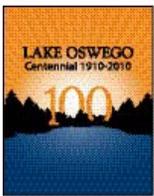


LAKE OSWEGO

Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas System Plan



City of LAKE
OSWEGO
OREGON

PROLOGUE

The City of Lake Oswego is committed to a strong system of parks, recreation opportunities and natural areas that meets community needs and reflects community values. This commitment has been exemplified through numerous past planning efforts. In Summer 2010, the City began developing a new Parks, Recreation and Natural Area System Plan (Parks Plan 2025) to identify community needs during the next 15 years. Parks Plan 2025 builds on the City's 2002 *Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan* and 2001 *Open Space Plan*. Parks Plan 2025 represents the City's first coordinated effort to develop a vision that encompasses developed parks and recreation opportunities as well as natural areas.

Parks Plan 2025 will help the City meet future needs, and create a vibrant, sustainable and livable community that will attract and retain residents and businesses. As the Park Plan develops it will integrate the vision that has been developed as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan update (a separate but concurrent planning effort). The community is creating a new vision which will guide development and activities through 2035. To ensure consistency and clarity, the goals and strategic direction established through Parks Plan 2025 will be coordinated with the final policies to be included in the City's Comprehensive Plan update.

THE COMMUNITY'S VISION

The community's vision will be used to guide the direction of Parks Plan 2025. This vision is a result of the ongoing Comprehensive Plan process which the City is conducting concurrently with Parks Plan 2025. The vision is expressed through a series of focus statements, presented below.

A VISION FOR LAKE OSWEGO

In 2035, Lake Oswego is a thriving, sustainable city, meeting the community's needs without compromising the needs of future generations. Our community is recognized for its quality of life, exceptional schools, and excellent local government. Our multigenerational neighborhoods, healthy natural resources, vibrant mixed-use shopping, employment districts, and diverse services and activities are accessible to all.

Community Culture

Our educational, cultural and recreational opportunities strengthen the social fabric of the community.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSEMENT:

PARKS PLAN 2025: LAKE OSWEGO'S PARK, RECREATION AND NATURAL AREA SYSTEM PLAN

Complete Neighborhoods and Housing

We manage growth by providing the opportunity for a variety of attractive and compatible housing that serves a range of ages, incomes and households.

A Connected Community

We have safe, efficient and convenient transportation choices.

Economic Vitality

We are a community where people can live, work, play and meet their daily needs for goods and services.

Healthy Ecosystems

We are good stewards of our environment.

Community Health and Public Safety

Our community is a safe place to live and supports lifelong active and healthy living.

Inspiring Spaces and Places

Our architecture and natural setting inspire people to live here.

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I. INTRODUCTION

As a critical part of the planning effort, the *Community Needs Assessment* identifies community needs for the City's park land, recreation and natural area system. Based on technical analysis of the park system and key findings from community involvement activities, the Community Needs Assessment identifies community needs for the next 15 years. These needs are based on a desired level of service for developed parks, recreation programming, natural resource management, and system stewardship and maintenance.

More specifically, this report:

- Briefly summarizes key community involvement findings;
- Identifies the need for park land;
- Identifies the need for recreation programs;
- Assesses the mix of recreation facilities across the system;
- Describes priorities for natural resource management;
- Defines maintenance needs for developed and natural area parks; and
- Identifies several specific policy decisions that need further community input prior to developing the Draft Parks Plan 2025.

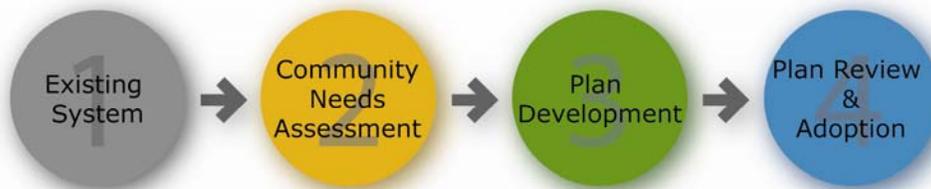
The Needs Assessment provides a foundation for a strategic policy framework and plan recommendations for system-wide improvements. These improvements may include the acquisition of new parks and natural areas, the renovation of existing parks, and the development of new facilities and programs to meet recreation needs, as well as the creation of new maintenance strategies for natural resource and asset management. These recommendations will be incorporated in Parks Plan 2025, which will provide the City with directions to develop and manage the park, recreation and natural area system in a way that leads Lake Oswego to a successful future.

This document presents a complete evaluation of identified needs. The community may chose not to respond to some of these needs at this time or some needs may be met by other partners or providers. Priority needs and specific plans and strategies for achieving these needs, including partnerships, funding and maintenance strategies, will be identified in the next phases of the planning process.

PLANNING PROCESS

The *Community Needs Assessment* is an important second step in the planning process (Figure 1). Building on the conclusions of the *Existing Conditions Summary Report*, the *Community Needs Assessment* sets the stage for plan development. Figure 1 illustrates the planning process, which is described in greater detail below.

Figure 1: Planning Process



- **Phase I: Existing System:** Phase I served to document, map and inventory the existing park, recreation and natural area system. Addressing the question “Where are we now?” this phase included a baseline analysis of the existing system that was summarized in the *Existing Conditions Summary Report*.
- **Phase II: Community Needs Assessment:** Phase II included outreach efforts and a technical analysis to address the question: “Where do we want to be?” A variety of public involvement activities were conducted to solicit community feedback about the community’s vision, recreation preferences and demands. This feedback was combined with a technical analysis to identify the range of parks, natural areas and programs that will be needed to serve Lake Oswego in the next 15 years.
- **Phase III: Plan Development:** To achieve the vision and needs identified in the previous phase, Phase III answers the question “How will we get there?” Plan elements will be developed to provide directions for park maintenance and restoration, acquisition, development, and renovation, as well as recreation programs and services. Recommended projects will be summarized in a capital improvement plan, accompanied by a financing strategy for implementation.
- **Phase IV: Plan Review & Adoption:** In Phase IV, a Draft Parks Plan will be presented to the community for review and refinement prior to adoption.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A primary component of Parks Plan 2025 is a strong, community involvement process. To identify community desires and needs, a variety of public involvement efforts were initiated to obtain feedback from a diverse group of residents, including a variety of ages, interests, and expectations for City services. Approximately 1,400 community members participated in the planning process to date. Additional outreach activities will be conducted later in the planning process to ensure that Parks Plan 2025 reflects the vision, values, and preferences of the Lake Oswego community.¹

The Parks Plan 2025 community involvement process to date has included the following:

- **On-line Questionnaire:** An on-line questionnaire was widely promoted and provided an opportunity for any City resident to participate in the planning process. A total of 1,110 community members completed the questionnaire.
- **Community Intercept Events:** Residents had an opportunity to provide input for the Parks Plan 2025 during three community events held in August 2010, including a community concert, a movie in the park, and at the Lake Oswego Farmers' Market. Over 150 residents provided input at these events.
- **Community Open House:** An open house was held in December 2010 to provide an additional opportunity for all residents to participate in the planning process. Approximately 40 residents participated in this event.
- **Focus Groups:** Six focus groups were held to obtain input from specific user groups, including Luscher Farm partners, natural resource interests, neighborhood association representatives, recreation program users, team sports representatives, and City Commission members. About 40 individuals participated in the focus groups.
- **Stakeholder Interviews:** Several one-on-one or small group interviews were conducted, including interviews with representatives of Friends of Luscher Farm, the Historic Resources Advisory Board, and the City's Economic Development Director.

¹ The final Plan will also integrate findings from the public involvement process being conducted concurrently as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan update.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSEMENT:

PARKS PLAN 2025: LAKE OSWEGO'S PARK, RECREATION AND NATURAL AREA SYSTEM PLAN

- **Youth Workshop:** The youth workshop focused on introducing the plan to Lake Oswego's younger residents, at the same time allowing youth to provide their input on the plan. The meeting including an open group discussion and a "teen" survey. The meeting generated about 12 participants.
- **Steering Committee, Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), Neighborhood Recreation Advisory Board (NRAB) and City Council:** A project steering committee, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Natural Resources Advisory Board, and City Council are providing oversight and guidance throughout the Parks Plan 2025. About 12 individuals serve on these committees.

KEY FINDINGS

The findings from the community involvement process have been integrated into this *Needs Assessment* report. A more complete summary of the public involvement process and findings is provided in the *Public Input Summary Report* (January 2011) available under separate cover from the City. Outreach to the public was beneficial in identifying several key findings related to Parks Plan 2025.

- **Benefits:** Protecting important places (habitats, historic sites, etc.), enhancing health and well-being, and bringing neighbors and people together are some of the benefits that the community feels are most important.
- **Desired character:** For local parks, most residents desire a hybrid park character that provides both natural and developed features, or an entirely natural character.
- **Close-to-home amenities:** Residents identified the need for children's play, opportunities to experience nature and opportunities to exercise most frequently as the amenities needed close to home.
- **Recreation participation:** According to the on-line questionnaire results, the recreation activities with the greatest participation among Lake Oswego residents are walking activities and opportunities for gardening, playing with dogs and experiencing nature.
- **Recreation programs:** Overall, residents appear satisfied with the recreation programs offered 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.

- **Highest priority improvements:** Maintaining existing parks, developing major new indoor facilities, expanding trails and restoring natural areas were frequently mentioned as high priority improvements in multiple community involvement venues.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSEMENT:

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II. PARKS & FACILITIES

The need for park land and recreation facilities in Lake Oswego must reflect the unique values, preferences, and expectations held by City residents. These expectations influence the desired distribution and character of park land and facilities. For this reason, the park and facility analysis identifies the types of experiences and recreation opportunities desired by park system users, along with capacity of the system to meet these needs.

OVERVIEW OF EXISTING PARK SYSTEM

The City of Lake Oswego's park system includes over 600 acres of land. These parks sites are managed by the Parks and Recreation Department to support recreation, protect natural areas, and provide open space. As noted in the *Existing System Summary Report*, these City properties were classified to clarify the uses and benefits of the existing park system. The following park classes were defined:

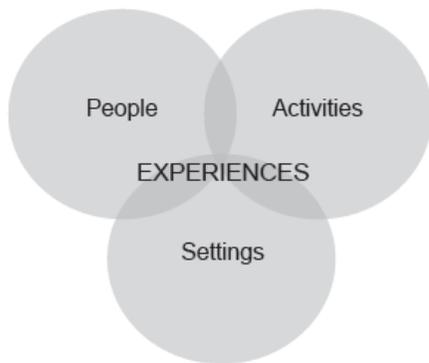
- **Local parks** are meant primarily for the enjoyment of nearby neighbors. These parks often include traditional recreation amenities—such as playgrounds, sport courts, and open turf play areas—that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance of the typical park user. However, they may also be a small natural area that provides relief from urban development and contributes to neighborhood character. These natural areas may also provide outdoor recreation opportunities for nearby residents.
- **City-wide parks** provide recreation facilities and natural features that appeal to the entire city and beyond. These larger parks generally support group gatherings and provide a greater variety of recreation facilities, such as play areas, sports fields, sports courts, picnic shelters, event space, and trails. Most contain significant natural features, such as river access or forested areas.
- **Special purpose sites** are parks that provide a stand-alone park facility or serve a unique purpose. For example, these sites include facilities such as senior centers, aquatic or water sports facilities, golf courses, skate parks, tennis centers, historic buildings, and walking paths and/or trailheads. These specialized facilities appeal to a city-wide and regional audience, drawing users from throughout the community.

Map 1 depicts the current City park inventory by classification.

APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING NEEDS

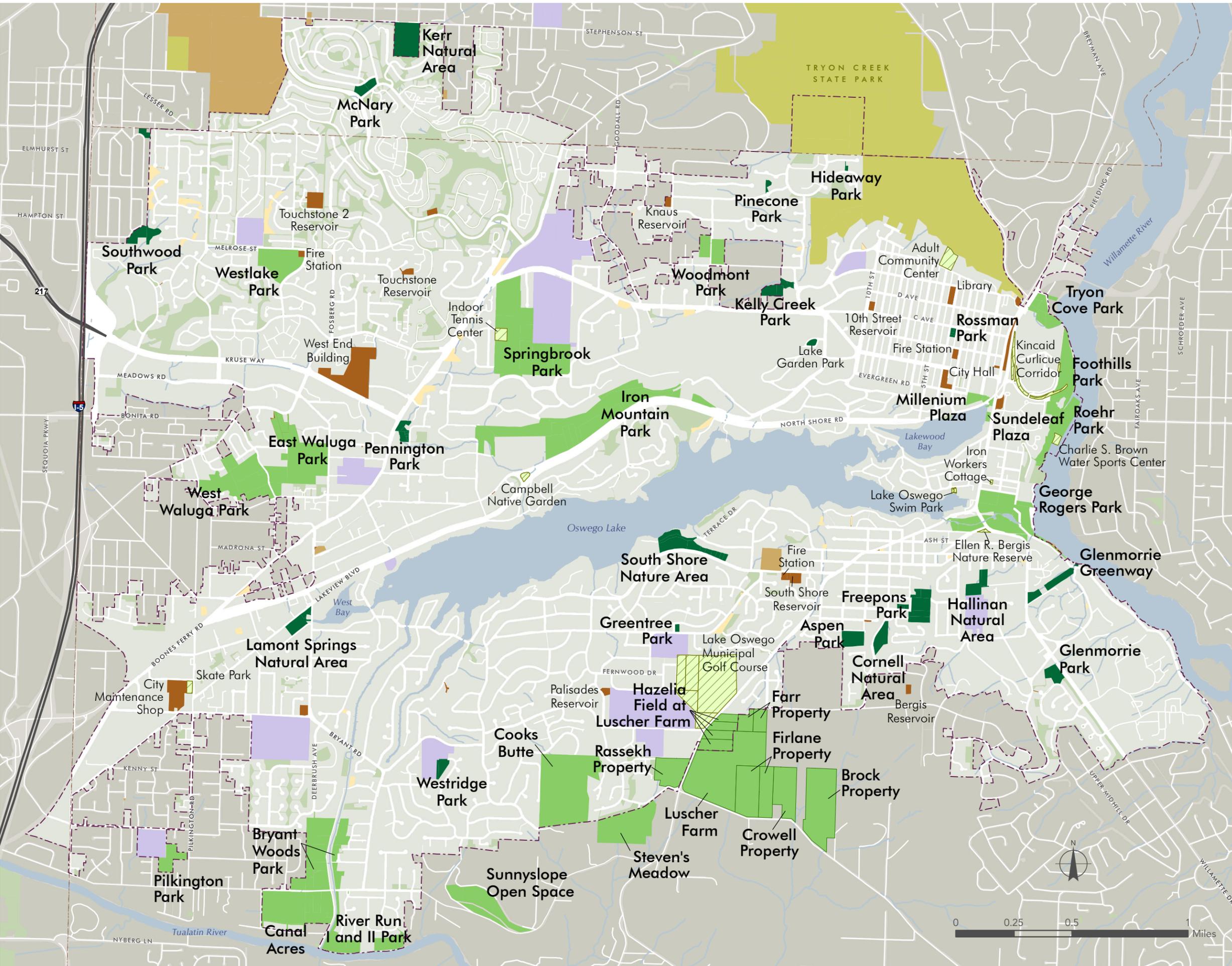
Lake Oswego's residents desire a park system that provides a variety of recreation experiences across the park system. In this document, community needs are analyzed based on the types of experiences people desire in parks.¹ This approach centers on the activities desired by park users, as well as the types of settings that can accommodate these activities. Figure 2 illustrates the approach used for this analysis.

Figure 2: Lake Oswego Approach to Identifying Needs

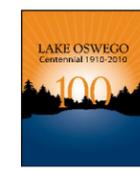


The approach to analyzing park and recreation needs in Lake Oswego can be further defined by addressing the provision of **essential services** (activities that are most important to residents) and **recreational variety** (recreational activities that provide diverse experiences). The analysis addresses both types of recreation needs.

¹ This approach is based on the City of Portland Park System Plan, which was identified by key stakeholders as a model for the system's analysis.



- Citywide Park
- Local Park
- Special Purpose
- Other Public Open Space
- Other City Property
- Other Public Land
- Other Jurisdiction Park
- Private Open Space
- School Property
- Water Feature
- City Limits
- County Boundary
- Freeway



**MAP 1:
EXISTING
PARK SYSTEM**



ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Essential services are the types of park and recreation activities that are most important to the majority of City residents. A key finding of the Parks Plan 2025 community involvement process is that the type of park setting is equally as important as the activity itself to City residents. Based on these findings, the assessment of essential service needs examines the relationship between activities and park settings.

PARK SERVICES

Three essential park and recreational activities identified as most important to residents are: Exercise and Sports, Play for Children and Experience Nature.

- **Exercise and Sports:** These include individual, group or team activities that support general health, individual fitness goals, competition or teamwork. These activities can be supported by a range of facilities—from walking trails to sport fields— that promote people enhancing and/or maintaining their overall physical fitness, health and wellness.
- **Play for Children²:** Play happens in many formal and informal settings. In this case, play for children is defined as an activity supported by a space or feature that is designed specifically to encourage playful interactions for children. Examples include developed play areas (slides, swings, platforms and installed toys), nature play areas and interactive water features.³
- **Experience Nature:** Nature surrounds park users even in the most developed parks in Lake Oswego but the act of experiencing nature focuses on the opportunity to be surrounded by trees, come into direct contact with unique habitats or natural features or observe wildlife. This activity can include a wide range of possibilities from bird watching in a grove of trees to exploring a native planting area within a developed park.

² Although Lake Oswego's population has been aging and the number of youth in the overall population has decreased, the results of the public outreach indicated a desire for places for children to play. The interpretation of the demographic trends vs. the public outreach results is not a part of this assessment.

³ While natural areas can support play where policies allow park access, exploration and interaction (digging, hiding, climbing, splashing in a creek, skipping rocks, walking or biking off-trail, etc.), most natural areas in Lake Oswego are not designed or managed to support these types of activities. For purposes of this assessment, only formal play areas are considered as meeting this guideline.

PARK SETTING

Generally speaking, Lake Oswego's park system can be characterized by four types of parks that represent potential settings for recreation activities:

- **Developed:** Developed parks are primarily designed and developed to accommodate recreational facilities and more formal, traditional park uses. The setting is typically more manicured in character, with closely mowed lawns, concrete pathways, and landscaped vegetation. It often includes manufactured play equipment and active use facilities. While some natural resources may be present, recreational use is the priority at these sites.
- **Hybrid:** Hybrid parks combine developed park uses with natural park features for the dual purpose of providing recreation experiences and protecting natural resources. Developed and natural features can either be integrated or separated, as noted below.
 - **Integrated:** An integrated hybrid park provides developed features, such as trails and benches, playgrounds and ball courts, within a natural setting.
 - **Side-by-side:** A hybrid park with side-by-side resources separates natural areas from developed park areas, creating two distinct settings within one park. For example, side-by-side parks may provide developed play equipment, sports fields, and parking, beside a wooded setting.
- **Natural:** Depending on their primary purpose, natural parks are dedicated to protecting native habitat, environmental resources, and ecological functions, such as stormwater mitigation. This type of park may also provide recreation opportunities or opportunities to be in nature.

As expected, some park settings are better suited for supporting essential recreation services. Figure 3 rates each setting as suitable or somewhat suitable in supporting exercise and sports, play for children, and nature experiences.

Figure 3: Essential Services Matrix

SETTING	ACTIVITY Exercise and Sports	Play for Children	Experience Nature
Developed	●	●	◐
Hybrid (Integrated/Side-by-side)	●	●	●
Natural	◐	◐	●

● = Suitable ◐ = Somewhat Suitable

ANALYSIS OF EXISTING ESSENTIAL SERVICES

To assess the capacity of the existing park system in meeting needs for essential services, each local and city-wide park was categorized by the type of park setting it provides. Special purpose parks are not assessed in this analysis due to their unique characteristics and location. For example, a boat launch provides a place for exercise and play, but its location is based on unique features found only along Oswego Lake or the Willamette River.

