

LAKE OSWEGO

Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas System Plan

Meeting Summary	50 Plus Focus Group Meeting
Date	12/03/10
Location	Adult Community Center

Meeting Agenda and Overview

Ryan Stee, Project Manager with the City of Lake Oswego, welcomed participants and introduced the Parks Plan 2025. He provided an overview of the agenda and the project.

Participants introduced themselves.

The meeting included an open group discussion on the following topics: Key benefits of Parks and Recreation for older adults, changing needs of older adults, quality of life issues, what changes are needed to improve the parks and recreation experience for older adults, and the intergenerational community.

Group Discussion

According to the group, some of the key benefits of Parks and Recreation for older adults are:

- Staying active, which includes physically, socially and educationally. Many of the participants stay active by golfing, taking fitness classes, continual education courses.
- A significant resource is the Adult Community Center (ACC).
- Parks and Recreation provides the community with affordable options to stay active.

The group provided several suggestions regarding needs and quality of life issues for older adults:

- Recreation program pricing may be high for some.
- Property taxes are high.
- Older adults are more active now and it is important to keep the momentum going.
- Resources are always limited.
- Neighborhoods should be involved in helping those in need. Getting the word out is important and strong Neighborhood Associations could provide that service.

- The ACC is a great community provider such as meals on wheels, access to a broad range of programs and a place to socialize.

The group also discussed which types of programs are needed and how the City can provide future programming.

- There are concerns about public/private partnerships and the legality of those arrangements.
- The community needs a circulator shuttle to move citizens to community amenities.
- Partner with other governmental organizations such as Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation to provide other amenities such as an aquatic center.
- Since Lake Oswego is a very giving community, opening a thrift store that would help support programs and facilities like the Adult Community Center and the Teen Center. These facilities could be run by volunteers and be a possible intergenerational venture. This would keep the donations and dollars in the community.

The last portion of the question was regarding having an intergenerational community.

- To develop a more intergenerational atmosphere the 50+ community could volunteer at the teen center and for teen programming.
- The discussion regarding how to become a more intergenerational community steered directly to the thrift store. By developing some venture, such as a thrift store, that would be administered by both teens and older adults and help create that atmosphere.

Final Thoughts

After the group discussion the participants were asked to share their **final thoughts** or **most important concerns** regarding parks, recreation, and natural areas. These included:

- Knowledge that resources are limited and finding partners is important.
- Find creative alternatives for funding programs such as a Thrift Store.
- The community needs a shuttle for access.
- Program pricing and taxes are a significant factor in older adults quality of life issues.