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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Eugene, Oregon, has a strong legacy of parks that dates back to 1906 and the donation of land for Hendricks Park. The community includes people with diverse recreational interests—skateboarding, bird-watching, wheelchair basketball, disc-golf, kayaking, dog-walking, roller hockey—not to mention the basics of swimming, soccer, softball, bicycling, and jogging. And last, but not least, the community has a growing reputation for natural resource management that includes a wetland protection program that serves as a national model. Today, the City of Eugene manages approximately 2900 acres of land in 130 parks, natural areas and special use facilities and offers a wide variety of recreational programs, special events, and services to people of all ages and abilities.

Currently, these efforts are directed by numerous planning and policy documents, but never before has a plan addressed all of these important quality of life services. The Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan represents a unique opportunity for citizens, staff, and elected officials to work together to make Eugene a great place to live, work, and play.

The comprehensive planning process, initiated in the summer of 2002, identifies future needs for parks, open space, and recreation programs and services. These needs are based on the results of public outreach to thousands of Eugene residents through meetings with neighborhood organizations, representatives of various interest groups, youth, seniors, adults, people with disabilities, and cultural minorities. Based on the identified needs, the PROS Comprehensive Plan proposes dozens of strategies for the future to improve parks, provide recreation opportunities, and protect natural resource values. The document provides an overview of the planning process and presents the City’s strategies for achieving our community vision.

The comprehensive planning process included four phases:

- Identifying community needs;
- Creating and confirming a future vision;
- Developing strategies to implement the vision; and
- Obtaining approval for the plan from the City Council.
Public involvement was a major component of all four phases of the planning process.

The Plan consists of five core elements, which are identified in Chapter 2.

- **Core values** best communicate the values or qualities that the Eugene community holds in common in relation to the provision of parks, recreation programs, and open space;
- **A vision** creates a compelling description of the preferred future for our community and gives us something to work towards;
- **A mission** communicates the approach that staff will take in conducting the business of parks, recreation and open space for the City of Eugene;
- **Community goals** clearly describe the desired outcomes of the comprehensive plan;
- **Strategies** are the actions or policies that will be pursued to achieve the community’s vision; and

The Comprehensive Plan provides a specific, community-supported strategic plan for the future of parks, community facilities, and programs in Eugene.

### A. Planning Framework

#### Core Values

Core values are the qualities most valued by the Eugene community. These qualities will guide all services provided by the City and are embodied in the goals and strategies for Eugene’s parks, open space, recreation facilities, programs, and services:

- Health
- Equity
- Community
- Service
- Sustainability
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vision
The core values shared by the community help create a vision of the community’s preferred future. This vision also illustrates a picture of success for the community served by City parks and recreation opportunities. Through the public involvement process, the Mayor’s Advisory Committee and the Project Steering Committee summarized the community’s vision:

We envision an interconnected and accessible system of vibrant public spaces, friendly neighborhood parks, thriving natural areas and diverse recreation opportunities that make our city a healthy, active, and beautiful place in which to live, work, and play.

Mission
A mission statement, in line with the community’s vision, describes the approach City staff will take in conducting the business of parks, recreation, and open space in Eugene. This mission is:

Strengthening our community by preserving and enhancing our parks and open space system and providing diverse recreation experiences.

Goals
Goals are the outcomes to be produced by implementing the Comprehensive Plan. Thirteen goals emerged during the comprehensive planning process, reflecting the community’s values and vision for the City’s future. These goals are:

- Provide opportunities to enjoy nature and the outdoors;
- Provide inclusive, accessible, and affordable programs and places;
- Support and enhance individual and community health and wellness;
- Build a sense of community by developing strong community partnerships;
- Identify underserved populations and provide outreach to engage diverse community members;
- Promote lifelong human development through a range of recreation opportunities;
- Build environmental stewardship through environmental education, outdoor recreation, and volunteer opportunities;
- Promote human understanding and a sense of community through cultural opportunities;
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Distribute parks, open space and recreation services equitably throughout the community;
- Build and maintain sustainable parks, recreation, and open space infrastructure;
- Protect and enhance diverse, healthy, and interconnected ecosystems;
- Make fiscal responsibility a high priority; and
- Ensure the efficient use of resources.

B. Plan Highlights

An extensive community outreach program conducted as part of the PROS planning process identified several significant areas for improving community livability in Eugene through parks, open space, and recreation facilities and programs. The recommendations that will guide plan implementation over the next five to ten years and beyond are highlighted in Chapter 3.

The plan highlights include:
- Creating a balanced and equitable system of parks and recreation services;
- Providing an accessible and connected park system;
- Renovating and restoring existing parks and open space;
- Maintaining existing investments;
- Offering opportunities for community volunteerism; and
- Providing youth development opportunities.

C. Strategy Overview

Strategies for enhancing Eugene’s parks, open space, recreation facilities, and programs were developed based on the Community Needs Assessment findings, which included a comprehensive analysis of programs, parks and facilities, and finances. Strategies are the methods, resources, processes, and systems that the City will deploy to achieve the community’s vision and goals. In Chapter 4, strategies are presented in the following categories:
- Recreation programs;
- Parks;
- Community facilities;
- Natural areas;
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Access and connectivity;
- Renovation/restoration;
- Maintenance;
- Resource development; and
- Management.

Significant strategies in each of the nine strategy areas are highlighted below:

Recreation Programs
- Continue to serve as the primary provider of recreation services in the area while striving to increase partnerships.
- Provide diverse, community-driven recreation services.
- Establish a delivery system that provides equal access to recreation services for all residents through a variety of community facilities.
- Provide services to all residents within the following core program areas:
  - Seniors;
  - Youth & Family;
  - Outdoor/Environmental;
  - Adaptive Recreation;
  - Athletics;
  - Aquatics;
  - Hult Center/Cuthbert; and
  - Volunteer Programs.
- Be adaptable to the changing needs of the community and identify and develop new programs as these needs change.
- Continually evaluate existing programs regarding changing community needs, attendance, and achievement of program outcomes. Adjust services to meet community needs on a periodic basis.
- Use community surveys and similar techniques to determine changing recreation interests and program demand.
- Increase diversity in program participation.
- Offer more intergenerational activities and programs in addition to more traditional age-group oriented programming.

Offer more intergenerational activities and programs
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parks

- Provide a total of 20 acres minimum of parkland per 1,000 residents based on standards developed for the seven park classifications.
- Ensure the equitable distribution of parks, recreation, and open space areas throughout Eugene.
- Balance the need to provide new parks and facilities with the need to protect and preserve public investment in existing parks and facilities.
- Evaluate and communicate impacts to park and facility operations when acquiring and developing new parks and facilities.
- Design new parks and facilities for efficient maintenance by developing maintenance management plans prior to construction and involving maintenance and program staff in the design process.
- Equitably distribute neighborhood park service throughout the City. Develop capital improvement plans and schedules aimed at addressing current deficiencies.
- Provide neighborhood parks within a ½ mile of most residents for convenient and safe walking access. Take into consideration major streets, railways, topography, and rivers, which can pose barriers to safe and convenient park access for pedestrians.
- Provide 1.7 acres minimum of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents.
- Develop urban plazas to provide social and recreational opportunities in urban settings, such as downtown commercial districts, mixed-use commercial, and mixed-use neighborhood developments.
- Partner with private developers for development of urban plazas and other urban open space, such as rooftop gardens and courtyards, to meet the open space needs of residents in higher density developments.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Provide a convenient system of community parks that provides active and passive recreational opportunities for all City residents and accommodates large group activities.

- Provide community parks within 2 miles of most residents.

- Provide 1.5 acres of community parkland per 1,000 residents, at a minimum size of 40 acres.

- Maintain metropolitan parks to preserve unique cultural and natural areas or to provide features, facilities, and events that attract users from the entire Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area.

- Provide an overall standard of 6.8 acres per 1,000 residents, for metropolitan parks, special use facilities, urban plazas, and linear parks, to allow maximum flexibility in responding to community needs and acquisition opportunities.

- Review opportunities to provide additional metropolitan parks, especially if parcels are contiguous with existing sites.

Community Facilities

- Provide an aquatic facility within each planning area.

- Consider both indoor and outdoor swimming opportunities when developing new aquatic facilities, as well as other diverse recreation opportunities that could draw attendance and generate revenue, such as spray features, water play attractions, fitness equipment, rental facilities, and facilities to support competitive swimming.

- Provide at least one multi-use community center within each planning area to create a system of neighborhood-based community centers. New centers should be a minimum of 40,000 square feet.

- Work with partner agencies, especially schools, to help meet demand for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Develop and maintain inventories and evaluations of shared sports facilities.

---

<table>
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<th>PARK TYPE</th>
<th>PROPOSED STANDARD (acres per 1,000 population)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Proposed Parkland Standards
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Natural Areas
- Promote connectivity between natural areas and other recreation facilities and community destinations through acquisition and trail development whenever feasible. Work with appropriate governing jurisdictions, such as Lane County, to explore feasibility of trail connections between natural areas, recreation facilities, and community destinations on lands outside Eugene’s urban growth boundary.
- Protect and enhance a variety of habitat types within Eugene’s park and open space system, including oak savannas, wetlands, riparian areas, grassland prairies, forests, and working landscapes such as farm and forest land.
- Prioritize natural resource acquisitions using criteria beyond natural resources to include opportunities for recreation, education, and protection of important visual resources.
- Improve the geographic distribution of natural open space to provide natural open space parkland in currently under-served areas.
- Continue to acquire open space to expand the Ridgeline Trail open space system. Work with the appropriate governing jurisdictions, such as Lane County, to explore feasibility for Ridgeline Trail connections on lands outside Eugene’s urban growth boundary.

Access and Connectivity
- Conduct access and connectivity studies of parks, recreation, and open space facilities to identify existing barriers for people with and without disabilities.
- Develop and implement a Transition Plan to bring the parks and open space system up to current accessibility standards and continue implementing the ADA Transition Plan for facilities.
- Increase recreational trails to provide a safe trail network that links neighborhoods, parks, natural open space, schools, recreation sites and other key community attractions.
- Improve trails and accessibility to key natural areas.
- Coordinate with other agencies and providers to encourage the development of a regional trail system linking Eugene/Springfield with Fern Ridge Reservoir, the coast, the Cascades, and the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers. Provide bicycle and pedestrian access through agricultural areas in the Willow Creek, Bethel/Danebo, and Santa Clara planning areas of Eugene.

Renovation/Restoration
- Develop or update park designs or master plans before making significant improvements to a site.
- Make needed safety and ADA accessibility improvements when renovating existing parks and recreation facilities.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- When renovating existing parks, add facilities as appropriate that expand recreation opportunities, such as reservable picnic areas, skate parks, dog parks, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, rental facilities, fishing access, and sports fields.
- Develop restoration plans for natural area parks and significant natural areas within community, metropolitan, and linear parks.

Maintenance

- Establish data on the cost of maintenance and identify a minimum per unit maintenance budget based on that data. Use that figure as a guideline for budgeting and forecasting operations impacts when new parks and facilities are brought on-line.
- Develop effective natural resource management plans for significant natural areas (such as oak habitat, riparian areas, and native prairies) to identify management priorities and to guide acquisition, development, and restoration decisions.
- Continue emphasizing public safety and security in the design and operations of City parks, natural areas, and facilities.
- Continue facilitating and encouraging the formation of adopt-a-park groups for each park and facility.

Resource Development

- Exercise fiscal responsibility in all acquisitions and expenditures.
- Develop a program to maximize donations, grants, and partnerships to increase the resources available for parks and recreation. Develop gift catalogs for key parks, recreation, and open space facilities and programs.
- Consider voter-approved initiatives, such as bonds and serial levies, to finance improvements.
- Maintain and enhance general fund support of parks, recreation programs, and maintenance.
- Periodically evaluate the City’s park System Development Charges (SDCs) to ensure that the rates are providing adequate funding to maintain the park system capacity as the City grows.
- Strive to reduce dependency on short-term serial levies and to increase the long-term stability of recreation program financing.
- Consider more revenue-generating programs to increase recreation program funding and provide more subsidized program services.
- Assist the Eugene Parks Foundation.
- Pursue local business sponsors to subsidize fees for high-cost programs (i.e., through an “Adopt-a-Program” effort).
- Improve partnerships with River Road Parks and Recreation District, School Districts 4J and 52, Lane Transit District, EWEB, Willamalane Parks &

Partner with businesses to provide services and amenities such as vendors in parks
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recreation District, Lane County Parks and other public agencies to improve services and maximize efficiency.

- Continue cultivating positive, strong relationships with current partners.
- Partner with businesses to provide services and amenities, such as vendors in parks.
- Formalize all partnerships through written agreements that specify responsibilities, financial and other terms, including provisions for how to transition or end partnerships.
- Continue emphasizing community involvement and volunteerism to involve individuals, groups, and businesses in the planning, design, maintenance, operation, and programming of parks and recreation facilities.

Management

- Improve coordination between the Public Works and Library, Recreation, and Cultural Services (LRCS) Departments and the various divisions within each of the departments.
- Continue developing a work environment that promotes trust, respect, open communication, and teamwork between all levels of staff.
- Build effective working relationships throughout the City of Eugene to address common goals with staff in Public Safety, Facilities, Finance, and other divisions within Public Works and LRCS.
- Improve diversity and cultural competence of staff.
- Coordinate planning efforts with other City departments and regional agencies, especially in support of the Rivers to Ridges regional vision.
- Improve coordination of long-range planning efforts with local school districts to ensure the availability and accessibility of play areas, athletic fields, open space, and indoor facilities.
- Work with Lane Transit District, other City Departments and other public agencies to ensure safe and convenient access to parks, open space, and recreation facilities, including access for persons with disabilities, bicycles, pedestrians, and users of public transportation.
- Acquire parkland and natural open space in advance of need to reduce land acquisition costs and to protect critical resources.
- Identify and pursue opportunities with willing sellers as the preferred approach when evaluating parkland and natural open space acquisition options. Consider willingness of seller as a key criterion when prioritizing acquisition opportunities.

