
Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Background

Preface

Quality of life is important to the citizens of Lake Oswego. Lake Oswego's parks, recreational and open space system is essential to maintaining the high quality of life that residents have come to expect. Over the years, public officials and citizens laid the groundwork for the extensive park and recreation system enjoyed today.

The 1999 City of Lake Oswego Quality of Life Task Force Final Report quantified the elements found in the city that make Lake Oswego unique and desirable. In addition to its "village" character, the report finds that the city's "parks, recreational facilities, recreational programs and open space each help to improve the entire community's quality of life by providing all residents the opportunity to exercise, relax and enjoy nature." Indicators outlined in this report that signify continued quality of life include ease of reserving fields, courts and tee times, as well as a high number of residents served by various programs.

In 1990, the *Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan* was adopted to guide park acquisition and development for the next ten years. The majority of the recommendations were fulfilled, including the development of new community parks, pathways and athletic fields, and in particular the purchase of land for future uses. However, the population of Lake Oswego has continued to grow and, over time, the development of parks, recreation, and open space facilities and services has not kept up with demand.

The choices that confront Lake Oswego at the present time are significant and could alter the character and quality of this vibrant system if not properly planned. Therefore, it is essential that a new Park and Recreation Master Plan be developed to provide options and a clear direction for parks and recreational development for the next 10 to 15 years.

The process for developing the Park & Recreation Comprehensive Plan began in earnest in the spring of 2000, concurrent with the planning for the Lake Oswego Open Space Plan. While this document looks primarily at inventory and forecasts demands for park and recreational facilities, the Open Space Plan focuses open space planning and management. The scope and approach of this Park & Recreation Comprehensive Plan were presented for review at joint meetings with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), the Natural Resource Advisory Board (NRAB) and the Team Sports Advisory Committee (TSAC). Several in-progress review meetings were held with these groups.

Demographic Profile

Since the 1990 Parks Master Plan was completed, the city's population has increased more than 11%. Recent population projections by Portland State University estimate that an additional 4,962 persons will be living in Lake Oswego by the year 2015, bringing the population up to 39,262. This is an increase of 14% from the 34,300 persons counted in 2000. As the population expands the demand for park and recreation facilities is expected to grow, putting pressure on existing facilities and programs.

The population of the United States is aging, and this is true of the population of Lake Oswego. Yet Lake Oswego will continue to be populated by a full range of age groups, due to the significant amount of single-family housing in the city. This master plan assumes that families will continue to be attracted to these single-family neighborhoods. The findings and recommendations contained in this document reflect this assumption.

Master Plan Goals and Objectives

The 1994 Lake Oswego Comprehensive Plan outlines the following goal for Parks and Recreation: The City shall plan, acquire, develop and maintain a system of park, open space, and recreation facilities, both active and passive, that is attractive, safe, functional, available to all segments of the population and serves diverse current and long range community needs.

The City's goals for this master plan are to:

- Establish policies to guide development and improvements for the next 15 years. Provide proposals for upgrading the existing system and developing new facilities and services to meet current and future needs.
- Develop a high quality diversified recreation system for all ages and interest groups.
- Develop a high quality system of multi-purpose park trails and corridors that access significant environmental features, public facilities and developed local neighborhoods and business districts.

Forecasting Criteria

In generating recommendations for this Plan, national ratio standards and a Pacific Northwest participation model were applied to Lake Oswego's facility inventory to determine future needs. The most widely used park land ratios have been formulated by the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) using standards that have been developed over time by major park and recreation departments across the country. The participation model used was based on Pacific Northwest resident's recreational diaries that record their participation in specific recreational activities over a measurable period of time. Facility requirements were estimated for 21 park and recreation activities that were deemed to be of most interest to the City.

Development Recommendations

Existing Public and Private Resources

As noted in Chapter 3, pages 9–18, the City of Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego School District, State of Oregon and other public and private agencies have assembled 1,243.9 acres of land devoted exclusively to park, recreation and open space uses within or adjacent to the Lake Oswego urban growth boundary.

The City of Lake Oswego owns 530.7 acres of land available for public park, recreation and open space use. This includes 21 developed, undeveloped and natural areas, 1 outdoor swim park, an indoor tennis center, 5 outdoor tennis courts, an Adult Community Center, municipal golf course, and a water sports recreation center. Currently, there are 37.6 miles of trails. However, with the expected population increase to 39,262 resident in 2015, additional parks, open space and recreation facilities will be needed.

The Lake Oswego School District owns 13 properties with 55.5 acres of land utilized for recreational facilities within Lake Oswego urban growth boundaries. Recreational facilities include athletic fields, indoor gyms and classrooms, an outdoor swim park, 15 outdoor tennis courts, and 1 indoor swimming pool.

Other public agencies own 4 properties with 671 acres of land utilized for public facilities with recreational spaces and /or conserved for resource habitat and trail opportunities within or adjacent to Lake Oswego city limits.