The analysis evaluated each of the parks to assess their capacity to support exercise and sports, play for children, and nature experiences. Table 1 summarizes the evaluation of essential services provided by parks in a developed or hybrid (integrated or side-by-side) setting.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSEMENT:

PARKS PLAN 2025: LAKE OSWEGO'S PARK, RECREATION AND NATURAL AREA SYSTEM PLAN

Table 1: Essential Park Service Analysis by Setting - Developed, Integrated and Side-by-side

Park Setting	Park Class	Play For Children	Exercise/ Sports	Experience Nature
Developed				
Foothills Park	CP	x	x	x
Greentree Park	LP	x	x	
Hazelia Field	CP	x	x	x
McNary Park	LP	x	x	x
Millennium Plaza Park	CP	x		
Pilkington Park	CP		x	x
Rossman Park	LP	x	x	x
Sundeleaf Plaza*	CP			
Westlake Park	CP	x	x	
Westridge Park	LP	x	x	
Integrated				
George Rogers Park	CP	x	x	x
Hideaway Park	LP	x		x
Luscher Farm	CP	x	x	x
Pinecone Park	LP	x		x
Roehr Park	CP	x		x
West Waluga Park	CP	x	x	x
Side-by-side				
Aspen Park (Palisades Reservoir)	LP	x		x
Freepons Park	LP	x	x	x
Glenmorrie Park	LP	x	x	x
East Waluga Park	CP	x	x	x

* Indicates no services present. Shaded rows indicate all three services provided.
 CP = City-Wide Park, LP = Local Park

As noted in the table, all three essential services are supported by developed, integrated and side-by-side park settings at both a local and city-wide scale at ten parks.

Alternatively, parks that provide a natural setting do not support all three essential services. Table 2 summaries the findings for parks with natural settings.

Table 2: Essential Park Service Analysis by Natural Setting

Park Setting	Park Class	Play For Children	Exercise/Sports	Experience Nature
Natural				
Brock Property*	CP			
Bryant Woods Park	CP		x	x
Canal Acres	CP		x	x
Cooks Butte Park	CP			x
Cornell Natural Area	LP			x
Crowell Property*	CP			
Farr Property*	CP			
Firlane Farm*	CP			
Glenmorrie Greenway	LP			x
Hallinan Natural Area	LP			x
Iron Mountain Park	CP		x	x
Kelly Creek Park	LP			x
Kerr Natural Area	LP			x
Lake Garden Park*	LP			
Lamont Springs Natural Area	LP		x	x
Pennington Park	LP			x
Rassekh Property*	CP			
River Run I and II Park	CP		x	x
South Shore Natural Area	LP			x
Southwood II	LP			x
Southwood Park	LP		x	x
Springbrook Park	CP		x	x
Stevens Meadow	CP		x	x
Sunnyslope Open Space	CP			x
Tryon Cove Park	CP			x
Woodmont Park	CP		x	x

* Indicates no services present. Shaded rows indicate all three services provided.
 CP = City-Wide Park, LP = Local Park

As noted above, none of the parks with natural park settings have formal play areas for children. In fact, six of the 26 parks noted in Table 2 do not provide recreation facilities or even allow public access.⁴ While nine of the sites provide trails that can be used for exercise, twenty sites support some type of nature experience.

⁴ Deed restrictions are not included in this analysis and will be addressed on a case by case basis. If applicable, a site's deed restrictions will be evaluated in the recommendations section of the final plan.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSEMENT:

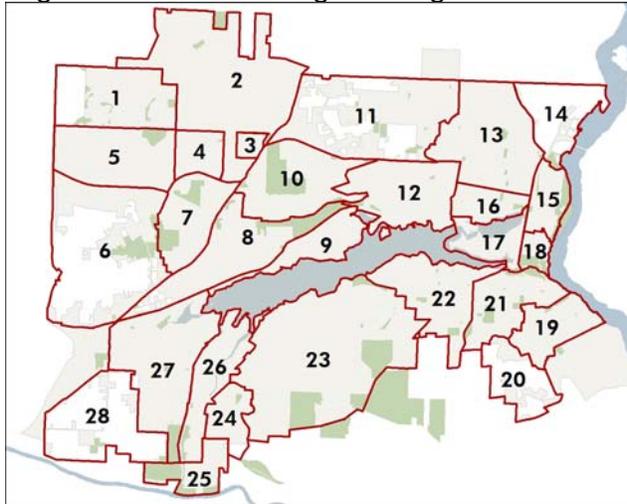
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DISTRIBUTION & ACCESS

For residents in Lake Oswego, the ideal park system is one in which parks are well distributed to provide equitable access to the three essential services. To evaluate the geographic distribution of park land, the analysis identified the capacity of parks to provide essential services. This geographic analysis helps identify City areas that are well-served by the existing park system, as well as places where gaps and overlaps in essential services exist.

The geographic analysis is discussed in terms of Lake Oswego's 28 neighborhood units (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Lake Oswego's Neighborhoods



- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 - Oak Creek | 15 - Foothills (forming) |
| 2 - Mountain Park HOA | 16 - Evergreen |
| 3 - John's Woods HOA | 17 - Lakewood |
| 4 - Holly Orchard | 18 - Old Town |
| 5 - Westlake (forming) | 19 - Glenmorrie |
| 6 - Lake Forest | 20 - Skylands |
| 7 - Waluga | 21 - Hallinan |
| 8 - Lake Grove | 22 - McVey-South Shore |
| 9 - Lakeview-Summit (forming) | 23 - Palisades |
| 10 - Uplands | 24 - Westridge |
| 11 - Forest Highlands | 25 - Childs (forming) |
| 12 - Country Club-North Shore | 26 - Blue Heron |
| 13 - First Addition | 27 - Bryant |
| 14 - Birdshell | 28 - Rosewood CPO |

Distribution

The geographic distribution of parks providing essential services is presented in Map 2. The map illustrates the type and mix of activities provided at the City's developed, integrated and side-by-side park settings.

Parks that provide all three essential services (colored fuchsia) are concentrated in downtown and along the periphery of the City in the Foothills, Old Town, Hallinan, Lake Forest, Mountain Park, Waluga and Palisades neighborhoods.

Larger parks, such as Springbook Park, Iron Mountain Park, and Bryant Woods Park only provide opportunities for exercise and nature experiences (in blue and orange-striped areas).

Figure 5 illustrates the distribution of the three essential services by park throughout the city. As depicted in the figure, there is a better distribution of experiences with nature, and exercise and sports in contrast to parks that have places for children to play.

Figure 5: Distribution of Parks by Essential Services



Access⁵

Lake Oswego residents desire public access to essential services within walking or biking distance of their homes. For planning purposes, walking and biking distance is typically measured at 1/4 mile and 1/2 mile respectively. These are the typical distances that residents will walk or bike to reach a desired activity. These travel distances are

⁵ Access to essential services was analyzed using ESRI ArcGIS Network Analyst™. Travel distance was simulated using City GIS data for streets and trails.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSEMENT:

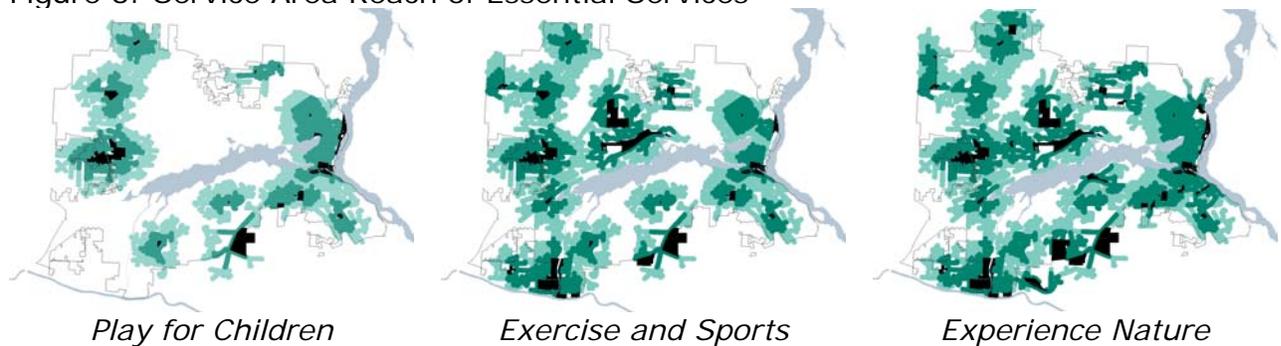
PARKS PLAN 2025: LAKE OSWEGO'S PARK, RECREATION AND NATURAL AREA SYSTEM PLAN

often referred to as a service area reach, because it reflects the distance within which service is provided by an individual site.

Map 3 illustrates a 1/4 and 1/2 mile service area reach from the ten parks that provide all three essential activities. The map shows how much (or how little) of the city is served by all three essential services within walking or biking distance of most users. The areas shaded in green emphasize how services are concentrated in the periphery of the city and downtown.

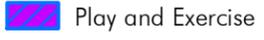
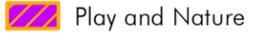
To assess the service provided by the City for each essential service, Figure 6 illustrates the 1/4 and 1/2 mile service area reach for play for children, exercise and sports, and nature experiences regardless of park class or setting. In this figure, the darkest color shows the park boundaries. The medium color indicates a 1/4 mile service area reach, and the lighter color indicates a 1/2 mile service area reach.

Figure 6: Service Area Reach of Essential Services

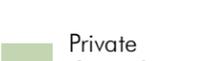
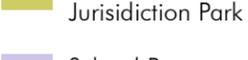
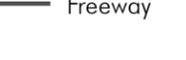


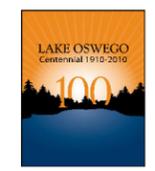
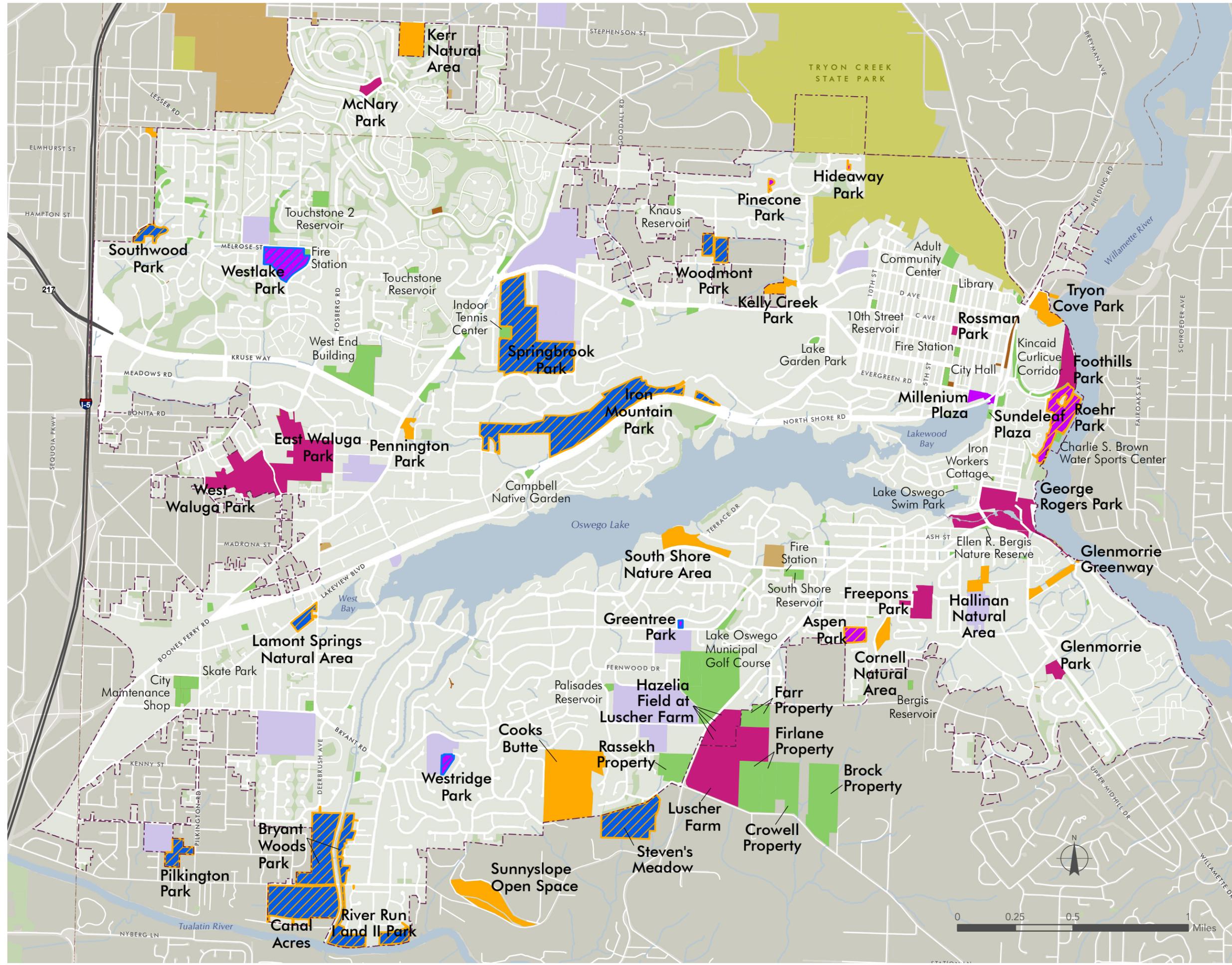
As before, access to nature experiences is well-supported across the City based on the distribution of existing parks. This is followed closely by parks that support exercise and sports activities. However, formal places for children to play are poorly distributed across the City and leave many areas of the City unserved.

Essential Park Services

-  Play
-  Play and Exercise
-  Play and Nature
-  Play and Exercise and Nature*
-  Exercise and Nature
-  Nature

*This park meets all three essential park services

-  Other City Property
-  Other City Park Land
-  Other Public Land
-  City Limits
-  Private Open Space
-  County Boundaries
-  Other Jurisdiction Park
-  Water Feature
-  School Property
-  Freeway



**MAP 2:
ESSENTIAL
PARK SERVICES**

Play for Children

The central and southwest areas of the City are the most prevalent areas in Lake Oswego lacking places for children to play, but there are neighborhoods throughout the City where this essential service is lacking. These include:

- Childs
- Rosewood
- Bryant
- Lake Grove
- Uplands
- Country Club-North Shore
- Lakeview-Summit
- Birds Hill
- Skylands
- John's Woods

Of these neighborhoods, John's Woods and Lakeview-Summit lack any kind of park land to supply recreation services. (Note: In addition to the list above, some neighborhoods are only partially served by parks that provide play for children. This will be discussed later in this section). Most of the neighborhoods with service area gaps have an existing park or natural area located there, but these parks currently do not provide a formal children's play area. With some redevelopment, several of these parks could fill the gap in park service (where park development does not adversely impact natural resources).

Parks that currently provide exercise and sports and experiences in nature, but lack a formal place for children to play are:

- Bryant Woods Park
- Canal Acres
- Iron Mountain Park
- Lamont Springs Natural Area
- Pilkington Park
- River Run I and II Park
- Southshore Natural Area
- Southwood Park
- Springbrook Park
- Woodmont Park

Map 4: Play for Children Service Access illustrates the change of service area reach if play areas were integrated into the parks noted above. In some of these natural character parks, a "natural play area" could be provided. Alternatively, the community may decide to adopt a larger service area (1/2 mile or greater) for formal children's play. Even if formal play areas were integrated into the parks, service gaps would still exist in the following neighborhoods:

- Oak Creek
- Mountain Park
- Holly Orchard
- Lake Forest
- Forest Highlands
- Birdshill
- Skylands
- Palisades

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- Lakeview-Summit
- Rosewood
- Blue Heron
- Country Club-North Shore

School play areas may have the potential to fill service gaps in Oak Creek, Forest Highlands, Rosewood, Blue Heron and Palisades neighborhoods. In addition, some areas could potentially be served by parks that currently only provide experiences in nature. These include Palisades by Cooks Butte, Birdshill by Tryon Cove Park and Country Club-North Shore by Kelly Creek Park. Again, a “natural” play area could be provided or a larger service area could be considered.

Exercise and Sports

Parks providing opportunities for exercise and sports are more evenly distributed around the city. Only one neighborhood lacks access to this service - Skylands. Neighborhoods with some gaps in service exercise and sports include:

- Lake Forest
- Oak Creek
- Mountain Park
- Forest Highlands
- Birdshill
- Palisades
- First Addition
- Blue Heron
- Holly Orchard
- McVey-South Shore
- Country Club-North Shore

The development of trails in natural character parks that only provide experiences in nature could fill some of these service gaps. Map 5: Exercise and Sports Service Access illustrates the gaps that could be served by parks providing experiences with nature. First Addition and Country Club-North Shore could be served by Kelly Creek Park and Palisades by Cooks Butte.

The potential service area reach provided by Cornell Natural Area, Hallinan Natural Area, Glenmorrie Greenway, Tryon Cove, Pennington Park and Southwood II would overlap the existing service area reach of parks meeting exercise and sports service needs.

Experience with Nature

Parks providing experience in nature are well distributed throughout the City. As illustrated by Map 6: Experience Nature Service Access, service gaps can be found in the following neighborhoods:

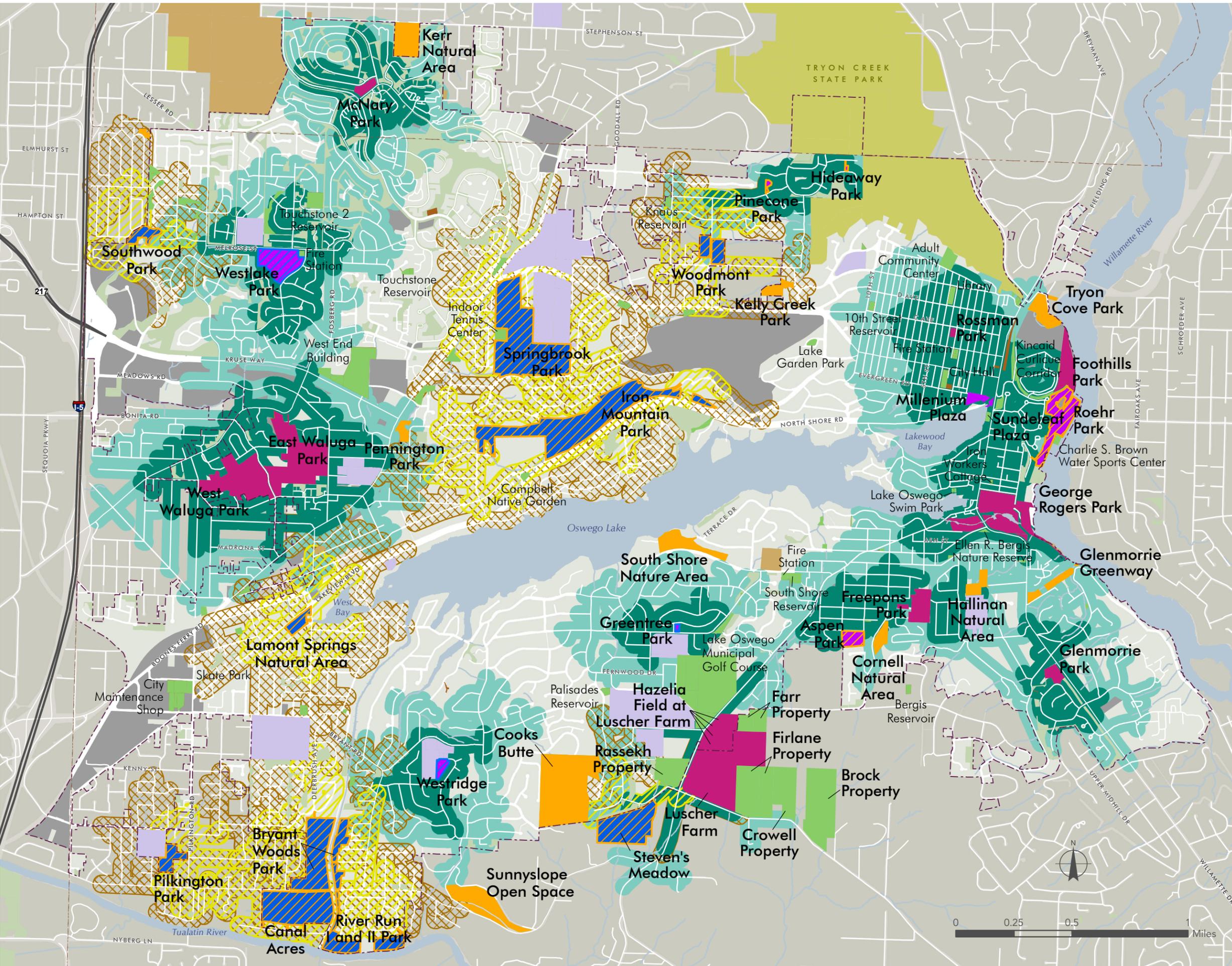
- Oak Creek
- Westlake
- Holly Orchard
- Lake Forest
- Mountain Park
- Forest Highlands
- Country Club-North Shore
- Lakewood
- Skylands
- Palisades
- Blue Heron
- Rosewood

Of the above listed neighborhoods, Westlake and Mountain Park have access to private open spaces within the housing developments.