Ensure that the City’s acquisition program provides a balance of natural areas and developed parks.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Ensure that the City’s acquisition program provides a balance of natural areas and developed parks for active recreation consistent with community values.
- Reference the website in all marketing efforts.
- Continue to emphasize program benefits of child development and asset-building opportunities in marketing materials.
- Seek diverse methods of increasing program awareness, such as community open houses, presentations to neighborhood groups, and booths at community events.
- Develop a brand for the City of Eugene that emphasizes the arts, entertainment, and the outdoors to attract residents, businesses and tourism. Conduct a study to determine how to enhance arts and entertainment in Downtown Eugene.
- Market volunteerism as a recreation activity.
- Provide outreach to inform people with disabilities about recreation opportunities and provide accessible public information materials, such as alternative formats for people with visual disabilities. Incorporate new technologies when feasible.
- Evaluate the costs and benefits of serving as a central clearinghouse for recreation program information in Eugene.
- Continue involving citizens in the early planning stages of park design and development, as well as program development.

D. Funding Options

Financing Sources
There are a number of possible financing sources for programs; non-capital projects; and parks and facilities acquisition, development, and maintenance. Most sources are limited in scope and can only be used to fund specific types of projects or improvements. Specific financing sources, along with their advantages and limitations, are summarized in Chapter 5. These include:

- General fund;
- Road fund;
- Stormwater/wastewater fees;
- Wetlands mitigation bank funds;
- Local option levies;
- Public/government grant programs;
- Private grants and foundations;
- Public/private partnerships;
Fees and charges;
- System development charges;
- Donations;
- Local improvement districts;
- General obligation bonds;
- Land trusts;
- National Tree Trust;
- Lifetime estates; and
- Exchanges of property.

Other options discussed in Chapter 5 include:
- Innovative funding measures; and
- Formation of special districts.

E. Performance Measures

Performance measures have been developed by the City to evaluate plan implementation. These measures are tied to the goals described in Chapter 2. Performance measures are presented in Chapter 6.
INTRODUCTION

The City of Eugene, Oregon, has a strong legacy of parks that dates back to 1906 and the donation of land for Hendricks Park. The community includes people with diverse recreational interests—skateboarding, bird-watching, wheelchair basketball, disc-golf, kayaking, dog-walking, roller hockey—not to mention the basics of swimming, soccer, softball, bicycling, and jogging. And last, but not least, the community has a growing reputation for natural resource management that includes a wetland protection program that serves as a national model. Today, the City of Eugene manages approximately 2900 acres of land in 130 parks, natural areas and special use facilities and offers a wide variety of recreational programs, special events, and services to people of all ages and abilities.

Currently, these efforts are directed by numerous planning and policy documents, but never before has a plan addressed all of these important quality of life services. The Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan represents a unique opportunity for citizens, staff, and elected officials to work together to make Eugene a great place to live, work, and play.

The comprehensive planning process, initiated in the summer of 2002, identifies future needs for parks, open space, and recreation programs and services. These needs are based on the results of public outreach to thousands of Eugene residents through meetings with neighborhood organizations, representatives of various interest groups, youth, seniors, adults, people with disabilities, and cultural minorities. Based on the identified needs, the PROS Comprehensive Plan proposes dozens of strategies and actions for the future to improve parks, provide recreation opportunities, and protect natural resource values. The document provides an overview of the planning process and presents the City’s strategies for achieving our community vision.

A. Report Organization

The Eugene PROS Comprehensive Plan is organized into six chapters:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction** describes the purpose of the plan, the organization of this document, the planning area, and the plan development process.

- **Chapter 2: Planning Framework** describes the core values, vision, mission, goals, strategies, and performance measures that form the comprehensive planning framework for parks and recreation.

- **Chapter 3: Comprehensive Plan Highlights** identifies key recommendations that will guide Plan implementation.
Chapter 4: Strategies describes the specifics of how the City will achieve its vision.

Chapter 5: Plan Implementation describes potential financing sources for capital improvements, non-capital projects, and programs, as well as sources for maintenance.

Chapter 6: Performance Measures describes measures linked to each of the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. These measures will be used to evaluate successful Plan implementation.

Appendix A: Park Classification contains one-page descriptions and definitions for each park type, along with lists of facilities typically included and examples of parks within that classification.

Appendix B: Existing Resources includes a map of planning sub-areas; a map of existing resources; parkland standards; and a complete inventory of parks, outdoor recreation amenities, recreation facilities, and natural area amenities.

B. The Planning Area

The parks, recreation, and open space planning area for the Eugene PROS Comprehensive Plan extends beyond the City limits to include all areas within the urban growth boundary (UGB), including unincorporated areas. In addition, several recommendations for future park and open space areas involve land beyond the UGB.

When identifying parcels for park acquisition, the preference is on obtaining properties that are in close proximity to residents, and therefore within Eugene’s UGB. However, there are some instances when it may become necessary to look outside of the UGB. For example, it is a goal of the PROS Comprehensive Plan to provide a variety of outdoor experiences for Eugene residents, including the rural, natural qualities that one encounters in the Ridgeline Park system. Additionally, there may be times when the type and size of parcels which are sought to provide specific park services are not available within the UGB because of previous development. For these reasons, several opportunities exist for the City and County to partner in an effort to obtain the best outdoor experience for all stakeholders.

Adoption of the PROS Comprehensive Plan does not amount to the City exercising any governmental authority outside of the UGB or outside of the City’s limits. The PROS Comprehensive Plan does not have any legal or regulatory effect on land located outside City limits. It is a strategy/planning document that is intended as a guide for the City as it moves forward to meet the recreational and park needs of the City’s residents. Staff will rely on voluntary participation of property owners when acquiring land or purchasing conservation easements. A key objective of the plan is to devise strategies that will not infringe upon the rights of property owners and will stress voluntary participation. Most park and open space protection programs rely on...
responsible negotiations with willing sellers based on appraisals of fair market value to benefit the public’s and owners’ interests. This does not preclude the City Council from exercising its condemnation powers within the city limits.

For analysis, the planning area is divided into six planning sub-areas, as referenced in Map 1 of Appendix B:

- Bethel/Danebo
- City Central
- River Road/Santa Clara
- South Eugene
- Willakenzie
- Willow Creek

Within the UGB, the planning sub-area boundaries follow census block group lines so that census data can be matched to each planning sub-area. Outside the UGB, the planning boundaries follow natural or road features and, where feasible, census tract boundaries.

C. The Planning Process

The comprehensive planning process for the Eugene PROS Comprehensive Plan included four phases (Figure 2):

- Identifying community needs;
- Creating and confirming a future vision;
- Developing strategies and a detailed plan of action; and
- Obtaining approval for the plan from the City Council.

Public involvement was a major component of all four phases of the planning process.

Phase I: Needs Assessment

Phase I involved significant outreach to community members to identify their key issues, priorities, and perceived needs. A Community Needs Assessment incorporated the findings from a variety of public involvement activities, along with a community profile, a demographic profile, and a technical analysis of programs, parks, facilities, and finances.
CHAPTER I

Figure 2: Comprehensive Planning Process

Phase II: Future Vision
Based on findings of the Community Needs Assessment, members of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee created a vision for parks, recreation, and open space in Eugene.

Phase III: Strategy Development
Strategies were developed in Phase III of the plan, based on the Needs Assessment results and the newly defined vision for the community. A Draft Comprehensive Plan was created for committee, staff, and community review. Development of the final plan was completed following a series of six public workshops.

Phase IV: Plan Approval
In Phase IV, the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan will be adopted by the Eugene City Council as a refinement to the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area General Plan.

D. Community Needs Assessment
To develop a solid foundation for the Comprehensive Plan, a Community Needs Assessment was conducted to solicit feedback from a broad spectrum of City residents and staff regarding their needs and preferences for parks and recreation services. Activities were planned to ensure the participation of a diverse cross-section of the community.

The Community Needs Assessment process included the following:
- A community profile including population, demographic, and economic trends;
- A statistically valid community survey of 437 households;
- A youth questionnaire completed by 647 high school and middle school youth;
- A display at the Eugene Celebration, where residents completed 456 questionnaires on parks and recreation;
- Focus groups with Library, Recreation and Cultural Services (LRCS)
staff, maintenance staff, recreation providers, and representatives from the Eugene business community and from cultural communities to identify needs and preferences;

- A Speakers Bureau with 44 presentations to community groups and organizations. A total of 1085 community members attended, and 751 questionnaires were completed;
- A survey of organized sports providers, with 15 questionnaires returned;
- Twelve stakeholder interviews with identified community leaders;
- Meetings of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee and Steering Committee;
- A recreation program and service analysis;
- An inventory and assessment of Eugene’s existing parks and facilities and future facility needs; and
- A financial analysis on capital and operational costs and revenue.

Parks, Open Space and Facility Inventory

A key component to the Community Needs Assessment involved a thorough inventory of existing parks, open space, and facilities. This inventory is included in Appendix B.

The City of Eugene provides the majority of parks, facilities, and programs within the planning area. However, city residents also benefit from parks and facilities owned or managed by other public agencies within the region. A variety of amenities, trails, and recreation facilities are contributed by these organizations:

- University of Oregon (UO)
- Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)
- Lane County Parks
- Lane County Fairgrounds
- River Road Park and Recreation District (RRPRD)
- Eugene School District 4J
- Bethel School District 52
- Willamalane Park & Recreation District
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

There are numerous agencies and private entities, such as golf courses and fitness clubs, which provide recreation opportunities to Eugene residents. Although these providers are part of a system which contributes to the parks, recreation and open space services of the area, only lands which are actually owned by the City of Eugene are included in the PROS Comprehensive Plan inventory. However, many
CHAPTER I

Population by Sub-Area, 2000

- Willow Creek, 11.70%
- Bethel-Danebo, 15.31%
- City Central, 13.61%
- River Road/Santa Clara, 17.70%

Estimated Population by Sub-Area, 2025

- Willow Creek, 12.80%
- Bethel-Danebo, 16.26%
- City Central, 12.04%
- River Road/Santa Clara, 17.16%
- South Eugene, 20.67%

Key Findings

Several key findings emerged from the public involvement process:

- Eugene’s population has been growing at a rate of nearly two percent annually and is expected to reach 210,900 by 2025. In the next ten years, the greatest increase is expected to occur in the 55-64 age range, while the youth population will continue to grow slowly. The Hispanic population has more than doubled in the last ten years and will continue to grow, adding to the City’s diversity. Additional parks, facilities, programs and services will be needed to meet the needs of Eugene’s growing population.

- The Willakenzie and South Eugene sub-areas will contain the largest amount of the future population, but a major shift is not anticipated in population distribution (Figure 3). A balanced and equitable system of parks and facilities will be needed to support all sub-areas in Eugene.

- Residents value an interconnected and accessible park system. Multi-purpose trails are the second most highly used park and community facility, according to the Community Survey. Community members at the Eugene Celebration indicated that multipurpose trails connecting community facilities were the top recreation element most needed in Eugene. The provision of these multi-purpose trails will help reduce the community’s auto-dependency, which is one of the statewide goals identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Plan (SCORP).

- Renovating existing parks is a high priority for Eugene residents. Upgrade/complete existing parks ranked number one in desired park improvements, according to the Community Survey, the Speakers Bureau, and the Youth Questionnaire. Increased maintenance is important in addressing a substantial backlog of renovation and restoration needs.

- Most residents are satisfied or very satisfied with the level of maintenance in Eugene’s park, open spaces and recreation facilities. The City will face a challenge in the future to protect these assets as a highly-valued community investment, while addressing a decline in maintenance funding.

- Community volunteers are a critical resource for the City; expanding resources for maintenance, environmental restoration,
recreation programs, and other activities. The Recreation Providers, Open Space, and Maintenance focus groups all identified a need for more opportunities for volunteerism, particularly for youth.

- Youth development is a high priority for the Eugene community. The Community Survey identified the following age groups as needing more or better recreation services: middle school youth (ages 12 to 14), high school youth (ages 15 to 18), and elementary school youth (ages 6 to 11). Key Stakeholders and the LRCS All-Staff, Recreation Providers, and Multi-Cultural focus groups noted a number of opportunities to expand youth services and cited the benefits of youth development to the community overall.

Figure 4 illustrates how the Community Needs Assessment included community involvement opportunities as well as a technical analysis of facilities, programs, and finances. The Community Needs Assessment is available from the Parks and Open Space Division.
E. Plan Development

The findings from the Community Needs Assessment formed the basis of a community vision and the development of a series of strategies for parks, open space, recreation facilities, programs, and services. When these strategies are implemented, they will help achieve Eugene’s vision for the future.
PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Following the first phase of public involvement, a basic planning framework was derived to help guide the development of the comprehensive plan. The framework was developed in a series of meetings of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee and is illustrated in Figure 5. The five key elements of the approach are: values, vision, mission, goals, and strategies. Performance measures will be used to evaluate the success in achieving the community’s vision.

In building the planning framework, core values were identified that best communicate the values or qualities that the Eugene community holds in common in relation to the provision of parks, recreation programs, and open space. All goals and strategies are related to one or more of these core values. From these core values, a vision was developed that creates a compelling description of our preferred future and gives us something to work towards. A mission statement was then created to accompany the vision. The purpose of the mission is to communicate the approach that staff will take in conducting the business of parks, recreation and open space for the City of Eugene.

The next step in building the comprehensive plan framework was developing a list of community goals for parks, recreation, and open space. Thirteen goals emerged that clearly describe the desired outcomes of the comprehensive plan, and they are strongly related to the core values identified early in the process. The framework was completed with the identification of nine categories of strategies; these are the actions or policies that will be pursued to achieve the vision.

This chapter describes each of the planning framework components in detail.