	Acres Under Current Ownership
City of Lake Oswego	530.7
Lake Oswego School District	55.5
Other public agencies	671.0

Clearly, this inventory of facilities shows that these public agencies have amassed an impressive amount of acreage that includes every conceivable kind of parkland and recreational facility. The City of Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego School District, State of Oregon and other public agencies presently provides almost every kind of park and open space land. A significant portion of this inventory includes regional facilities serving populations that reside outside Lake Oswego. The Lake Oswego School District controls a significant percentage of the park and recreational inventory.

Land and Facility Demand

Chapter 5 focuses on demand forecasting for park and recreation land and facilities. The following discussion summarizes this information and provides recommendations for facility and renovation needs for parks, recreation facilities and trails required to meet the needs of the City of Lake Oswego for the near future of 6 to 10 years and the long term of 15 years.

A more detailed list of proposals, including locations and costs for proposed renovations and new development are described in detail in the Appendix on the “Proposed level of service additions-by site” chart.



Specific Recommendations

Total Park Land

The city, school district, and state provide a significant amount of land for park and recreation to satisfy most local and significant regional interests. However, the present allocation is not balanced between different types of park and recreation land requirements. Therefore, 16 acres of land should be acquired to meet needs in the near future.

Facility	Additional Land Required
Resource Activities	10 acres
Linear Trails	2 acres
Recreation Centers/Pool	2 acres
Special Use Facilities	2 acres
Total Additional Acreage	16 acres

Athletic fields

While the total supply of athletic field land is significant, the total acreage includes a significant inventory of non-regulation fields that cannot support competition games or practices. However, the City and other agencies have properties in their inventory that can be developed for additional fields. The current supply of land owned by the City, School District and other public and private agencies is sufficient to meet the growing needs of local residents to the year 2015.

Baseball and softball activities—particularly coed leagues—are growing. It is recommended over the next 6 to 10 years that four existing fields are upgraded

from practice or non-regulation fields to competition fields. In addition to these fields, 4 additional new fields will be needed in the next 15 years.

Interest in soccer is also growing. To meet this growing interest and anticipated population increases, one existing soccer field should be improved over the next 6 to 10 years and 7 new fields should be added over the next 15 years.

Facility	Additional Land Required	Facility Recommendation
Baseball/Softball:	0	Upgrade 4 existing fields to competition fields
	0	4 new fields
Soccer fields:	0	1 field upgraded
	0	7 new fields



Indoor Tennis Courts

A study conducted in 1999 by the Tennis Industry Association confirmed a 14% increase in the number of people playing tennis nationally since 1995, or a total of 14.1 million people. Of those, 68% play on public tennis courts.

The present supply of indoor public courts do no meet needs during rainy portions of the year, primarily late fall through spring. However, existing public and private indoor facilities do meet tennis needs for residents and school children during summer months. Additional indoor courts are needed to meet the current demand. Additional study will be required to determine the number and location of these courts.

Picnic tables and shelters

There are no existing national standards for picnic facilities. Yet regional models show that Lake Oswego does not now provide a sufficient number of tables with which to meet the requirements for residents and visitors during peak summer weekends and events. Nor are the current tables and shelters equally distributed to provide access to all neighborhoods and residential areas. Over the next 15 years, the City should add another 83 picnic tables and 11 shelters at park and trail sites. No new properties would need to be acquired in order to provide these new facilities.

Facility	Additional Land Required	Facility Recommendation
Picnic Tables	0	83
Picnic Shelters	0	11

Playgrounds

The regional participation model indicates that Lake Oswego is close to meeting standards of needed playgrounds. Yet the present supply of 12 playgrounds is not evenly geographically distributed to provide equal access to all neighborhood areas. Ten additional playgrounds are recommended for development within the next 6 to 10 years in the under-served parts of the city. These new playgrounds can fit onto existing City-owned parklands.

Facility	Additional Land Required	Facility Recommendation
Playground	0	10

Trails

Trails can be built along natural corridors, such as abandoned railroad lines, road right-of-ways, or natural area greenways. They also can link together schools, libraries, commercial areas and parks. The current supply of City and other agency acreage devoted to trails in Lake Oswego falls short of the NRPA standard. In conjunction with the following recommendations, the City should obtain the Portland Chip Plant property to allow for the extension of the Willamette River Trail to connect to Roehr Park.

Park trails – Popularity of walking as an activity is growing – especially for older adults in local park settings adjacent to residential neighborhoods. The present supply of park trails is not sufficient to provide access to the numerous natural areas, waterfront sites, historical landmarks and other interesting features. Another 12.8 miles should be added to the inventory in the next 6 to 10 years to increase access within city parks.

Walking/biking off-road trails – Also growing in popularity, particularly as a form of commuting to jobs, schools and other facilities, as well as for recreational enjoyment. Currently 25.3 miles of walking trail miles and 1 mile of biking trails. Future demand shows that another 22.3 miles of hiking trail and 9 miles of biking trail should be added to the inventory in the next 6 to 10 years.

Equestrian trails – There are currently no horseback riding trails within the City’s park system. The plan calls for 3.4 miles to be added over the next 15 years to include trails and linkages and access to rural area park sites.