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Essential Park Services

- Play
- Play and Exercise
- Play and Nature
- Play and Exercise and Nature*
- Exercise and Nature
- Nature

Service Area

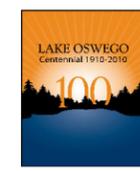
- 1/4 Mile
- 1/2 Mile

Potential Play Service Areas

- 1/4 Mile
- 1/2 Mile

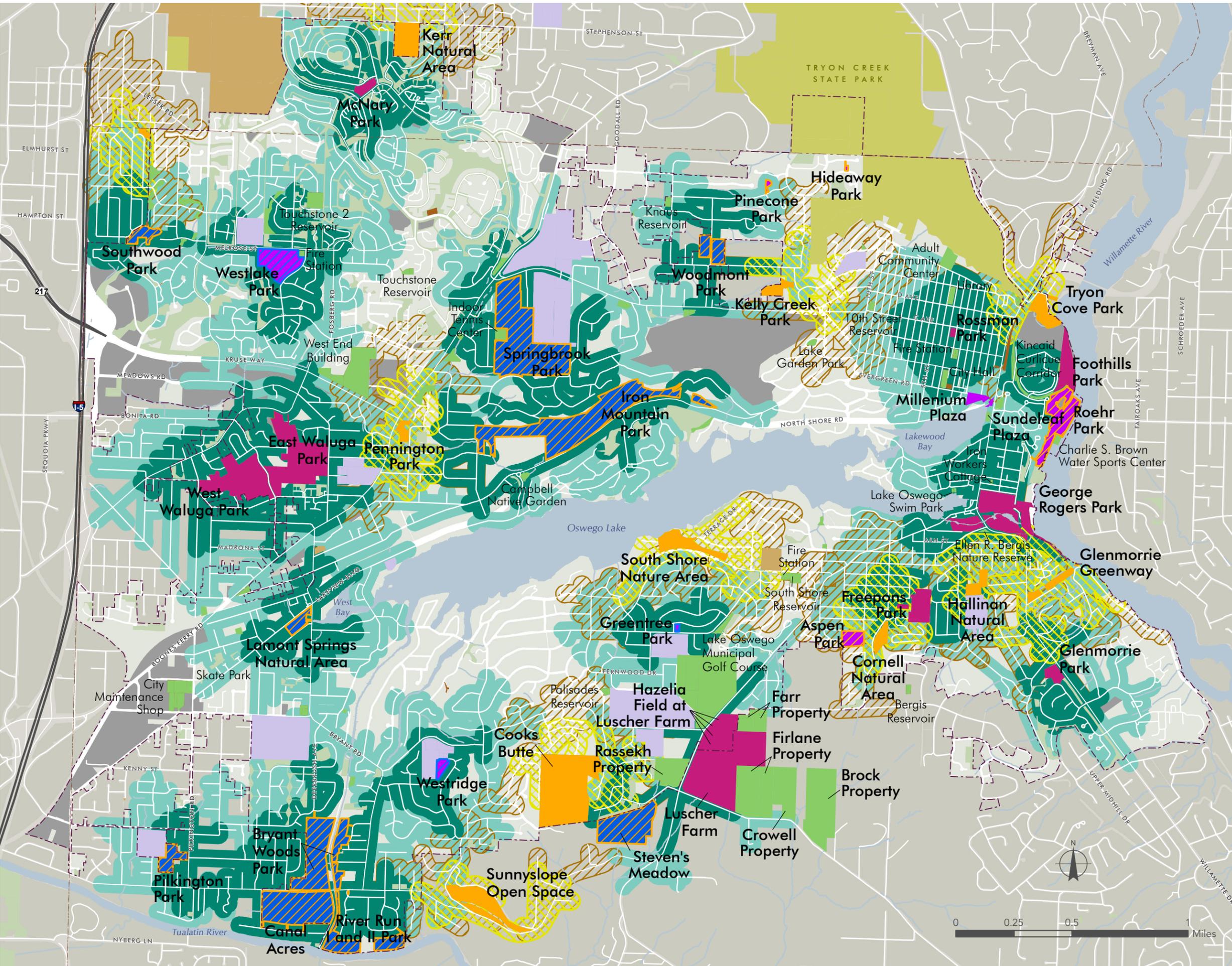
*This park meets all three essential park services

- | | |
|---|--|
| Other City Property | Other City Park Land |
| Other Public Land | Non-residential Parcel |
| Private Open Space | City Limits |
| Other Jurisdiction Park | County Boundaries |
| School Property | Water Feature |
| | Freeway |



MAP 4: PLAY FOR CHILDREN SERVICE ACCESS





Essential Park Services

- Play
- Play and Exercise
- Play and Nature
- Play and Exercise and Nature*
- Exercise and Nature
- Nature

Service Area

- 1/4 Mile
- 1/2 Mile

Potential Exercise and Sports Service Areas

- 1/4 Mile
- 1/2 Mile

*This park meets all three essential park services

- | | |
|---|--|
| Other City Property | Other City Park Land |
| Other Public Land | Non-residential Parcel |
| Private Open Space | City Limits |
| Other Jurisdiction Park | County Boundaries |
| School Property | Water Feature |
| | Freeway |



MAP 5: EXERCISE AND SPORTS SERVICE ACCESS



GAPS IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES

After a review of the three essential park services provided by Lake Oswego's park system, there are portions of the community that do not have access to services within a 1/2 mile service area reach of City park lands. Map 7: Gaps In Essential Service Access highlights the areas of the City lacking essential services. Each has been assigned a number for describing gaps in service area reach.

Gap Area 1

Service gap area 1 straddles the Oak Creek neighborhood and Mountain Park home owners association. The road network in this neighborhood is primarily cul-de-sacs, which has resulted in the lack of connectivity to the surrounding park system. The gap area has multiple areas of private open spaces distributed throughout the zone.

Gap Area 2

Service gap area 2 overlays Holly Orchard, John's Woods and Mountain Park neighborhoods. The areas within Holly Orchard and Mountain Park have a well distributed system of private open spaces. John's Woods street pattern of cul-de-sacs decreases the connectivity in this neighborhood to park services.

Gap Area 3

Gap area 3 in the Lake Forest neighborhood sits just outside of the City's limits and the area within the City's limits contains private open space areas. If this area were to be incorporated into Lake Oswego, access to essential services or private open spaces would need to be addressed.

Gap Area 4

Gap area 4 covers the southwest portion of the Bryant neighborhood and the unincorporated areas of the Rosewood neighborhood. Cul-de-sac street development limits access for the area in Bryant. Should the Rosewood area incorporate access to essential services will need to be addressed.

Gap Area 5

Gap area 5 spans the northern portions of the Blue Heron and Palisades neighborhoods. There is a private open space area near the southern border of Oswego Lake, but there are no other public or private open spaces available in this gap area.

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Gap Area 6

Service gap area 6 covers the western area of the Forest Highlands neighborhood where incorporation into the City's limits is a patchwork. As development and incorporation occur in this area access to essential services will need to be addressed.

Gap Area 7

The entire northern end of Birdshill lacks access to essential park services. This neighborhood is situated in an area with steep topography, is adjacent Tryon Creek State Park, and is an unincorporated area of the City.

Gap Area 8

Gap area 8 is situated just north of Oswego Lake in the Country Club-North Shore and Lakewood neighborhoods. Private and public open spaces are not available in this area of steep topography.

Gap Area 9

Located in the McVey-South Shore neighborhood, gap area 9 identifies an area where the road network terminates and private open spaces are available.

Gap Area 10

Most of gap area 10 is in unincorporated Lake Oswego. Private open space is located along the southwestern boundary in the incorporated area of the neighborhood. Should the central and northern area of this gap area incorporate access to essential services will need to be addressed.

NEEDS FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

As noted above, there are ten areas in Lake Oswego that need park land and/or park development to support access to the City's three essential park and recreation services: play for children, exercise and sports, and nature experiences. While the analysis indicated that there is park land and/or school facilities in some of these areas, further investigation would be needed to determine if these sites can help address a potential need.⁶

⁶ Some sites may be explored further as part of the recommendations for the final Parks Plan 2025

This analysis does not suggest that park development is recommended at all sites identified as gap areas. This is especially the case with sites such as those that currently do not allow park access or are unincorporated. On the other hand, the City could investigate all existing opportunities to determine if changes in the management, design, and development of certain sites can help achieve the community's vision.

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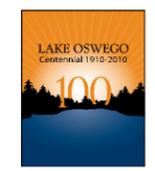
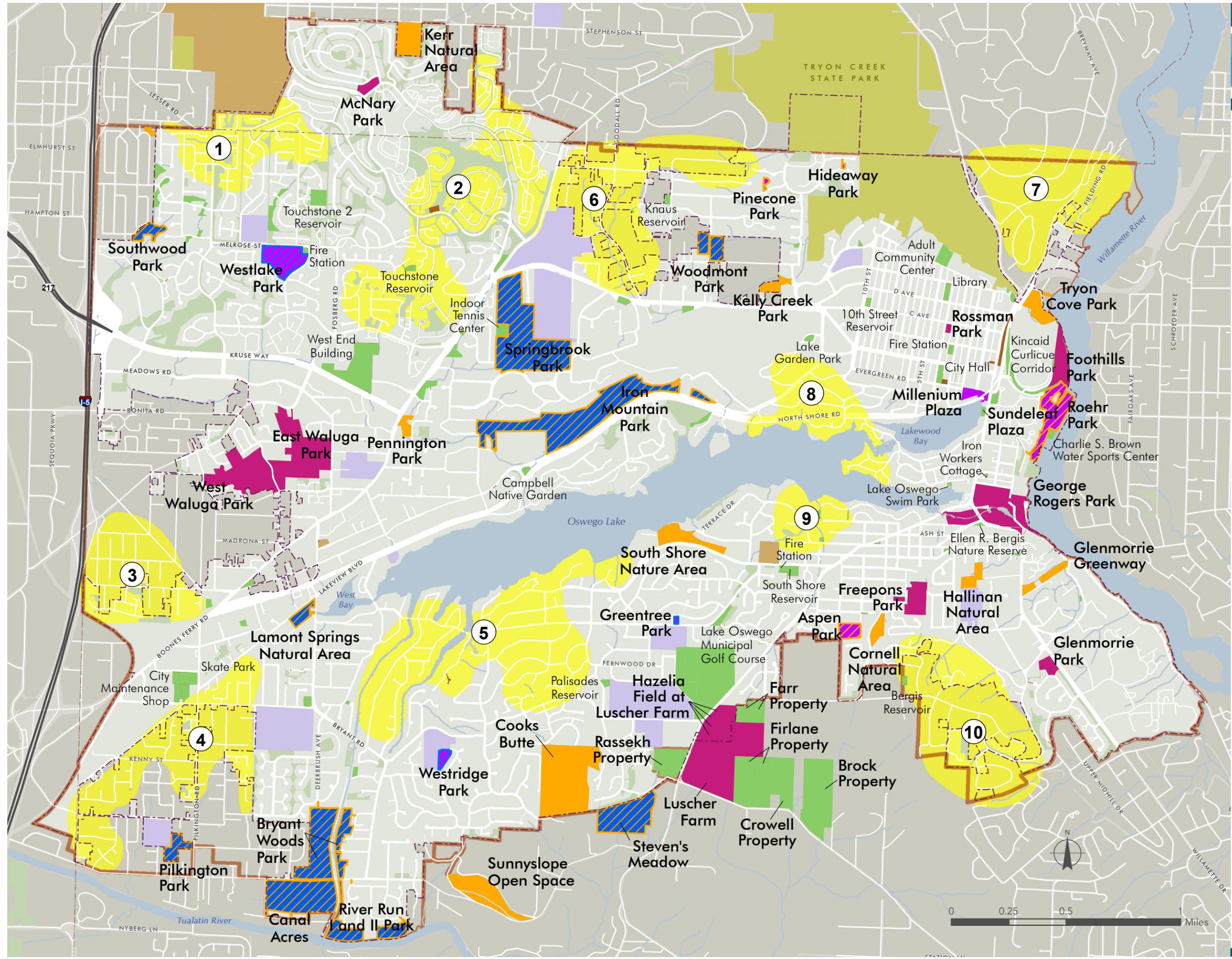
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Essential Park Services

- Play
- Play and Exercise
- Play and Nature
- Play and Exercise and Nature*
- Exercise and Nature
- Nature
- Gap in Essential Service
- Urban Services Boundary

*This park meets all three essential park services

- Other City Property
- Other City Park Land
- Other Public Land
- Non-residential Parcel
- Private Open Space
- City Limits
- Other Jurisdiction Park
- Water Feature
- School Property
- Freeway
- County Boundaries



MAP 7: GAPS IN ESSENTIAL SERVICE ACCESS



III. RECREATION VARIETY

As noted in Section II, the City of Lake Oswego needs park land and recreation facilities to meet needs for three types of essential park services. Along with these services, residents also desire additional recreation opportunities that add variety to Lake Oswego's park system. This section identifies the various types of recreation activities desired in Lake Oswego, the facilities needed to support those activities, and the capacity of the existing park and recreation system to meet those facility needs.

As identified in the public involvement activities, Lake Oswego residents desire the following types of recreation opportunities (listed in the order they appear in this document):

- Sports (field and court sports)
- Swimming (pools)
- Water/shore access
- Indoor programs
- Trails (Walking, hiking, jogging, and bicycling)
- Nature play areas
- Natural/cultural interpretation
- Off-leash dog park access
- Gardening
- Special events (outdoor)
- Family and group celebrations
- Skateboarding

Facility needs to support each of these activities are described below.

SPORTS (FIELD AND COURT SPORTS)

Sports are athletic activities requiring skill or physical ability, which can be competitive or recreational in nature and typically require regulation fields or courts for games. Practice space or casual play may include less formal play space and facilities. This activity includes team and individual sports that are played on fields or courts, including organized leagues games and practices, pick-up games or informal play, sport camps, and skill-development classes. (Non-court or field sports, such as golf, boating, swimming, and skateboarding, are discussed separately).

FACILITY SUPPLY

Existing sport fields and courts are noted in Lake Oswego's Park and Facility Inventory, presented in Appendix A. The City's sport fields include diamond fields for sports such as baseball/softball, T-ball, and kickball; rectangular fields for sports such as soccer, football and lacrosse. Many of these fields are lighted. The City also provides basketball and tennis courts. However, local schools are the major provider of sports fields and courts.

- **Sports Fields:** The Parks and Recreation Department and School District together provide 29 diamond fields and 22 rectangular fields to support sports needs. However, many fields in Lake Oswego are designed as multi-purpose overlay fields, where two fields are overlaid onto one shared space. Only one of these overlay fields can be used at any one time. Because of these overlays, Lake Oswego supports only 33 individual fields (counting overlays as one field).

Field overlays help maximize sport capacity in parks with limited space. However, where sport seasons overlap, this type of field arrangement can cause numerous scheduling conflicts and an unmet demand for field space. It also has a greater impact on field condition, since field overlays do not allow for "field rest" in the off-season to allow fields to repair natural turf. On the other hand, the City and School District provide synthetic turf fields for community use at sites, which do not require field rest and fair better in rainy conditions. Also, approximately half of sport fields sites include field lighting to maximize playing time.

In 2001, the City conducted an athletic field study which outlined specific sports field needs and recommendations for Lake Oswego.¹ According to the study, there is a need for additional rectangular fields to accommodate the demand for this field type as well as upgrades to existing fields. The study also found that there is adequate capacity of diamond-shaped fields. Since the completion of this study, the City has constructed, one additional multi-use rectangular field, Hazelia Field (at Luscher Farm), and upgraded some City and School District fields. As noted in Appendix B, sport fields at 45 sites are now rated as average or good quality, and fields at six sites are considered to be in poor condition.

- **Basketball Courts:** The City's park system provides two and one-half basketball courts at three sites. The Lake Oswego School District owns five outdoor basketball courts, which are provided at

¹ The 2001 Athletic Field Requirements report did specify a total number of additional sports fields needed or a total needing to be upgraded. Field capacity was assessed in terms of scheduling slots.

elementary schools, and 14 indoor courts located at Waluga Junior High and each of the high schools.

- **Tennis Courts:** The City's park system includes four outdoor tennis courts located in citywide parks; two each in George Rogers and West Lake parks. One additional tennis court is located on the South Shore Reservoir site, owned by the Water Department. In addition, the City owns and operates The Indoor Tennis Center located adjacent to Springbrook Park. The Lake Oswego School District provides 15 outdoor tennis courts, most located at junior high and high schools.

FACILITY NEEDS

Based on public feedback and recreation participation trends, the need for sports facilities varies by facility type:

- **Sports Fields:** The need identified in the 2001 sport field study has been partially met by the development of one additional field at Hazelia Field at Luscher Farm. Upgrades to City and School District sport fields have allowed for more playable surfaces longer into the year. While the net number of fields has only increased by one, the addition of lighting and synthetic surfaces with improved field conditions have increased playable time. However, field capacity is still limited, and sports teams must share practice space given the current supply. As a result, more sports fields are needed to minimize these scheduling and spatial conflicts.
- **Basketball Courts:** In many communities, basketball is the most popular sport because of opportunities for informal play as well as organized team sports. Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department provides outdoor sports courts in a few parks. However, the provision of sports courts (including outdoor basketball, volleyball, tennis, handball, shuffleboard, bocce, horseshoes, etc.) is one way to add in sports and fitness opportunities into an existing park with minimal space required. While courts should not be required at every park, a variety of sports courts are needed to support exercise and recreational variety.

Tennis Courts: Given a high demand for tennis, the Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation Department has been looking for ways to expand indoor and outdoor tennis in the City. A 2009 Golf and Tennis Feasibility Study made several recommendations to improve the supply of tennis facilities and programs. However, the City's Charter prohibits expansion of the Indoor Tennis Center at its current location. Lake Oswego's City Council has chosen to explore locating a new indoor facility at the Rassekh property. This expansion of available indoor tennis space should accommodate the need for indoor play

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space. Outdoor court distribution throughout the City should be addressed to improve resident access rather than clustered in a few locations.

SWIMMING (POOLS)

Swimming pools/aquatic centers can support recreational swimming, water play activities and aquatic sports—including both programmed and unprogrammed swim times. Structured activities may include water fitness classes, learn-to-swim programs, water safety courses, as well as competitive events such as swim meets and water polo. In some cases, introductory canoe/kayaking courses and scuba diving classes are even held at pools. Indoor and outdoor swimming pools typically represent a large investment for a community, in terms of both capital costs (for facility development), and operations costs (for ongoing maintenance, staffing, management, and programming).

FACILITY SUPPLY

The School District operates the only publicly accessible indoor pool in the City at Lake Oswego High School. This pool is programmed for a variety of uses, such as high school swim teams, private swim club practice, open swim, and fitness and swimming lessons. In addition to the Lake Oswego High School pool, a private facility is provided at the Mountain Park Clubhouse. This facility is owned by a homeowners association and is available only to the residents of Mountain Park and their guests.

Note: There are two outdoor swim beaches in Lake Oswego. One is owned by the City and one by the School District. These are discussed under Water/Shore Access section.

