



Chapter 1: Preface

Chapter 1: Preface

1.1 “Village in a Park”

Over the years, city residents have expressed a major interest in protecting and expanding the physical and leisure opportunities available to the community. The concept of a “Village in a Park” defines the inter-relatedness of park, recreation, and open space opportunities with the residential characteristics of the city and surrounding area most valued by residents.

The city accumulated a diverse and high quality system of park and recreation facilities over the years as a result of the “Village in a Park” vision. The existing park, recreation, and open space inventory provides a wide variety of activities including resource and historical conservancies, waterfront access sites and beaches, picnic facilities, trails of all kinds, playgrounds, recreational courts and fields, indoor recreation and community centers, and museums, amphitheaters, and environmental exhibits. These facilities were acquired and developed to provide recreational activities of interest to the widest variety of ages and skill levels – and to residents who progressively age into and out of different recreational interests and pursuits.

However, Lake Oswego has continued to change since the accomplishment of the last comprehensive park and recreation plan in 1990. The choices that confront Lake Oswego at the present time and over the next 15 year period are significant and could alter the character and quality of park, recreation, and open space facilities and services if not adequately planned. This document outlines the choices that are available and the means for implementing preferred actions of most benefit to Lake Oswego residents within this 15 year planning period.

1.2 Parallel open space planning process

This planning process was conducted concurrently with the planning process recently concluded in the adopted March 2001 Lake Oswego Open Space Plan. The Open Space Plan developed thematic recommendations for water access, heritage landscapes, scenic resources, natural resources, green neighborhoods, and regional trail connections. In some instances this plan repeats the proposals identified in the Open Space Plan in order to identify level-of-service standards, specific project proposals, and potential financial requirements. The Open Space Plan should be consulted, however, in order to determine the overall theme within which these specific proposals are meant to be realized.

1.3 Park and recreation plan objectives

The specific objectives of this park and recreation planning effort were to:

- Define the setting – within which park and recreation facilities should be provided within the Lake Oswego urban growth boundary including climatic, historical, cultural, and current developmental conditions.

- Inventory - existing public and private park and recreational facilities that have been developed to-date within the Lake Oswego urban growth boundary by the city, county, and school districts.
- Forecast demand - for future park and recreation facilities and services that may be provided by the city, county, school districts, or other agencies.
- Determine the costs - involved in maintaining and/or improving park and recreation levels-of-service (LOS) standards for different lands and facilities.
- Identify appropriate roles and responsibilities - that should be undertaken by Lake Oswego to meet critical recreational facility and programming needs.
- Develop the elements of a comprehensive plan - for developing and/or refurbishing needed park, recreation, trails, athletic fields and facilities, indoor community and recreation centers, and other special purpose facilities.
- Define an implementation program - outlining the actions necessary to realize the plan's development.

1.4 Approach

This study analyzed the supply, demand, and need for public and private park and recreation facilities and services within the Lake Oswego corporate limits and urban growth boundary. The inventories include a comprehensive assessment of all public and private facilities and services within the city and urban growth boundaries.

The proposed development strategies are the result of this comprehensive analysis. Generally, the proposed strategies recommend the city focus it's resources where park and recreation needs are most critical, and the city most effective.

1.5 Public involvement

The Lake Oswego Park & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), Team Sports Advisory Committee (TSAC), Natural Resource Advisory Board (NRAB), and the Lake Oswego Park & Recreation Department oversaw the completion of this planning process.

The proposals contained within this document represent the consensus opinions developed during these events.

1.6 Documentation

This report is organized into 9 chapters dealing with major topic issues. A separate technical appendix includes detailed population statistics, facility inventories, development cost estimates, demand model variables, and public survey results.