A. Core Values

Core values are the qualities most valued by the Eugene community. These qualities will guide all services provided by the City and are embodied in the goals and strategies for Eugene’s parks, open space, recreation facilities, programs, and services.
CHAPTER II

Core Values

- Health
  - Contribute positively to individual and community health—physically, mentally, and emotionally;
  - Provide safe, well-maintained environments and opportunities for healthy human development;
  - Contribute to overall ecosystem health through preservation and restoration;
  - Create beautiful and diverse public spaces; and
  - Incorporate art and creative expression into our programs and public spaces.

- Equity
  - Provide programs and places that are inclusive of all residents;
  - Honor diversity in people, ideas, and values;
  - Maximize the accessibility of our services;
  - Ensure services are equitably distributed throughout the community; and
  - Maximize opportunities by providing affordable services.

- Community
  - Build a sense of community;
  - Reflect community strengths and values;
  - Promote volunteerism and community involvement;
  - Pursue, develop, and maintain strong community partnerships;
  - Promote leadership within our community and a positive and courageous community vision; and
  - Contribute to a healthy community economy.

- Service
  - Maintain high accountability to our constituents;
  - Provide the highest quality programs and facilities;
  - Practice fiscal responsibility and make it a high priority;
  - Recognize the value of a competent and committed work force; and
  - Seek and support innovative and creative solutions.

- Sustainability
  - Pursue a strong understanding of our natural systems;
  - Support community stewardship of our built and natural environment; and
  - Create a legacy for future generations.
Mission

We envision an interconnected and accessible system of vibrant public spaces, friendly neighborhood parks, thriving natural areas and diverse recreation opportunities that make our city a healthy, active, and beautiful place in which to live, work, and play.

Mission

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Core Values

Community

Equity

Service

Sustainability

Health

We envision an interconnected and accessible system of vibrant public spaces, friendly neighborhood parks, thriving natural areas and diverse recreation opportunities that make our city a healthy, active, and beautiful place in which to live, work, and play.

Mission

Strengthening our community by preserving and enhancing our parks and open space system and providing diverse recreation experiences.

Goals

Core Values

Equity

Community

Sustainability

Health

Lifelong human development

Environmental stewardship

Understanding and sense of community

Equitable distribution

Sustainable parks, recreation, and open space

High quality natural areas

Fiscal responsibility

Efficient use of resources

Goals

Outdoor opportunities

Inclusive, accessible, and affordable programs and places

Health and wellness

Community partnerships

Under-served populations

Lifelong human development

Environmental stewardship

Understanding and sense of community

Equitable distribution

Sustainable parks, recreation, and open space

High quality natural areas

Fiscal responsibility

Efficient use of resources

Strategy Areas

Recreation Programs

Parks

Community Facilities

Natural Areas

Access and Connectivity

Renovation / Restoration

Maintenance

Resource Development

Management

Performance Measures

Figure 5: Comprehensive Plan Framework
B. Vision

The core values shared by the community help create a vision of the community’s preferred future. This vision also illustrates a picture of success for the community served by City parks and recreation opportunities. Through the public involvement process, the Steering Committee and the Mayor’s Advisory Committee summarized the community’s vision:

*We envision an interconnected and accessible system of vibrant public spaces, friendly neighborhood parks, thriving natural areas and diverse recreation opportunities that make our city a healthy, active, and beautiful place in which to live, work, and play.*

C. Mission

A mission statement, in line with the community’s vision, describes the approach City staff will take in conducting the business of parks, recreation, and open space in Eugene. This mission is:

*Strengthening our community by preserving and enhancing our parks and open space system and providing diverse recreation experiences.*

D. Goals

Goals are the outcomes to be produced by implementing the Comprehensive Plan. Thirteen goals emerged during the comprehensive planning process, reflecting the community’s values and vision for the City’s future. These goals are:

- **Provide opportunities to enjoy nature and the outdoors:** The City’s parks, programs, and facilities make the most of Eugene’s unique natural environment and offer opportunities to enjoy nature, view wildlife, and develop a sense of well-being that grows from a deep relationship with nature and a connection to the natural world.

- **Provide inclusive, accessible, and affordable programs and places:** The City of Eugene will provide recreation experiences that meet the needs of our diverse community, including residents of all ages, abilities, and economic and cultural backgrounds. The City will strive to make our programs and facilities geographically, physically, socially, and economically accessible to all members of our community.

- **Support and enhance individual and community health and wellness:** Health and wellness are critical elements of a livable community. Personal health and wellness require opportunities to be physically active, mentally and emotionally recharged, and socially engaged. The City will make Eugene a better place to live, work, and play by...
CHAPTER II

supporting active lifestyles and providing parks, facilities, programs, and services that contribute to health and wellness.

- Build a sense of community by developing strong community partnerships: Strong community partnerships and collaborations in service delivery not only bring additional resources to parks and recreation, but they also enhance community ownership and stewardship of parks, programs, and services. The City of Eugene will continue to cultivate strong, positive relationships with public, private, and non-profit organizations to unite community efforts in acquiring, developing, maintaining, and programming parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

- Identify underserved populations and provide outreach to engage diverse community members: The City of Eugene will recognize community members who are typically underserved by City parks, facilities, and programs and explore methods to effectively involve people from diverse cultures and other groups that are currently under-served.

- Promote lifelong human development through a range of recreation opportunities: Opportunities for growth and learning are essential to lifelong human development. The City of Eugene will promote human development for all ages by creating opportunities for recreation, play, discovery, enrichment, and learning.

- Build environmental stewardship through environmental education, outdoor recreation, and volunteer opportunities: Stewardship of our existing parks, open spaces, and environmental resources will be a community priority for all of Eugene. The City of Eugene will promote an environmental ethic of preservation, conservation, and sustainability through opportunities for volunteerism, environmental education, and outdoor recreation.

- Promote human understanding and a sense of community through cultural opportunities: The City will strive to foster an inclusive community by honoring and celebrating people of all cultures. The City of Eugene is committed to hiring bilingual/bicultural staff, highlighting diversity and cultural competence in our staff training, and creating programs and community facilities that raise awareness of diverse cultural traditions.

- Distribute parks, open space and recreation services equitably throughout the community: Equitably and conveniently dispersed parks, facilities, and open spaces can promote neighborhood identity, foster community pride, and strengthen ties in the community by providing convenient opportunities for play and recreation. The City of Eugene will provide parks, community centers, open space, and programs and services throughout the city.

- Build and maintain sustainable parks, recreation, and open space infrastructure: The City of Eugene will create and manage recreation and leisure services with an eye to the future. Parks, recreation facilities, and open space will be managed,
maintained, and/or developed in an economically and environmentally-responsible manner which reflects the City’s full life cycle management perspective.

- **Protect and enhance diverse, healthy, and interconnected ecosystems:** The City will protect and restore Eugene’s natural areas, preserving and enhancing important natural resources, diverse habitats, waterways, and wetlands. The City will seek to develop an interconnected system of parks and open space, acquiring missing links and parcels that are contiguous to other open spaces to provide maximum benefits to wildlife and for recreation.

- **Make fiscal responsibility a high priority:** The City of Eugene will make fiscal responsibility, accountability, and long-term financial stability a high priority in order to provide high-quality programs and facilities at affordable costs now and in the future, and to make the best use of limited public funds.

- **Ensure the efficient use of resources:** The City will consider all community resources, including people, materials, partnerships, and financial resources, to support parks, recreation, and open space. The City of Eugene will develop effective resource management strategies that maximize the benefit provided to the community.

### E. Strategy Areas

Strategies are the methods, resources, processes, and systems the City will deploy to achieve our community’s vision and goals. Strategies were developed in the nine categories described below:

- **Recreation Programs:** Offer recreation programs and services that respond to residents’ needs, strengthen families and the community, and encourage healthy lifestyles. The City will offer programs in the following areas: seniors, youth and family, outdoor/environmental programs, adaptive recreation, athletics, aquatics, Hult Center/Cuthbert, and volunteer programs.

- **Parks:** Provide neighborhood, community, metropolitan and linear parks and urban plazas to support the community’s recreation needs, to serve all areas in the community, to balance active and passive uses, and to protect the City’s natural resources.

- **Community Facilities:** Provide community facilities that support a wide variety of activities, create community gathering places, enhance community pride, and reflect community diversity.

- **Natural Areas:** Provide natural area parks that protect and enhance significant natural resources and provide opportunities for environmental education and outdoor recreation.

- **Access and Connectivity:** Ensure connectivity of parks, recreation,
and open space facilities by providing trails, bike paths, linkages, and transit connectors, and by minimizing barriers for people with and without disabilities.

- **Renovation/Restoration**: Upgrade and revitalize existing parks, open space and recreation facilities to protect existing investments, restore natural areas, enhance user safety and accessibility, expand recreation opportunities, and maximize efficiency for maintenance and operations.

- **Maintenance**: Maintain parks, recreation facilities, and natural areas in an efficient and economical manner to protect them as a long-term investment and to support recreation activities, emphasizing public safety and best management practices.

- **Resource Development**: Identify new and existing sources of funding, cultivate opportunities for business and community partnerships, increase volunteer and community involvement, and utilize all resources efficiently to maximize the benefit provided to the community.

- **Management**: Coordinate administration, maintenance, planning and design, public information, program marketing, and public involvement to maximize the benefit provided to the community.

Detailed strategies are described in Chapter 4.

### F. Performance Measures

To evaluate plan implementation, performance measures tied to the goals noted in this chapter are presented in Chapter 6.
CHAPTER III

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

This chapter describes key recommendations that will guide plan implementation over the next five to ten years and beyond, improving community livability in Eugene through parks, natural areas, facilities, and programs. These recommendations respond to the findings of the extensive community outreach program conducted as part of the PROS planning process.

The plan highlights include:

- Creating a balanced and equitable system of parks and recreation services;
- Providing an accessible and connected park system;
- Renovating and restoring existing parks and open space;
- Maintaining existing investments;
- Offering opportunities for community volunteerism; and
- Providing youth asset development.

Significant public outreach findings are included in each description. Key findings from the evaluation of natural areas and park amenities are also highlighted, when applicable.

A. Balanced and Equitable System

The Comprehensive Plan sets forth a vision of a balanced and equitable system of parks and recreation services. A range of opportunities and experiences that meet the diverse recreation interests and needs of Eugene residents will be provided.

Eugene’s park system is composed of seven park types (Appendix A). Separately, each park type may serve a limited function, but collectively the parks and natural areas will serve the entire range of community needs. The park system of the future expands on Eugene’s existing system by providing a neighborhood or community park easily accessible to most residents by bicycle or foot. Natural areas, metropolitan parks, urban plazas, and special use facilities will provide opportunities to enjoy nature, to protect our unique natural environment for future generations, and to engage in a variety of recreation activities with our friends, family and community. A network of linear parks and greenways will provide linkages within the community and to the region beyond for people and wildlife. The diverse park system will ensure a range of options and a variety of park experiences for Eugene residents, balancing active uses with passive uses and natural areas with more developed parks.
In addition to offering a diversity of park types, Eugene will offer a range of recreation and educational programming that will reflect Eugene’s diverse cultures and be accessible to residents of all abilities, ages, and economic backgrounds. Providing options for all members of the community – with an emphasis on youth development – is a key aspect of the City’s vision for recreation. Serving the needs of our growing adult population ages 50 and over will continue to be emphasized – including meeting the diverse needs and interests of both active older adults as well as frail elderly residents. Eugene will also continue its leadership in and commitment to providing people with disabilities a diverse range of services from adapted programs to integrated services.

Residents will have access to indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities that will promote health, wellness, and family fun year-round. Some of the benefits provided by diverse recreation programs will include:

- Providing opportunities to enjoy nature and the outdoors;
- Connecting families and our community;
- Enhancing personal growth;
- Promoting health and wellness;
- Enjoying and learning about our cultural, historical, and environmental legacy; and
- Contributing to our community through increased volunteerism.

A variety of community recreation facilities will be available for programs and informal use. A system of recreation centers will be at the heart of this system and will be accessible to all residents. Residents will have access to indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities that will promote health, wellness and family fun year-round. Residents will enjoy walking and biking on multi-use paths and trails. A variety of sports facilities will be available to both youth and adult teams. New ideas and trends will be incorporated through a continuing community involvement process as new parks and facilities are designed.

As the City moves forward to enhance its park and recreation system, it will emphasize stronger partnerships with individuals, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses to better enable the City to reach its goals. These highly valued parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and recreation services will continue to make Eugene a healthy, active and beautiful place in which to live, work and play. Through this effort, Eugene will attract and retain businesses and residents, keeping our economy strong and vibrant.
Significant Public Involvement Findings

- Most people who participated in public outreach activities for the Comprehensive Plan believe that parks, recreation services, and natural areas are important to Eugene’s quality of life. For example, more than 94% of Community Survey participants and 99% of Speakers Bureau participants indicated that parks, recreation, and natural areas are very important or important to Eugene’s quality of life.

- Stakeholders in Eugene interviewed during the planning process recognized the need to expand parks and natural areas to keep up with population growth and to ensure that all residents have adequate access.

- Eugene residents prefer a diverse park system that provides a balance of active and natural area parks. When asked about the right proportion of parks for Eugene, more than half (52%) of Community Survey respondents said there should be an equal distribution of natural areas and active parks.

- Eugene has a high level of program participation. Well over half (57%) of Community Survey respondents participated in a City of Eugene recreation program or special event within the year prior to the survey. This is much higher than most communities, where program participation averages about 30% of the population.

- Community members think that more recreation programs should be offered. About 61% of Community Survey respondents and more than 75% of Speakers Bureau questionnaire respondents said that recreation programs should be increased. Community members also wanted the City of Eugene to continue in its role as the primary provider of these recreation services.