FACILITY NEEDS

The community has expressed a desire for more aquatics programs and an indoor aquatic center to support recreational swimming and water fitness (including lap swimming). This was noted in multiple venues during the Parks Plan 2025 public involvement process, including focus groups, community open house and intercept events. The community questionnaire results identified aquatics programs as one of the most needed programs in Lake Oswego as well as a program with high unmet demand currently. The questionnaire also identified major new facilities, such as an aquatic center, as one of the highest priority improvements for parks and recreation.

An aquatic center also has been noted as a community need in past studies. The *2007 Steering Committee Recommendation Report* for the proposed Lake Oswego Community Center recommended a warm water recreation pool as well as a 10-lane, 25-meter cold water pool

for lap swimming. However, communities the size of Lake Oswego often struggle to fund and support one large aquatic center, especially when other opportunities are available. With the aging of the School District's pool and the private access of the Mountain Park pool, the City may need to reevaluate the priority of additional aquatics facilities in Lake Oswego, and if a high priority, determine how such as project might be implemented, including potential partnership opportunities.

WATER/ShORE ACCESS

In Lake Oswego, the opportunity for shoreline or water-based recreation is created by the proximity of parks and facilities to Oswego Lake, the Willamette River, and to a lesser extent, the Tualatin River. Water/shore access can support recreation activities, such as swimming, water play, fishing, paddling, sailing, kayaking, and similar waterfront activities. Some of these activities require direct water access and facility support, such as a boat launch, fishing pier/platform, designated swimming beach, boat storage facilities, etc.

FACILITY SUPPLY

The Charlie S. Brown Water Sports Center (WSC) is located on the Willamette River at Roehr Park. This facility is owned by the City of Lake Oswego and is operated via a partnership with Lake Oswego Community Rowing, a private, non-profit organization. The 2,636 sq. ft. facility was designed specifically to store rowing shells and to operate a public rowing facility. The City has one boat launch at George Rogers Park, with access limited to those who can carry their craft to the launch site.²

At the Lake Oswego Swim Park on Oswego Lake³ and at several sites along the Willamette River, City parks include piers, docks and ramps that provide access to deeper water for boating, swimming and fishing. Docks are located in Foothills Park, Tryon Cove Park and Roehr Park. The Lake Oswego Swim Park and the river beach at George Rogers Park provide opportunities for swimming and wading. An additional swim park, Lake Grove Swim Park on the west end of Oswego Lake, is operated by the Lake Oswego School District and is open only to residents within the taxing district of the old Lake Grove School District. This site is limited by its operating funding to serving only those within the former Lake Grove School District.

² The City shut down the boat ramp many years ago to mitigate the noise pollution from jet ski traffic. Since the ramp is technically not open for use, it has fallen into disrepair and the concrete pad is unusable for launching a boat at this point in time.

³ Oswego Lake is a private lake and public access is limited to the City's two swim parks.

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FACILITY NEEDS

According to the results of the online questionnaire, respondents indicated that they would like to spend more time rowing, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing than they currently do. The need for improved indoor facilities to support the Lake Oswego Community Rowing program also was noted during the Parks Plan 2025 community involvement process.

Unlike many other recreation facility needs, the need for water access is opportunity based—driven by the availability of water access points along the lake and river. Options to acquire additional waterfront sites and enhance water access at existing sites should be considered in the next phase of the planning process to address this need. (See also Trail Needs for a discussion of support facilities for water trails.)

INDOOR PROGRAMS

Indoor recreation space can support a variety of organized or self-directed programs for educational or recreational purposes. These include multi-generational, integrated spaces designed to support a variety of indoor activities, as well as specialized facilities to serve specified age groups, such as older adults and seniors. Indoor facilities can be multi-purpose, multi-use recreation or community centers, or more specialized facilities to support one programming area, such as the performing arts.

FACILITY SUPPLY

The Parks and Recreation Department supports four indoor spaces that can support indoor programming. One is the Indoor Tennis Center, which supports tennis recreation and programming. Another is the Golf Course Clubhouse (a 4,650 sq. ft. clubhouse with pro-shop and café), which supports golf programs and services.

The Lake Oswego Adult Community Center is a 12,974 square foot facility located at the north eastern edge of the city, adjacent to Tryon Creek State Park. The center was established in 1970, making it the first senior center in Clackamas County. The current building was constructed in 1976 with a Community Development Block Grant and has been flexibly used to meet changing needs of the 50+ community in Lake Oswego. Unlike the tennis center and clubhouse, this facility supports a greater variety of programs and classes—primarily for older adults and seniors.

Given the great need for indoor programming space, a portion of the West End Building (the City-owned facility that houses the Park and Recreation Department offices) is currently being used for indoor

programming and classes. Adapting this space, which was originally intended for offices, has created awkward connections between program spaces. In addition, the building lacks common space for the public, typically found in community centers, creating a disconnect with program areas. This building and reprogrammed space is not well-suited for recreation program use, nor does it have the capacity to support increasing program needs without capital upgrades. The advantage the building does provide is a facility owned and managed by the City allowing for consistency in programming.

FACILITY NEEDS

As noted in the Existing Conditions Summary, developing recreation programs in Lake Oswego without stable, consistent facilities has been a challenge. Participation has been limited by the lack of convenient program locations as well as attractive programming space that has been designed specifically to meet indoor programming needs. Programs are important not only for the personal, community, economic and environmental benefits they provide, but also because programs connect community members of all ages to their park and recreation resources.

The City lacks a multi-purpose recreation facility that includes amenities and facilities, such as the following:

- Gymnasium space
- Fitness and dance studios
- Specialized indoor courts
- Showers/locker rooms
- Reservable multi-purpose room
- Classrooms/meeting rooms
- Arts/crafts rooms
- Teen/youth drop-in room
- Community social space

This type of facility is needed to meet current and future needs for indoor recreation programming. (See programming needs, described in Section IV of this document.) However, like an aquatic facility or swimming pool, facility development would represent a large capital and operations investment. A financial feasibility and market study is needed to assess options to fund and develop a new multi-purpose recreation and community center. Until a recreation/community center

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is affordable, other options should be considered to address programming needs.

TRAILS (WALKING, HIKING, JOGGING AND BICYCLING)

Combining active transportation and several of the most popular recreation activities in Lake Oswego, trail opportunities are important to the Lake Oswego community. Trails provide opportunities for fitness/exercise, nature experiences, and outdoor recreation and relaxation. Plus, trails enhance community connectivity and link key destinations. Many types of trails and pathways can support trail-related recreation, including perimeter pathways and loop trails in parks, multi-use paths and regional trails outside of parks, nature/interpretive trails, jogging trails and mountain biking trails.

FACILITY SUPPLY

The Kincaid Curlicue Corridor is the only City-owned corridor specifically planned and designed as a linear park with an asphalt trail to support trail use. However, ten city-wide parks and six local parks also provide trails. Trails are noted at two of the City's open space areas (Baycreek Tracts).

As noted in the 2003 *Lake Oswego Trails and Pathways Master Plan*, the City also has an existing regional trail along parts of the Willamette River, as well as Existing Community Connector Trails along major roadways.

FACILITY NEEDS

The 2003 *Lake Oswego Trails and Pathways Master Plan* proposed increasing the number of regional trails, connector trails, and even local trails throughout Lake Oswego. It also proposes several water trails to support canoeing and kayaking opportunities. To meet the recreation demand for trails and trail-related programs and activities, the Parks and Recreation Department should consider its role in supporting the implementation of the *Trails and Pathways Plan*. Building these trails should be a priority. For example, improved park access is needed in many areas of the City. The Department may want to consider ways to link existing and proposed parks to planned routes for the bike and pedestrian trail system. In addition, the Parks Department should evaluate how to plan and implement trails within existing parks and open spaces when redeveloping these sites.

On the other hand, the Parks and Recreation Department may opt to meet trails needs by planning and implementing trails and related

facilities within parks and open space areas. To support exercise and nature experiences, the following types of trails are needed:

- Loop/Perimeter Trails: Hard or soft-surfaced trails that typically link to a park's internal pathway system, but provide longer trails for enhanced recreation options.
- Nature Trails: Hard or soft-surfaced trails with support facilities such as directional signage, interpretive signage and kiosks, viewing platforms and blinds, benches and picnic tables, trailheads with support amenities such as restrooms and trash receptacles.
- Fitness Trails: Typically soft-surfaced trails (well-suited for running and jogging) that may include park course facilities or outdoor exercise equipment.
- Water Trails: Designated trailheads with support amenities for canoe/kayak use, such as boat launches, boat storage, etc.

NATURE PLAY AREAS

Play for Children is considered to be one of Lake Oswego's essential services. In the service analysis in Section II, child's play was defined as park sites with facilities that were specifically managed or designed to encourage playful interactions. However, child's play actually occurs in many informal, undersigned spaces and places—including natural areas. Natural areas can support play where policies allow park access, exploration and interaction, such as digging holes, hiding, climbing, making forts, splashing in a creek, skipping rocks, building dams, building bike ramps, blazing trails, picking flowers and leaves, chasing butterflies, interacting with wildlife, and a variety of other exploratory activities that connect children to their environments.

The dilemma is that most parks nowadays are not designed, managed, or maintained to encourage and support these types of interactions with nature. Given our litigious society, many city park systems are hesitant to promote unstructured play in unmaintained (or infrequently maintained), undeveloped natural areas because they cannot control risks and manage safety. For this reason, many natural and open space areas either limit access or do not provide support amenities that encourage site visitation and use, such as trails, parking, and restrooms.

FACILITY SUPPLY

The City of Lake Oswego has many natural parks and open space areas with a potential for unstructured play.

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FACILITY NEEDS

To support nature play, an examination of maintenance and management policies, as well as the provision of support amenities, is needed. For example, park rules and regulations prohibit “any person to remove, destroy, break, injure, mutilate or deface in any way . . . any tree, shrub, plant, flower or other property in any City Park.” Further rules prohibit park users from throwing rocks or sticks that could disturb or injure animals, birds, and fish.

While minimizing or removing all risks and hazards is counter-intuitive to promoting a nature play experience, the City may need to consider its intent before promoting sites (or designating them in planning documents) as nature play areas. In sites that can support nature play, support amenities and facilities should be provided to encourage site access, water play, exploration, and a less restrained interaction with nature than in more formal parks. Ideally, some nature play recreation opportunities will be combined with environmental education amenities and facilities, such as interpretive signage and kiosks, to educate children about local plants, animals, ecological system, natural hazards, stewardship opportunities, and appropriate behaviors in sensitive natural areas. Areas specifically designed as natural play areas could be considered in some areas not currently served for children’s play (see Analysis of Existing Essential Services).

NATURAL/CULTURAL INTERPRETATION

For the purposes of this analysis, natural, historical and cultural interpretation refers to facility-based interpretive opportunities (as opposed to classroom learning). Parks and recreation facilities can be a destination for self-guided learning about the natural environment, local history and more.

FACILITY SUPPLY

Lake Oswego has several unique parks and facilities that can support natural, cultural, or historical interpretation. Built by the Oregon Iron & Steel Company around 1882, the rectangular, two-bedroom, Iron Workers' Cottage is recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. Owned by the City of Lake Oswego, this house provides a unique environment for historical programs. In addition, the 42-acre Luscher Farm provides not only a working urban farm, but also interpretive opportunities related to its resource and agricultural landscape. George Rogers Park includes a historic iron furnace. Two City park sites (Aspen and McNary Parks) are located on top of water reservoirs, which offer opportunities to discuss community water needs. In addition, the City has many acres of natural open space

areas that could provide opportunities for resource interpretation and environmental education.

FACILITY NEEDS

A variety of facilities are needed to enhance interpretive opportunities in Lake Oswego. The development of nature trails with interpretive kiosks and signage is one way to address the need. The City should evaluate other opportunities to protect key cultural and historic resources through land acquisition or other preservation means.

OFF-LEASH DOG PARK ACCESS

Dogs and dog owners enjoy the opportunity to run, play, relax and socialize together in park settings. In many situations recreation with dogs does not require any different facilities than people enjoy in the park system. Due to the need to regularly exercise dogs, dog owners often become one of the most regular users of parks and trail corridors. In a constrained space, dogs can create significant additional wear and tear leading to heightened maintenance needs. In some areas, particularly where dogs are off-leash, enclosed dog parks are needed for patron safety.

FACILITY SUPPLY

The City of Lake Oswego maintains one dog park near Hazelia Field at Luscher Farm. This 1.6 acre facility is separated into two areas for small and large dogs. In all other Lake Oswego parks, dogs are allowed if they are kept on-leash.

FACILITY NEEDS

Since Luscher Farm is located in the southeast corner of Lake Oswego, additional off-leash dog areas are needed at a minimum in the northeast and west parts of the city for easy access.

GARDENING

Gardening is an enjoyable recreation activity that also provides a connection between people and food, and can help participants focus on healthy eating and reduce their food costs. The most common form of this activity within a park system is the self-directed gardening of a small plot rented at a community garden. Other ways that this activity can be integrated into the park and recreation system is through gardening programs and classes. Gardening sites can be integrated into the design of parks, potentially using edible landscaping to replace decorative plantings.

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FACILITY SUPPLY

Currently, community gardening in Lake Oswego is concentrated at the Luscher Farm site. This garden includes 184 individual plots for use by residents on a permit basis. The permit for a garden plot includes access to water and a 20'x20' section of the garden which, along with the rest of the site, is organic. The site also supports Community Supported Agriculture and organic education through a partnership with Oregon Tilth Organic Education Center.

FACILITY NEEDS

Since Luscher Farm is located in the southeast corner of Lake Oswego, additional community gardens are needed in other parts of the City for easy access. However, factors such as soil quality, available sunlight, water availability, support infrastructure and neighboring uses will affect the placement of community gardens. These gardens may be integrated into existing parks where feasible. Expanding community gardens to other areas of the City, beyond what is offered at Luscher Farm, will require additional management and oversight.

SPECIAL EVENTS (OUTDOOR)

Outdoor events include fairs or festivals, concerts, art events and other types of events that are often supported by facilities designed to support large-group gatherings in parks. The type and size of the event determines the scale and amount of supporting park amenities that are needed to support these activities. Events can include family or neighborhood gatherings, or larger planned activities with a community-wide or even regional draw. Important design considerations include the impact of crowds, noise and traffic on surrounding properties and land uses, as well as impacts to fish and wildlife and the natural environment. Access, parking and restrooms should all be proportional to the type of events held at the park facility. Certain amenities such as seating, trash and recycling containers, lighting and restrooms can all be temporarily added to handle larger events.

FACILITY SUPPLY

Currently, the Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation Department hosts or provides facilities for a wide range of outdoor performances and special events. Foothills Park and Roehr Park include outdoor performance spaces designed to support outdoor programs such as concerts in the parks. Millennium Plaza also serves as the site of many events – from the Farmer's Market to Movies in the Park. Westlake Park also serves as a large event space, although not specifically designed for this purpose. Luscher Farm has facilities to support a variety of events (although attendance may be limited by State land

use restrictions until the site is brought into the City or its Urban Growth Area.)

FACILITY NEEDS

Special events are extremely popular in Lake Oswego. The City owns several properties with unique outdoor settings that would attract people locally and regionally to events and festivals. The City needs to investigate opportunities to capitalize on their potential to host additional events, by identifying sites and facilities where these could be enhanced or expanded.

FAMILY AND GROUP CELEBRATIONS

Parks with large open lawns, group picnic areas, and support facilities are great places to hold group events such as a family reunion or group celebration. Indoor facilities may also provide reservable space to support such events, such as party rooms, banquet rooms, etc.

These types of celebrations may involve small groups (less than 10 people), medium sized groups (10-25 people), and larger groups. Larger group events need more support facilities, such as tables, chairs, parking, restrooms, barbecues/kitchens (or food preparation areas, trash receptacles, sinks, water, electricity, etc. In Lake Oswego, events of 50+ people also require an additional permit from the City.

FACILITY SUPPLY

The Parks and Recreation Department provides two types of picnic shelters. A basic shelter can be used for family and group picnicking (up to 50 people). These shelters include picnic tables, hot water, wash up area, fire pits and lighting, and are rented out for a nominal fee. Basic shelters are located in:

- George Rogers Park (2 shelters)
- East Waluga Park (1 shelter)
- West Waluga Park (1 shelter)
- Westlake Park (1 shelter)

One additional basic shelter is provided in Rossman Park. This location is not available for reservation and is used first come, first serve due to the park's small size and lack of adequate parking for organized events.

Traditional shelters are larger shelters that can be reserved for parties, reunions, weddings, and family and group picnics. Facilities include water, prep and wash up areas, lighting, and higher end tables and

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chairs. These are also the newest picnic facilities built in the system. Enhanced shelters are located in:

- Foothills Park (1 shelter)
- Millennium Plaza Park (1 shelter)

FACILITY NEEDS

George Rogers Park shelters and East Waluga need upgrading. The City has done well in marketing the enhanced shelters and could consider upgrading facilities at major City-wide parks to provide more enhanced shelter capacity. The basic shelters are important to local gatherings and supporting the other activities desired at a site. Opportunities to incorporate more basic shelters and enhanced shelters in existing parks should be identified.

SKATEBOARDING

A growing area of interest in park systems across the country is skateboarding. Skating has consistently been one of the most popular and fast growing activities nation-wide. Skate parks provide a fun and safe environment for skaters to practice and socialize.

FACILITY SUPPLY

The City of Lake Oswego has one 9,600 sq. ft. skate park facility. The site is asphalt and comprised mainly of wooden ramps, including a 4'x24' quarter pipe, six-foot quarter pipe, new pyramid, two funboxes, three rails, two kickers and a multipurpose box. In addition, there is one metal four-foot quarter pipe. The park is designed to support multiple skill levels. When the park is open (varying hours between March and mid-October, closed on holidays) recreation staff are present to support riders and monitor for safety.

FACILITY NEEDS

The modular ramp systems used at the existing skate park have limited life span and become much more maintenance intensive as they age. The location selected for the skate park is difficult to reach and requires intensive monitoring due to the limited surrounding uses and visibility. A new, permanent facility is needed in a prominent location, preferably in a high visibility location adjacent to other sport uses. In addition, incorporating "skate spots" into developed local and city-wide parks should be considered. Skate spots are small scale skateboarding elements, such as a single rail for skateboarding.

IV. RECREATION PROGRAM TRENDS AND NEEDS

This section identifies local, state and national trends in recreation as these affect recreation participation, demands and needs. While some of these trends will increase needs for unprogrammed recreation opportunities, others indicate a need for expanded recreation programs and facilities, as recreation participation changes and the community continues to grow over the next 15 years.

RECREATION PROGRAM TRENDS

Across the country, park and recreation providers are reinventing their programs and service delivery to meet the demands of the 21st Century American lifestyle. These changing trends affect needs for recreation programs and other opportunities provided by Lake Oswego. To forecast recreation needs, this section discusses major trends that are anticipated to affect program demand in Lake Oswego.

LOCAL TRENDS

Key findings from the community involvement process, conducted as part of the Parks Plan 2025 planning process, highlight a number of local trends in recreation. Summarized in the *Public Input Summary Report, January 2011* (available under separate cover), these findings support the following local trends:

Important Programs

According to the results of the online questionnaire, fitness and environmental programs are extremely important. Aquatic programs/swimming (26%); adult sports (23%); youth sports (20%); fitness (19%); and environmental programs (18%) were the programs that respondents thought were most needed or should be expanded. In addition to these, one of the activities with the highest latent demand (where respondents would participate more frequently if they could) reflects the community's desire to participate in lifelong learning opportunities: education/special interest classes.

Special Events

The online questionnaire noted activities with the greatest unmet demand—the difference between current levels of participation and desired participation if time, facilities, and resources were available. Two of the activities with the highest latent demand reflect the community's desire to attend more special events: concerts, festival and special events and arts/culture.

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Nature-based Programs

The online questionnaire noted activities with the greatest unmet demand—the different between current levels of participation and desired participation if time, facilities, and resources were available. Three of the activities with the highest unmet demand are water based. These include rowing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and swimming.

