

LAKE OSWEGO

Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas System Plan

Meeting Summary	Recreation Program Users
Date	11/04/10
Location	West End Building

Meeting Agenda and Overview

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 the group or program they represented. The workshop included an open group discussion on the following topics: key challenges faced in providing recreation programming in the City, underserved age groups and populations, gaps in services, natural areas, and potential partners. At the workshop's conclusion, each participant shared their final thoughts or most important concern with the entire group. 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

When participants discussed **key challenges** faced in providing recreation programs, they most often mentioned the lack of major recreation facilities. The need for a community center was most frequently mentioned. Comments included:

- A community center is needed and should include:
 - Indoor pool
 - Exercise equipment
 - Intergenerational activities
 - Indoor track
 - Membership fee
 - Refreshment area/snack bar
- Indoor tennis courts are at maximum use capacity
 - Need to be ADA compliant
- The City's demographics have changed substantially with seniors now representing 30% - 40% of the population

- The recent golf and tennis needs assessment study should be implemented, including the proposed driving range and indoor tennis facility
- Senior indoor facilities should be improved, including senior exercise equipment
- Lack of connectivity of sidewalks and pathways for active transportation and recreation
- Indoor facilities for rowing should be improved and a low rise dock added
- Better information about programs, parks and trails
- Lack of informational signage
- Lack of benches and restrooms
- Covered outdoor park facilities, such as play areas and basketball courts, are needed for year round use
- Expand use of existing facilities
 - West End Building
 - Gyms
 - School tennis courts
 - School and church facilities
- Lack of quality major facilities that reflect community identity
- Need for a community pool to accommodate existing activities
 - Water Polo
 - Swim classes
 - Water play
 - Lane swim

Participants identified the following **age groups and populations** as underserved by the current parks and recreation programs:

- 55+ community
- Children
 - Facilities for winter use, i.e., indoor or covered facilities
 - Facilities for informal, unprogrammed use, i.e., basketball courts in parks
 - Affordable programs
 - Childcare for adults attending programs
- Middle school children

A need for the following **programs and services** were identified:

- Drop-in facility with childcare
- Younger family activities and programs
- Volunteer opportunities:

- Teaching and organizing programs
- Removing the barriers for volunteer activity
- Getting the word out
- Opportunities for high school students who must fulfill a community service project requirement
- A city-wide platform, such as a social networking site, for informing residents about programs and services
- Community gardens

Participants identified the following needed improvements for **natural areas**:

- Improvements to existing trails:
 - Benches
 - Lighting
 - Grading
 - Connections
 - Safety
- Connections to Millennium Park
- Habitat restoration
- Safety
 - Abandoned areas
 - Riverfront
- Increased multi-use of both parks and natural areas
 - Foothills Park
 - Stormwater areas
 - Replacement of elements that are removed due to wear, such as playground elements
- Note that Tryon Creek fulfills some residents' needs for nature experiences and programs

Possible **agencies** for the Parks and Recreation Department to **partner** with included:

- Bike clubs and groups
- Private sector
- Concessionaires in parks
- Schools, including summer use of facilities
- Lake Corp for lake access
- Luscher Farm partners for community garden

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. Again, most participants mentioned the need for a community center. Comments included:

- Prioritizing funding to park and recreation
- Creating an 'all in one' community center
- Developing more indoor and outdoor tennis courts
- Improving trail access and amenities
- Creating a high quality rowing facility with increased community visibility through partnership with current rowing club
- Building on what the City already owns
- Increasing information about programs and activities provided to the community
- Developing an indoor pool
- Building parks and recreation program of the city's reputation

Next Steps

Participants were thanked for their time and input. They were encouraged to fill out the on-line questionnaire and distribute it to others in the community. This first phase of the planning process will culminate in the Existing Conditions Report.

A public open house for Parks Plan 2025 will be held at the West End Building on December 8, 2010. This is a drop-in event, and community members can stop by any time between 4:30pm and 7:30pm to provide their thoughts on the future of parks, recreation and natural areas in Lake Oswego.

Meeting Wallgraphic (November 4th, 2010)