



# LAKE OSWEGO

## Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas System Plan

**Summary Available**      **Lake Oswego On-line Questionnaire**  
**October 15 – December 15, 2010**

---

### **Questionnaire Methodology**

---

This report summarizes the findings of the City of Lake Oswego Parks Plan 2025 On-line Questionnaire, which was developed by MIG, Inc. as a key community involvement opportunity in the update of the parks, recreation and natural areas system plan. The questionnaire was made available to any member of the community as an opportunity to provide feedback on existing park facilities, desired activities and priorities for future improvements of parks, recreation facilities, programs, and natural areas.

MIG, Inc. and the City of Lake Oswego administered the questionnaire on-line using the City's website [www.parksplan2025.org](http://www.parksplan2025.org) from October 15 through December 15, 2010. The questionnaire was extensively advertised in City publications, through multiple electronic mail lists and the media, and through community organizations. Several banners advertising the questionnaire were prominently displayed across major City intersections. Finally, the on-line questionnaire was advertised at community facilities. Paper copies were available on request.

The response to the questionnaire was high compared to similar exercises in other communities, with 1110 questionnaires completed. The large number of questionnaire returns provides the City with insight into the priorities and ideas of over 1000 residents and recreation users. However, the responses should not necessarily be considered representative of the City as a whole.

This document presents key findings of the community questionnaire. A set of summary tables is included. In these summary tables, the total response number is based on the completed number of questionnaires. In some cases, where a large number of respondents skipped a question, the resulting top responses will have a reduced percentage. In addition, many of the questions allowed respondents to pick their top two responses, resulting in a total response larger than the number of A copy of the questionnaire (as distributed on paper) is provided in Appendix A. Complete open-ended responses are documented in Appendix B.

## Key Findings

---

### Demographics

- With the exception of respondents 18-24 who were underrepresented, the questionnaire sample adequately represents the age ranges of the Lake Oswego adult population.
- About 56% of respondents were female and 39% were male. About 73% were Lake Oswego residents and nearly 22% were non-residents (representing recreation users from the greater Portland Metro area).
- Palisades residents (11%) and Mountain Park residents (5%) had a greater number of respondents than other neighborhoods.
- About one-third (32%) of respondents live in households with children younger than 18, compared to 16% who identified themselves as adults with no children.
- About 19% of respondents work from home, and nearly as many (18%) are retired. About 16% commute one hour or more per day.
- Nearly 85% were White/Caucasian.
- The majority of respondents were long time residents. About 15% have lived in Lake Oswego less than 5 years.

### Key Benefits

- 80% of respondents (removing those who did not respond to this question) thought parks, recreation services and natural areas were very important to Lake Oswego's quality of life.
- Respondents thought that supporting health and fitness activities (49%), creating positive activities and fun environments for youth (36%), and creating places for neighborhood and family gathering (27%) were the most important social and community functions and benefits of the parks, recreation and natural area system.
- Respondents thought that making the City aesthetically appealing (42%), protecting important habitats (40%), and providing hand-on interaction with nature (32%) were the most important environmental functions and benefits of the parks, recreation and natural area system.