Self-directed Activities

According to questionnaire results, recreation participation is strong in Lake Oswego. Residents participate most frequently in self-directed, unprogrammed recreation activities. The top 12 recreation activities in Lake Oswego are noted below based, ranked by how frequently people participate in the related activities.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Walking for exercise | 7. Tennis |
| 2. Walking for pleasure | 8. Bicycling |
| 3. Dog walking/dog parks | 9. Volunteer activities |
| 4. Gardening | 10. Swimming |
| 5. Jogging/running | 11. Golf |
| 6. Nature walks | 12. Yoga/Pilates |

As indicated in the list, the responses reflect a desire for activities that support exercise and fitness, nature experiences in nature, and to a lesser extent, specialized recreation opportunities.

Program Participation Obstacles

The biggest obstacle for increasing recreation participation is related to our busy lives. Online questionnaire respondents reported that lack of time most frequently prevented them from participating more in programs provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.

STATE TRENDS

In addition to these local trends in recreation, the State of Oregon documents key trends relating to parks and recreation in its 2008-2012 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). As they relate to Lake Oswego, two of the most significant trends are described below:

Health and Recreation Connection

The 2008-2012 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) recognized the connection between accessible recreation activities and health. Nationwide, the U.S. is experiencing an obesity crisis, and Oregon is no exception. Obesity and overweight increases

the risk of chronic diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Physical activity reduces the risk of these chronic diseases, regardless of weight. Providing accessible recreation opportunities has been shown to increase activity levels and promote health. To respond to this trend, the Parks and Recreation Department can continue to emphasize programs that are conveniently located and provide a diversity of activity types, and ensure that information about these programs and recreation facilities that support active use are readily available.

Connect Children with the Outdoors

The need to connect youth with the outdoors was one of the key findings of the 2009-2012 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and is a concern nationally. The Oregon Outdoor Children's Bill of Rights is a statewide effort sponsored by the Oregon Recreation and Park Association that encourages recreation providers and families to offer opportunities for children and youth to participate in outdoor recreation activities. These activities can be incorporated as part of the City's recreation program, as well as through the integration of recreation opportunities in natural areas where they can be incorporated without adversely impacting habitat and natural resources.

NATIONAL TRENDS

In addition to state and local trends, a variety of national trends have emerged in park and recreation planning. Many of these are similar to the local trends noted through community involvement activities conducted as part of this planning process.

Programs for Children

One of the greatest challenges cities nationwide are facing is how to retain and support families in the urban environment. This challenge includes fostering child development—including physical, social and cognitive development—for children and youth of all ages from birth to young adults. It also includes supporting and fostering family connections. Programs that support child and youth development and family interaction address these trends.

Outdoor Programs

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, 159 million people over the age of 16 participate in outdoor activities in America today. These activities promote wellness, social interaction, and a connection to the outdoors. Not surprisingly, the Baby Boomer generation (people aged 42-60) and the millennial generation (ages 27 and younger) are the largest segments driving this new outdoor lifestyle trend. People are looking for ways to be outdoors in urban areas. Due to time demands

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of family and jobs, convenience and accessibility are critical. Cities that can deliver programs that include compelling, close-to-home outdoor activities will have a competitive advantage in retaining and attracting residents.

Technology and Programming

Technology is offering parks and recreation providers improved opportunities for program outreach and enrollment. Use of the right technology can improve affordability, accessibility and efficiency of community facilities and services. Finding the right balance and appropriate use for technology has become a focus of many recreation program departments. The City of Lake Oswego already relies on technology to help administer recreation programs and offer technology based activities. Currently, 74 percent of those enrolling in recreation programs register online allowing staff to manage programs more efficiently. Websites and social media are also used for marketing programs and events.

Senior Programs

One of the strongest trends throughout the United States and the region is the aging of our population. This trend requires that parks and recreation providers consider and develop facilities and programs that will serve older adults who possess a variety of needs and interests. Seniors can no longer be lumped into a single category and be effectively served. With healthier lifestyles, people live longer and have more active lives than ever before. Parks and recreation providers need to consider seniors' diverse interests and multiple life stages. Programs must provide for:

- Developing new skills;
- Learning new activities;
- Engaging in volunteerism;
- Helping those with some health issues and access concerns;
- Providing passive and contemplative activities;
- Offering intergenerational interactions; and
- Providing affordable activities.

Community Events

Nationally, over 90% of park and recreation providers offer performing arts, cultural festivals and community events (NRPA, 2009). These events appeal to a range of age groups and income levels, build community, and attract residents, visitors and tourists. Naming rights, space for vendors, and other advertising options provide additional

opportunities to generate revenue. Lake Oswego has already benefited from these events by building on event themes and through increased sales that result from attracting more people to business districts. The City also has a Special Events Division devoted to promoting a range of community events throughout the year.

Alternative and Challenge Sports Programs

Indoor or outdoor alternative and challenge sports, such as lacrosse, skateboarding, rock climbing and mountain biking, have growing appeal, especially for teens and younger adults. Because these activities have limited availability, they generally have a regional draw. Many of these activities require expert instruction at different skill levels which can be provided through programming. Continuing to accommodate these activities, and providing updated facilities and programs in this area are ways that Lake Oswego can capitalize on this trend while encouraging healthy activity among teens and young adults.

Indoor Programming

Multi-use community, recreation and wellness centers that satisfy a broad range of needs, such as classroom space and meeting rooms, fitness classes, aquatics, social services, child care and senior services, are the current trend. With the growing popularity of multi-use centers, many communities have steered away from free-standing, age-specific facilities, such as senior or youth centers. Often these facilities are solely operated by a city, a non-profit organization, or in partnership with a commercial fitness provider. The goal of these facilities is to serve the entire community and all ages by balancing low or no cost services with revenue generating programs and fees.

A multi-purpose community center has long been envisioned for the City. If support for funding or a partnership was obtained, a multipurpose community center could provide opportunities for increased program stability and expanded programs desired by the community in Lake Oswego.

Program Participation Obstacles

With today's families balancing many roles—parent, worker, and family member—lack of time has emerged as a major barrier to recreation participation. It is the primary reason why residents in Lake Oswego do not participate in recreation programs. To counteract this trend, park and recreation agencies are adopting new program formats, including drop-in activities, short term programs, and on-line programs, to facilitate participation.

RECREATION PROGRAM NEEDS

Changing recreation trends, results from the community involvement activities, and the technical analysis of existing recreation program together suggest a variety of needs and opportunities for recreation programs provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. As addressed in Section I, the recreation questionnaire served as an effective means to gauge public interest in recreation programs. A statistically significant survey may be needed in the future to verify the relevancy of key recreation trends and outcomes of the questionnaire.

CURRENT PROGRAM AREAS

As noted in the Existing Conditions Summary Report, the City of Lake Oswego supports six existing program areas:

- Adult and Senior Programming (Adult Community Center)
- Sports and Fitness
- Tennis (Indoor Tennis Center)
- Golf (Golf Course)
- Cultural and Specialized Activities
- Special Events

Needs in each of these program areas are discussed below, followed by program needs in areas not currently provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Lake Oswego has one of the largest 65+ populations in the region, and this population is expected to grow from 14% to 24% of the total population in the UGB during the next 25 years. The Adult Community Center is one of the largest program areas provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, providing more than three times the number of participant hours of Sports and Fitness; the 2nd largest program area. Its diverse services help older adults continue to live independently, provide access to basic health needs, and promote social interaction and intellectual stimulation. It also offers a substantial volunteer program.

Given the anticipated growth of the older adult population in Lake Oswego, this age group must continue to be a community priority. However, nationally park and recreation agencies are steering away from providing separate age specific facilities and focusing on providing more flexible and cost effective multi-age facilities. Given

this trend, the City might consider providing these services as part of a multi-age community center if one is developed in Lake Oswego in the future.

SPORTS AND FITNESS

Enhancing health and well-being is one of the most important benefits of parks and recreation to residents. The sports and fitness program area will continue to be very important in the future. Based on public involvement findings, there are several key areas for program expansion, including:

- Activities for 55+ ranging from modified activities to competitive activities;
- Trail-related activities and special events, such as walk-a-thons, races, and regular trail exercise groups;
- Self-directed trail opportunities and equipment, such as interpretive hikes, par courses, and outdoor exercise equipment;
- Other fitness-related special events and drop-in activities;
- Adult and youth sports; and
- Fitness classes.

INDOOR TENNIS CENTER

Tennis opportunities enhance health and well-being—one of the most important benefits of parks and recreation to residents. In most communities, tennis typically does not appear in the top 15 activities for greatest recreation participation. In Lake Oswego, tennis is the 7th most popular activity in terms of participation. Lack of facilities limits further program expansion. The 2009 Golf and Tennis Feasibility Study noted that tennis participation also increased nationally by 43% from 2000 to 2008. The Lake Oswego tennis program was noted for its highly progressive, well-designed programs. The Tennis Center is self-supporting and regularly returns excess funds to the City's general fund. Its demand for court time and programs exceeds capacity.

The Feasibility Study recommended the development of a new 8-court indoor tennis center which would serve both local residents and the region. The implementation of these recommendations was supported by Parks Plan 2025 public involvement findings.

GOLF COURSE

Golf programs can provide the valued community benefit of enhancing health and well-being. In most communities, golf typically does not appear in the top 15 activities for greatest recreation participation. In Lake Oswego, golf is the 11th most popular activity in terms of participation. The Golf Course programs and events emphasize youth,

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families, women, and older adults. The 2009 Golf and Tennis Feasibility Study noted that although golf courses are not doing well economically on a national level, Lake Oswego is in a relatively good market position due to its higher income residents and greater percentage of older residents who often frequent golf courses. It recommended that the Golf Course be transferred back to general fund support, and that several facility renovations be completed, including a new driving range and golf education center. Expanding youth programs was recommended as a positive activity for youth and to help develop potential future customers.

Implementing the recommendations of the Feasibility Study is supported by the Parks Plan 2025 public involvement findings to address golfing needs.

SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AND SPECIALIZED ACTIVITIES

These program areas provide two benefits of parks, recreation and natural areas that are most important to residents: enhancing health and well-being; and bringing neighbors and people together. Needs include:

- There is a high demand for more concerts, festivals and special events which are often organized by Cultural and Specialized Activities. Some of these activities could continue to focus on downtown and other business areas to help support the economic vitality of the City.
- Other packaged "experience" programs, such as cultural tourism or local foods programs, could serve both residents and the region.
- Arts and cultural activities also have unmet demand.
- There is additional demand for outdoor activities, including nature walks and fishing. Expanding outdoor activities for children and youth, which respond to the goals of the Oregon Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, would help counteract the trend of youth spending less and less time outdoors.
- Classes that build health and wellness, such as those offered at Luscher Farm that promote healthy nutrition, could be expanded.
- There is additional unmet need for special interest classes.

OTHER PROGRAMS NOT PROVIDED BY THE CITY

There is unmet demand for swimming which supports the need for future development of an aquatic center. There also is additional unmet demand for rowing, canoeing, and kayaking, which would support the need for access to local waterways and improvements at

the Water Sports Center. Water sports programs are currently provided by Lake Oswego Rowing in partnership with the City.

RECREATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

In addition to needs for recreation opportunities and programs, community feedback and national, state, and local trends also suggest several needs for the provision or delivery of recreation services.

Ongoing Program Evaluation

The Parks and Recreation Department has a system in place to evaluate recreation programs, and all programs are regularly evaluated. The City currently relies on a variety of different evaluation tools. The Department has set cost recovery goals for each program area which has resulted in program cost recovery that is average or above when compared to other similar agencies. Program cost recovery is limited by market competition and the City's lack of a premier program facility. In addition, performance measures are being developed which will be tied to the City's performance based budgeting process.

Based on an assessment of the existing system, there is a need for an ongoing standardized evaluation process across all program areas. Standardized evaluation tools for both youth and adults programs are needed to measure the achievement of annual recreation program goals as well as to collect data specific to certain programs. Evaluating Lake Oswego's many community events can also ensure that needed staff time and funding do not exceed available resources. Such evaluation tools should be tied to cost recovery goals and performance measures.

Entrepreneurial Approach

With increased competition for general fund dollars and higher cost-recovery requirements, parks and recreation professionals are becoming more entrepreneurial. In addition to expanding sponsorship opportunities and increasing partnerships, agencies are exploring ways to generate dollars. For example, the Lake Oswego Tennis Center generates revenue that consistently returns funds to the City's general fund in excess of its costs.

Other public agencies also are operating facilities specifically to generate revenue. Examples of revenue-generating public facilities in Oregon include a miniature golf course operated by Willamalane Park and Recreation District in Springfield and a sports complex operated by the City of Medford. Other examples include the development of additional rental facilities for picnics and weddings.

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In the future, Lake Oswego will need to develop more revenue-generation opportunities to increase revenue and become more self-supporting. Many opportunities exist, including the development of revenue generating opportunities as part of the new Luscher Farm Master Plan, such as rentable greenhouses, wedding sites, food service, or gift shop opportunities.

Partnerships and Resource Sharing

Many government services are increasingly relying on partnerships to provide facilities, services and programs to residents. Agencies are finding that no one agency can do it all. Potential partners include the private sector, other public agencies, and non-profit organizations. For example, Lake Oswego has a joint use agreement with the School District in place that provides City access to recreational and educational facilities when they are not in use for school activities and functions. In addition, the City provides maintenance for some school district facilities. The partnership with the School District should be expanded to provide greater public access to school district facilities, such as gymnasiums, meeting space, and swimming facilities.

The City needs to continue to consider ways to strengthen existing partnerships and develop additional partnerships. For example, the private sector could provide certain programs, such as bicycle maintenance or gymnastics, or sponsor programs or special events. Non-profit organizations could provide volunteer or program support. Both non-profit and private organizations have collaborated with local government agencies in other communities to provide major facilities, such as health and wellness facilities, senior centers, sports complexes, and community centers. Lake Oswego could consider such as partnership as a possible means of funding major facility development in the future.

Program Promotion and Awareness

The City of Lake Oswego currently advertises its programs and events on the City website, as well as seasonal program guides, flyers and posters. Yet input from the community indicated a need to increase information about available programs and activities offered by the City. Continued use of the City's website to promote programs can be coupled with other tools such as public broadcast media (TV, radio and newspapers), displays at community events and other highly visible activities. Such a campaign should rely on a consistent theme, or branding that is easily identifiable.

V. NATURAL RESOURCES

Lake Oswego's open spaces and natural resource lands serve many social, environmental, and park system needs for residents. They provide visual open space that contributes to community character, store carbon, moderate stormwater and provide habitat for wildlife. They also provide opportunities for local residents to **experience and interact with nature**. While residents strongly value the ability to access these areas, many of these lands are composed of diverse habitats that are greatly impacted by human interaction and the built environment. Identifying the diverse needs of Lake Oswego's natural resources is based on an understanding of landscape ecology and natural resource restoration.

LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY & LAKE OSWEGO PARKS & OPEN SPACES

The characteristics of the City's natural resource areas are as diverse as the benefits they provide. Of the approximately 600 acres of park and open space¹ in Lake Oswego, the majority are forested. In addition to forests, Lake Oswego open space and natural areas include open water, wetland, and grassland habitats. Appendix B provides a complete inventory of habitat types within Lake Oswego parks.

The needs for and of natural areas are largely based on landscape ecology: the relationship between urban areas and natural system functions. Landscape ecology can be defined in terms of the ecological value of a natural area.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

The relative ecological value of a park natural area depends on several variables. These include:

- Habitat Size;
- Habitat Quality;
- Habitat Type;
- Relationship to Water;
- Habitat Barriers;
- Habitat Connectivity; and
- Habitat Clusters

¹ The acreage total includes city-wide and local parks, and other public open spaces listed in Appendix A: Park and Recreation Facility Inventory.

Habitat Size

Larger habitats provide greater opportunities for diversity, and more complete food webs for wildlife. They are also better buffered from surrounding land uses. In urban settings, habitats larger than 30 acres are considered large. Lake Oswego parks and open spaces with greater than 30 acres of natural habitat include:

- Cooks Butte: about 43 acres of natural habitat, mostly upland forest with some oaks;
- Iron Mountain Park: approximately 50 acres of upland forest with some oaks and madrone;
- Springbrook Park: approximately 50 acres of mostly upland and riparian forest; and
- Luscher Farm Complex: Over 130 acres of mixed meadow, wetland, and riparian habitats;

Habitat Quality

Less disturbed, more intact, more mature habitats with low presence of invasive species are high value urban ecosystems. A visual inventory of Lake Oswego park natural areas found invasive species in all parks at varying levels. Parks were rated as good, moderate, or poor condition depending on the extent of invasive species. More than half of the inventoried park natural areas were rated as poor condition. All of the smaller, unnamed open space natural areas that were looked at also were rated as poor condition. Lamont Springs appears to be in the best condition of any park natural area in the City.

Habitat Type

Rare or unique habitats, such as wetlands or oak woodlands have higher conservation value than more common habitats, such as upland forest. In Lake Oswego, oak woodlands, wetlands, riparian woodlands, and mature forests (trees over 80 years old) are locally rare and of highest value. Upland second growth forest, the most common habitat type in Lake Oswego Parks, is not rare or unique. However, it can be highly valued by the community because of its forested character. Lake Oswego forested character is significant to the community's values, image and character

Relationship to Water

Generally, wetlands and natural habitats directly connected to streams are of higher relative value because they help protect water quality and provide superior habitat. About half of the natural areas in Lake Oswego parks contain wetlands or streams or abut water bodies. Upland forest areas are also important in conserving water quality by moderating storm water runoff.

Habitat Barriers

Urban neighborhoods, commercial areas, and major highways all interrupt habitats and can prevent wildlife from reaching dispersed habitat patches. Lake Oswego is fortunate in that it does not have many significant habitat barriers. Of these, Boones Ferry Road and Highway 43 are the most significant.

Habitat Connectivity

Habitats that are near to or directly connected with other habitats have higher ecosystem value than isolated habitats. This is especially true when they connect to much larger "source" habitats, such as the Cascade or Coast mountain ranges. Lake Oswego natural areas along the Willamette and Tualatin Rivers are connected (though tenuously) to source habitats in the Cascades and Coast Mountains. The cluster of parks along the south City boundary (from Luscher to Canal Acres) link to Tualatin River habitats outside the City. Tryon Creek and Mary Young Parks are important large habitat patches that are somewhat connected to Lake Oswego natural areas. Most park natural areas in Lake Oswego are parts of habitat clusters that can serve as urban stepping stone habitats. Map 8 illustrates Lake Oswego's habitat connectivity and clusters discussed in this section.

Habitat Clusters

There are five main clusters of park open space habitats in Lake Oswego. In general, these clusters function together, allowing wildlife to aggregate habitat among them. All of these clusters can be characterized ecologically as discontinuous habitat corridors that are mostly linear in shape. They include partly connected and disconnected habitats².

- **Tryon Creek Habitat Cluster:** This cluster includes Tryon Creek State Park, Tryon Cove, Foothills, Roehr, George Rodgers, Kelly Creek and Woodmont Parks. Taken together, this cluster links Tryon Creek to The Willamette River.
- **South Lake Oswego Habitat Cluster.** This is a series of mostly undeveloped parks from the Brock property in the east to Bryant Woods and Canal Acres in the west. These form a southern greenbelt for Lake Oswego. Habitats are linked to the Tualatin River. Habitat quality is mixed, with the former farms in the Luscher area providing poor quality, but Cooks Butte, Bryant Woods, and Canal Acres having much higher quality.

