

RECREATION

People, Places and Prosperity

Strong parks and recreation programs support a sustainable Lake Oswego in the following ways:

- **People:** Recreation of all kinds is crucial to the physical and psychological health of Lake Oswegans. Providing a great diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities in the City connects people with the outdoors in a variety of settings.
- **Places:** Our parks and open spaces offer places and programs for physical activity, community interaction, public events, and life-long learning. The beauty of parks provides Lake Oswegans a sense of pride in their community.
- **Prosperity:** Lake Oswego's parks are an important reason why the city is widely recognized as a desirable place to raise a family. Parks provide aesthetic and recreation benefits. They may enhance property values, increase municipal revenue, and attract people of all ages.

Current Existing Comp Plan Goals

There are four goals related specifically to recreation in Parks and Recreation chapter in the existing comprehensive Plan, however the Willamette River Green Way (one goal, three policies) and Oswego Lake (one goal, three policies) also have goals pertaining to recreation and they are now included in the "Recreation" topic.

Policy Questions to Consider

1. Residents have identified that the City should ensure that all residents have access to essential recreation services which includes Exercise and Sports, Play for Children, and Nature Experiences. This is currently not available equally throughout the city, and would be difficult to provide in certain areas. To fill geographic gaps and provide equitable access to these experiences, recreation facilities, such as traditional playgrounds, nature play areas, sports fields, sports courts, trails, and opportunities to enjoy nature will need to be renovated or new ones will need to be developed.
 - How much and under what circumstances should the City invest in providing new parks and recreation opportunities in these underserved areas?
 - Should the City provide public places if private recreation facilities are available?
2. The community said that renovating existing parks to maximize City investment in existing facilities is the highest priority.
 - Is it more important to care for existing assets that may serve fewer people or to provide new ones that will provide more equity?
 - At what point should the City not invest in facilities that provide limited service?

Themes Based on Citizen Comment

- **Maintain existing parks/facilities:** Respondents overwhelmingly indicated that, rather than invest in new recreational facilities, the city should maintain the facilities it currently has.
- **Private recreation:** Many respondents felt that public recreational facilities should not be

expanded if many private facilities already exist. Many also felt strongly that no takings of private property should occur for public recreation or otherwise.

- Indoor facilities and school partnerships: The need for indoor recreation facilities and opportunity to utilize closed schools as community centers were discussed as well creating stronger partnerships and coordination with private facilities, including schools.
- Improving access and connectivity to parks was a strong theme from the group discussions.
- Oswego Lake: The majority of the discussion on this theme related to lake access. Of the 18 unique responses that referenced Oswego Lake, 7 were against increased lake access while 6 were for increased lake access.

DRAFT Goals/Policies based on Community Culture Summit, including all comment opportunities and work with Parks

Tracked Changes Version

GOALS:

1. The City shall ~~plan, acquire, develop and~~ maintain a system of park, ~~open space~~ and recreation facilities, ~~both active and passive,~~ that serves diverse current and long-range community needs with nearby access to opportunities for exercise and sports, play for children, and nature experiences. ~~is attractive, safe, functional, available to all segments of the population and serves diverse current and long range community needs.~~
2. The City shall enhance the quality of life in the community by providing diverse recreation programs that activate the community as an environment for learning, recreation and fun.

POLICIES:

1. Provide most residents with access to all essential services (play for children, nature experiences, and exercise/sports) within a half-mile of their homes.
2. Within the city, fill service gaps for essential recreation services through development of new facilities at existing sites or through partnerships.
3. Improve park access for bicyclists and pedestrians by linking neighborhoods to parks via trail corridors.

~~1.4.~~ Plan for park and recreation facilities which:

~~a.~~ Provide for active and passive recreational opportunities;

a. ~~b.~~ Educate and entertain the public through interpretive and recreational programs;

b. ~~c.~~ Promote enjoyment of the cultural arts; and,

c. ~~d.~~ Enhance the environmental quality of the City.

~~2-5.~~ Coordinate park planning, acquisition and development with affected neighborhoods and with other community projects and programs.

~~1.~~ ~~Distribute park and recreation opportunities by type throughout the City as land availability allows.~~

~~2.~~

~~3.~~ ~~Require developers to pay their equitable share of future park acquisition and development costs. (Administrative policy)~~

~~4-6.~~ Maintain parks and facilities in a manner which will prolong the life of capital assets, reduce operational costs, assure safe and accessible use, improve park design and conserve resources.

~~1.~~ ~~Provide accessibility to all park users, according to applicable state and federal laws.~~

~~2.~~

~~3.~~ ~~Plan and develop a system of pathways which can connect open space and park facilities with neighborhoods.~~

~~5.~~ Develop parks that:

~~a.~~ ~~a.~~ ~~Are compatible with adjacent land uses, by using setbacks and effective buffering and screening to minimize impacts of intensive uses such as traffic, parking, bright lights and noise;~~

~~b.~~ ~~b.~~ ~~Do not generate traffic which exceeds the design capacity of adjacent streets at off peak hours and, where feasible, do not utilize local residential streets to accommodate traffic generated by intensive uses; and,~~

~~c.~~ ~~Are, where possible, accessible by a variety of transportation modes including transit, bicycling and walking.~~

~~6-7.~~ Develop major neighborhood park and play sports field facilities in conjunction with schools, wherever possible.

