

# LAKE OSWEGO

## Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas System Plan

<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<b>Neighborhoods Focus Group Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>11/16/10</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>West End Building</b>

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### **Meeting Agenda and Overview**

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Ryan Stee, project manager with the City of Lake Oswego, welcomed participants and introduced the Parks Plan 2025. The consultant team provided an overview of the agenda and the project. Participants introduced themselves and identified which neighborhood they represented.

The meeting included an open group discussion on the following topics: key challenges in providing parks, recreation and natural areas; park, recreation facility and program needs; maintenance needs; unique opportunities and potential partnerships; neighborhood park character; and specific neighborhood improvements.

At the workshop's conclusion, each participant shared their final thoughts or most important concern with the entire group. Participants were thanked for their time and input. They were encouraged to fill out the on-line questionnaire and to help publicize the questionnaire and upcoming open house event in the community. 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**

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Overall, there were several **major themes** based on feedback from meeting participants. These include:

- Providing access to parks and facilities by walking and biking;
- Providing trails and connections;
- Improving maintenance;
- Enhancing sustainability throughout the park system;
- Providing better information about parks, trails and programs; and
- Preserving natural areas.

Participants identified the following **key challenges** in providing parks, recreation, and natural areas in Lake Oswego:

- Invasive species
- Garbage, dog waste and litter
- Clean-up in natural areas requires heightened care
- Land acquisition and management costs
  - Acquiring property in UGB expansion areas
- Fragmentation of natural areas
  - There is a need for a comprehensive look at existing and future sites
  - Connectivity is important when considering wildlife habitat
- Staff and volunteer coordination
  - There is a need for guidelines and incentives for volunteers
  - Guidelines are needed for careful treatment and maintenance of parks, e.g., not using pesticides
- Activity scheduling among recreation groups and sports teams
- Field maintenance
- Funding
  - How will we pay for it? (user fees?)

Participants identified the following **park and recreation needs**:

- Need a holistic look at system needs and how spaces will be used
  - Need more information about existing parks and facilities
    - A comprehensive inventory
    - Evaluate current level of sport facility use
- Team sports fields and sport facilities
  - Especially for adult sports
  - Fields that are flexible
- Specialty facilities
  - New tennis center
  - Permanent skate park
- Indoor facilities
  - Aquatics center
- Maintenance of existing facilities

- Increase awareness of existing/available facilities
- Increased communication
- Additional restrooms and garbage/recycling facilities
- Improved safety and security
  - Lighting at parks and facilities

Participants identified the following **maintenance needs** related to the parks system:

- Use of sports groups to help with clean-up of sports facilities
- Improved trash and recycling facilities
- Low maintenance landscaping
  - Use less water
  - Sustainable maintenance techniques
  - Planting plans
- Monitor park sites and facilities for needed maintenance
- Renovation of Campbell Garden

Participants identified the following **opportunities** for improving the parks system:

- Include opportunities identified from the Comprehensive Plan's natural resources group
- Expand use of volunteers
- Develop policies for working with non-profits for land acquisition and maintenance
- Provide a diversity of parks
- Expand use of facilities owned by others, such as the school district
- Expanding Iron Mountain Park
- Develop alternative funding sources
- Consider two-tiered fee system with different cost for residents and visitors
- Provide demonstration gardens with native plants and sustainability techniques

Participants identified the following **partnership** opportunities for improving parks and recreation:

- Seek grant opportunities, i.e., Metro's neighborhood enhancement grant program (landscape enhancements)
- Improve the City's relationship with neighborhood associations
- Provide Park and Recreation Department representative at neighborhood association meetings
- Hire a full-time volunteer coordinator
  - AmeriCorps opportunities
- Enhance information sharing (blogs)
- Expand neighborhood volunteer participation in maintenance
- Increase the use/role of City park ranger
  - Possibly add additional ranger staff

Participants also discussed the desired character for **neighborhood parks**. Most agreed that it depended on the character of the site, and that most Lake Oswego neighborhoods are well served by a diversity of park types. Participants also identified several specific neighborhood issues/needs:

- In Lake Forest neighborhood, distances to parks should be off-set by new trails. Creative use of water towers should also be explored.
- In Blue Heron neighborhood, there is natural area land but limited available properties.
- In the Evergreen neighborhood, Millennium Park is popular and well used. The use of space next to the theater area can be used as natural space with playgrounds.
- In the Marylhurst neighborhood, there are available properties at the school.
- In the Glenmorrie neighborhood, there may be natural space potential.
- The Skylines site also has potential.
- In Westlake/OakCreek, there is a need for a dog park.