² Some habitat connectivity exists across undeveloped private properties and wooded back yards.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSEMENT:

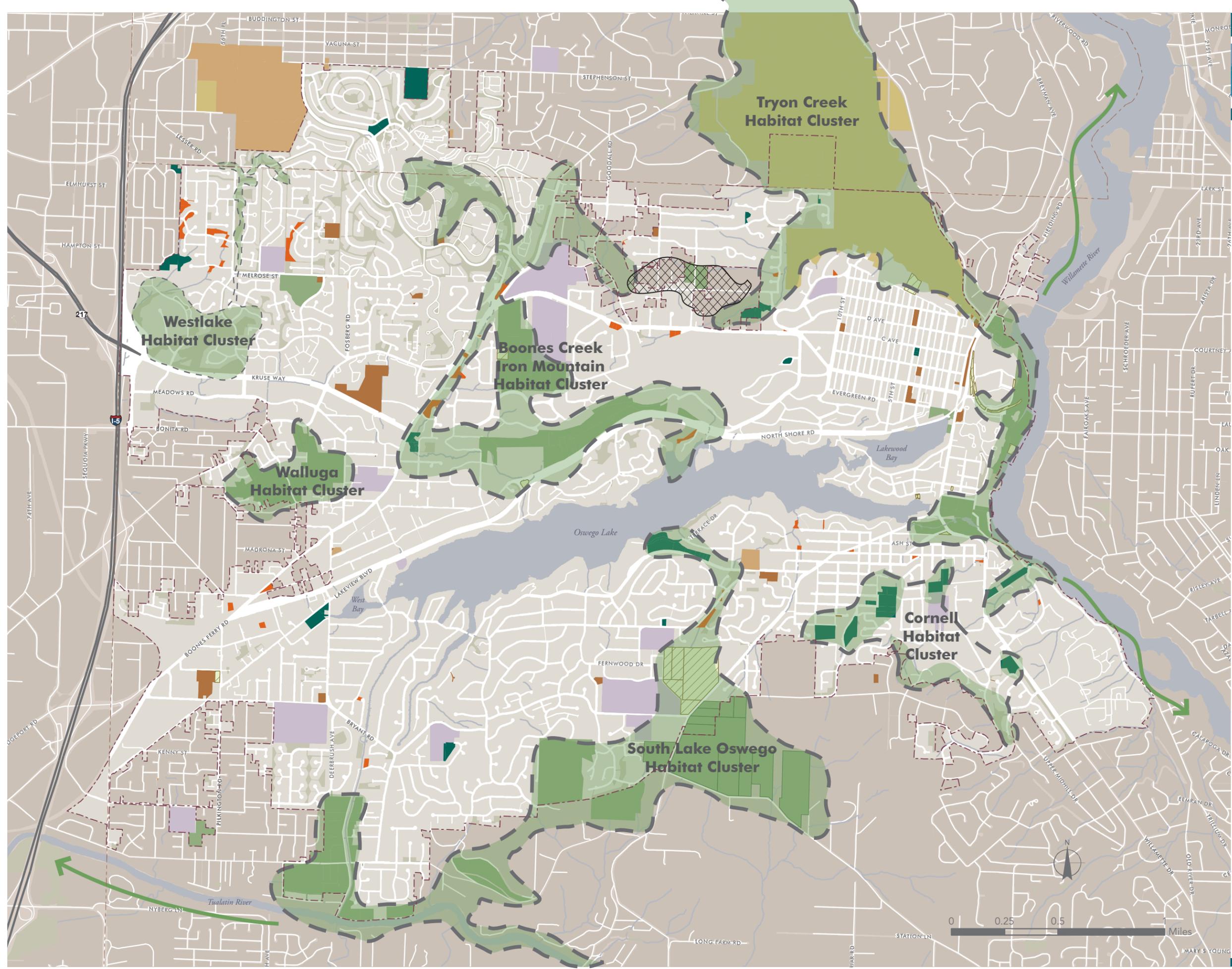
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- **Boones Creek Iron Mountain Habitat Cluster.** This cluster includes Boones Creek, Springbrook, Iron Mountain, and Pennington Parks and the Campbell Native Garden.
- **Cornell Habitat Cluster.** This is a small group of parks in the southeast part of the city, and includes Aspen, Freepons, Cornell, and Glenmorrie.
- **Waluga Habitat Cluster:** This group includes East and West Walluga Parks.
- **Westlake Habitat Cluster:** There is a cluster of mostly private wooded open spaces in the northwest part of the city, centered around the Westlake area.

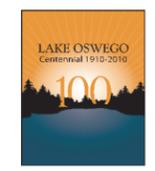
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSEMENT

All urban natural areas in the Pacific Northwest face similar management challenges. Urban natural areas are anything but “natural.” They contain degraded ecosystems that are relatively small and fragmented. Invasive species often outnumber or out compete native ones. They are vulnerable to dumping, vandalism and illegal camps. Many, if not most, urban natural areas were left undeveloped because they are very steep, unstable, wet or subject to flooding. Often difficult to access, these areas may experience frequent disturbances such as slides and floods. Many natural areas were purchased or otherwise protected as land became available, but before there were dedicated resources to manage or restore them. Urban park districts and agencies all across the region are only now beginning to recognize the importance of pro-active stewardship of their natural area lands. Portland Metro, a regional leader in urban natural area conservation, did not begin restorative work until just over ten years ago. Portland is in a similar stage, having developed its “City Nature” program only within the last few years.

Similar to other communities of comparable size, Lake Oswego’s natural area portfolio has accumulated over time, prior to there being any management plan in place. Staffing for urban parks typically lacks natural resource management expertise or experience, and this is presently true for Lake Oswego. Lake Oswego’s current management of natural areas can be characterized as basic maintenance, or “low input stewardship.” Park staff perform periodic inspections. Some invasive species management is done with partnerships or by community volunteers on a project by project basis rather than within a systematic plan. Some trails are built to appropriate standards and maintained, such as the new trails at Cooks Butte, but there is no program or regular effort to enhance wildlife habitats or to restore ecosystems.



- Citywide Park
- Local Park
- Special Purpose
- Other Public Open Space
- Other City Property
- Other Public Land
- Other Jurisdiction Park
- Private Open Space
- School Property
- Water Feature
- City Limits
- County Boundary
- Freeway
- Habitat Cluster
- Potential Habitat Link
- Potential River Habitat Link



**MAP 8: HABITAT
CONNECTIVITY
& CLUSTERS**



Ecosystem Condition

The terms degraded, damaged, and destroyed refer to degrees of negative change to ecosystems. A degraded system has most of its original parts, but may have lost some key element, or cannot cope with a new element such as an invasive species. Degradation usually occurs gradually. A damaged ecosystem is further down the path of impairment, and may have lost much of its ecosystem function. A destroyed ecosystem is completely lost.

Lake Oswego park ecosystems, like nearly all urban natural areas, are varying degrees of degraded or damaged. This is reflected in the quality ratings (Appendix B). If the community wants to restore its natural areas, a useful idea is to have a plan and take actions that move up the scale from degraded to fully intact, or from damaged to merely degraded.

Ecosystem Stewardship

Urban park natural areas will decline if systematic, regular stewardship and maintenance is absent. Most natural areas in Lake Oswego parks are young, previously disturbed ecosystems; they are small, fragmented and subject to edge impacts. Invasive species, particularly English ivy, thrive in unmaintained urban woodlands like those in Lake Oswego. Over time, ivy covers tree canopies, particularly deciduous trees. This situation has progressed in Lake Oswego and poses a high risk if not addressed soon. The weight of ivy makes trees unstable, and eventually they can topple in windstorms. Long term neglect leads to development of "ivy deserts" similar to current conditions in Aspen Park.

Proactive stewardship begins with detailed inventories and goal setting. An inventory allows managers to evaluate the condition of stands and rank them by condition, from good to poor. Good condition stands are mostly free of invasive species and are inexpensive to maintain. Poor condition stands have high amounts of invasive species and are expensive to stabilize or restore. Inventories inform park managers and the community what the condition of ecosystems is at a level of detail that facilitates management decisions. A typical inventory divides natural areas within a given park or open space area into "stands" or "cells" that have common characteristics. Important characteristics include: dominant overstory and understory vegetation; percent cover of invasive species and identification of problems or potential problems; such as soil erosion.³

³ As part of this project, parks were inventoried visually to get a sense of dominant ecosystem types and habitat quality. This inventory is sufficient for

Ecosystem Planning

Planning for urban natural area management should include both short and long term time horizons. In the short term (5-10 years), the goal may be to stabilize park ecosystems and prevent deterioration by inhibiting further spread of invasive species, removing ivy from tree canopies and correcting erosion problems (particularly along trails). Longer term goals use a "Desired Future Conditions" framework (DFCs) at the stand and park or site level. Park management could include thinning trees to concentrate growth in favorable species or specimens, planting desirable species, enhancing habitats, and keeping fire risk low.

An "action plan" linking long and short term goals is useful for prioritizing park natural area work. A useful approach is to "protect the best," meaning to identify all the highest functioning sites and secure those first. Then, if resources permit, turn to the medium quality sites to improve them over time. Finally, move to poor condition sites and begin restoration. This approach also allows park managers to take advantage of periodic "pulses" of funding or labor availability, such as the recent federal stimulus funding.

RESTORING LAKE OSWEGO PARK NATURAL AREAS

Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed.⁴ If restoration is a goal for Lake Oswego, it is important to understand what this statement means. First, restoration is a process, meaning that it involves actions taken over time. Many "restoration" projects are nothing more than one time efforts. If they are not part of a longer term process they will likely be a waste of time and resources.

Second, restoration "assists the recovery" of ecosystems. All natural ecosystems have the capacity to heal themselves. Plants grow, produce seeds, animals distribute seeds, and so forth. But when ecosystems have been degraded, they might lack some important elements that help them recover. Or they may be subject to stresses that they have no good tools for coping with. In other words, restoration does not have to accomplish everything; it has to focus on those things the ecosystem cannot do for itself.

initial goal setting, but should be followed up with a more detailed inventory in the future

⁴ Society for Ecological Restoration International

VI. MAINTENANCE

As the City moves forward to meet future needs for parks, recreation programs, facilities and natural areas, adequate maintenance must be provided to maintain resources. Maintenance is tied to the lifecycle of park and recreation facilities and day-to-day resource needs. New and existing facility needs, increased programs and special events, City beautification efforts, natural area restoration and volunteer labor management will create a greater demand for maintenance. New maintenance skills and approaches also will be needed. The need for park, facility and natural area maintenance is based on public input findings, existing conditions and service levels and costs.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS

Lake Oswego residents feel strongly about repairing and maintaining existing parks and facilities. There were two key themes related to maintenance that emerged from the public involvement process.

- **Sustainable maintenance** that considers the long term needs and associated impacts of keeping parks, facilities and natural areas both attractive and functional is important to residents. The public indicated a need to continue maintaining park land and facilities through environmentally and economically sustainable methods.
- **Natural area maintenance** is also important to residents. These areas require a different approach to management and maintenance. Stewardship as well as protection of creeks, forests and hillsides are all major elements identified as part of the public outreach process.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

During the initial phase of the project, the project team conducted an inventory and assessment of Lake Oswego's parks, recreation facilities and buildings and natural areas. The Existing Conditions Summary report provides a more complete summary of park and natural area condition.

CONDITION RATING

Table 3 provides an overview of the condition rating characteristics. The assessment of parks and natural areas focused on the presence of invasive species and natural habitat condition. Overall condition of parks also includes ADA accessibility and sports field condition. For buildings, the assessment relied on a rating system to indicate the general condition and suitability of each structure for park use. The review assessed building envelope, upkeep, suitability (how the design

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fits the intended use) and flexibility (whether the building can be used for different activities). The overall ratings are based on basic observed (walk-through) evaluations and include three general conditions. A complete summary of building condition is provided in Appendix C.

Table 3: Condition Rating Characteristics

	Good	Fair/Average	Poor
Parks	Little to no invasive species; presence of unique habitats or features; restoration completed; no known maintenance issues or accessibility issues; fields in good condition	Invasive species present; some unique habitat characteristics or features; some maintenance issues; fields in fair condition	Area dominated by invasive species; lacking unique habitats or features; maintenance issues and poor field condition; poor access to the site.
Buildings	Building in good working order; no building systems (roof, envelope, plumbing, etc) show any obvious problems; is well taken care of; well designed to suit the program needs.	The building has deferred maintenance needs or needs some upgrades, either to repair/replace one system or to make the building a better fit for the program needs.	Multiple systems are failing; maintenance needs have long been deferred or the building is unsuitable for the program needs.
Natural Areas	Little to no invasive species; presence of unique habitats or features; restoration completed	Invasive species present; some unique habitat characteristics or features	Area dominated by invasive species; lacking unique habitats or features

PARKS

Based on the condition of natural areas, the majority of parks (79%) ranked good to fair, with only 17% in fair condition and only one park ranked poorly. Across the system the major issues included a concentration of investment creating a number of very high quality sites while leaving others neglected. The condition of sports fields also affects the quality of parks. Table 4 shows how sports fields rated. While all City fields ranked well, 14% of school fields ranked poorly. Overall park condition also considered ADA accessibility. There are many places where ADA accessibility needs improvement (in part due to older facilities and in part due to updated standards). In addition,

there is a need for improved overall access and distribution of recreation facilities.

Table 4: Lake Oswego Sports Field Condition Assessment

Field Condition Rating	% City Fields	% School Fields	% Total Fields
Good	100%	71%	76%
Average	-	14%	12%
Poor	-	14%	12%

BUILDINGS¹

One of the most costly assets within the park and recreation system is park buildings and maintenance facilities. Buildings require significant capital for periodic maintenance and replacement of both minor (eg. fixtures and paint) or major (eg. roof and foundation) building components. The park planning process included an assessment of Lake Oswego’s park and recreation buildings to identify specific issues and overall condition of these facilities.

Table 5 summarizes the condition of park and recreation buildings in Lake Oswego. Overall, many buildings are in good condition. Most buildings are well suited for their intended use. However, many buildings are in fair condition and several buildings rated poorly in the flexibility category. This category rates how well a building can be used for different activities. The Farr House and Outbuildings are in the poorest condition, rating poorly in every category.

¹ Building Assessment Notes Memo, Opsis Architecture (03/31/11)

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Table 5: Lake Oswego Park and Recreation Building Condition Assessment²

Building	Overall Rating	Building Envelope	Upkeep	Suitability	Flexibility
Millennium Plaza Pavilion/Restroom	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair
Foothills Park Pavilion & Restroom	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Adult Community Center	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair
Golf Course Club House	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Golf Course Maintenance Bldg.	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair
Indoor Tennis Center	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Water Sports Center	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Poor
G. Rogers Maintenance Bldg.	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor
Westlake Park Maintenance Facility	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor
Luscher Farmhouse	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor
Luscher Barn and Outbuildings	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Good
Farr House and Outbuildings	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Fir Lane House and Outbuildings	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair
Brock Equestrian Barn	Fair	Fair/Poor	Fair	Good	Good
Crowell Barn	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair

NATURAL AREAS

Of the over 600 acres of natural area land and parks with major natural areas, 21% ranked as good, 29% ranked as fair and 50% ranked as poor. The primary needs associated with natural area maintenance is removal of invasive species. Much of the restoration

² The Tennis Center was not evaluated because a new center is planned, and the Foothills Park building was not evaluated due to its recent construction.

and natural area maintenance efforts done to date have been focused ivy removal and to a lesser extent removal of other invasive species.

MAINTENANCE LEVELS

Lake Oswego's different park settings require different levels of maintenance. While developed parks require routine maintenance of sports fields, courts and related facilities, natural areas in parks require a different scale and type of maintenance all together. The application of different maintenance levels should reflect the amount of maintenance needed at each site, rather than the amount of funding available.

Because each park and natural area is different, the City should evaluate maintenance needs for various parks and park types, customizing the level of maintenance based on recommended maintenance levels. Heavily-used sites and sites with the most valuable built or environmental resources should be maintained at a higher level whenever feasible.

DEVELOPED PARK CHARACTER

There are three levels of maintenance for the City's developed parks and developed areas within hybrid parks: basic, standard and enhanced.

Basic

The basic level of maintenance for Lake Oswego's developed parks and portions of developed park areas includes routine monitoring and inspection of recreation facilities. It also involves trash pick-up, mowing, repair of facilities for safety (playground inspections, damages to benches and other park amenities), and irrigation management. The sites do not have floral displays that require intense maintenance nor intensively planted botanical areas. In addition, irrigation is reduced in the summer at these sites first as required to achieve water conservation. As a result of the reduction in watering, lawns may become more stressed at these sites. This level of maintenance is generally provided at developed or hybrid local parks that are not highly used, such as Greentree and Pine Cone Parks. At this level, the City provides sufficient maintenance for health and safety, but not for asset protection. Under this level, capital maintenance needs will be accelerated.

Standard

These sites are typically city-wide parks which are larger and more heavily used than sites receiving basic maintenance. These sites often include heavily used facilities such as group picnic facilities, sport

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fields, etc. These sites receive the types of maintenance provided at "basic" maintenance sites on a more frequent basis, including trash pick-up, mowing, repair of facilities for safety (playground inspections, damages to benches and other park amenities), and irrigation management. These sites also require more intensive repairs, such as backstop repair, infield repair, fencing upgrades, building repairs, etc.). Some limited floral areas may be provided. Other botanical displays are kept at a minimum. Irrigation at these sites also is reduced during water conservation periods in some park areas, but not throughout the entire site. Irrigation is not reduced for ball fields, picnicking areas, and turf play areas. Parks in this category include: Hazelia Field at Luscher Farm, East Waluga Park, West Waluga Park, Westlake Park, etc.

Enhanced

These are sites that are highly visible and heavily used. There are only a few parks in this category: Millennium Plaza Park, Foothills Park, and George Rogers Park. These sites are maintained at the highest level and receive priority during the growing season for weeding, botanical plantings, and watering. These sites receive the types of maintenance provided at "basic" and "standard" maintenance sites on a more frequent basis. During periods of drought, floral and botanical areas in these parks continue to be watered at lower levels to maintain health. Turf areas also are watered to accommodate public events and heavy use. Picnicking and field areas are watered per the "standard" level. Because these parks require higher maintenance levels, each park is staffed with a maintenance person who attends to maintenance throughout the day.

NATURAL PARK CHARACTER

Much of the City's park land is dedicated natural areas. Currently, the City has 2.5 FTE devoted to these parks. This allows the City to perform limited maintenance, such as trash pick-up, hazard tree removal, encampment removal, and some invasive species removal. Staff also coordinates with Friends groups who perform volunteer maintenance. This maintenance level has been primarily due to the intensity of use and lack of developed features. However, a higher level of maintenance in natural areas is critical to sustain or restore these sites. As such the three levels of maintenance for the City's natural areas are presented based on stewardship and restoration. Chapter V provided a more detailed summary of natural area characteristics and needs.

Limited

At the limited level, smaller natural areas or sites in poor condition generally require less maintenance. Sites that require limited

maintenance either have a low level of invasive species present, or may include sites which the City defers needed maintenance into the future. Limited maintenance provides routine monitoring and periodic litter removal. Yet this level of maintenance is not sufficient enough for long term stewardship and conditions may worsen without additional attention. Kruse Creek Open Space is the type of park that receives limited maintenance.

Basic

The basic level of natural area maintenance applies to parks that are classified to be in fair or good condition, or sites that the City has prioritized for improvement. Maintenance at this level involves periodic invasive species removal, erosion control and wildfire reduction projects. This level promotes stewardship to ensure that site conditions do not deteriorate over time. Rated in fair condition, Cooks Butte Park serves as an example of the type of park that requires a basic level of maintenance.

Restoration

Restoration of natural areas is at the most advanced end of the natural area maintenance spectrum. As addressed in Chapter V, several of Lake Oswego's natural areas can be prioritized as sites that require restoration. This is an advanced stage of maintenance that focuses more on site management. This level of maintenance requires a clearly guided management plan or "action plan" to address the range of potential projects and maintenance needs related to restoration. Canal Acres is an example of the type of site that may require restoration.

Table 6 provides an overview of these different types of maintenance. The table shows levels of maintenance for developed character and natural character parks. Hybrid character parks may require a combination approach to address their developed and natural characters. The table also provides examples of park types that would receive the related level of maintenance.