### Top Priorities

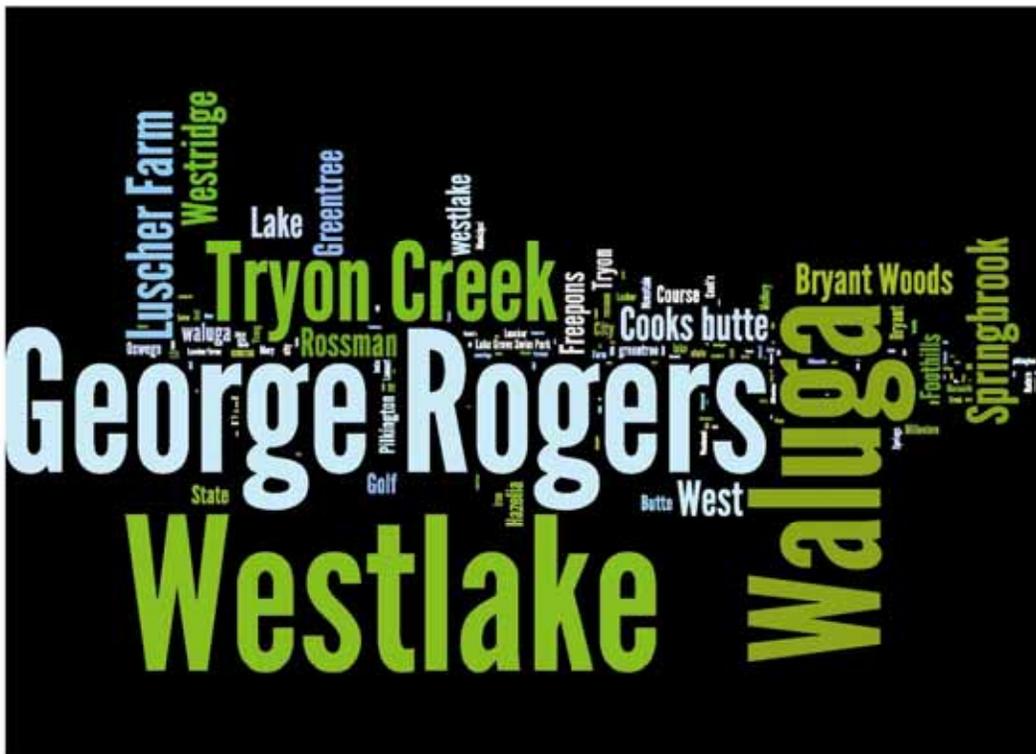
- According to on-line questionnaire respondents, the top priorities for improving parks, recreation and natural areas in Lake Oswego are: repair and maintain existing parks and facilities (40%); add major new indoor

facilities (pool, community center, tennis center, etc.) (37%); expand the trail network (25%); and restore or protect creeks, forests and hillsides (23%).

### Parks Closest to Home

- In an open-ended question, residents most frequently identified George Rogers Park, Westlake Park, and Waluga Park as the parks closest to their homes.

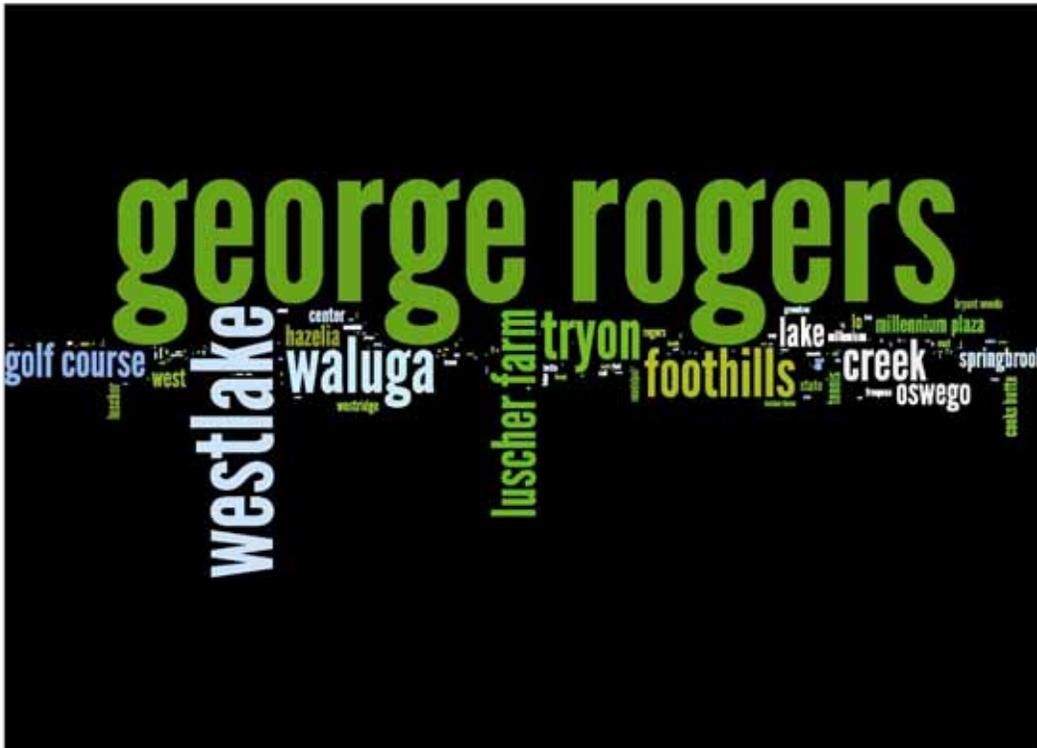
A word cloud of the complete responses to this question is presented below. This graphic representation of the data sizes the words based on the frequency of use in the data set.