- The demographic analysis conducted for the PROS Comprehensive Plan indicated that Eugene is increasing in diversity. For example, the Hispanic population in Eugene more than doubled during the 1990s, and more residents identified themselves as Native American in 2000 than in 1990. The analysis also indicated that programs and facilities need to be responsive to a changing customer base by providing more programs that meet the needs of people from diverse cultures, providing staff training in understanding diversity, and developing a more diverse workforce.
CHAPTER III

B. Access and Connectivity

A recurring theme throughout the comprehensive planning process was the need for a more interconnected and accessible park system. The Comprehensive Plan improves physical connections by expanding the City’s linear park and trail system, providing connections within Eugene and to the broader region. It calls for improved coordination between parks and recreation and a variety of transportation providers. It builds on planning efforts such as Rivers to Ridges, the regional parks and open space vision, and TransPlan, the regional transportation plan. Trails and linear parks are a key element of the Comprehensive Plan. In addition to providing access to parks and natural areas, trails also are an important recreation resource.

Significant Public Involvement Findings

- According to Community Survey respondents, the top outdoor recreation facilities needed in Eugene today are multi-purpose trails connecting community facilities for biking, walking, etc.
- In an open-ended question, improving trails was the second most frequently mentioned individual improvement for all parks, open space, and recreation services, according to Speakers Bureau respondents.
- Multi-purpose trails are the second most highly used park and community facility, averaging 5.57 per capita visits annually, according to the Community Survey.
- Linear parks and trails support a number of recreation activities that are among the top 20 most popular in Eugene, including walking, dog walking, bicycling for pleasure, jogging/running, hiking, and bicycling for commute.

C. Renovations and Restoration

Eugene residents place high priority on providing stewardship of existing parks and our natural environment, including the highly valued neighborhood and community parks, ridgelines, rivers and waterways, agricultural lands, and unique and vanishing habitats. Parks are valued and heavily used, which results in wear and tear. Playground equipment, picnic facilities, and other park amenities wear out over time. Landscaping becomes overgrown, turf wears out, and heavy use compacts soil. Human activity affects the quality of our natural landscapes. While Eugene’s park maintenance system is excellent, there is a substantial backlog of renovation and restoration needs and many more maintenance demands than can be accommodated.
The Comprehensive Plan emphasizes improvements to the existing system, including a renovation program to update critical recreation components and restoration strategies to protect natural resources. These improvements are suggested throughout the park system, including these priority areas:

- Significant natural areas;
- Children’s play areas;
- Restrooms;
- Sport fields and courts;
- Public buildings;
- ADA improvements to meet new and existing guidelines; and
- General park development features, such as lighting, irrigation, benches, picnic tables, walkways, and parking areas.

The comprehensive planning process provided Eugene with an opportunity to inventory and to assess its existing system of parks, natural areas and facilities. Through an extensive evaluation process, the condition of parks, natural areas and specific amenities was rated. Ratings range from 1 to 3, with a 1 being poor condition and a 3 being good condition.

**Key Evaluation Findings**

- In the Park Amenity Evaluation, the average rating for plantings/shrubs ranged from 1.7 to 3.0 for specific park types, which indicates that landscaping may require some renovation. Neighborhood and metropolitan parks need the most work.

- Site lighting received scores ranging from 1.0 to 2.3, suggesting that many of the lighting systems are in need of repair or are inoperable. Linear parks, along with neighborhood and metropolitan parks, require the most improvements.

- The average rating for signage ranged from 1.0 to 1.6, which means substantial improvements are needed. Signs may be damaged, old, or, in some cases, non-existent.

- Park furnishings were described, on average, as being in fair condition (with scores 2.0 to 2.3), indicating that replacement beyond routine maintenance may be needed.

- Average scores for children’s play areas range from 1.7 to 2.7. Seven neighborhood parks and one metropolitan park will need immediate repair or replacement.

- The average rating for turf ranged from 1.5 to 3.0. This indicates there are turf areas that need re-seeding, fertilization, or weeding.
Through the Natural Area Evaluation, all of Eugene’s metropolitan parks were found to have high potential for minor natural area enhancements to control invasive species. Half of the metropolitan parks were found to have high potential for significant natural area restoration, and half of the community parks were found to have medium or high potential for significant restoration.

Half of Eugene’s neighborhood parks and almost all existing linear parks were found to have high potential for minor natural area enhancements to control invasive species.

**Significant Public Involvement Findings**

- Renovating existing parks is a high priority for Eugene residents. Upgrade/Complete existing parks ranked number one in desired park improvements, according to the Community Survey, the Speakers Bureau, and the Youth Questionnaire.
- Upgrading older parks, improving neighborhood parks, and renovating play areas were identified by several focus groups as needed improvements.
- The top three improvements for natural areas include providing more passive recreation opportunities, such as trails and benches; improving habitat in existing natural areas and removing invasive species; and acquiring more natural areas, according to respondents in the Community Survey, Eugene Celebration, and Speakers Bureau.
- Eugene’s natural open spaces could be improved by providing additional public information, revising planning and design policies to emphasize natural resource values, and utilizing maintenance practices aimed at enhancing habitat and improving water quality, according to the Natural Resource and Open Space Focus Group.
- Some natural areas in Eugene may be over-used or impacted by humans and animals, according to key Stakeholders. Consequently, the need to expand and protect natural areas is greater.
D. Maintenance

Most respondents (82%) were satisfied or very satisfied with the level of maintenance in Eugene’s parks when the PROS Community Survey was conducted in January 2003. Since then, the City’s maintenance budget has been reduced. According to the results of the Baseline Financial Analysis, the City’s annual budget for maintenance decreased from over $4,500 per developed acre to about $4,100 per developed acre between Fiscal Year (FY) 02 and FY 04, which indicates a decrease in maintenance services.

Park improvement projects have put increased demands on park maintenance. With the Parks and Open Space bond measure, the City has developed five new parks since 2003 and has been pursuing land acquisition to provide additional parks. Implementing the Comprehensive Plan will increase the park acreage and number of facilities, further increasing maintenance demands. Eugene is also increasing its inventory of natural areas, which creates a need for further emphasis on natural area management and restoration.

Maintaining community assets was identified as a priority for most residents. The Comprehensive Plan emphasizes the need for establishing a baseline level of support for park maintenance and for providing a tiered system of maintenance appropriate to each type of park. For example, maintenance standards and cost thresholds should be different for natural area parks as compared to neighborhood and community parks.

If the maintenance budget per acre is reduced, the overall quality of maintenance will diminish. This leads to the eventual degradation of a park system that is now valued by citizens as a community benefit. This Plan recommends that maintenance funding be increased to protect our valued assets as our park, natural area, and recreation facility inventory expands.

Key Evaluation Findings

- The Park Amenity Evaluation indicated that of the 50 neighborhood parks in Eugene, 19 had no plantings/shrubs. Of the remaining 31, the plantings/shrubs were in poor condition in 15 parks and were in fair condition in another 9 parks. Of the 34 neighborhood parks containing turf, results indicated that the majority (18) had turf in fair condition.

- The Park Amenity Evaluation found that plantings/shrubs in 3 of the 7 metropolitan parks were in poor condition.
Poor condition turf, plantings and shrubs often result from inadequate maintenance. When maintenance budgets are limited, horticultural maintenance is often deferred so that day-to-day maintenance tasks such as mowing and trash removal can continue to occur.

In Eugene’s parks, 64 instances of rare plant communities, 22 instances of rare plant species, and 39 instances of rare animal species were identified through the Natural Area Evaluation. These valued resources have maintenance needs that are very different from a typical developed park landscape.

Aquatic habitat is present in 52 of Eugene’s parks. This means that a wetland, stream, or other aquatic habitat exists, and that water is present on the site for at least 9 months of the year. Aquatic habitat areas have specific maintenance needs that must be met to ensure that natural resource values are maintained.

Significant Public Involvement Findings

When the Community Survey was completed in early 2003, more than 82% of survey respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the level of maintenance in Eugene’s parks, open spaces and recreation facilities.

When the Speakers Bureau presentations were conducted in Spring 2003, more than 85% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the level of park, open space, and facility maintenance.

For Speakers Bureau respondents, the top two priorities for improving Eugene’s natural areas were: provide more passive recreation opportunities, such as trails and benches (27%); and improve habitat in existing natural areas and remove invasive species (23%).

E. Community Volunteers

Eugene residents are active and involved, and they care about the future of the community. The number of participants in the PROS planning process is a testimony to the civic involvement of so many citizens. Eugene already offers extensive volunteer opportunities, both in parks and for recreation programs. For example, volunteers donated 28,390 hours of time in Eugene’s recreation programs, parks, and natural areas in 2002. This was equivalent to the work of almost 14 full-time employees. Volunteer opportunities with the City of Eugene allow residents to use their leisure time to improve the community and the environment and to contribute to the health and well-being of their neighbors.
Eugene offers several volunteer opportunities in parks, including:

- Eugene Stream Team volunteers perform water quality and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement projects.
- The Volunteers In Parks (VIP) program offers short-term and longer-term citizen involvement opportunities in beautification, maintenance, and trail development in Eugene’s parks.
- NeighborWoods is a tree planting and stewardship program that was established in 1992. Since then, over 8,000 trees have been planted and established by volunteers.

The City also offers volunteer opportunities in recreation programming, including formal programs such as Support Hult Center Operations (SHO) and the Senior Volunteer Program, as well as other highly valued volunteer opportunities in Specialized Recreation, Youth & Family, and Community Services program areas.

During the PROS planning process, expanding volunteer opportunities was a major theme. In particular, many participants recommended that the City offer more opportunities for youth and conduct additional outreach to engage young people in civic volunteerism. Increased opportunities for adults and opportunities in environmental stewardship for all residents were also major themes.

Volunteerism offers many benefits to the City and to the volunteers themselves. Through volunteerism and contributions, community members can:

- Build neighborhood connections and pride;
- Be physically active;
- Create healthy, happy childhoods for children;
- Support a social cause or interest;
- Leave a legacy;
- Learn something new;
- Meet people;
- Memorialize or honor a loved one;
- Make Eugene a safer place; and
- Give a tax deductible gift to the community.
For the City, volunteerism expands resources for maintenance, environmental restoration, recreation programs, and other park and recreation activities. In a time of increased competitiveness for the City’s General Fund revenues, volunteers greatly benefit the community by augmenting City staff. Additionally, the pride and ownership that citizens develop for Eugene’s Parks and Open Space System through volunteering, translates into on-going support and advocacy for the entire system. While the City will need to expand staffing to oversee the growing volunteer program and to coordinate the recruitment, training, and recognition of volunteers, the benefits provided to the City far outweigh the costs.

Significant Public Involvement Findings

- Participants in the Recreation and Social Service Provider Focus Group noted that for teens, there was a lack of meaningful programs and services, such as community service opportunities.
- Open Space focus group participants identified that expanded volunteer opportunities should be provided for habitat and natural resource enhancement activities, and that these opportunities should include education.
- Open Space focus group participants identified a need for more opportunities for youth involvement in natural resources.
- Maintenance Staff focus group participants noted the value of volunteers in parks, who could assist with park clean-up, invasive species removal, and enforcement of park rules (such as reminding people to clean up after dogs).

F. Youth Development

Youth development is a high priority for the Eugene community. The City has focused its recreation programming in recent years to concentrate on youth. In addition, the City has used two local option levies to help fund recreation services for youth. Measure 20-37 resulted in more than $700,000 per year for neighborhood-based youth activities during non-school hours. The levy expired at the end of December 2003. Measure 20-67 is a four-year local option levy passed in November 2002 that provides funding for City youth services such as Summer Fun For All, in addition to providing funding to the two school districts for youth activities and resources.

Between 1990 and 2000, the population under 18 years of age in Eugene increased 17 percent. In Eugene, youth, especially teens, are the highest priority for increased services, according to results of the Comprehensive Plan public involvement process. In addition, promoting youth development was one of the most important benefits of parks and recreation cited by community members during Comprehensive Plan public outreach activities. The City has already
begun to strengthen youth programming by forming partnerships with many recreation and social service providers to implement the local option levy programs and activities. All of these efforts underscore the commitment of our community to youth. These efforts will continue and will be expanded with the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Recently, the City has begun to focus its programming efforts on fostering the development of the assets or skills that youth need in order to become contributing and successful community members. This approach, first developed by the Search Institute, has been recognized for its success in reducing crime, drugs and alcohol, and teen pregnancy. This Plan continues to strengthen this youth development effort by providing trained staff, equipment and funding to successfully foster youth development. Through youth development, we will support the creation of a better future for our community.

Significant Public Involvement Findings

- Throughout the public involvement process, youth and teens were consistently identified as the population most in need of additional recreation services.
- About 60% of Community Survey respondents said certain groups in the City of Eugene need more or better recreation services. These groups are: middle school youth 12 to 14 years of age (18%); high school youth 15 to 18 years of age (16%); and elementary school youth 6 to 11 years of age (13%).
- Participants in the Recreation Providers and Multi-Cultural focus groups held during the planning process identified youth as needing expanded services, with after-school programs cited as a specific need.
- Participants in the Recreation Providers focus group identified a lack of access to services for non-mainstream youth, including homeless, gay, and lesbian youth.
CHAPTER IV

STRATEGIES

This chapter describes strategies for enhancing Eugene’s parks, open space, recreation facilities, and programs. These were developed based on the Community Needs Assessment findings, which included a comprehensive analysis of programs, parks and open space, and finances. Background documents are available from the Parks and Open Space Division.

The strategies are divided into the following categories:

- Recreation Programs;
- Parks;
- Community Facilities;
- Natural Areas;
- Access and Connectivity;
- Renovation/Restoration;
- Maintenance;
- Resource Development; and
- Management.

Each category includes a list of strategies that will be implemented to achieve Eugene’s vision for the future:

Our vision is to make Eugene a healthy, active, and beautiful place to live, work, and play.

Strategies for parkland are based on a set of local standards that was developed in conjunction with the Mayor’s Advisory Committee to help achieve the goals that were identified and presented in Chapter 2. These standards are expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 population. In Eugene, the desired standard for total park land is 20 acres per 1,000 residents. Park types each have their own standards as well. For example, neighborhood parks have a standard of 1.7 acres per 1,000 residents.