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Table 6: Lake Oswego Park and Recreation Suggested Maintenance Levels

Maintenance Level	Maintenance Needs		Park Example
	Routine	Periodic	
Developed Character			
Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring and inspection ▪ Litter removal ▪ Irrigation and water conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park amenity repair and replacement 	Greentree Pine Cone
Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As above on a more frequent basis ▪ Some water conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More amenity repair 	East Walluga West Walluga
Enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highest level with on-site personnel ▪ Floral and botanical plantings ▪ Irrigation maintained during conservation periods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Replacement of major facilities 	Millenium George Rogers Foothills
Natural Character			
Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Litter removal ▪ Hazard tree removal 	Kruse Creek Open Space
Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring ▪ Litter removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invasive species control ▪ Wildfire risk reduction projects ▪ Erosion control 	Cooks Butte Park
Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invasive species removal ▪ Stabilize ecosystem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invasive species control ▪ Tree thinning ▪ Habitat enhancement ▪ Native tree plantings ▪ Wildfire risk reduction projects ▪ Erosion control 	Canal Acres

VII. SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

The Community Needs Assessment is a key step in the development of the Park Plan 2025, and is based on both community involvement findings and a technical assessment of the parks, recreation and natural area system. Based on this system-wide assessment, there are several key findings that will guide future recommendations and plan development.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

The identification of community needs provides a strong foundation for building the future park, recreation and natural area system. Essential park and recreation services require a range of facilities and services to ensure the needs of Lake Oswego residents are being met.

- **Exercise and Sports.** The availability and quality of recreation facilities and programs are important to residents. There is a need for improvement of existing facilities and programs as well as new opportunities that provide a greater variety of activities in all areas of the City.
- **Play for Children.** Lake Oswego residents value opportunities for children to play. Many areas of the city are underserved by these opportunities. However, there are many existing sites that can be redesigned to create places for children to play and learn.
- **Experience Nature.** Extensive natural areas are one of the City's primary assets. Yet the majority of these areas are in poor condition and require improved management and maintenance. There are also many opportunities to improve access to nature.

KEY FINDINGS

The intent of this document is to frame policy choices and questions and to begin developing the framework for the future parks, recreation and natural area system.

PARKS & FACILITIES

Lake Oswego's residents desire a park system that provides a variety of recreation experiences across the park system. Essential services are the types of activities that are important to most residents. In Lake Oswego, essential services can take place in a range of park settings that include developed, hybrid (integrated and side-by-side) and natural character parks. Some parks support a wider range of recreation activities than others.

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- All three essential services are supported by developed and hybrid parks. Furthermore, both local and city-wide parks provide developed and hybrid (integrated and side-by-side) parks that support essential services.
- Parks that provide a natural setting do not support all three essential services because these parks do not include formal children's play opportunities.
- Residents desire a park system which is well distributed throughout the City. Yet parks that provide all three essential services are concentrated in only a handful of areas. There are portions of the community that do not have access to services within a ½-mile service area reach of City park lands.
- There is a better distribution of experiences with nature, and exercise and sports than parks that have places for children to play. This is due to the number of Lake Oswego parks that are undeveloped or that have a natural park character.
- Lake Oswego residents desire public access to essential services within walking or biking distance of their homes. Access to nature experiences is well-supported across the City based on the distribution of existing parks. This is followed closely by parks that support exercise and sports activities.
- Currently, no natural park settings have formal play areas for children. Formal places for children to play are poorly distributed across the City and leave many areas of the City unserved.
- Several parks can be redeveloped to increase access for children's play. This is especially the case for many of the City's natural setting parks. Any play areas in these parks could be designed as "natural" play areas which are appropriate to a natural park character. Alternatively, school play areas have the potential to fill in gaps in service.
- Parks providing opportunities for exercise and sports and to experience nature are more evenly distributed around the city.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Trends in recreation participation indicate the need for expanded programs and facilities.

- **Adult Programs.** Lake Oswego has one of the largest 65+ populations in the region and will only continue to grow. The City should consider providing adult programs services as part of a multi-age community center if one is developed in Lake Oswego in the future.

- **Indoor Tennis Center.** The demand for tennis continually exceeds capacity. The Tennis Feasibility Study recommended the development of a new 8-court indoor tennis center which would serve both local residents and the region.
- **Golf Course.** The 2009 Golf and Tennis Feasibility Study noted that although golf courses are not doing well economically on a national level, Lake Oswego is in a relatively good market position. Implementing the recommendations of the Feasibility Study is supported by the Parks Plan 2025 public involvement findings to address golfing needs.
- **Special Events, Cultural and Specialized Activities.** There is an extremely high demand for more concerts, festivals and special events. There is additional demand for outdoor activities, including nature walks and fishing as well as special interest classes.
- **Other Programs.** There is unmet demand for swimming which supports the need for future development of an aquatic center. There is also demand for water-based activities such as rowing, canoeing and kayaking. Adult sports, youth sports, fitness and environmental programs were among the programs that residents felt were most needed.
- **Program Evaluation.** Program evaluation methods should be standardized to consistently evaluate programs at regular intervals. Standardized evaluation tools for both youth and adults programs are needed to measure the achievement of annual recreation program goals as well as collect data specific to certain programs.
- **Entrepreneurial Approach.** The City should seek opportunities to generate revenue and become more self supporting.
- **Partnerships.** The City needs to continue to consider ways to strengthen existing partnerships and develop additional partnership opportunities.
- **Program Promotion and Awareness.** The City should continue to advertise its recreation program offerings. While at the same time, additional outreach to the community through a unified marketing campaign should be conducted to increase awareness of available programs.

RECREATIONAL VARIETY

Residents also desire additional recreation opportunities that add variety to Lake Oswego's park system.

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- **Field Sports.** Overlay sports fields can cause numerous scheduling conflicts and as well as excessive wear on turf. According to the 2001 Athletic Field Study, there is a need for additional rectangular fields to accommodate the demand in field capacity. Since the completion of this study, the City has constructed the multi-use rectangular Hazelia Field (at Luscher Farm) and has upgraded some City and School District fields. However, more sports fields are needed to minimize scheduling and spatial conflicts.
- **Court Sports.** A variety of sports courts are needed to support exercise and recreational variety. However, sports courts should not be required at every park.
- **Aquatics.** The community has expressed a desire for more aquatics programs and an indoor aquatic center to support recreational swimming and water fitness (including lap swimming). In the long term, replacing the aging and crowded school pool with an indoor multi-use aquatic center would likely benefit both the City and the School District.
- **Water Access.** Access to water is important for City residents. Unlike many other recreation facility needs, the need for water access is opportunity based—driven by the availability of water access points along the lake and river. Identifying opportunities for additional water access should be considered in the next phase of the planning process.
- **Indoor Programs.** The City lacks a permanent multi-purpose recreation facility that includes amenities and facilities. This type of facility is needed to meet current and future needs for indoor recreation programming. A financial feasibility and market study is needed to assess options to fund and develop a new multi-purpose recreation and community center.
- **Trail Use.** Improved trail access is needed in many areas of the City. To meet the recreation demand for trails and trail-related programs and activities, the Parks and Recreation Department should implement the Trails and Pathways Plan and expand trails within parks.
- **Nature Play.** Play for children is considered to be one of Lake Oswego's essential services. However, many natural and open space areas either limit access or do not provide support amenities that encourage site visitation and use. To support nature play, an examination of maintenance and management policies, as well as the provision of amenities to support play and expanded park use, is needed.

- **Natural/Cultural Interpretation.** A variety of facilities are needed to enhance interpretive opportunities in Lake Oswego. In addition, the City should evaluate opportunities to protect key cultural and historic resources through land acquisition.
- **Dog Park Access.** Additional off-leash dog areas are needed at a minimum in the northeast and west parts of the City for easy access.
- **Gardening.** Additional community gardens are needed in other parts of the City for easy access. These gardens may be integrated into existing parks where feasible, or at other public or private facilities, such as schools or government buildings, office building sites, or on vacant property.
- **Special Events.** Special events are extremely popular in Lake Oswego. The City needs to investigate opportunities to capitalize on their potential to host additional events, by identifying sites and facilities where these could be enhanced or expanded.
- **Family and Group Celebrations.** The shelters in George Rogers and East Waluga parks need upgrading. Opportunities to incorporate more basic shelters and enhanced shelters in existing parks should be identified.
- **Skateboarding.** A new, permanent facility is needed in a prominent location, preferably in a high visibility location adjacent to other sport uses. Skate spots should also be considered for use in local and city-wide parks.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Identifying the diverse needs of Lake Oswego's natural resources is based on an understanding of landscape ecology and natural resource restoration.

- The needs for and of natural areas are largely based on landscape ecology: the relationship between urban areas and natural system functions.
- Lake Oswego's natural area portfolio has been accumulated over time, without a management plan in place. Staffing for urban parks typically lacks natural resource management expertise or experience, and this is presently true for Lake Oswego.
- Lake Oswego park ecosystems are degraded or damaged to some extent. This situation has progressed in Lake Oswego and poses a high risk if not addressed soon.
- Proactive stewardship of these resources is needed along with detailed inventories and goal setting to allow for proper land management.

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- Planning for urban natural area management should include both short and long term time horizons. An “action plan” linking long and short term goals is useful for prioritizing park natural area work.

MAINTENANCE

Lake Oswego residents feel strongly about repairing and maintaining existing parks and facilities.

- **Sustainable Maintenance.** Sustainable maintenance considers the long term needs and associated impacts of keeping parks, facilities and natural areas both attractive and functional.
- **Natural Area Management.** Natural areas maintenance is also important to residents. These areas require a different approach to management and maintenance.
- **Existing Conditions.** Across the system the major issues included a concentration of investment creating a number of very high quality sites while leaving others neglected. There are many places where sports fields, buildings and ADA accessibility need improvement. The primary needs associated with natural area maintenance is removal of invasive species and an overall management plan that identifies priorities.
- **Maintenance Levels.** Lake Oswego has a variety of parks ranging from natural to developed character which require different levels of maintenance. Because each park and natural area is different, the City should evaluate maintenance needs for various parks and park types. The extent of maintenance for each park should be customized based on recommended maintenance levels.

NEXT STEPS

The purpose of this document is to create the “long list” of needs. Following the identification of these needs, the next step in the process will be to develop a “short list”: prioritize and recommend the priority projects that should move forward first. This prioritization process will consider costs and other factors to align the priorities with the community’s values. The system plan document will also detail how to apply the needs analysis to any new areas added to the City.



APPENDIX A: PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

Appendix A: Park and Facility Inventory

Park Inventory																						
Site Size (Acres)	Scale	Play Area	Age 2-5	Age 5-12	Installed	Diamond Fields	With lights	Rectangular Fields	With lights	Rectangular Field Overlay	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Gymnasium	Trails	Public Art	Picnic Shelters	Performance/Event Space	Water Access	Restroom	Portable Restroom	Notes and Unique Facilities	Property Restriction
City-Wide Parks¹																						
Brock Property	26.15	City-Wide																			Undeveloped	
Bryant Woods Park	28.51	City-Wide												X						1	Entry Kiosk	
Canal Acres	27.08	City-Wide												X								
Cooks Butte Park	42.81	City-Wide												X								
Crowell Property	12.49	City-Wide																			Undeveloped	
East Waluga Park	23.97	City-Wide	1	X	X	1994		2							1	1				1		
Farr Property	6.91	City-Wide																			Undeveloped	
Firlane Farm	22.03	City-Wide																			Undeveloped	Open space, and minor recreational development
Foothills Park	8.56	City-Wide													1	1	1	1	1		Riverfront access and viewing, boat dock	
George Rogers Park	23.90	City-Wide	1	X	X	1995		2		1				2	X					2	Riverfront access, swimming beach, historic iron furnace, concession building	
Hazelia Field at Luscher Farm	12.47	City-Wide	1	X	X	2007		1		1	1									1	Field includes backstop, and foul line fencing for baseball/softball play, 2 dog parks, maintenance building	
Iron Mountain Park	50.99	City-Wide													X							
Luscher Farm	42.11	City-Wide													X					1	Farm complex, community gardens, urban farming, special purpose facilities	A portion of this property is a designated historic site
Millennium Plaza Park	2.43	City-Wide													5	1	1			1	Plaza, large pergola/shelter, fountain	
Pilkington Park	5.25	City-Wide							1												Picnicking	
Rassekh Property	9.58	City-Wide																			Undeveloped	
River Run I and II Park	11.92	City-Wide													X					1	Limited access to Tualatin River	
Roehr Park	14.43	City-Wide	1		X	2007									X					1	boat dock	
Springbrook Park	50.49	City-Wide													X							No development per City Charter
Stevens Meadow	20.12	City-Wide													X							picnicking, perimeter landscaping, safety lighting.
Sundeleaf Plaza	0.49	City-Wide																			Plaza, views of Oswego Lake	
Sunnyslope Open Space	14.81	City-Wide																				Open space only
Tryon Cove Park	6.86	City-Wide																				Natural area and limited development
West Waluga Park	23.79	City-Wide	1	X	X	2010									1	1					Wetlands	
Westlake Park	12.09	City-Wide	1	X	X	2010		3		1		1	2			1	1			1	Athletic field complex	
Woodmont Park	6.70	City-Wide																				Natural area and limited recreational development
City-Wide Parks Total	506.96		6	5	6		0	8	1	3	1	1	4	0	0	8	7	5	4	8	2	

¹ Local parks that provide basic recreation amenities for neighborhood use and small natural areas that provide relief from urban development or other localized natural benefits.

Appendix A: Park and Facility Inventory

Park Inventory																							
Site Size (Acres)	Scale	Play Area	Age 2-5	Age 5-12	Installed	Diamond Fields	With lights	Rectangular Fields	With lights	Rectangular Field Overlay	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Gymnasium	Trails	Public Art	Picnic Shelters	Performance/Event Space	Water Access	Restroom	Portable Restroom	Notes and Unique Facilities	Property Restriction	
Local Parks²																							
Aspen Park (Palisades Reservoir)	3.96	Local	1	X	2003																	Located on top of a water reservoir	
Cornell Natural Area	3.29	Local																					Open space only
Freepons Park	8.27	Local	1	X	1996									X									
Glenmorrie Greenway	3.99	Local																					
Glenmorrie Park	2.81	Local	1		X	2004								X									
Greentree Park	0.38	Local	1	X	1999						1												
Hallinan Natural Area	3.72	Local																					Open space only
Hideaway Park	0.22	Local	1	X	X	2004																	
Kelly Creek Park	3.67	Local												X									Open space only
Kerr Natural Area	10.00	Local																					Open space only
Lake Garden Park	0.62	Local																			Pond		Open space only
Lamont Springs Natural Area	3.50	Local												X									Open space only
McNary Park	2.32	Local	1	X	2000																		Located on top of a water reservoir
Pennington Park	2.43	Local																					Open space only
Pinecone Park	0.53	Local	1		X	2004																	
Rossman Park	0.55	Local	1	X	2006					0.5					X	1					1		
South Shore Natural Area	8.95	Local																					Open space only
Southwood II	0.88	Local												X									
Southwood Park	4.10	Local												X								Undeveloped	
Westridge Park	2.01	Local	1	X	X	1996																	
Local Total	66.19		9	7	4		0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	1		

² City-wide parks that provide recreation facilities and larger natural areas that benefit the entire community either as destinations or due to their ecological role.

Appendix A: Park and Facility Inventory

Park Inventory																							
Site Size (Acres)	Scale	Play Area	Age 2-5	Age 5-12	Installed	Diamond Fields	With lights	Rectangular Fields	With lights	Rectangular Field Overlay	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Gymnasium	Trails	Public Art	Picnic Shelters	Performance/Event Space	Water Access	Restroom	Portable Restroom	Notes and Unique Facilities	Property Restriction	
Special Purpose³																							
Adult Community Center	2.79	Special Purpose																			12,974 square foot facility		
Campbell Native Garden	0.61	Special Purpose												X									
Charlie S. Brown Water Sports Center	0.81	Special Purpose															1				2,636 square foot water sports center on the Willamette River, boat access, not designed for swimming		
Ellen R. Bergis Nature Reserve	0.25	Special Purpose																					
Indoor Tennis Center	1.75	Special Purpose																			28,288 square foot facility; 4 indoor tennis courts		
Iron Workers Cottage - Historic	0.11	Special Purpose																			Historic home		
Kincaid Curlicue Corridor	3.78	Special Purpose																			Asphalt walking path		
Lake Oswego Public Golf Course	38.91	Special Purpose																			18-hole, par 3 course with driving range, pro shop and 4,650 square foot clubhouse and maintenance shop		
Lake Oswego Swim Park	0.20	Special Purpose															1		1		surrounded by a pier, small lifeguard office	Swimming for Lake Oswego youth	
Skate Park	0.78	Special Purpose																		1	Modular skate features		
Special Purpose Total	49.99		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2				
Designated Park Land Total	623.15		15	12	10	0	0	8	1	3	1	3	4	0	6	9	8	5	6	8	5		
³ Special purpose sites that provide unique facilities that support a single recreation use, such as golf or skateboarding, for use by the entire community.																							
Other Public Open Space⁴																							
Bayberry Wetlands (19)	0.04	Other public open space																					
Baycreek 3&4 Tract A Open Space (1)	1.26	Other public open space												X									
Baycreek 3&4 Tract A Open Space (2)	0.04	Other public open space												X									
Boca Ratan Open Space (17)	0.26	Other public open space																					
Boones Brook tract A Open Space (8)	2.08	Other public open space																					
Boones Ferry Open Space (35)	0.59	Other public open space																					
Bullock Street Open Space (23)	0.19	Other public open space																					
Commons West Tract A Open Space (14)	0.10	Other public open space																					
Daimondhead (16)	1.07	Other public open space																					
Deerfield Court Open Space (4)	0.46	Other public open space																					
East Country Club Open Space (15)	0.76	Other public open space																					
Former Sunningdale Reservoir (20)	0.20	Other public open space																					
Greentree Open Space (31)	1.39	Other public open space																					
Heather Estates Open Space (32)	0.58	Other public open space																					
Kerr Open Space (12)	1.06	Other public open space																				Open space only	
Kruse Creek Tract A Open Space (3)	1.11	Other public open space																					
Kruse Creek Tract B Open Space (5)	1.78	Other public open space																					
Laurel Street Open Space	0.57	Other public open space																					
Laurel Street Open Space (25)	0.16	Other public open space																					
Lost Dog Creek Open Space (29)	0.05	Other public open space																				Open space only	
Lost Dog Creek Open Space (30)	0.07	Other public open space																				Open space only	
Maple Street Open Space	0.42	Other public open space																					
Maple to Lakefront Path (28)	0.11	Other public open space																					
McVey Open Space/ Pump Station (27)	0.10	Other public open space																					
Meadowcreek Tract A&B Open Space (6)	0.67	Other public open space																					
Oak Street Open Space	0.24	Other public open space																					
Sara Hill Open Space (33)	0.18	Other public open space																					
Sherbrook Place at Boones Ferry Rd. (11)	0.05	Other public open space																					
Springbrook Creek Open Space #2 (10)	0.25	Other public open space																					
Springbrook Creek Open Space (9)	1.29	Other public open space																					
Tryon Creek Open Space (21)	0.11	Other public open space																					
Tualatin Open Space Detention Pond (34)	0.46	Other public open space																					
Unknown (24)	0.15	Other public open space																					
Upper Drive Open Space (36)	0.66	Other public open space																					
West Country Club Open Space (13)	0.94	Other public open space																					

Appendix A: Park and Facility Inventory

Park Inventory																							
Site Size (Acres)	Scale	Play Area	Age 2-5	Age 5-12	Installed	Diamond Fields	With lights	Rectangular Fields	With lights	Rectangular Field Overlay	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Gymnasium	Trails	Public Art	Picnic Shelters	Performance/Event Space	Water Access	Restroom	Portable Restroom	Notes and Unique Facilities	Property Restriction	
Westbrooke Tract B Open Space (7)	2.59	Other public open space																					
Other Public Open Space Total	22.05																						
⁴ Other public open space sites are typically small parcels purchased for a range of reasons that have limited function as park land and have not been designated for any other purpose.																							