### Park Most Often Visited

- In an open-ended question, residents most frequently identified George Rogers Park and Westlake Park as the parks most frequently visited.

A word cloud of the complete responses to this question is presented below. This graphic representation of the data sizes the words based on the frequency of use in the data set.



### Close to Home Amenities

- Questionnaire findings suggest that opportunities to experience nature (38%), exercise (37%), and play sports (34%) are the most important facilities to have close to home for Lake Oswego residents.
- Approximately 33% of respondents said that play for children is important to have close to home. This is similar to the number of respondents who identified themselves as having children under 18 as part of their households (32%).

### Desired Park Character

- When asked what type of park they would like closest to their home, one-third of respondents (32%) prefer a local park that integrates activities and features with the natural environment.



## **Recreation Participation**

- According to the on-line questionnaire results, the recreation activities with the greatest participation among Lake Oswego residents are:
  1. Walking for exercise
  2. Walking for pleasure
  3. Dog walking/dog parks
  4. Gardening
  5. Jogging/running
  6. Nature walks
  7. Tennis
  8. Bicycling
  9. Volunteer activities
  10. Swimming
  11. Golf
  12. Yoga/pilates
- Six of the 12 activities with the highest participation levels could be supported by trails: walking for exercise, walking for pleasure, dog-walking, jogging/running, nature walks, and bicycling.
- According to the on-line questionnaire results, activities with the greatest latent demand (the difference between current and desired participation) were: concerts, festivals and special events (20); education/special interest classes (10); rowing, canoeing, and kayaking (9); fishing (9); arts/culture (8); and swimming (7). The higher the score, the greater the unmet demand.



## Results by Question

---

<b>Question1:</b>		
<b>What is your age?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 18 (1)	25	2.25%
18-24 (2)	9	0.81%
25-34 (3)	96	8.65%
35-44 (4)	232	20.90%
45-54 (5)	326	29.37%
55-64 (6)	220	19.82%
65+ (7)	145	13.06%
No answer	57	5.14%
Non completed	0	0

<b>Question2:</b>		
<b>Male or Female?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female (F)	616	55.50%
Male (M)	431	38.83%
No answer	63	5.68%
Non completed	0	0

<b>Question3:</b>		
<b>Do you live in Lake Oswego?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes (Y)	808	72.79%
No (N)	240	21.62%
No answer	62	5.59%
Non completed	0	0

<b>Question4:</b>		
<b>Please select the name of your neighborhood from the following list. (Use the map below for reference)</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Blue Heron (1)	23	2.07%
Bryant (2)	57	5.14%
Childs (3)	9	0.81%
Country Club-North Shore (4)	33	2.97%
Evergreen (5)	12	1.08%
First Addition (6)	47	4.23%
Foothills (7)	7	0.63%
Forest Highlands (8)	37	3.33%
Glenmorrie (9)	20	1.80%
Hallinan (10)	19	1.71%
Holly Orchard (11)	28	2.52%
Lake Forest (12)	21	1.89%
Lake Grove (13)	40	3.60%
Lakeview-Summit (14)	10	0.90%
Lakewood (15)	22	1.98%
McVey South Shore (16)	33	2.97%
Mt. Park (17)	59	5.32%
Oak Creek (18)	27	2.43%
Old Town (19)	7	0.63%
Palisades (20)	120	10.81%
Rosewood (21)	20	1.80%
Skyland (22)	7	0.63%
Uplands (23)	34	3.06%
Waluga (24)	11	0.99%
Westlake (25)	51	4.59%
Westridge (26)	23	2.07%
Other	6	0.54%
No answer	18	1.62%
Non completed	309	27.84%

<b>Question7:</b>		
<b>How do you describe your lifestyle? Please check any of the following that apply to you.</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Children younger than 18 living with me (2)	356	32.07%
Work at home/home office (7)	212	19.10%
Retired (5)	195	17.57%
Work commute of 1hr+ per day (6)	181	16.31%
Adult with no children (3)	172	15.50%
Stay-at-home parent/grandparent (4)	171	15.41%
Student (1)	49	4.41%
Unemployed (8)	28	2.52%
Other	95	8.56%

