

Goal 8 Parks And Recreation

□ Goal 8: Parks and Recreation

BACKGROUND

Statewide Planning Goal 8: Recreational Needs

“To satisfy the recreational needs of the citizens of the state and visitors and, where appropriate, to provide for the siting of necessary recreational facilities including destination resorts.”

Statewide Planning Goal 8 instructs communities to plan for meeting recreational needs in coordination with private enterprise, in appropriate proportions and of a quality and in a quantity consistent with the availability of resources to meet the requirements. Cities are to coordinate with state, federal and regional agencies’ plans.

The basis of the Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation system is the provision of diverse recreation opportunities and experiences for all residents of the City. City parks and recreation services provide essential active, passive, social and cultural opportunities for a broad spectrum of residents. As Lake Oswego’s population grows and land becomes more densely developed, careful planning for parks, open space and recreational services becomes increasingly critical in maintaining adequate opportunities.

Over the years residents have supported high quality parks and recreation programs through an on-going serial levy. Since the original Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1978, the City’s inventory of park land and facilities has grown from 241 acres to 320 acres in 1993. In addition, the City operates the Adult Community Center which provides for many of the needs of Lake Oswego’s older adult community. The City also operates an 18 hole par 3 golf course. Lake Oswego’s recreation program offerings include extensive team sports, educational and cultural activities. Lake Oswego residents also passed a \$12 million bond measure in 1990 for park acquisition and pathway development. These investments in the City’s park and recreation system represent a rich legacy of varied park lands and recreation programs which are tied to the community’s image and character. Protecting this investment through park renovation and maintenance is important to Lake Oswegans.

A 1990 survey of Lake Oswegans indicated that residents’ top ranked activities include watching television or videos, reading, walking, exercise/aerobics, gardening, jogging or running, attending sports events, driving for pleasure, swimming and nature walks. This survey also indicated that the recreation facilities or activities residents felt were most needed in Lake Oswego include bike and pedestrian pathways, a pool facility, sports/playing fields, a regulation golf course, river/lake development and access points, tennis courts, multi-use recreation facilities and interpretive natural areas. Suggestions for improving Lake Oswego’s park and recreation services included developing a pathway system, constructing a swim facility, improving publicity and promotion of parks and recreation programs and services and improvement of safety, cleanliness and recreation access to recreation facilities. Over 80% of survey respondents rated the City’s recreation programs offered as “excellent” or “good”.

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Summary of Major Issues

The following are some of the issues and changed circumstances and conditions which were considered in the update of this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

- Creating a policy context to describe the City's commitment to recreational programs.
- Acknowledging pathways for their recreational value, as linkages to parks and to improve accessibility.
- Ensuring that purchased or donated park lands are usable and satisfy park and recreation needs.
- Coordinating with private and school recreation providers to provide optimum usage of facilities.

GOALS, POLICIES AND RECOMMENDED ACTION MEASURES

GOAL

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.

POLICIES

1. Plan for park and recreation facilities which:
 - a. Provide for active and passive recreational opportunities;
 - b. Educate and entertain the public through interpretive and recreational programs;
 - c. Promote enjoyment of the cultural arts; and,
 - d. Enhance the environmental quality of the City.
2. Identify and acquire lands which satisfy current and/or long-range community recreation needs in terms of size and usability for planned activities and facilities.

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3. Coordinate park planning, acquisition and development with affected neighborhoods and with other community projects and programs.
4. Distribute park and recreation opportunities by type throughout the City as land availability allows.
5. Ensure a long-range balance is maintained between land acquisition and facility development efforts to:
 - a. Avoid the irrevocable loss of land suitable for park and recreation uses;
 - b. Minimize future land acquisition costs; and,
 - c. Provide for the activity needs and preferences of the community.
6. Require developers to pay their equitable share of future park acquisition and development costs.
7. Plan and develop a system of pathways which can connect open space and park facilities with neighborhoods.
8. Develop parks that:
 - 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. 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.
9. 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.
10. Provide accessibility to all park users, according to applicable state and federal laws.
11. Develop major neighborhood park and play field facilities in conjunction with schools, wherever possible.
12. Preserve and enhance distinctive natural areas which are located on park lands.

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13. Integrate open space, pathways and view corridors, with park land and facilities.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Give City residents priority in pricing and scheduling City sponsored activities.
17. 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.
18. Coordinate and cooperate with school districts and other organizations to meet park and recreation needs of the City and the region and to assure optimum efficient use of all parks and recreation facilities and resources.
19. Ensure the opportunity for Lake Oswego residents to have access to parks and recreation facilities and programs regardless of income.

RECOMMENDED ACTION MEASURES

- i. Secure adequate financial support to develop and implement the Parks Acquisition Program in accordance with defined priorities.
- ii. Utilize the Capital Improvements Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to develop land acquisition and facility development priorities.
- iii. Encourage the development of other recreational facilities which are consistent with community recreation objectives and needs.
- iv. Encourage multi-use of public and other recreation facilities.
- v. Provide interpretive programs for natural areas to increase the community’s appreciation and understanding of natural areas.

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- vi. Emphasize park development and maintenance practices which utilize low maintenance and drought-tolerant plant materials which enhance the aesthetic quality and wildlife habitat value of parks, natural areas and open spaces.
- vii. Maintain a parks and recreation advisory body to advise City Council of parks acquisition and development, park design and facilities, recreation programs and priorities and citizen involvement for parks and recreation planning and implementation.
- viii. Seek citizen input in park and recreation planning through surveys, meetings or other appropriate methods.
- ix. Offer a variety of recreation programs and activities which are economically and physically accessible to Lake Oswego residents including those with special needs.
- x. Give scheduling priority to City-sponsored recreation programs and activities which use City facilities.
- xi. Coordinate and cooperate with other jurisdictions and public and private agencies to acquire and develop parks and provide recreation programs.
- xii. Schedule recreation programs at convenient times for maximum participation by residents.

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