Appendix A: Park and Facility Inventory

Park Inventory																	Notes and Unique Facilities	Property Restriction						
Site Size (Acres)	Scale	Play Area	Age 2-5	Age 5-12	Installed	Diamond Fields	With lights	Rectangular Fields	With lights	Rectangular Field Overlay	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Gymnasium	Trails	Public Art	Picnic Shelters			Performance/Event Space	Water Access	Restroom	Portable Restroom		
Other City Property																								
Water Department Property																								
South Shore Reservoir	1.31										1													
10th Street Reservoir	0.55																							
Bergis Reservoir	0.55																							
East Waluga Park	6.15																							
Knaus Reservoir	0.71																							
No Designation 26	0.10																							
Palisades Reservoir	0.64																							
Touchstone 2 Reservoir	2.99																							
Touchstone Reservoir	0.74																							
Abandoned Sewer Pump Station (18)	0.01																							
City Maintenance Shop	5.78																							
Main Fire Station	0.59																							
South Shore Fire Station	0.73																							
Jean Road Fire Station	0.93																							
Westlake Fire Station	0.45																							
City Hall	1.18																							
Library	1.10																							
West End Building	15.35																							
Total Other City Property	39.89																							

Appendix A: Park and Facility Inventory

Park Inventory																						
Site Size (Acres)	Scale	Play Area	Age 2-5	Age 5-12	Installed	Diamond Fields	With lights	Rectangular Fields	With lights	Rectangular Field Overlay	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Gymnasium	Trails	Public Art	Picnic Shelters	Performance/Event Space	Water Access	Restroom	Portable Restroom	Notes and Unique Facilities	Property Restriction
School District Property																						
Incl. with Waluga																						
Bryant Elementary	JHS Elementary	1			2		1															Play shed
Forest Hills Elementary	Elementary	1			2		1			1		1										
Hallinan Elementary	Elementary	1			1		1					1										
Lake Grove Elementary	Elementary	1			2		1					1										
Oak Creek Elementary	Elementary	1						1		2		1										
Palisades Elementary	Elementary	1			2		2			2		1										
Rivergrove Elementary	Elementary	1					1					1										
Westridge Elementary	Elementary	1			1		1					1										Volleyball Court
Incl. with Lake Oswego																						
Uplands Elementary	JHS Elementary	1			2		2															
Lake Oswego JH	Junior High					2		1				2										
Waluga Jr High	Junior High					3		2			2	1										Overlay fields
Lake Oswego High	High School					2	1	1	1		6	3										Indoor Pool
Lakeridge High	High School					1	1		2	2		6	2									
Lake Grove Swim Park	Special Purpose																					Only available to residents of the former Lake Grove School District
School District Property Total	198.45	9			13	8	11	7	3	5	14	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		



APPENDIX B: PARK AND NATURAL AREA CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Appendix B: Park and Natural Resources Condition

Natural Area Condition										Park and Facilities Condition	
Site Size (Acres)	Scale	Sensitive Area Present	Upland Forest	Riparian Forest	Oaks	Ash	Wetland	Condition	Issues/Observations	Observed Condition Ranking	Comments
City-Wide Parks¹											
Brock Property	26.15	City-Wide	X					Poor	Invasives, need to mow to control weed spread	Poor	Equestrian barn in poor shape, no other facilities
Bryant Woods Park	28.51	City-Wide	X	X	X		X	X	Good	Good	New kiosk, additional comments in natural area assessment
Canal Acres	27.08	City-Wide	X	X	X		X	X	Good	N/A	
Cooks Butte Park	42.81	City-Wide	X	X		X			Fair	N/A	Fire risk, trail erosion (rennovation project completed in 2010 after site visit)
Crowell Property	12.49	City-Wide							Poor	N/A	Invasives, need to mow to control weed spread
East Waluga Park	23.97	City-Wide	X			X	X	X	Poor	Fair	Invasives, particularly ivy
Farr Property	6.91	City-Wide		X					Poor	N/A	Invasives, especially blackberry
Firlane Farm	22.03	City-Wide							Poor	N/A	Invasives, need to mow to control weed spread
Foothills Park	8.56	City-Wide	X		X				Fair	Good	Ivy
George Rogers Park	23.90	City-Wide	X		X	X			Poor	Fair	Heavy invasives, including ivy and knotweed
Hazelia Field at Luscher Farm	12.47	City-Wide	X						Good	Good	Restored wetland established
Iron Mountain Park	50.99	City-Wide	X	X		X			Fair	N/A	Invasives
Luscher Farm	42.11	City-Wide	X					X	Good	Fair	Mostly developed for agricultural and historic interpretation uses
Millennium Plaza Park	2.43	City-Wide							N/A	Good	Limited, unorganized parking and access
Pilkington Park	5.25	City-Wide		X					N/A	Good	Very high quality materials, very functional space
Rassekh Property	9.58	City-Wide	X		X			X	Fair	N/A	Minimally developed, limited access points
River Run I and II Park	11.92	City-Wide	X		X		X	X	Poor	N/A	Undeveloped
Roehr Park	14.43	City-Wide	X		X				Fair	Good	Heavy invasives
Springbrook Park	50.49	City-Wide	X	X	X				Poor	N/A	Aging cottonwoods
Stevens Meadow	20.12	City-Wide		X	X				Poor	N/A	Erosion, Invasives
Sundeleaf Plaza	0.49	City-Wide							N/A	N/A	Mowed field
Sunnyslope Open Space	14.81	City-Wide		X					Poor	N/A	Under construction
Tryon Cove Park	6.86	City-Wide	X		X				Poor	N/A	Holly & ivy
West Waluga Park	23.79	City-Wide	X	X	X	X	X	X	Fair	Good	Wet prairie maintenance
Westlake Park	12.09	City-Wide							N/A	Good	Shelter and play area recently renovated
Woodmont Park	6.70	City-Wide	X		X		X	X	Poor	N/A	New covered play area; bathrooms and picnic shelter are in good condition
City-Wide Parks Total	506.96		17	10	12	5	6	8			Undeveloped
Local Parks²											
Aspen Park (Palisades Reservoir)	3.96	Local	X	X					Poor	N/A	Heavy invasives
Cornell Natural Area	3.29	Local	X	X					Poor	N/A	Ivy, poor access
Freepons Park	8.27	Local	X	X		X	X		Poor	Good	Invasives
Glenmorrie Greenway	3.99	Local	X		X				Poor	N/A	Heavy ivy
Glenmorrie Park	2.81	Local	X	X		X			Poor	Good	Heavy ivy
Greentree Park	0.38	Local							N/A	Good	New construction 2007
Hallinan Natural Area	3.72	Local	X	X	X	X	X		Fair	N/A	Crowding, ivy
Hideaway Park	0.22	Local							N/A	Good	New construction 2005
Kelly Creek Park	3.67	Local	X		X				Good	N/A	Maintenance
Kerr Natural Area	10.00	Local			X				Poor	N/A	Headwater of a creek, heavy invasives, potential hazard tree
Lake Garden Park	0.62	Local							Good	N/A	No access, pond located with a cul-du-sac
Lamont Springs Natural Area	3.50	Local	X	X	X				Good	N/A	Root rot
McNary Park	2.32	Local	X	X					Good	Good	Dense growth around perimeter of park
Pennington Park	2.43	Local	X		X		X		Good	N/A	good creek gravels
Pinecone Park	0.53	Local							N/A	Good	New construction 2005
Rossmann Park	0.55	Local							N/A	Good	
South Shore Natural Area	8.95	Local	X	X		X			Fair	N/A	Oak crowding
Southwood II	0.88	Local							N/A	N/A	Open field over a reservoir
Southwood Park	4.10	Local	X	X	X				Poor	Good	Blackberry
Westridge Park	2.01	Local							Poor	Good	Extensive ivy
Local Total	66.19		12	9	7	4	3	0			

Appendix B: Park and Natural Resources Condition

Natural Area Condition									Park and Facilities Condition		
Site Size (Acres)	Scale	Sensitive Area Present	Upland Forest	Riparian Forest	Oaks	Ash	Wetland	Condition	Issues/Observations	Observed Condition Ranking	Comments
Special Purpose³											
Adult Community Center	2.79	Special Purpose	X					N/A		Good	Building will be assessed independently
Campbell Native Garden	0.61	Special Purpose	X	X	X			Fair	Ivy	Good	Minimal facilities
Charlie S. Brown Water Sports Center	0.81	Special Purpose						N/A		N/A	Building will be assessed independently
Ellen R. Bergis Nature Reserve	0.25	Special Purpose	X	X				Poor	Essentially inaccessible, extensive ivy	N/A	
Indoor Tennis Center	1.75	Special Purpose						N/A		Good	Building will be assessed independently
Iron Workers Cottage - Historic	0.11	Special Purpose						N/A		Good	Building will be assessed independently
Kincaid Curlicue Corridor	3.78	Special Purpose						N/A		Good	
Lake Oswego Public Golf Course	38.91	Special Purpose	X					N/A		Good	
Lake Oswego Swim Park	0.20	Special Purpose						N/A		Fair	Minor replacement of equipment needed (water cannon), minimal supporting facilities (for example: portable restrooms)
Skate Park	0.78	Special Purpose						N/A		Fair	Modular ramps are not a preferred amenity, constrained site
Special Purpose Total	49.99		4	2	1	0	1	0			
Designated Park Land Total	623.15		33								
Other Public Open Space⁴											
Bayberry Wetlands (19)	0.04	Other public open space	X					Poor	Small and isolated	N/A	
Baycreek 3&4 Tract A Open Space (1)	1.26	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Potential connection to Southwood Park	N/A	
Baycreek 3&4 Tract A Open Space (2)	0.04	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Potential connection to Southwood Park	N/A	
Boca Ratan Open Space (17)	0.26	Other public open space	X					Poor	Small, nearly connected (through abandoned pump station to Tryon Creek State Park)	N/A	
Boones Brook tract A Open Space (8)	2.08	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Poor access, potential for connectivity	N/A	
Boones Ferry Open Space (35)	0.59	Other public open space		X				Poor		N/A	
Bullock Street Open Space (23)	0.19	Other public open space	X	X				Poor		N/A	
Commons West Tract A Open Space (14)	0.10	Other public open space	X					Poor	Small and isolated	N/A	
Daimondhead (16)	1.07	Other public open space	X					Poor	Connected to privately owned pond/marsh	N/A	
Deerfield Court Open Space (4)	0.46	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Potential connection to Southwood Park	N/A	
East Country Club Open Space (15)	0.76	Other public open space	X					Poor	Small and isolated	N/A	
Former Sunningdale Reservoir (20)	0.20	Other public open space						Poor		N/A	
Greentree Open Space (31)	1.39	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Adjacent to private open space, extensive ivy	N/A	
Heather Estates Open Space (32)	0.58	Other public open space	X					Poor	Adjacent to canal	N/A	
Kerr Open Space (12)	1.06	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Poor access, potential for connectivity	N/A	
Kruse Creek Tract A Open Space (3)	1.11	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Potential connection to Southwood Park	N/A	
Kruse Creek Tract B Open Space (5)	1.78	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Associated with creek	N/A	
Laurel Street Open Space	0.57	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Potential for connectivity along creek	N/A	
Laurel Street Open Space (25)	0.16	Other public open space	X	X				Poor	Small and isolated	N/A	
Lost Dog Creek Open Space (29)	0.05	Other public open space	X					Poor	Potential for connection to Greentree Open Space	N/A	
Lost Dog Creek Open Space (30)	0.07	Other public open space	X					Poor	Potential for connection to Greentree Open Space	N/A	
Maple Street Open Space	0.42	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Potential for connectivity along creek	N/A	
Maple to Lakefront Path (28)	0.11	Other public open space						Poor	No particular habitat value, extensive ivy	N/A	
McVey Open Space/ Pump Station (27)	0.10	Other public open space						Poor	Small and isolated	N/A	
Meadowcreek Tract A&B Open Space (6)	0.67	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Associated with creek	N/A	
Oak Street Open Space	0.24	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Potential for connectivity along creek	N/A	
Sara Hill Open Space (33)	0.18	Other public open space						Poor	Small, isolated	N/A	
Sherbrook Place at Boones Ferry Rd. (11)	0.05	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Poor access, potential for connectivity	N/A	
Springbrook Creek Open Space #2 (10)	0.25	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Poor access, potential for connectivity	N/A	
Springbrook Creek Open Space (9)	1.29	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Poor access, potential for connectivity	N/A	

Appendix B: Park and Natural Resources Condition

Natural Area Condition									Park and Facilities Condition		
Site Size (Acres)	Scale	Sensitive Area Present	Upland Forest	Riparian Forest	Oaks	Ash	Wetland	Condition	Issues/Observations	Observed Condition Ranking	Comments
Tryon Creek Open Space (21)	0.11	Other public open space	X					Poor	Connected to Tryon Creek State Park, steep	N/A	
Tualatin Open Space Detention Pond (34)	0.46	Other public open space	X					Poor	No access (surrounded by private property)	N/A	
Unknown (24)	0.15	Other public open space	X					Poor	Small and isolated	N/A	
Upper Drive Open Space (36)	0.66	Other public open space		X				Poor		N/A	
West Country Club Open Space (13)	0.94	Other public open space						Poor	Small and isolated	N/A	
Westbrooke Tract B Open Space (7)	2.59	Other public open space	X		X			Poor	Connected to Oak Creek Elementary	N/A	
Other Public Open Space Total	22.05		29	4	16	0	0	0			

Appendix B: Park and Natural Resources Condition

Natural Area Condition									Park and Facilities Condition		
Site Size (Acres)	Scale	Sensitive Area Present	Upland Forest	Riparian Forest	Oaks	Ash	Wetland	Condition	Issues/Observations	Observed Condition Ranking	Comments
Other City Property											
Water Department Property											
South Shore Reservoir	1.31										
10th Street Reservoir	0.55										
Bergis Reservoir	0.55										
East Waluga Park	6.15										
Knaus Reservoir	0.71										
No Designation 26	0.10										
Palisades Reservoir	0.64										
Touchstone 2 Reservoir	2.99										
Touchstone Reservoir	0.74										
Abandoned Sewer Pump Station (18)	0.01										
City Maintenance Shop	5.78										
Main Fire Station	0.59										
South Shore Fire Station	0.73										
Jean Road Fire Station	0.93										
Westlake Fire Station	0.45										
City Hall	1.18										
Library	1.10										
West End Building	15.35										
Total Other City Property	39.89										
School District Property											
Bryant Elementary	with Waluga JHS	Elementary									
Forest Hills Elementary	5.28	Elementary									
Hallinan Elementary	8.76	Elementary									
Lake Grove Elementary	10.19	Elementary									
Oak Creek Elementary	8.39	Elementary									
Palisades Elementary	9.78	Elementary									
Rivergrove Elementary	9.28	Elementary									
Westridge Elementary	9.78	Elementary									
Uplands Elementary	ake Oswego JHS	Elementary									
Lake Oswego JH	30.65	Junior High									
Waluga Jr High	29.76	Junior High									
Lake Oswego High	34.18	High School									
Lakeridge High	41.16	High School									
Lake Grove Swim Park	1.23	Special Purpose									
School District Property Total	198.45										



APPENDIX C: BUILDING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: 3/31/11
To: Ryan Mottau
From: Chris Brown
Project: Lake Oswego Park, Recreation and Natural Area Plan
Project No.: 4508-01
Reference: Building Assessment Notes

Luscher Farmhouse:

Building is used as an interpretive museum and light office / conference space. Overall condition is good, stone and concrete foundations are good, asphalt shingle roof will need replacement in the near future, wood siding building envelope is in good condition. Mechanical systems are reportedly in fair condition and may need replacement. It may be possible to improve some spaces for office type uses or additional museum display.

Luscher Barn and Outbuildings:

Barn is in good repair, though it, along with most of the outbuildings has moss growing on the west facing asphalt shingle roofs. If repurposed the foundation of the building will need be evaluated and its bearing capacity related to current code confirmed. The large spaces could lend themselves to other community activity spaces, though most uses would require major upgrades to the building systems.

The tool shed is in fair condition, the metal siding and roof are rusted and the construction is not as robust as many of the other outbuildings, and it contributes little to the historic character of the farm. The old pump house, new pump house, old storage shed and chicken coop are all in reasonably good condition, their small sizes do not lend themselves to alternate uses. The caretaker's house is in fair condition. Although it reportedly has foundation problems and the upstairs living quarters are in need of upgrades. The downstairs classroom space is in reasonably good shape.

Farr House and Outbuildings:

The main house is in poor shape, the roof needs replacement, leaks have resulted in significant mold growth, and there is significant other disrepair. The house is large, but the labyrinth layout of small rooms does not lend itself to flexible use. The guesthouse roof and foundation is also in very poor shape and significant slope in the floor was observed. The south portion of the shed is also leaky and built without a foundation. The north portion of the shed is more solidly built, but does appear to have some leaks.

Fir Lane House and Outbuildings:

The main house is in good condition with the exception of the roof. The brick siding appears to be in good repair, and while portions of the interior have a somewhat dated appearance, others have nice character. The garage and barn are in fair condition, both asphalt shingle roofs need replacement and the garage siding needs to be painted along with some repair of rot.

Brock Equestrian Barn:

The long span structure of the equestrian appears to be in good shape, although it would certainly need seismic upgrades if the building were to be converted to a more public use. The buildings metal roof and siding are in marginal condition, the walls appear warped and there are significant leaks. The open space of the building would lend itself to a variety of uses.

Crowell Barn:

We were not able to go inside this space, but from the outside it appeared to be in reasonably good condition for its current use as storage, and its metal roof and siding are durable materials. It would lend itself to use as a tool shed or storage for a community garden.

Millennium Plaza Pavilion:

This structure is quite new and appears to be in good condition. There was one detail problem observed: a downspout on the east side of the building spills onto the stone siding and one of the lights, causing some efflorescence on through the stone and potentially damaging the light fixture.

Adult Community Center:

This building, while showing some signs of its age, appears to be fairly well maintained. The wood shingle roof needs to be replaced soon. Functionally the building is well used, but lacks some amenities that many facilities of its type have such as an exercise room. There are numerous rooms of varying sizes, which allows for good potential for a major renovation or renovation/addition to bring the building up to current standards.

Golf Course Club House:

The club house is currently undergoing a renovation and appears to be in good shape. Its open space lends itself well to its current and potential alternate uses. The bathrooms are reportedly very cold in the winter.

Golf Course Maintenance Building:

This building appears to be well maintained and suitable for its current use.

Water Sports Center:

This building is also well maintained, although the asphalt shingle roof needs attention. Its location on the river makes it obviously unsuitable for multiple uses, it lacks sufficient storage space for its current use, and it does not have a restroom facility or always have adequate access to restrooms.

George Rogers Maintenance Building:

This building is in good shape excepting the roof, which needs to be replaced. It is solidly built and appears to function well for its current use.

Westlake Park Maintenance Facility, Restrooms and Concessions buildings:

These building are in fair shape. There is moss on the asphalt shingle roofs and some deterioration around windows and at some siding. There is a significant drainage problem which allows water to enter the structure at the northeast baseball field. There locations make them suitable for their current use but not flexible for other uses.

LO Building Condition Assessment

	Overall Rating	Building Envelope	Upkeep	Suitability	Flexibility	Notes
Luscher farmhouse	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	See attached notes for all buildings
Luscher barn and outbuildings	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	Barn has good flexibility, other outbuildings have fair flexibility
Farr House and outbuildings	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	
Fir Lane House and outbuildings	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	
Brock equestrian barn	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	
Crowell Barn	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	
Millennium Plaza pavillion	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	
Adult Community Center	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	
Golf Course Club House	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	
Golf Course Maintenance Building	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	
Water Sports Center	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	
George Rogers Maintenance Building	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	
Westlake Park maintenance facility and restroom	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	G/F/P	

The rating system for building assessment is a general indication of the condition and suitability of each structure for park use. The overall ratings are based on basic observed (walk-through) evaluations. The ratings as applied are detailed below:

Good: The building is in good working order, no building systems (roof, envelope, plumbing, etc) show any obvious problems, is well taken care of and is well designed to suit the program needs.

Fair: The building has deferred maintenance needs or needs some upgrades, either to repair/replace one system or to make the building a better fit for the program needs.

Poor: Multiple systems are failing, maintenance needs have long been ignored or the building is wholly unsuitable for the program needs.