<b>Question6:</b>		
<b>How do you describe yourself? Please check all of the following that apply to you.</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White/Caucasian (1)	942	84.86%
Asian Pacific American/East Asian (4)	36	3.24%
Biracial/multiracial (6)	18	1.62%
Hispanic/Latin (3)	16	1.44%
African American (2)	4	0.36%
Native American (5)	12	1.08%
Other	12	1.08%

<b>Question5:</b>		
<b>How long have you resided in Lake Oswego?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2 years or less (1)	55	4.95%
2-5 years (2)	106	9.55%
6-10 years (3)	162	14.59%
11-19 years (4)	213	19.19%
20+ years (5)	252	22.70%
No answer	294	26.49%
Non completed	28	2.52%

<b>Question8(1):</b>		
<b>How important are parks, recreation services and natural areas to Lake Oswego's quality of life?</b>		
<b>[Answer]</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Not Important (1)	4	0.36%
Not Important – Important (2)	14	1.26%
Important (3)	58	5.23%
Important – Very Important (4)	69	6.22%
Very Important (5)	595	53.60%
No Opinion (6)	2	0.18%
No answer	311	28.02%
Non completed	57	5.14%

<b>Question9:</b>		
<b>What social/community functions and benefits of the parks, recreation and natural area system are most important to you?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Support health and fitness activities (7)	538	48.47%
Create positive activities and fun environments for youth (5)	397	35.77%
Create places for neighborhood and family gatherings (2)	294	26.49%
Support a unique identity for Lake Oswego (3)	164	14.77%
Increase property values and strengthen the economy (8)	139	12.52%
Provide opportunities for teamwork and competition (4)	136	12.25%
Bring the entire community together at large events (1)	123	11.08%
Continue life-long learning (6)	85	7.66%
Other	64	5.77%

<b>Question10:</b>		
<b>What environmental functions and benefits of the parks, recreation and natural area system are most important to you?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Make the city aesthetically appealing (6)	469	42.25%
Protect important habitats (3)	439	39.55%
Provide hands-on interaction with nature (5)	351	31.62%
Clean water and managing stormwater run-off (2)	258	23.24%
Protect historic sites (4)	146	13.15%
Enhance air quality (1)	130	11.71%
Other	48	4.32%

<b>Question11:</b>		
<b>What are your top two priorities for improving parks, recreation and natural areas in Lake Oswego.</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Repair and maintain existing parks and facilities (5)	448	40.36%
Add major new indoor facilities (Pool, Community Center, Tennis Center, etc.) (3)	405	36.49%
Expand the trail network (4)	276	24.86%
Restore or protect creeks, forests and hillsides (6)	256	23.06%
Purchase additional land for natural areas or parks (1)	167	15.05%
Add new recreation facilities in existing parks (2)	181	16.31%
Offer more programs and activities (7)	66	5.95%

<b>Question12:</b>		
<b>What is the name of the closest park to your home?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Answer	858	77.30%
No answer	252	22.70%
Non completed	0	0

<b>Question12a:</b>		
<b>What is the name of the park you visit most often?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Answer	870	78.38%
No answer	240	21.62%
Non completed	0	0

<b>Question13:</b>		
<b>What recreation opportunities are most important to have close to home?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Experience nature (2)	424	38.20%
Exercise (4)	407	36.67%
Play Sports (5)	379	34.14%
Play for children (1)	362	32.61%
Social gatherings, picnics and neighborhood events (3)	153	13.78%
Learn (6)	37	3.33%
Getting involved/volunteering (7)	26	2.34%
Other	78	7.03%

<b>Question14:</b>		
<b>Which image most closely represents the type of park you would like closest to home?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Integrated: activities and features intermingled with the natural environment (3)	350	31.53%
Mostly Natural: primarily natural setting with areas for low impact activities (4)	287	25.86%
Side-by-Side: developed areas and natural areas with a clear edge (2)	196	17.66%
Mostly Developed: manicured grass and built features (1)	126	11.35%
No answer	60	5.41%
Non completed	91	8.20%