Facility	Additional Land Required	Facility Recommendation
Park trails	0	12.8 additional miles
Walking trails	0	22.3 additional miles
Biking off-road trails	0	9.0 additional miles
Equestrian trails	0	3.4 additional miles
	2 acres	



Recreation Center/Swimming Pool

Recreation centers and pools are facilities providing swimming pools, physical conditioning, gymnasiums, arts and crafts, classrooms, meeting rooms, kitchen facilities and other spaces to support public recreation programs for all ages. The existing supply of these type of facilities would likely meet the recreation center objectives, were it not that part of this supply is provided by the Lake Oswego School District and is thus not available during school hours, weekends, or during the holidays. The need for a recreation center is evident, as outlined below. To accommodate such a facility, an additional 2 acres of land will be required.

Swimming Pool. The City of Lake Oswego does not currently provide indoor swimming facilities. The Lake Oswego High School swimming pool is available for some public activities, in addition to school and athletic activities. Assuming this pool has much needed renovations but remains the only principal facility available for public use, the present supply may not be sufficient to meet needs of future population.

The high school pool should be renovated in the next 6 to 10 years and possibly expanded to accommodate instruction and competition needs along with public access to Portland Community College's pool. In addition, another indoor facility should be constructed in the next 15 years to provide indoor, year-round swimming activities to the general public as well as for school and swim team needs.

Indoor Recreation Centers. The City of Lake Oswego does not provide indoor gymnasiums, physical conditioning or racquetball/handball court facilities. There are facilities available in school facilities and private athletic clubs. The existing facilities are not sufficient to provide public access to recreational facilities by current and projected future populations. A recommended 10,000 square feet of gymnasium and 4,000 square feet of physical conditioning space should be added in the next 6 to 10 years in a day-use facility. Since there is no existing site available for this new facility, 2 acres of land will need to be acquired.

Indoor Community Center. While there currently are arts and crafts, classroom facilities, and meeting space available to residents of Lake Oswego, the majority of this inventory is provided at schools that are not available for general public use during daytime, weekend, and holiday use. An estimated 4,000 square feet of arts and crafts, 200 square feet of small meeting space, 4,000 square feet of large assembly space and 800 square feet of catering area should be added in the next 6 to 10 years for use by the general population. These proposed new facilities will provide for future population increases and broaden the services available for community activities.

Facility	Additional Land Required	Facility Recommendation
Swimming Pool		Facility needed*

Indoor Recreation Center		Facility needed*
Indoor Community Center		Facility needed*
	2 acres	

**Swimming pool, recreation center, and community center could be provided as independent facilities or combined into one facility depending upon community interests.*

Funding and Implementation

Funding

Additional investment in Lake Oswego's park and recreation system is needed to meet current and future demand. Needed improvements and additional facilities are more specifically outlined on the fifteen-year Proposed Level-of-Service (PLOS) funding plan found in Chapter 9, page 189 and in the Appendix . These proposed improvements reflect the highest needs of Lake Oswego residents identified in the land and facility demand analysis. The PLOS does not prioritize improvements as determining community priorities were beyond the scope of this project. Further assessment is needed to determine which investments the community feels most necessary in order to meet the future parks and recreational needs of Lake Oswego.

Anticipated funding costs are outlined for all improvements. The total estimated cost for providing proposed facility improvements to meet the needs of the community to the year 2015 is estimated at over \$34 million.

Potential funding sources and strategies are identified in Chapter 9 for providing needed facilities. Sources include three methods the City has used in the past, including System Development Charges, General Obligation Bonds, and the Parks and Recreation Fund. Other potential funding mechanisms include public/private partnerships, charitable donations, and the establishment of a non-profit Parks Foundation.

Role Recommendation

Chapter 6 describes a variety of roles an agency might play in providing parks and recreation facilities and programs and recommends that the city of Lake Oswego assume a strategic role in providing facilities and programs in the futures. A strategic role includes providing park and recreation facilities and programs that no other agency can or is willing to provide; acting as a coordinator of local interests where facilities are provided by many other agencies; and acting as a facilitator where unique acquisition or development opportunities may occur that could be implemented or operated by other agencies.

Opportunities for Joint Use/Development

A strategic approach for expanding the current park and recreation system may include developing lands for parks and recreation use that are owned by other public agencies or and private organizations. Federal, state, county, utility, school, private homeowner associations and private commercial operators own a variety of strategically important sites throughout Lake Oswego. Some

opportunities for joint use/development are listed below. A more thorough analysis of these possible cooperative options is found in Chapter 4.

Portland Community College. Some portion of Portland Community College property, particularly the adjacent undeveloped lands, could be jointly developed to provide a campus/community park with picnic grounds, trails, fields, and/or courts.

Marylhurst College. Some portion of the Marylhurst College property, particularly the undeveloped lands adjacent to Highway 43 and along the riverfront, could be jointly developed to provide a campus/community park including athletic fields.

Lake Oswego Hunt Club. Trail systems could be jointly expanded between Iron Mountain and the Hunt Club to create multi-purpose trail opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders.