## **Final Thoughts**

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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:

- Remove invasive plant species from parks
- Ensure adequate park maintenance now and in the future
- Encourage recycling
- Enhance existing parks
- Look at future park needs in future development areas
- Recognize that parks and recreation provide important health benefits for residents and for the community
- Decrease park utility costs over time
- Recognize that the golf course is an important asset and the golf course study improvements should be implemented

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

## LAKE OSWEGO PARKS, RECREATION AND NATURAL AREAS PLAN

### NEIGHBORHOODS FOCUS GROUP 11/16

(user fees?)  
HOW WILL WE PAY FOR IT?  
WHAT ARE THE RISKS?  
HOW WILL SPACES BE USED?

### KEY CHALLENGES

- INVASIVE SPECIES
- DOG WASTE AND CLEANUP
- LAND ACQUISITION (EST. MANAGEMENT COSTS) → ACQUIRING PROPERTY IN USB EX AREAS
- COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT NATURAL AREAS
- WILDLIFE NON-DOMESTIC CONTROL
- HABITAT
- VOLUNTEERS NEED SCHEDULED STAFF → RESOURCES
- SCHEDULING FOR ACTIVITIES
- UPLANDS FIELD MAINTENANCE

### SYSTEM NEEDS

- NEED MORE RECREATION FOR WHAT WE HAVE
- TEAM SPORTS FIELDS/FACILITIES
- SOFT SPACES
- LOOK AT SPORT FACILITY USE
- FLEXIBLE TO NEEDS!
- INDOOR FACILITIES → AQUATICS
- MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES
- AWARENESS OF AVAILABLE FACILITIES
- COMMUNICATION

### RECREATION PROGRAMS

- A GREAT VIBES!
- NEW TENNIS CENTER (USE OLD FACILITY)
- PERMANENT SOFTBALL PARK
- SPORT GROUP HELP W/ CLEANUP

### NEIGHBORHOODS OF LAKE OSWEGO

RECREATION FACILITIES

- BETTER TRASH RECYCLING SERVICES AND FACILITIES
- SUPPLY/SECURITY LIGHTING
- LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPING → LESS WASTE → SUSTAINABLE MAINTENANCE → PLANNING PLANS
- MONITORING
- RE-DO CAMPBELL GARDEN

### POTENTIALITIES

- INCLUDE FINDINGS FROM NATURAL RES. GROUP
- VOLUNTEERS
- POLICE FOR WORKING W/ PROFITS FOR ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE
- DIVERSITY OF PARKS
- USE OF PRIVATE FACILITIES → PARKING LOTS
- EXPANDING DENNY PARK → USE NATURAL AREAS (THE RATS)
- USE OF HOMEOWNERS SITES
- PAY FOR FACILITIES → INCLUDE USE OF 3 FIELDS SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS
- DEMONSTRATION GARDENS → PERENNIAL PLANTS

### "WHAT KIND OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARK?"

- INTEGRATION INTO NEIGHBORHOOD → DEVELOPED FACILITIES OUTSIDE OF NATURAL AREAS AND PER ACCESS
- BIRD ACCESS AND FACILITIES AND PER ACCESS
- DISTANCE TO PARKS SHOULD BE IMPROVED W/ TRAILS/ACCESS
- USE OF WATER TOWERS
- NATURAL AREAS BUT LIMITED AVAILABLE PROPERTIES
- MILLENNIUM PARK USE TO BRING LEFT TO THEATER AREA INTO NATURAL SPACE AND PLAYABLE PROPERTY
- MARQUETTE HAS AVAILABLE PROPERTY
- GLENNMORE MAY HAVE NAT. SPACE → SKYLINE SITE
- DOG PARK → WORTHLINE/BLOCKER

### PARTNERSHIPS

- PEPS AT N HOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
- GRANTS → MEMO NEIGHBORHOODS' → COMMITTEES W/ CITY
- FULL TIME VOLUNTEER / STAFF COORDINATOR → INTERLOCKS OPS
- INFORMATION SHARING → BLOGS!
- LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS → INCLUDED IN USB GRANT
- SHOULD BE → ALLOW N HOOD PARTICIPATION IN MAINTENANCE
- PARTNERING W/ SCHOOLS
- USE OF CITY PARK RANGER → ADD ILL STAFF

### WELL MAINTAINED

TRAILS ACCESS NATURAL AREAS

WELL ILL FORMED

CONNECTED

REMOVE INVASIVES!  
MAINTENANCE (EX. PAPER)  
RECYCLING  
ENHANCE EX PARKS  
LOOK AT EXISTING PARKS IN OUTLYING AREAS

HEALTH FOR RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY  
DECREASE UTILITY COSTS OVER TIME  
GOLF COURSE