<b>Question15:</b>		
<b>How would you rate the recreation activities and programs provided by Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Excellent.</b> There are many opportunities to do all or most of the recreation activities I enjoy. (1)	174	15.68%
<b>Very Good.</b> There are several opportunities to do many of the recreation activities I enjoy. (2)	437	39.37%
<b>Satisfactory.</b> There are some opportunities to do the recreation activities I enjoy. (3)	229	20.63%
<b>Not very good.</b> There are a few opportunities to do the recreation activities I enjoy. (4)	48	4.32%
<b>Totally inadequate.</b> There are no opportunities to do any of the recreation activities I enjoy. (5)	4	0.36%
<b>Not sure.</b> I don't know what is offered. (6)	35	3.15%
No answer	78	7.03%
Non completed	105	9.46%

<b>Question16:</b>		
<b>What types of recreation programs are most needed or need to be enhanced in Lake Oswego?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Aquatic Programs/Swimming (6)	288	25.95%
Adult Sports (2)	249	22.43%
Youth Sports (1)	224	20.18%
Fitness Programs (3)	215	19.37%
Environmental Programs (4)	205	18.47%
Arts and Culture (5)	113	10.18%
Education/Special Interest Classes (8)	94	8.47%
Before and After School Programs (7)	91	8.20%
Volunteer Programs (10)	65	5.86%
Special Events (9)	50	4.50%

<b>Question17:</b>		
<b>What is the one program or class you would like to see offered?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Answer	467	42.07%
No answer	643	57.93%
Non completed	0	0

<b>Question18:</b>		
<b>What prevents, or limits your participation in Parks &amp; Recreation Department programs and activities?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Lack of time (1)	357	32.16%
Inadequate facilities (3)	241	21.71%
Not aware of programs (5)	183	16.49%
Held at inconvenient times (2)	167	15.05%
Participate in programs outside of Lake Oswego (7)	150	13.51%
Not interested in programs offered (6)	89	8.02%
Participate in programs at other Lake Oswego locations (8)	64	5.77%
Quality of programs (4)	40	3.60%
Other	115	10.36%

<b>Question 19:</b>
<b>Which activities have you done in the past 2 years? For each activity you participate in, please check the box that most closely represents how often you participate when the activity is in season</b>

<b>Question 20:</b>
<b>Which 5 activities would you like to do most? Assume you have the time, money and transportation to do whichever 5 activities you want.</b>

Question 20 and 21 are considered as two parts of a whole. Both are based on a list of activities developed supported by the Lake Oswego park system with some additions based on staff comments and early public input. The first question asks respondents to indicate how frequently they currently participate in each activity. The weighted average response is then ranked and presented as the "Current Rank." The second question asks the respondents to select the top five activities they would like to be participating in. These results are ranked as the "Preferred

Rank.” The final column in the table below indicates how these rankings changed between the current participation and the preferred participation, providing insight into the latent demand for these activities.

Results	Rank	Preferred Rank	Latent Demand
Walking for Exercise	1	2	-1
Walking for Pleasure	2	10	-8
Dog Walking/Dog Parks	3	10	-7
Gardening	4	7	-3
Jogging/Running	5	12	-7
Nature Walks	6	5	1
Tennis	7	8	-1
Bicycling	8	3	5
Volunteer Activities	9	21	-12
Swimming (pool)	10	6	4
Golf	11	4	7
Yoga/Pilates	12	14	-2
Soccer	13	17	-4
Birdwatching	14	19	-5
Playground (visit/play)	15	16	-1
Baseball/Softball	16	24	-8
Arts/Culture	17	9	8
Other Field Sports (Lacrosse, Football, Kickball, Ultimate Frisbee)	18	26	-8
Swimming (lake, river)	19	18	1
Other	20	29	-9
Concerts, Festivals, and other Special Events	21	1	20
Rowing/Canoeing/Kayaking	22	13	9
Basketball (indoor)	23	25	-2
Picnicking	24	23	1
Education/Special Interest Classes	25	15	10
Nature Education	26	22	4
Basketball (outdoor)	27	27	0
Skateboarding	28	28	0
Fishing	29	20	9

<b>Question21:</b>		
<b>Is there anything else you would like to tell us about parks, recreation and natural areas in Lake Oswego?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Answer	392	35.32%
No answer	718	64.68%
Non completed	0	0