Some of the strategies are designed to meet the recreation needs of under-served areas that currently do not have access to neighborhood or community parks. For neighborhood parks, an area is considered under-served if there is no adequately developed park within a ½ mile radius. Barriers such as major streets, railways, and rivers were taken into consideration. For community parks, areas that
do not have a park located within a 2-mile radius were considered under-served.

All strategies reflect the City’s commitment to sustainable development. They are intended to not only foster environmental awareness and understanding, but to build community stewardship as well. Further, they are designed to preserve and protect Eugene’s valuable natural resources for generations to come.

It should be noted that many of the strategies identified reflect current practices and policies of the City of Eugene. They have been included to provide a comprehensive set of strategies for the future.

A. Recreation Programs

A-1. Continue to serve as the primary provider of recreation services in the area while striving to increase partnerships.

A-2. Provide diverse, community-driven recreation services that:

- Provide opportunities to enjoy nature and the outdoors;
- Are inclusive, accessible, and affordable;
- Engage diverse community members;
- Promote human understanding and a sense of community through cultural and recreational opportunities;
- Build environmental stewardship;
- Promote lifelong human development through recreation opportunities;
- Support and enhance health and wellness;
- Support youth development; and
- Support the well-being of seniors and persons with disabilities.
A-3. Establish a delivery system that provides equal access to recreation services for all residents through a variety of community facilities, including:

- Community centers;
- Aquatic facilities;
- Special facilities;
- Eugene Public Library;
- Athletic fields, courts, and indoor facilities;
- Schools; and
- Facilities provided by private and commercial organizations and partner agencies.

A-4. Provide services to all residents within the following core program areas:

- Seniors;
- Youth & Family;
- Outdoor/Environmental;
- Adaptive Recreation;
- Athletics;
- Aquatics;
- Hult Center/Cuthbert; and
- Volunteer Programs.

A-5. In the short term, increase programming in those areas that do not require significant capital improvements, such as youth and family programs, special events, outdoor programs, and community garden programs.

A-6. Provide drop-in activities that respond to residents' active, busy lifestyles.

A-7. Provide more special events, such as concerts in the parks or festivals.

A-8. Be adaptable to the changing needs of the community and identify and develop new programs as these needs change.
A-9. Continually evaluate existing programs regarding changing community needs, attendance, and achievement of program outcomes. Adjust services to meet community needs on a periodic basis.

A-10. Use community surveys and similar techniques to determine changing recreation interests and program demand. The 2003 survey showed interest in the following program areas:

- Special events programming, such as concerts in the parks;
- Competitive and recreational sports;
- Arts programming, such as performing, visual, and cultural arts programs, classes, and events;
- Programs focusing on the outdoors and natural environment; and
- Aquatics.

A-11. Increase diversity in program participation by:

- Collaborating with people from diverse cultures in planning, designing, and implementing recreation opportunities;
- Increasing outreach and cultural relevance of public information regarding recreation;
- Hiring culturally appropriate instructors for classes addressing cultural traditions, e.g., a class in Native American arts should be taught by a Native American;
- Highlighting diversity in the Recreation Program Guide; and
- Developing strong cultural diversity programming in at least one neighborhood community center.

A-12. Offer more intergenerational activities and programs in addition to more traditional age-group oriented programming.

Seniors

A-13. Adapt programs for seniors and adults (50+) in response to changing demographics. The 55 to 64 year old age group is expected to experience one of the greatest increases in the coming years as the leading edge of the baby boomer generation enters this age category.
A-14. Provide more active recreation programs and activities for seniors and older adults, such as fitness classes, volunteer opportunities and outdoor activities, to reflect changing demographics and trends.

A-15. Continue partnering with senior service agencies to develop a senior development strategy for the community.

A-16. Increase outreach to community groups and other organizations that support seniors, such as assisted-living facilities and faith groups.

**Youth & Family**

A-17. Continue to expand youth development opportunities, especially opportunities lost due to cuts in education, non-school programs, and teen programs.

A-18. Increase recreation services to teenagers (ages 14-19) and middle school youth (ages 11-13).

A-19. Develop a comprehensive strategy for fostering youth development during out-of-school times, such as mornings, afternoons, and school vacations. This effort can build on the current successful collaboration between LRCS and its community partners.

A-20. Continue the asset development approach to program delivery.

A-21. Partner with local school districts to provide community service and mentoring opportunities for high school students.

**Outdoor/Environmental Programs**

A-22. Expand collaboration between LRCS and Parks and Open Space (POS) to provide and expand outdoor and environmental programs.

A-23. Explore partnerships to expand outdoor recreation activities and programs that promote environmental awareness, volunteerism, and stewardship, including options that are affordable.

A-24. Develop walking programs and activities such as “First Saturday Park Walks,” naturalist hikes, or a kid’s scavenger hunt program to encourage movement and exercise, especially for youth, and to increase awareness of Eugene’s parks and natural areas.

*The number of older adults is increasing as baby boomers age*
Adaptive Recreation
A-25. Continue providing a wide range of specialized services for people with disabilities and expanding inclusion efforts.

A-26. Evaluate the feasibility of Eugene becoming a regional provider of adaptive recreation services, through agreements with other similar agencies. The City of Eugene is known for its excellence in inclusive and specialized programming and can provide support to other agencies in the region.

A-27. Create a fund for inclusion support to provide sign language interpreters, recreation aides, etc., to provide inclusion assistance for people with disabilities.

Athletics
A-28. Manage facilities to promote better coordination and a streamlined reservation process.

A-29. Expand low- and no-cost activities, such as drop-in activities and open gyms.

A-30. Expand adult sports to meet community needs and to help achieve the goal of being self-supporting.

A-31. Continue offering opportunities for team athletics at multiple skill levels.

Aquatics
A-32. Increase active senior aquatics programs.

A-33. Continue providing quality aquatics programs, including water safety programs, land-based fitness, public swim opportunities, and competitive aquatics.

A-34. Partner with schools to provide learn-to-swim and other physical education programs.

Hult Center/Cuthbert
A-35. Partner with private businesses and event promoters to bring additional programming to the Cuthbert Amphitheater.

A-36. Increase affordability of cultural opportunities.

A-37. Partner/collaborate with resident companies and other cultural venues to provide cultural opportunities.

A-38. Adapt facilities to provide opportunities for small-scale, community-oriented events.
Volunteer Programs

A-39. Expand volunteer programs that promote park and open space stewardship.

A-40. Provide additional staffing and support to expand the volunteer programs, such as a volunteer coordinator position within Recreation Services.

Program Fees

A-41. Continue to evaluate the success of each core program area in meeting revenue targets.

A-42. Periodically reevaluate revenue targets.

A-43. Evaluate opportunities to produce revenues in excess of expenditures in appropriate areas to help fund other programs.

A-44. Offer programs at a range of costs (free, low-cost, etc.) and implement strategies to ensure program affordability, while meeting financial goals.

A-45. Ensure that low-income residents have access to programs by improving and expanding the scholarship fund or by providing a sliding fee scale.

Youth Employment

A-46. Increase community awareness about City employment opportunities for youth of all abilities.

A-47. Continue to develop the City of Eugene’s role in providing job training and work experience for youth in the community.

B. Parks

B-1. Provide a total of 20 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents based on standards developed for the seven park classifications, including:
   - Neighborhood parks;
   - Community parks;
   - Urban plazas;
   - Natural area parks;
   - Metropolitan parks;
   - Linear parks/greenways; and
   - Special use facilities.
B-2. Ensure the equitable distribution of parks, recreation, and open space areas throughout Eugene.

B-3. Balance the need to provide new parks and facilities with the need to protect and preserve public investment in existing parks and facilities.

B-4. Accept donations of land, facilities, or amenities if they meet the goals and intent of the PROS Comprehensive Plan or can be exchanged or sold to benefit the public.

B-5. Explore the possibility of acquiring and restoring degraded lands and resources within the City as a source of parkland for both active parks and natural area parks.

B-6. Develop more accessible rental facilities, such as meeting spaces, wedding sites, and reservable picnic areas, which can generate revenue and provide an important service to the community.

B-7. Prepare master plans for parkland and facilities prior to development, major improvement, or renovation to promote cohesive, quality design and to ensure plans are consistent with community needs.

B-8. Evaluate and communicate impacts to park and facility operations when acquiring and developing new parks and facilities.

B-9. Evaluate maintenance and operational costs for capital projects during the planning and public involvement phases.

B-10. Design new parks and facilities for efficient maintenance by developing maintenance management plans prior to construction and involving maintenance and program staff in the design process.

B-11. Incorporate natural areas into new parks to achieve multiple public goals for habitat enhancement, environmental education, and reduction in maintenance costs.

B-12. Incorporate sustainability standards and best management practices into planning and design of new parks as part of a comprehensive sustainability strategy for parks, recreation, and open space services.
Neighborhood Parks

B-13. Equitably distribute neighborhood park service throughout the City. Develop capital improvement plans and schedules aimed at addressing current deficiencies.

B-14. Provide neighborhood parks within a ½ mile of most residents for convenient and safe walking access. Take into consideration major streets, railways, topography, and rivers, which can pose additional barriers to safe and convenient park access for pedestrians.

B-15. Evaluate the feasibility of providing neighborhood parks within a ¼ mile of residents in higher-density, mixed-use development areas.

B-16. Provide 1.7 acres of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents.

B-17. Evaluate transportation barriers affecting the ability of parks to serve neighbors effectively. Develop strategies, such as providing sidewalks, bike paths, bike lanes, bridges, etc., for increasing accessibility to maximize the number of residents served by each park and open space area.

B-18. Establish 4 acres as the preferred minimum size for a neighborhood park. Consider smaller sizes only if an area is under-served and land or development constraints make a larger site unfeasible.

B-19. A neighborhood park should include the following basic amenities:

- Children’s play equipment;
- Outdoor basketball court;
- Unprogrammed play space;
- Accessible pathways;
- Drinking fountain;
- Picnic tables and benches;
- Trash receptacles; and
- Power and water supply.

B-20. Consider providing portable toilets in neighborhood parks when needed to support programs or special events. Provide locations for siting and screening portable toilets.
B-21. To serve currently under-served areas, consider acquiring land, developing existing land, or improving access to existing neighborhood parks.

B-22. Seek partnership agreements to ensure public access to private, non-profit, and school facilities, such as elementary school grounds, to meet the needs of under-served areas.

B-23. Include neighborhood park amenities within other park types, such as linear parks, to expand opportunities to meet community needs. Target areas currently under-served by neighborhood parks for these amenities.

B-24. Coordinate long range planning of neighborhood parks with Eugene School District 4J and Bethel School District 52, particularly with regard to school consolidations, land disposal, or new school developments, as school facilities often function as focal points for neighborhood recreation.

Urban Plazas

B-25. Develop urban plazas to provide social and recreational opportunities in urban settings, such as downtown commercial districts, mixed-use commercial, and mixed-use neighborhood developments.

B-26. Provide urban plazas as part of the overall standard of 6.8 acres per 1,000 residents (including metropolitan parks, special use facilities, urban plazas, and linear parks) to allow maximum flexibility in responding to community needs and acquisition opportunities.

B-27. Partner with private developers for development of urban plazas and other urban open space, such as rooftop gardens and courtyards, to meet the open space needs of residents in higher density development.

Community Parks

B-28. Provide a convenient system of community parks that provides active and passive recreational opportunities for all City residents and accommodates large group activities.

B-29. Provide community parks within 2 miles of most residents.

B-30. Provide 1.5 acres of community parkland per 1,000 residents, at a minimum size of 40 acres.
B-31. Include the following facilities in each community park:

- Neighborhood park components, including children’s play areas, basketball courts, open play area, etc.
- Reservable picnic areas;
- Performance and gathering space;
- Restrooms;
- Soccer and softball/baseball fields;
- Paved pathways and trails;
- Natural areas; and
- Off-street parking, transit access and bike parking.

B-32. Recognize that community parks have traditionally been the sole locations for active recreation facilities within Eugene, and as such, must be adequate in size and scale to support a wide-range of community needs for cultural events, athletics, aquatics, and community gathering.

B-33. Work with the River Road Park and Recreation District in long-range planning to continue to meet community park needs in this area.

B-34. Offer opportunities for other recreation features where appropriate, such as tennis courts, disc golf, jogging trails, skate parks, and off-leash dog areas.

Metropolitan Parks

B-35. Maintain metropolitan parks to preserve unique cultural and natural areas or to provide features, facilities, and events that attract users from the entire Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area.

B-36. Provide metropolitan parks as part of the overall standard of 6.8 acres per 1,000 residents (including metropolitan parks, special use facilities, urban plazas, and linear parks) to allow maximum flexibility in responding to community needs and acquisition opportunities.

B-37. Review opportunities to provide additional metropolitan parks, especially if parcels are contiguous with existing sites.
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Linear Parks/Greenways

B-38. Provide linear parks as part of the overall standard of 6.8 acres per 1,000 residents (including metropolitan parks, special use facilities, urban plazas, and linear parks) to allow maximum flexibility in responding to community needs and acquisition opportunities.

B-39. Explore partnerships with agencies that own rights-of-way, such as Lane County, Oregon Department of Transportation, Lane Transit District, Bonneville Power Administration, Eugene Water and Electric Board, Army Corps of Engineers, and the railroads to develop and maintain additional linear parks.

B-40. Acquire property or obtain access easements from private property owners to fill missing links and improve connectivity.

B-41. Coordinate with the City’s bicycle program to ensure that planning efforts are complementary.

B-42. Connect schools, parks, and other community destinations with linear parks, bikeways, and trails where feasible.

B-43. Develop planning and design guidelines to address issues such as privacy and public safety when planning and developing linear parks and pathways.

C. Community Facilities

C-1. Utilize the standards analysis for community facilities as a guideline for meeting recreation facility needs. This is included in the Community Needs Assessment.

C-2. Develop and maintain partnerships to increase access to recreation facilities owned or managed by others.

