

ANNOTATED DOCUMENT OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This Draft Needs Analysis Report is the second in a series of documents produced during the Parks Plan 2025 development process. The draft report documents the community's needs related to parks, recreation and the natural area system. Based on community involvement findings as well as technical analysis, the needs analysis will be further refined with input from the project Steering Committee, PRAB, NRAB, staff and the community. The final Needs analysis will serve as the basis for capital and non-capital improvements in the Parks Plan 2025. These improvements will define the future system of parks, recreation and natural areas in Lake Oswego. This report:

- Describes how parks, recreation and natural areas contribute to the City's overall community vision for future;
- Briefly summarizes some of the key findings of the community involvement process;
- Identifies the need for park land including space for developed facilities and natural resource lands;
- Assesses the mix of recreation facilities across the system;
- Describes priorities for natural resource management;
- Identifies the need for recreation programs; and
- Describes how maintenance needs will be determined.

PLANNING PROCESS

Description of the overall planning process and where this document fits within it. Reference to the Existing Conditions and Public Input Summary Documents.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS

How the community input is included in this document, with direct reference to the Public Input Summary document and where it can be found.

THE COMMUNITY'S VISION

Brief explanation of Comprehensive Plan vision development, which was based on public input received to date. Parks

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

PARKS PLAN 2025: LAKE OSWEGO'S PARK, RECREATION AND NATURAL AREA SYSTEM PLAN

recreation and natural areas are essential to community identity and livability. Description of how parks, recreation and natural areas contribute to each of the Comprehensive Plan vision areas.

PARK LAND NEEDS

Park land is the canvas that the park system is created on. The distribution and character of park land helps determine the recreation opportunities possible and the experience of users. The discussion of park land addresses two aspects of land needs, geographic distribution and the variety of park character.

PARK LAND DISTRIBUTION

Geographic analysis of the park system identifies the service area coverage and identifies any gaps in service. Several important factors influence park access, relating to how people get to and use parks and recreation facilities. The following factors were considered in determining appropriate service areas in the access analysis:

- Transportation Modes
- Service Barriers
- Access Points
- Travel Distance
- Service Area Reach

At this stage, all local and city-wide parks are assumed to offer at least the potential to serve local recreation needs. Further refinement of this analysis is covered in the Local Park Facilities section of this document. Results will identify gaps in park land access at both the ¼ and ½ mile service area range.

PARK EXPERIENCE

Describes the need for experiences (the combination of an activity and the setting it takes place in) that reflect the look and feel desired by the community (based on the park character questions in various input opportunities). Bridges the conversation from park land to the facilities that support desired activities. Provides a philosophy to ensure that the appropriate range of experiences are available in the City.

RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

The existence of park land does not complete the park system. In order to support the many activities and functions desired within the park system, recreation facilities must be provided to adequately support recreation experiences. Recreation facilities will be discussed at two scales generally reflecting the types of parks these facilities would be located within – local park facilities and city-wide park facilities.

LOCAL PARK FACILITIES

BASIC PARK SERVICE

Three key activities that should be located within walking or biking distance of most residents were identified through the Parks Plan 2025 community involvement process:

- **Sports/Exercise:** Individual, group or team activities that support general health, individual fitness goals, competition or teamwork. This can include a range of facilities from walking trails to tennis courts.
- **Play for Children:** Play happens in many structured and unstructured areas but supporting play for children in this case requires a space or feature that is designed specifically to encourage playful interactions. Examples of features that are designed to support play for children are developed play areas (slides, swings, platforms and installed toys), nature play areas and interactive water features. Supporting play in other areas can involve avoiding an unnecessary “hands off” policy to natural areas and allowing exploration and interaction.
- **Experience Nature:** Nature surrounds park users even in the most developed parks in Lake Oswego but the activity defined here as experience nature focuses on the opportunity to be surrounded by trees, come into direct contact with unique habitats or natural features or observe wildlife. This activity can include a wide range of possibilities from bird watching in a grove of trees to exploring a native planting area within a developed park.

By defining each of these activity categories, the existing parks will be evaluated to determine which parks are providing the basic park services and identify improvements needed at other sites to provide basic park service within the targeted service area range.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

PARKS PLAN 2025: LAKE OSWEGO'S PARK, RECREATION AND NATURAL AREA SYSTEM PLAN

ADDITIONAL LOCAL PARK ACTIVITIES

Discussion of other activities that are appropriate at this scale of park.

CITY-WIDE PARK FACILITIES

City-wide facilities meet recreation needs of the entire community, attract visitors and serve regional recreation needs, and contribute to community identity. In addition to the particular city-wide scale facility (a ball field for example) city-wide facilities require supporting amenities such as parking and restrooms to properly support the activity. Needs for the following types of facilities and their supporting amenities will be analyzed:

- Sports Facilities
 - Diamond shaped fields (baseball, softball)
 - Rectangular shaped fields (soccer, football, lacrosse)
 - Indoor Tennis
 - Golf
 - Water sports (rowing, paddling)
- Aquatics Facilities
- Recreation and Community Centers
- Trails and Water Trails
- Cultural and Historic Sites
- Other Facilities
 - Dog park
 - Community gardens
 - River access points
 - Performance/event spaces
 - Shelters

NATURAL RESOURCE NEEDS

Explanation of the main functions that natural areas serve in Lake Oswego: environmental services, habitat and beautification. For each of these functions, there are basic stewardship requirements and the potential for enhancement.

STEWARDSHIP NEEDS

Types of projects needed to cover the basic obligations of the City as a property owner, regardless of the use of the property. These include management of invasive species and protecting water quality.

ENHANCEMENT NEEDS

This section would include the analysis of why and where the City should go beyond basic stewardship. For any property, enhancement might include expanding the property. For habitat areas, the creation, restoration or protection would all be enhancement level activities. For properties that are intended for beautification, enhancement would include plantings (decorative or native) or other aesthetic additions. This discussion would also include what level of access is appropriate for the resulting resources.

RECREATION PROGRAM NEEDS

Discussion of recreation trends across the region and the country alongside the input from Lake Oswego residents. This discussion will also include a breakdown by specific program areas:

- Adult Community Center
- Sports and Fitness
- Indoor Tennis Center
- Golf Course
- Cultural and Specialized Activities
- Other Programs

This section will also explore management tools that may be needed to ensure that the programs offered are (and remain) aligned with the community's desires and objectives.

MAINTENANCE NEEDS

A general discussion of how meeting these needs will also create the need for additional maintenance facilities, funding and skills. Costs and staffing implications of these needs will be the subject of analysis following prioritization of projects

NEXT STEPS

The purpose of this document is to create the "long list" of needs. Following the completion of this analysis the next steps in the process will be to prioritize and recommend the projects that should move forward first the "short list". This will include costs and other considerations to align the projects with the community's priorities. The system plan document will also detail out how to apply the needs analysis to any new areas added to the City or update it as time passes.