



EDUCATION • ARTS • **RECREATION** •
LIBRARY SERVICES • HISTORIC PRESERVATION
• CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Vision Statement

Our educational, cultural and recreational opportunities strengthen the social fabric of the community. Our top-rated schools offer excellent education and reinforce the value of the community as a desirable place to raise a family. Our outstanding library, parks, and community amenities provide a wide range of programs and special events. Public art and historic resources enrich our cultural identity.



Policy Question 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?

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 intrinsic aesthetic, and recreation benefits. They enhance property values, increase municipal revenue, bring in homebuyers and workers, and attract people of all different ages.

Existing Comprehensive Plan Goals

1. *The City shall plan, acquire, develop and maintain a system of park, open space and recreation facilities, both active and passive, that is attractive, safe, functional, available to all segments of the population and serves diverse current and long-range community needs.*
2. *The City shall protect, conserve, enhance and maintain the natural, scenic, historic, economic, and recreational qualities of the Willamette River Greenway.*
3. *The City shall protect the natural resource, energy, aesthetic and recreation values of Oswego Lake.*
4. *The City shall protect, enhance, maintain, and expand a network of open space areas and scenic resources within and adjacent to the Urban Service Boundary.*

Background

- The Parks and Recreation Department provides three essential services: Exercise and Sports, Play for Children, and Experience Nature that should be available to all residents.
- Essential services are augmented by additional programs such as: special events, adult learning, activities for all age groups, including sports, fitness, education, etc.
- Facilities include: The Adult Community Center (ACC), Indoor Tennis Center, Municipal Golf Course, and the West End Building, which houses the Parks and Recreation Department (and other City departments) and provides space for essential parks programming as well as space for community groups.
- There are currently 600 acres of publicly owned land in the park system.
- 54,751 participants took part in City recreation programs in fiscal year 2009-2010.
- Several park facilities have been developed since the last Comprehensive Plan update in 1994, including Foothills Park, Hazelia Field, the Stafford Basin Trail, Tryon Cove and Millennium and Sundeleaf plazas.
- The Lake Oswego School District currently operates 39 sports fields at 13 schools that add to city's inventory of recreation facilities, as well as playgrounds, sports courts, and gymnasiums. It also provides the only public indoor swimming pool as well as the Lake Grove Swim Park, an outdoor swimming facility on Lake Oswego. Access to these facilities for parks programs is limited.

What We've Heard

The Parks Plan 2025 public involvement findings include:

- Key Benefits - Protecting important places, enhancing health and well-being, and bringing neighbors and people together were the benefits of parks, recreation and natural areas.
- Desired Character – For local parks, most residents desired a hybrid park character, that provides both natural and developed features, or an entirely natural character.
- Close-to-home amenities – Residents identified that need for children's play, opportunities to experience nature and opportunities to exercise close to home.
- Residents appear satisfied with the recreation programs offering in the community. Swimming was frequently mentioned as a need in Lake Oswego as well as the need for major facilities to support recreation programs, such as an aquatic center, community center and the implementation of the 2009 Golf and Tennis Feasibility Study recommendations.
- Highest priority improvements - Maintaining existing parks, developing major new indoor facilities, expanding trails and restoring natural areas were frequently mentioned.

Primary Sources

- *Lake Oswego Comprehensive Plan, City of Lake Oswego, Adopted 1994.*
- *DRAFT Lake Oswego Parks Plan 2025 documents, 2011.*