C-3. Develop facility resources for drop-in recreation activities.

C-4. Explore partnerships with other public service providers, such as Lane Transit District, the Eugene Water & Electric Board, ODOT, colleges and universities, and the school districts, to locate recreation facilities (e.g., providing tennis or basketball courts on top of covered reservoirs, building playgrounds adjacent to trails in rights-of-way owned by others, etc.).

C-5. Explore partnerships with the University of Oregon, Lane Community College, and other educational institutions for public use of recreation facilities, such as running tracks, weight facilities, and swimming pools.
C-6. Support the Lane County Fairgrounds as a community event venue and work with the County to promote community recreation use of the Fairgrounds during non-event times.

Aquatic Facilities
C-7. Provide an aquatic facility within each planning area.

C-8. Consider both indoor and outdoor swimming opportunities when developing new aquatic facilities, as well as other diverse recreation opportunities that could draw attendance and generate revenue, such as spray features, water play attractions, fitness equipment, rental facilities, and facilities to support competitive swimming.

C-9. Develop a master plan and a financial feasibility study for new aquatic facilities.

C-10. Upgrade existing aquatic facilities to meet community needs.

C-11. Develop a plan to decommission existing wading pools to meet state standards. Where appropriate, replace wading pools with water or spray play elements.

Community Centers
C-12. Provide at least one multi-use community center within each planning area to create a system of neighborhood-based community centers. New centers should be a minimum of 40,000 square feet.

C-13. Strive to build multi-use facilities with flexible, adaptable programming space whenever feasible, rather than single purpose buildings, such as senior or youth centers.

C-14. Include gymnasiums in any multi-use community centers developed in the future.

C-15. Develop a financial feasibility study for any new community centers.

C-16. Upgrade existing community centers to meet community needs.

Fields and Indoor Sports Facilities
C-17. Work with partner agencies, especially schools, to help meet demand for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Develop and maintain inventories and evaluations of shared sports facilities.

C-18. Design sports fields to accommodate related field sports, such as soccer, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, and rugby.
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C-19. Evaluate the potential to increase community use of softball/baseball fields at school sites. Recognize that improvements likely are needed for increasing play at these sites.

C-20. Evaluate the potential to increase community use of sports fields at school sites. Recognize that improvements likely are needed for increasing play at these sites.

C-21. Provide all-weather field surfaces and outdoor lighting to expand usability and playing seasons in community parks, special use facilities, or in shared school/park facilities if appropriate. Consider lighting impacts to nearby residences when developing plans for these facilities.

C-22. Consider designing sports fields in complexes to facilitate tournament play as well as league play and to realize maintenance and programming efficiencies.

C-23. Continue partnering with the school districts to ensure community access to school gymnasiums.

C-24. Work with cooperative partners to increase gymnasium space for City programs.

C-25. Develop a financial feasibility study and site master plan for the Laurelwood Golf Course to create an economically sustainable facility.

C-26. Develop at least one major sports complex that can accommodate adult play.

Other Recreation Facilities

C-27. Develop partnerships with gardening and horticultural clubs, such as the Master Gardeners, the Hardy Plant Society, the Native Plant Society, and the Rhododendron and Rose Societies, to enhance existing gardens and to provide additional botanical gardens.

C-28. Provide an environmental education center to serve as a community hub for environmental programs, nature programs events, and meeting space.

C-29. Develop amenities to support passive recreation such as bird watching, nature walks, and wildlife viewing. These amenities may include trails, boardwalks, benches, and viewing blinds. Amenity development should be balanced with the need to protect natural resources.
C-30. Develop amenities to promote canoeing, kayaking, rafting, drift boating, and river surfing on the Willamette River and other appropriate waterways.

C-31. Continue monitoring trends in recreation, providing opportunities for community input, and working with other private and public organizations to address emerging program needs and new trends, such as specialized bike riding facilities and river water sports.

C-32. Provide a minimum of one of each of the following facilities in each planning area:

- Off-leash dog area;
- Community garden sites (2 per planning area where feasible);
- Neighborhood-scale skate park;
- Community-scale skate park;
- Sand volleyball courts;
- Disc golf; and
- Spray park or water play element.

C-33. Consider lighting or covered structures to extend the use of outdoor facilities, such as skate parks, basketball courts, and children’s play areas, where appropriate.

D. Natural Areas

D-1. Promote connectivity between natural areas and other recreation facilities and community destinations through acquisition and trail development whenever feasible. Work with appropriate governing jurisdictions, such as Lane County, to explore feasibility of trail connections between natural areas, recreation facilities, and community destinations on lands outside Eugene’s urban growth boundary.

D-2. Protect and enhance a variety of habitat types within Eugene’s park and open space system, including oak savanna, wetlands, riparian areas, grassland prairies, forests, and working landscapes such as farm and forest land.
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D-3. Develop priorities for natural area acquisitions according to the following natural resource criteria: size; habitat diversity; rare plant and animal species and communities; potential for minor enhancement or significant restoration; presence of aquatic habitat, such as wetlands, creeks, ponds, or rivers; sites that are contiguous to other open spaces to create connectivity; and presence and extent of invasive species.

D-4. Prioritize natural resource acquisitions using criteria beyond natural resources to include opportunities for recreation education and protection of important visual resources.

D-5. Improve the geographic distribution of natural open space to provide natural open space parkland in currently under-served areas.

D-6. Continue to acquire open space to expand the Ridgeline Trail open space system. Work with the appropriate governing jurisdictions, such as Lane County, to explore feasibility for Ridgeline Trail connections on lands outside Eugene’s urban growth boundary.

D-7. Protect, conserve, and enhance rivers, waterways, wetlands and associated floodplains for their habitat, flood protection, water quality, recreation, and scenic values.

D-8. Coordinate with property owners and partner agencies to implement the Rivers to Ridges plan and support conservation of nearby key regional natural resource areas, such as farmland, sites identified in the Metropolitan Natural Resources Study, West Eugene Wetlands sites, and the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers.

D-9. Assess the possibility of converting underutilized areas within developed parks to natural areas to provide higher habitat values for a broad range of public benefits.

D-10. Develop and maintain an interested parties list for natural resource issues related to parks, recreation, and open space, and schedule periodic workshops for feedback on issues, programs, and improvements.

D-11. Develop an outreach program with the goal of diversifying the natural resources interested parties list to include more representation from minority groups, women, and people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

Protect, conserve, and enhance rivers, waterways, wetlands and associated floodplains
E. Access and Connectivity

E-1. Conduct access and connectivity studies of parks, recreation, and open space facilities to identify existing barriers for people with and without disabilities.

E-2. Continue implementing the ADA Transition Plan for facilities, and develop and implement a Transition Plan for the parks and open space system.

E-3. Increase recreational trails to provide a safe trail network that links neighborhoods, parks, natural open space, schools, recreation sites and other key community attractions. Consider the following:

- Improve accessible pedestrian trail opportunities in existing and future parks;
- Provide 10 to 26 miles of additional multi-use trails;
- Provide approximately 7 additional miles of mountain bike trails, including a possible extension of the ridgeline mountain bike trail that accommodates varying degrees of skill and styles of riding; and
- Provide soft-surface trails to serve Willow Creek, River Road, City Center, and Bethel residents.

E-4. Improve trail accessibility to key natural areas, including Spencer Butte, Hendricks Park Forest, and the West Eugene Wetlands areas, and provide maps, public information, and signage that highlight accessibility information.

E-5. Provide additional trail support facilities, such as trailheads and trail signs, where appropriate, to facilitate trail use. Incorporate accessibility, mileage, and challenge level information. Upgrade existing trail support facilities as needed.

E-6. Develop site management plans for significant natural areas that specify trail locations and construction techniques that minimize impacts to the resource.

E-7. Evaluate unofficial trails. Upgrade these trails to meet pedestrian trail specifications or close them to use.

E-8. Expand mountain biking opportunities with additional trails or shared use trails. Address community interests in free-riding bicycle areas.

E-9. Develop a partnership with LTD to improve use of transit by program participants, park visitors, and facility users.
E-10. Consider transportation requirements when planning and designing parks and recreation facilities, and coordinate transportation improvements with other City divisions and other agencies, such as ODOT, Lane County, and LTD.

E-11. Ensure safe crossings of busy streets to improve access to parks and promote use of bike and pedestrian transportation.

E-12. Partner with EWEB, ODOT, LTD, and others to use public easements throughout the City as potential pedestrian corridors.

E-13. Provide more access to the Willamette River for water-related recreation and trail uses.

E-14. Develop programs and facilities for water trails and water trail activities.

E-15. Provide additional trail access to ridgeline sites, both to improve neighborhood access and to support community-wide use.

E-16. Coordinate with other agencies and providers to encourage the development of a regional trail system linking Eugene/Springfield with Fern Ridge Reservoir, the coast, the Cascades, and the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers. Provide bicycle and pedestrian access through agricultural areas in the Willow Creek, Bethel/Danebo, and Santa Clara planning areas of Eugene.

E-17. Provide hiking and bicycle trail maps to facilitate trail use. Highlight accessibility information and provide maps in alternative formats whenever appropriate.

E-18. Improve security of trails. Consider methods such as:

- Lighting where appropriate;
- User education and stewardship programs;
- Community events and activities to increase visibility and use;
- Increased maintenance to provide additional human presence on the trails to discourage crime; and
- Additional security or volunteer patrol of trail systems, including staffed facilities or park hosts in remote areas.

E-19. Increase collection of data on the use of trails.
F. Renovation/Restoration

F-1. Develop or update park designs or master plans before making significant improvements to a site.

F-2. Continue standardizing and upgrading park site furnishings for ease of maintenance.

F-3. Make needed safety and ADA accessibility improvements when renovating existing parks and recreation facilities.

F-4. When renovating existing parks, add facilities that expand recreation opportunities, such as reservable picnic areas, skateparks, dog parks, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, rental facilities, fishing access, and sports fields, as appropriate.

F-5. When renovating parks, develop accessible pedestrian trails and multiuse trails, where appropriate.

F-6. Develop restoration plans for natural area parks and significant natural areas within community, metropolitan, and linear parks.

F-7. Develop trail restoration plans for the Ridgeline Trail.

F-8. Incorporate restoration costs within acquisition budgets to address invasive species issues and impacted sites.

F-9. Monitor natural area restoration projects to evaluate success of the restoration effort and to meet any applicable regulatory requirements.

F-10. Upgrade existing community facilities, including aquatic centers, community centers, and special use facilities, to meet current needs, address accessibility issues, and maximize maintenance and operations efficiencies.

F-11. When renovating swimming pools, consider indoor and outdoor swimming opportunities, environmentally friendly chlorine-free filtration systems, and attractions that meet community needs and increase revenues.

F-12. When renovating indoor recreation facilities, add features that improve accessibility, function, recreation opportunity, and programming potential.
F-13. Develop a budget and schedule for system-wide renovation programs for critical recreation components, including:

- Children’s play areas;
- Skateparks;
- Sport fields and courts; and
- General park development features, such as lights, benches, picnic tables, walkways, and parking areas.

F-14. Inventory existing amenities and practices according to standards established in comprehensive sustainability strategy.

F-15. Incorporate sustainability standards and best management practices into renovation/restoration of existing parks, including use of environmental design principles, sustainable building materials and best construction practices.

G. Maintenance

G-1. Establish data on the cost of maintenance and compare varying maintenance methods that serve the same function for cost effectiveness, safety and environmental impacts. Identify a standardized procedure and minimum per unit maintenance budget based on that data. Use maintenance figure as a guideline for budgeting and forecasting operations impacts when new parks and facilities are brought on-line. Maintenance unit costs should be established and periodically reviewed for the following:

- General park development;
- Natural areas;
- Trails;
- Recreation amenities; and
- Special use facilities, such as community centers and aquatic facilities.

G-2. Develop resource management plans for existing and new parks and evaluate operational impacts and feasibility prior to construction.

G-3. Allocate an average minimum maintenance cost per acre annually for maintenance. Increase maintenance funds using this guideline as new parks are added to the City’s system.
G-4. Improve existing natural resource areas by providing resources to improve habitat and eliminate invasive species. Strategies could include partnerships, volunteer coordination, as well as financial resources and maintenance staff time.

G-5. Develop effective natural resource management plans for significant natural areas, such as oak habitat, riparian areas, and native prairies, to identify management priorities and to guide acquisition, development, and restoration decisions.

G-6. Establish and meet park maintenance standards.

G-7. Continue emphasizing public safety and security in the design and operations of City parks, natural areas, and facilities.

G-8. Design parks with maintenance in mind and with the involvement of maintenance staff. Incorporate labor-saving elements, such as mow strips, in park design.

G-9. Continue to install computer controlled irrigation systems to save water and increase water efficiency. These should be phased in to parks with substandard irrigation systems and used in new construction with permanent irrigation.

G-10. Evaluate the need for mowed and irrigated turf when designing new parks or renovating existing ones to efficiently utilize maintenance resources.

G-11. Retain, replace, and introduce native plants wherever appropriate.

G-12. Increase cross-training of staff and provide staff career development opportunities.

G-13. Implement maintenance techniques that maintain and enhance natural resources and minimize disturbance to natural vegetation and critical wildlife habitats.

G-14. Use sustainable best management practices for parks maintenance and provide for staff development in these areas.

G-15. Continue to emphasize integrated pest management (IPM) techniques and encourage staff development in IPM techniques.

G-16. Implement stormwater best management practices to assist in meeting State and Federal water-quality standards and Endangered Species Act requirements.

G-17. Continue facilitating and encouraging the formation of adopt-a-park groups for each park and facility.
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G-18. Provide a routine preventive maintenance program for all parks, facilities, equipment, vehicles, and other assets.

G-19. Regularly assess long-term maintenance, repair, and replacement needs for all parks, facilities, and equipment.

G-20. Develop athletic facilities within larger complexes rather than as single fields to increase maintenance and programming efficiency.

