. He holds multiple industry certifications, including International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist with Tree Risk Assessment qualifications, Professional Grounds Management Society Certified Grounds Technician, Certified Pool and Spa Operator, and Washington State Department of Health Cross-Connection Specialist and Water Distribution Manager. Jared is also committed to community engagement, having volunteered with Richland School District special needs classrooms and led opportunities for students to shadow him in the field. In 2021, his Richland School District team earned the Professional Grounds Management Society National Honor Green Star Award for Fran Rish Stadium at Richland High School.

# 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan



COUNCIL PRIORITY AREA	Comp Plan	TASKS DESCRIPTION	COMMISSION LEAD	STAFF LEAD	PROGRESS
Community Safety	Enhance Community Safety Through Safe Parks	Park Assessments	All	Jared	
		Review, assess, and recommend updates to facility and park safety environment.	Joe, Sergio	Jared, Haley, and Drea	
Responsible Government	Organizational Excellence and Financial Stewardship	Present to Council as needed.	Ken, Uby	Drea/Director	
		Solicit donations and research grant opportunities while providing input.	Michelle	Director/Brandon	
Quality of Life	Leverage the Potential of Recreation as an Economic Driver	Community engagement (Arbor Day, NNO, Family Fun Day, Rec-2-U, 9/11, Veterans Day, Earth Day, Youth Basketball, etc.). Every Commissioner attends at least 1 event/program and Commission presence at all events.	All	Brandon/Drea	
		Support new recreation initiatives. Develop plan for advocacy to Council. - Pool	Ken	Haley/Director	
		Support new recreation initiatives. Develop plan for advocacy to Council. - Lawrence Scott Park	Sergio	Brandon	
		Support new recreation initiatives. Develop plan for advocacy to Council. - Wigeon Way Trail System	Michelle, Evelyn	Director	
	Maintain Recreation Infrastructure	Senior and Adult Programming Evaluations (KCC location).	Uby	Haley	
Economic Development	Organizational Excellence and Financial Stewardship	Identify and recommend potential funding mechanisms for future recreational facilities.	Joe, Ken, Sergio	Director	
Infrastructure and Growth	Maintain Recreation Infrastructure	Assist with design of Columbia Park splash pad.	Michelle	Jared and Chase	
		Develop plan to add a minimum of 3 new dog park amenities.	Evelyn	Jared and Chase	



**Parks and Recreation Commission 2026 Meeting Schedule**

Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month  
6:00 p.m., City Council Chambers

Date	Topic
January 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Scheduled Meeting</li> </ul>
February 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Scheduled Meeting</li> </ul>
March 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Schedule Meeting</li> </ul>
April 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Scheduled Meeting</li> </ul>
May 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Scheduled Meeting</li> </ul>
June 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Scheduled Meeting</li> </ul>
July 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Scheduled Meeting</li> </ul>
August 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Night Out – P&amp;R Commission Booth at SR</li> <li>• Regular Scheduled Meeting</li> </ul>
September 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Public Meeting- All City Park Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
October 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Scheduled Meeting</li> </ul>
November No Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Public Meeting-Thanksgiving</li> </ul>
December No Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public Meeting -Christmas</li> <li>• Commission Retreat – Establish 2027 Work Plan Goals</li> </ul>