

# LAKE OSWEGO

## Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas System Plan

<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<b>Team Sports Focus Group Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>11/16/10</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>West End Building, Sandy Room</b>

---

### **Meeting Agenda and Overview**

---

Ryan Mottau and Heather Kaplinger of MIG, Inc. welcomed participants and introduced the Parks Plan 2025. The introduction included an overview of the meeting objectives and agenda. Participants introduced themselves and identified which sport or sports they represented.

The meeting then included an open group discussion on the following topics: key challenges within the existing system, system needs and maintenance needs and opportunities for supporting organized athletics.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants were thanked for their time and input and encouraged to fill out the on-line questionnaire and to reach out to others in the community to get involved. An image of the meeting's wall graphic, included at the end of the summary, illustrates the concepts and findings identified by participants.

### **Group Discussion**

---

Participants identified the following **key challenges** with current athletic facilities and program:

- Inequitable distribution of fields, with the most of the larger fields on the north side of the city
- Scheduling field time, particularly at School District facilities is difficult
- The relationship between the School District and the City does not seem very close
- Poor playing condition of fields for baseball and softball
- Lack of resources for field maintenance
- City League Softball seems to get the field prep it needs but outside leagues feel like they are not getting much maintenance for the amount paid in fees

- Clear communication of where field fee money goes and what it costs to properly maintain and prepare a field

A variety of **needs** were discussed, with some ideas focused in on specific facilities and others covering the situation generally:

- Additional field space for young players (K-6), basic facilities like backstops
- Additional artificial turf fields to increase scheduling capacity
- More developed “active” parks
- Long-term funding strategies to enhance maintenance at existing facilities
- All purpose indoor facility (including winter practice facilities for batting, hitting)
- Better distribution of fields
- More gym access
- Better lighting at George Rogers Park
- Waluga Park ballfields need to be screened or reoriented to protect spectators at the little league field
- Better coordination among groups, including leagues, School District and City

The **opportunities** that the group sees for improvements in the system include:

- The existing high school facilities
- Luscher Farm site
- Upgrades to existing sites
- Repurposing tennis center site if it moves, possibly an indoor field house
- Tournaments to draw visitors
- Potential school closures could create an opportunity for more use, however closures could also reduce the already limited space
- An annual summit of all decision makers to discuss fees, maintenance, issues and opportunities
- The group had different ideas about centralizing or keeping major facilities near the edge of town.

## **Final Thoughts**

---

After the group discussion the participants were asked to give their **final thoughts** related to the discussion. These included:

- Concern about closed school facilities
- Increasing demand for other and year-round sports creates more pressure
- Look at the balance of users of the park system that are paying into the system or just using
- Private sports clubs are important to understand
- Concern about the impact of any major new facility in a central location
- Focus on communication, who is in charge of what?
- Create year-round fields
- Look at the full cost of artificial turf vs natural turf
- Are there savings on water? Does the City pay for water for its own fields?

# Team Sports Focus Group Meeting Wallgraphic (November 16th, 2010)

## Team Sports

11-16-10  
LAKE OSWEGO - PARKS PLAN 2025

### NEEDS

o CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED FIELDS FOR ALL SPORTS GROUPS + DEMONSTRATIONS

o NEED TO KNOW WHERE THE \$ GOES

o FIELD SPACE K-6: BASIC FACILITIES LIKE BACK STEPS

o ALL PURPOSE INDOOR FACILITY

o TURF FIELDS ~ ↑ SCHEDULING CAPACITY

o ENOUGH FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY'S LIMITS

o MORE DEVELOPED 'ACTIVE' PARKS

o WHERE'S THE BANG FOR THE BUCK?

o FIELD SPACE DURING COMPETING SEASONS

o BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF FIELDS

o MORE GYM SPACE

o BETTER LIGHTING @ G ROOFES

o WALUGA PARK NEED TO BE SCREENED OR RE-ORIENTED

o COORDINATION AMONG GROUPS = PRIV. + PUBLIC

o WHO NEEDS TO BE @ THE TABLE?

### OPPORTUNITIES

o EXISTING HS FACILITIES

o LOSCHER FARM SITE

o ALDENBY SITE w/ UPGRADES

o RE-PURPOSE TENNIS SITE IF IT MAKES SENSE

o TOURNAMENTS

o RE-PURPOSE SCHOOL CLOSETES

o FLOOD PLAYS ALONG FOR FIELDS ~ CENTER OF TOWN

o WEST END BLVD FOR FACILITY

### CHALLENGES

o SCHEDULING HS AGE NON-VARSITY COURT TIME

o SCHEDULING FIELD TIME + PUTTING PRESSURE ON HS RE FIELD TIME

o CONDITION OF DIET FIELDS FOR BASEBALL + SOFTBALL

o CITY-LEAGUE SOFTBALL SEEMS TO HAVE IT GOOD ~ HOW IS THAT WORKING??

o NO \$ FOR A FIELD MAINTENANCE

o MAINTENANCE + AMENITIES

o SCHOOL + PARENTS DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP

o NO \$ FOR A FIELD MAINTENANCE

o SPORTS GROUPS PAY FOR CAPITAL COSTS

o WORK ON FIELDS

o COMMUNICATION

o \$ DISTRIBUTION EQUAL AMOUNT PARTICIPATION IN THE SYSTEM

o ALL GROUPS - SPECIFIC APPROACH

o INTO A BASKET THE BUCK \$

o CAN WE SAVE IF WE TIE THE FIELDS?