G-21. Provide public information to educate the community about parks maintenance issues and benefits, such as invasive species, vandalism, play area safety, native plants, etc. Partner with neighborhood associations.

H. Resource Development

Financial Resources

H-1. Exercise fiscal responsibility in all acquisitions and expenditures.

H-2. Develop a program to maximize donations, grants, and partnerships to increase the resources available for parks and recreation. Develop gift catalogs for key parks, recreation, and open space facilities and programs.

H-3. Consider voter-approved initiatives, such as bonds and serial levies, to finance improvements.

H-4. Maintain and enhance general fund support of parks, recreation programs, and maintenance.

H-5. Periodically evaluate the City’s park System Development Charges (SDCs) to ensure that the rates are providing adequate funding to enhance the park system capacity as the City grows.

H-6. Strive to reduce dependency on short-term serial levies and to increase the long-term stability of recreation program financing.

H-7. Consider more revenue-generating programs to increase recreation program funding and provide more subsidized program services.

H-8. Create an “Opportunity Fund” to act on future opportunities to save natural areas or acquire parkland as it becomes available.


H-10. Continue the 1% for art program.
H-11. Study the feasibility of a metropolitan area entertainment tax.

H-12. Pursue local business sponsors to subsidize fees for high-cost programs, such as through an “Adopt-a-Program” effort.

H-13. Evaluate opportunities for sponsorships to provide low- or no-cost developmental youth programs.

Partnerships

H-14. Improve partnerships with River Road Parks and Recreation District, School Districts 4J and 52, Lane Transit District, EWEB, Willamalane Parks & Recreation District, Lane County Parks and other public agencies to improve services and maximize efficiency.

H-15. Continue cultivating positive, strong relationships with current partners.

H-16. Partner with businesses to provide services and amenities, such as vendors in parks.

H-17. Pursue and maintain effective partnerships with public, private, and non-profit organizations to acquire, develop, and maintain parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

H-18. Consider partnerships for joint facility development and maintenance for community centers, athletic fields, and other needed major facilities.

H-19. Formalize all partnerships through written agreements that specify responsibilities, financial and other terms, including provisions for how to transition or end partnerships.

H-20. Evaluate partnerships to review their effectiveness and to identify areas for improvement. Ensure that liability is defined.

H-21. Continue supporting and building the effective West Eugene Wetlands partnership programs.

H-22. Continue participating in regional open space efforts with Rivers to Ridges partner agencies.

H-23. Consider partnering with public agencies such as EWEB to enhance all parks with features that support the functions of our regional watershed.
Volunteer Programs

H-24. Continue emphasizing community involvement and volunteerism to involve individuals, groups, and businesses in the planning, design, maintenance, operation, and programming of parks and recreation facilities.

H-25. Further develop a coordinated volunteer recruitment, training, and recognition program.

H-26. Develop additional volunteer opportunities for youth and expand recruitment of youth volunteers by attending school community service days.

H-27. Consider establishing a volunteer patrol program where adults volunteer to be present in parks to deter inappropriate activities and report issues or problems.


H-29. Continue and expand the park adoption program to promote adoption of all significant parks, recreation, and open space facilities.

I. Management

Administration

I-1. Improve coordination between the Public Works and Library, Recreation, and Cultural Services (LRCS) Departments and the various divisions within each of the departments.

I-2. Continue developing a work environment that promotes trust, respect, open communication, and teamwork between all levels of staff.

I-3. Build effective working relationships throughout the City of Eugene to address common goals with staff in Public Safety, Facilities, Finance, and other divisions within Public Works and LRCS.

I-4. Regularly evaluate the employment needs of the Public Works and LRCS Departments.

I-5. Implement interdepartmental staff development and training programs on a wide range of topics, such as customer service, volunteer coordination, natural resource stewardship, diversity, and children and youth issues.
I-6. Improve diversity and cultural competence of staff. Consider the following actions:

- Increase bilingual/bicultural staffing to be more reflective of Eugene’s increasing diversity;
- Increase recruiting of multi-lingual, minority staff for regular positions as well as temporary, seasonal, and youth positions;
- Create a staff coordinator for minority programs; and
- Provide more diversity and cultural competence training for staff.

I-7. Continue developing the definition of diversity and culture to include the widest range of diversity reflected in our community, such as color, religion, ability, education, and economic status.

I-8. Use a variety of tools to track successes and lessons learned. This will allow for tracking progress and establishing comparative measures with comparable regional cities.

I-9. Evaluate the potential for service and efficiency improvements of other organizational models, such as a combined Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department or a Special District.

Planning and Design

I-10. Provide leadership, management, and expertise for the acquisition, planning, design, and implementation of projects involving parks and open space resources city-wide.

I-11. Coordinate planning efforts with other City departments and regional agencies, especially in support of the Rivers to Ridges regional vision.

I-12. Improve coordination of long-range planning efforts with local school districts to ensure the availability and accessibility of play areas, athletic fields, open space, and indoor facilities.

I-13. Maintain a regional planning approach by coordinating with Oregon State Parks, River Road Park and Recreation District, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, Lane County Parks, and other neighboring jurisdictions.

I-14. Coordinate planning efforts with Metropolitan General Plan, TransPlan, stormwater and bicycle plans, and other related City planning efforts.

I-15. Recognize the need to balance the adoption of new planning documents with the adopted Growth Management Goals and the cumulative effect that existing planning documents may
have on the City’s ability to fulfill the Growth Management Goals. The PROS Comprehensive Plan does not have an impact on the buildable land inventories. However, future acquisition of additional park land may have an impact on the inventories.

I-16. Create and implement management plans for significant natural area parks, including the Ridgeline Trail open space system and Morse Ranch.

I-17. Ensure that park master plans are in place and periodically updated to allow the City to act quickly if unanticipated funding becomes available.

I-18. Implement park management plans as soon as possible following their development through funding, volunteer projects, or partnerships.


I-20. Implement the Growth Management Study policy aimed at increasing the amount and variety of parks and open space.

I-21. Coordinate with developers to ensure that new residents will have access to and be adequately served by parks and open space.

I-22. Work with Lane Transit District, other City Departments and other public agencies to ensure safe and convenient access to parks, open space, and recreation facilities, including access for persons with disabilities, bicycles, pedestrians, and users of public transportation.

I-23. Work with Lane County and property owners of local gravel mining operations located north of Eugene’s urban growth boundary along the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers, to explore the recreation potential of those sites once mining operations are concluded.

I-24. Acquire parkland and natural open space in advance of need to reduce land acquisition costs and to protect critical resources.

I-25. Identify and pursue opportunities with willing sellers as the preferred approach when evaluating parkland and natural open space acquisition options. Consider willingness of seller as a key criterion when prioritizing acquisition opportunities.

I-26. Protect, manage, and restore ridgelines and views of scenic resources and from scenic viewpoints.
I-27. Ensure that the City’s acquisition program provides a balance of natural areas and developed parks for active recreation consistent with community values.

I-28. Work with other City agencies to preserve street trees that provide significant neighborhood character, e.g., the River Road area.

I-29. Implement the ADA transition plan for existing facilities and develop an ADA transition plan for parks.

I-30. Incorporate natural resource enhancement into plans for park and facility development where appropriate.

I-31. Use environmentally sustainable park development practices and resource efficient construction techniques.

I-32. Implement a consistent park signage program for use throughout the system.

I-33. Minimize the impacts of parks and community facilities on adjacent development, including impacts of noise, traffic, and lights.

I-34. Explore the feasibility of establishing additional trails in conjunction with public utility and mass transit corridors, as well as along abandoned railway and road rights-of-way.

I-35. Balance long-term, community-wide interest with the interests of neighborhoods and individuals when planning and designing the City’s park, recreation, and open space system.

I-36. Consider the needs of tourists as well as supporting a vibrant nightlife when planning for the City Central planning sub-area.

I-37. Assess community needs and update the PROS Comprehensive Plan every five years to respond to changing trends.

I-38. Co-locate parks with schools, fire stations, and police stations when feasible to enhance security. Monitor the impacts of these facilities on park level of service to ensure there are no reductions in park land.

I-39. Enhance opportunities for public art in parks, including performance art and temporary art installations.

I-40. Develop a comprehensive sustainability strategy that is congruent with existing systems/manuals for parks, recreation, and open space management. At minimum, this strategy should include:
   - A definition of sustainability as it relates to PROS services;
A set of sustainability standards or “best management practices” for PROS services;

- A series of baseline sustainability indicators and measures which can be used to inventory and assess current practices that meet sustainability standards.

**Public Information and Program Marketing**

I-41. Reference the website, www.eugene-or.gov, in all marketing efforts.

I-42. Update the Recreation Division website to make it more customer-friendly and to maximize marketing opportunities.

I-43. Implement on-line registration for recreation activities.

I-44. Strive to incorporate new technologies that enhance community access to information.

I-45. Continue emphasizing the benefits and developmental assets provided by programs in marketing materials.

I-46. Emphasize the sources of information for drop-in and self-initiated activities in the Recreation Program Guide, including natural area-related activities.

I-47. Seek alternative methods of increasing program awareness, such as community open houses, presentations to neighborhood groups, and booths at community events.

I-48. Include information about transit routes and alternative transportation routes in recreation Program Guides and event announcements.

I-49. Continue providing information about accessibility for people with disabilities in all marketing materials.

I-50. Develop a brand for the City of Eugene that emphasizes the arts, entertainment, and the outdoors to attract residents, businesses and tourism. Conduct a study to determine how to enhance arts and entertainment in Downtown Eugene.

I-51. Market volunteerism as a recreation activity.

I-52. Expand collaboration between Recreation Services marketing and Parks and Open Space efforts.

I-53. Address marketing and outreach needs of both the Parks and Open Space and Recreation Divisions.
I-54. Update marketing plans in order to increase public awareness and use of parks, recreation facilities, and programs and services.

I-55. Implement marketing strategies to increase awareness and participation among targeted groups, focusing on the benefits provided by participation.

I-56. Strengthen relationships with all local media.

I-57. Coordinate marketing among facilities and program areas.

I-58. Create a joint recreation guide or newsletter for POS and LRCS that lists recreation service activities, as well as parks and natural area information.

I-59. Encourage use of parks and natural areas by providing:
   - Printed maps at trail heads and public counters;
   - Tailored searches on the web that include trip planning information such as distances, facilities, accessibility, and other features;
   - Interpretive map signage; and
   - Newspaper articles or notices containing information on trail features or parks.

I-60. Provide public information, such as flyers, brochures, maps, and signage, in multiple languages, including Spanish.

I-61. Provide outreach to inform people with disabilities about recreation opportunities and provide accessible public information materials, such as alternative formats for people with visual disabilities. Incorporate new technologies when feasible.

I-62. Develop outreach materials to communicate evolving trends in parks and open space management to promote stewardship and public understanding. Consider use of temporary on-site interpretive signage as appropriate to clearly identify public benefits.

I-63. Evaluate the costs and benefits of serving as a central clearinghouse for recreation program information in Eugene.

I-64. Consider developing information kiosks at malls and other public locations.

I-65. Educate citizens about the important role parks and recreation plays in enhancing quality of life.
CHAPTER IV

I-66. Incorporate key messages related to community vision and benefits of parks, recreation and open space in outreach and promotional materials.

I-67. Support community- and neighborhood-building efforts by continuing to sponsor and participate in events such as grand openings, community service projects, and volunteer recognition events.

I-68. Track and measure the effectiveness of the public information program on a regular, ongoing basis.

I-69. Consider developing a park host program to provide continuous staff or volunteer presence in major parks and natural areas.

I-70. Communicate sustainability strategies and actions to promote public awareness.

Public Involvement

I-71. Continue involving citizens in park design and development, as well as in program development from the earliest possible stage.

I-72. Increase innovative strategies to improve citizen involvement in parks and open space planning efforts, such as teleconferences, electronic on-line chat rooms, child care at meetings, and partnerships with schools.

I-73. Consider the use of advisory committees as a strategy for gathering public input.

I-74. Develop and administer methods to measure performance of public involvement efforts over time on a regular basis.

I-75. Identify segments of the community that are underrepresented in community discussions and develop new tools to increase their involvement.

I-76. Develop and maintain stakeholder lists and provide targeted outreach relating to key program and service areas, addressing uses such as:
- Active recreation;
- Bicycling, including mountain biking and free riding;
- Walking/jogging/running paths and hiking trails;
- Natural resource interpretation and protection;
- Accessibility for people with disabilities; and
- Public art and performance space use.
FUNDING OPTIONS

This chapter describes potential financing sources for Plan improvements.

This implementation plan allows for flexibility in funding Plan improvements. In the past, the City of Eugene has demonstrated fiscal responsibility. The City has taken advantage of opportunities to acquire additional parks, build high-quality facilities, and improve recreation services. The City has also been effective at identifying and successfully pursuing a variety of financial resources to assist in funding projects. For example, two local option levies funded recreation activities and programs for youth, and a 1998 Parks and Open Space bond provided funding for a number of park projects, including the renovation of Amazon Pool, upgrades at 19 athletic fields, the development of three sports parks, and the acquisition of twelve neighborhood park sites. In many cases, bond dollars were used to leverage additional resources from granting agencies. Other projects that utilized a variety of other funding sources include the West Eugene Wetlands and maintenance of landscaped medians.

It is recommended the City continue to pursue diverse funding sources to implement identified priority improvements. This means investigating all available funding options, maintaining and expanding general fund support, aggressively seeking grants, partnerships and donations, and being prepared to act on opportunities when they arise. The Comprehensive Plan is an important step in this effort.

A. Financing Sources

There are a number of possible financing sources for programs; non-capital projects; and parks and facilities acquisition, development, and maintenance. Most sources are limited in scope and can only be used to fund specific types of projects or improvements. Advantages and limitations for the financing sources listed below are summarized in Table 1 on page 66.