~~7-8.~~ Preserve and enhance significant natural resources and historic sites ~~distinctive natural areas, which that~~ are located on parklands.

~~1.~~ ~~Inform and involve the citizens of Lake Oswego in the development and operation of the Parks~~

~~and Recreation system and in evaluating the effectiveness of parks and recreation activities. (Involvement concept is covered in the Civic Engagement chapter).~~

~~Enhance the quality of life in the community by providing recreation programs that are creative, productive and responsive to the needs of the public, including those who have special needs such as the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged. (Moved to goal language)~~

~~Give City residents priority in pricing and scheduling City sponsored activities.~~

~~8.9._____ Coordinate with state, federal, regional and other local jurisdictions and with local “friends” groups in the planning and implementation of parks and recreation policies and programs.~~

~~9.10._____ Coordinate and cooperate with school districts and other organizations to meet park and recreation needs of the City community and the region and to assure optimum efficient use of all parks and recreation facilities and resources.~~

~~10.11._____ Ensure the opportunity for Lake Oswego residents to have access to parks and recreation facilities and programs regardless of income.~~

GOAL 15: Willamette River Greenway (recreational component)

GOAL:

~~The City shall protect, conserve, enhance and maintain the natural, scenic, historic, economic, and recreational qualities of the Willamette River Greenway. (Move to Healthy Ecosystems – primarily Goal 15 addresses natural resources)~~

POLICIES:

- ~~1. Designate the Willamette Greenway Boundary on the City’s Comprehensive Plan Map, consistent with the location established by the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission.~~
- ~~1. When appropriate as part of the development review and approval process, require dedication of public access easements within the Greenway and to the Willamette River. as part of the development review and approval process.~~
- ~~2. Designate the Willamette Greenway as Protection Open Space.~~

GOAL 5, Section 7: Oswego Lake (recreational component)

GOAL:

~~The City shall protect the natural resource, energy, aesthetic and recreation values of Oswego Lake. (Move to Healthy Ecosystems – water quality is focus of this section in current plan)~~

POLICIES:

1. ~~Continue to provide operate with the Lake Oswego Corporation to protect the natural resource, energy, aesthetic and recreation values of Oswego Lakeswimming access on Oswego Lake through the City's Swim Park.~~
2. ~~Establish significant public viewpoints to assure that residents of the community can identify with and enjoy Oswego Lake. (Move to Inspiring Spaces & Places)~~
 - ~~2.1. 8. Work with the Lake Oswego School District to preserve its rights to the existing swimming easement in the Lake Grove Area Swim Park~~
 - ~~3.~~

DRAFT Goals/Policies based on Community Culture Summit, including all comment opportunities and work with Parks

Track changes accepted

Recreation

GOALS:

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2. The City shall enhance the quality of life in the community by providing diverse recreation programs that activate the community as an environment for learning, recreation and fun.

POLICIES:

1. Provide most residents with access to all essential services (play for children, nature experiences, and exercise/sports) within a half-mile of their homes.
2. Within the city, fill service gaps for essential recreation services through development of new facilities at existing sites or through partnerships.
3. Improve park access for bicyclists and pedestrians by linking neighborhoods to parks via trail corridors.
4. Plan for park and recreation facilities which:
 - a. Educate and entertain the public through interpretive and recreational programs;
 - b. Promote enjoyment of the cultural arts; and,

c. Enhance the environmental quality of the city.

5. Coordinate park planning, acquisition and development with affected neighborhoods and with other community projects and programs.
6. Maintain parks and facilities in a manner which will prolong the life of capital assets, reduce operational costs, assure safe and accessible use, improve park design and conserve resources.
7. Develop major neighborhood park and sports field facilities in conjunction with schools, wherever possible.
8. Preserve and enhance significant natural resources and historic sites., that are located on parklands.
9. Coordinate with state, federal, regional and other local jurisdictions and with local “friends” groups in the planning and implementation of parks and recreation policies and programs.
10. Coordinate and cooperate with school districts and other organizations to meet park and recreation needs of the community and the region and to assure optimum efficient use of all parks and recreation facilities and resources.
11. Ensure the opportunity for Lake Oswego residents to have access to parks and recreation facilities and programs regardless of income.

GOAL 15: Willamette River Greenway (recreational component)

POLICIES:

1. When appropriate as part of the development review and approval process, require dedication of public access easements within the Greenway and to the Willamette River.

GOAL 5, Section 7: Oswego Lake (recreational component)

POLICIES:

1. Continue to provide swimming access on Oswego Lake through the City’s Swim Park.