Capital Projects and Operations

The following financing sources may be used for capital improvement projects as well as for ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

- General Fund: Park and recreation services are funded within the City’s General Fund, which receives its revenue primarily from property taxes, but also includes grants, fees and charges. The General Fund is the primary source of funding for ongoing parks maintenance.
CHAPTER V

- **Road Fund:** Revenue from the state gasoline tax and contributions from Lane County, based on the County/City Road Partnership Agreement, have supported a City Road Fund. Part of this fund is used to maintain, upgrade, or build bike lanes, bike paths, and beautification areas (such as medians, street islands, entryways, etc.). The Street Tree and Street Median Maintenance Program within the POS Division has been funded by the Road Fund.

- **Stormwater/Wastewater Fees:** These user fees and impact fees for new development provide some support for projects that have goals compatible with these dedicated funds. For example, the City uses the Storm Water Utility Fund for operations and capital projects related to the management and maintenance of the West Eugene Wetlands.

- **Wetlands Mitigation Bank Funds:** Established in FY 1998, the Wetlands Mitigation Bank is a financially self-supporting program to restore, construct, and maintain wetlands to replace those wetlands permitted to be impacted by development. The City of Eugene, under an interagency agreement with the Bureau of Land Management, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Oregon Division of State Lands, manages the program. As part of the development process, private developers have the option to purchase replacement wetlands through the bank. Revenue comes from the sale of “mitigation credits” to developers.

- **Local Option Levy:** This is a property tax assessment that can be used for the construction, operation, and/or maintenance of parks and facilities, and for recreation programming. This type of levy is established for a given rate or amount for up to five years, or, in the case of capital only, up to ten years. Passage requires a double majority (a majority of registered voters must vote and a majority of those voting must approve the measure), unless during a general election in even-numbered years, in which case a simple majority is required. Local option levies have become more difficult to pass in Oregon because of the double-majority requirement. In the future, the use of a local option levy may be difficult due to a $10/$1,000 of real market value tax rate limitation for all taxing agencies in the area except schools.

Recently, the City has used two local option levies to help fund recreation services. Measure 20-37 was a two-year levy providing the City with approximately $714,000 per year for neighborhood-based youth activities during non-school hours. The levy expired at the end of December 2003.
Measure 20-67 is a four-year local option levy passed in November 2002. The City receives about $500,000 per year to fund youth services such as Summer Fun for All activities. An additional portion of this levy is divided between the Bethel and 4J School Districts to use for recreation activities as well as other student and school activities.

Potential revenue from a local option levy may be reduced due to the $10/$1,000 of real market value property tax rate limitations for general government taxes. If the $10 limitation is exceeded for any individual property, all general government taxing authorities receive only a prorated share of their tax levy, so that the total general government taxes remain within the cap. This situation is called compression. Compression occurs in two stages, with local option levies compressed first and then permanent tax rates. Taxing districts in Eugene are currently experiencing some revenue loss from compression.

- **Public/Government Grant Programs:** Grant programs exist for various capital and operational related projects, including:
  - **Recreation Trails Program:** This is a grant program funded through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Projects eligible under this program include: 1) maintenance and restoration of existing trails, 2) development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities, 3) construction of new recreation trails, and 4) acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property. Grants are distributed on an annual basis and require a 20% match.

- **Oregon State Marine Board Grants:** The Oregon State Marine Board manages Oregon’s waterways. The agency also provides construction grants for waterfront improvements, such as boat ramps, restrooms, parking, and other related projects, as well as operations funds for maintenance and patrol. It receives its revenue for grants from the licensing of pleasure boats and a portion of the automobile gas tax.

- **Private Grants and Foundations:** Private grants and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects. They are sometimes difficult to find and equally difficult to secure because of the open competition. They often fund unique projects or projects that demonstrate extreme need. In Eugene, some improvements to Trainsong Park were funded by a Nike Corporation grant.

- **Public/Private Partnerships:** This concept is relatively new to park and recreation agencies. The basic approach is for a public agency to enter into a working agreement with a private business to help fund, build, and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the
three primary incentives that a public agency can offer are free land to place a facility (usually a park or other piece of public land), certain tax advantages, and access to the facility. While the public agency may have to give up certain responsibilities or control, it is one way of obtaining public facilities at a lower cost.

- **Fees and Charges:** User fees and facility charges generate revenue for parks and programs by charging users some or all of the costs of providing services. The City of Eugene has set revenue goals for recreation programs and has developed fees and charges accordingly. The City should continue to refine these goals, while maintaining program affordability and accessibility. Some program areas are more suitable for higher fees and charges. However, youth development is typically not one of these areas. The City could balance its low revenue but highly valued youth development offerings with more program offerings that are revenue generators, such as adult sports programs. Park services revenues can be increased by expanding rental facilities (picnic shelters, meeting rooms, swimming pools, gardens, gazebos, etc.) or by increasing rental fees and other facility-use charges.

**Capital Projects**
The following funding sources may be used for capital expenses only:

- **System Development Charges:** Since 1991, the City of Eugene has charged new residential development a systems development charge (SDC). SDCs are an important source of funding for the acquisition and development of new parks and open space areas. Since SDCs are paid for by new residential development, the fees are meant to fund capacity enhancement projects that are needed as a result of the development. SDCs cannot be used for the preservation and maintenance of existing parks and facilities. The City has recently reviewed its SDC methodology and increased the SDC rate to $1,344.65 per housing unit. Prior to October 1, 2003, the SDC rate was $981.89 per dwelling unit.

- **Donations:** Donations of labor, land, materials, or cash by service agencies, private groups, or individuals is a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects. Service agencies often fund small projects such as picnic shelters or playground improvements, or they may be involved in larger aspects of park development. For example, members of the Rotary Club are soliciting donations to build the two new RiverPlay regional playgrounds in Skinner Butte Park and Alton Baker Park. In the past, donations and volunteer efforts have funded significant improvements at Owen Rose Garden, Hendricks Park, and the Hays Memorial Tree Garden at Alton Baker Park. Donations have also helped to fund open space acquisition.
A Eugene Parks Foundation has been established as a non-profit organization dedicated to improving and enhancing public parks, open spaces and recreational facilities and services for the benefit of Eugene area residents. This organization may play a significant role in the solicitation and acquisition of future donations.

- **Local Improvement District:** Under Oregon law, a city may use a Local Improvement District (LID) to subsidize specific capital improvement projects. Through the formation of a LID, a city may impose special assessments on all properties benefiting from a local improvement project. LIDs are often used to subsidize transportation and infrastructure systems but may also be extended to parks and recreation areas. Because the properties within the district must receive a special benefit from the project, it is most likely to be useful for neighborhood parks and recreation areas.

- **General Obligation Bond:** This voter-approved bond comes with authority to levy an assessment on real and personal property. Funding can be used for capital improvements, but not furnishings, fixtures, equipment, or on-going maintenance. This property tax is levied for up to 20 years under the City’s debt policies. As with local option levies, passage requires a double majority, unless during a general election in even-numbered years. This type of property tax does not affect the overall tax rate limitation as described previously in Local Option Levy.

In 1998, voters approved a $25.3 million park and open space bond to fund major park improvements and acquisitions.

- **Public/Government Grant Programs:** Grant programs exist for various capital and operational related projects, including:
  - **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG):** These grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development are available for a wide variety of projects. CDBG funds have limitations and are generally required to benefit low and moderate income residents. Grants can cover up to 100% of project costs.

  - **Land and Water Conservation Fund:** This is a federal grant program that receives its money from offshore oil leases. The money is distributed through the National Park Service and is administered locally by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. In the past, this was one of the major sources of grant money for local agencies. In the 1990s, funding at the federal level was severely cut, but in recent times more money has become available. For the year 2003, the total amount available statewide for local agency projects was $825,722. The funds can be used for acquisition and development of outdoor facilities and require a 50% match.
- **Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA):** Over the years, Oregon has received considerable revenue for trail-related projects from this federal program. Originally called The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), it funded a wide variety of transportation-related projects. In 1998, this program was modified and is now referred to as TEA-21. The legislation came up for reauthorization in 2003, but the process was extended because the U.S. House and Senate could not agree on terms of reauthorization. The extension ends October 1, 2004, and a second extension is anticipated. In 2002, Oregon’s apportionment was $856,248.

- **Local Government Grants:** This Oregon program uses Lottery dollars to fund land acquisition and development and rehabilitation of park areas and facilities. A 50% match is required for larger agencies and a 40% match for small agencies. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff reviews and approves small projects of $50,000 or less. Large projects exceeding this amount, but less than $250,000, are reviewed and approved by the Local Government Advisory Committee. The funds for this program are available on a biannual basis. The latest funding round was in early 2003. The total amount of grant money available statewide in the 2003-2004 period was $5 million.

- **Urban Forestry Grants:** There are several grant programs that provide money for urban forestry projects. While some programs fund public tree planting projects, most federal money must be spent on projects other than planting trees. United States Forest Service grants are small (usually less than $10,000).

- **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board:** The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a State agency led by a policy oversight board. Together, they promote and fund voluntary actions that strive to enhance Oregon’s watersheds. The Board fosters the collaboration of citizens, agencies, and local interests. OWEB’s programs support Oregon’s efforts to restore salmon runs, improve water quality, and strengthen ecosystems that are critical to healthy watersheds and sustainable communities. OWEB administers a grant program that awards more than $20 million annually to support voluntary efforts by Oregonians seeking to create and maintain healthy watersheds.
Land Trusts: Private land trusts such as the Trust for Public Land, the Nature Conservancy, and the McKenzie River Trust employ various methods, including conservation easements, to work with willing owners to conserve important resource land. Land trusts assist public agencies in various ways. For example, land trusts may acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by the public agency.

National Tree Trust: National Tree Trust provides trees through two programs: America’s Treeways and Community Tree Planting. These programs require that trees be planted on public lands by volunteers. In addition, America’s Treeways requires that a minimum of 100 seedlings be planted along public highways.

Lifetime Estates: This is an agreement between a landowner and the City that gives the owner the right to live on the site after it is sold to the City.

Exchange of Property: An exchange of property between a private landowner and the City can occur. For example, the City could exchange a less useful site it owns for a potential park site currently under private ownership.
Table 1: Financing Options Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Advantages &amp; Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPITAL PROJECTS AND OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>▪ Wide flexibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Funds are constrained due to property tax limitations.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ All City departments compete for these funds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road Fund</td>
<td>▪ Dependent on taxes collected</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Limitation on the types of projects that may be funded – principally projects within the road right-of-way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Declining funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stormwater/ Wastewater Fees</td>
<td>▪ Projects must meet the goals of the stormwater and wastewater utilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ A limited range of recreation projects that can qualify for use of these funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Cannot be used for general park improvements or operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands Mitigation Bank</td>
<td>▪ Limited to wetlands projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Dependent on sale of credits to developers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Option Levy</td>
<td>▪ Wide flexibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Short duration – up to 10 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Must receive voter approval. Except during general elections in even-numbered years, a double majority is needed. A majority of voters must turn out, and a majority must vote in favor. Must be frequently re-approved or funding is eliminated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Subject to the $10/$1,000 cap on general government property taxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public/Government Grant Programs</td>
<td>▪ Voter approval is not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Wide range of grant programs provides funding for a broad range of projects and activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Each source has specific eligibility requirements and approval criteria. Matching projects to appropriate grant sources is not always easy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Application, project reporting, and grant management requirements can be extensive for some programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Usually there are matching requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Advantages &amp; Limitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Private Grants and Foundations | ▪ Wide range of foundations provides funding for a broad range of projects and activities.  
▪ Requires continued monitoring to keep current with opportunities.  
▪ Each source has specific eligibility requirements and approval criteria, and matching projects to appropriate funding sources is not always easy.  
▪ Some sources do not provide grants to government agencies.  
▪ Highly competitive.  
▪ Funds may come with conditions (such as naming a facility). |
| Public/Private Partnerships    | ▪ Can be used to build, fund, or operate a facility.  
▪ May permit City to obtain a facility that would otherwise not be possible.  
▪ City may have to trade off some control of the project or facility. |
| Program Fees/Facility Charges | ▪ Unlimited use, although funds are typically reinvested into the program/facility to cover program costs or facility maintenance.  
▪ Some programs or facilities can be designed to recover costs, or even to generate a profit. However, these programs are limited. The market should be considered in setting fees, as well as program affordability and accessibility.  
▪ Few programs and fee-based facilities (e.g., aquatic centers) generate significant amounts of revenue, and affordability affects the ability to increase fees. |

**CAPITAL PROJECTS ONLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Advantages &amp; Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| System Development Charges     | ▪ Good source of capital improvement funding.  
▪ Must be used to fund capacity improvements or new parks, with a nexus to providing service to accommodate new development.  
▪ Cannot be used for operations or maintenance funding. |
| Donations                      | ▪ Wide flexibility.  
▪ Usually must be solicited.  
▪ May come with strings or requirements. |
Table 1: Financing Options Evaluation (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Advantages &amp; Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Improvement Districts</td>
<td>▪ Flexible in use for capital projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Can only be used where there are projects that provide a special benefit to surrounding properties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Sometimes difficult to foster public support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Obligation Bond</td>
<td>▪ Flexible in use for capital projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Not subject to the $10/$1,000 cap on general government property taxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Voter approval is required, as for local option levies.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Longer duration (usually up to 20 years).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Cannot be used for furnishings, fixtures, equipment, or ongoing maintenance.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Limited capacity under the City’s debt policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public/Government Grant Programs</td>
<td>▪ Voter approval is not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Wide range of grant programs provides funding for a broad range of projects and activities.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>▪ Each source has specific eligibility requirements and approval criteria. Matching projects to appropriate grant sources is not always easy.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Application, project reporting, and grant management requirements can be extensive for some programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Usually there are matching requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Trusts</td>
<td>▪ Limited to property protection or acquisition in specific circumstances, usually for environmental reasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Some trusts own property, others only hold it short-term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ The City may have to eventually purchase the property from the trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Tree Trust</td>
<td>▪ Only funds tree planting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Estates</td>
<td>▪ Can make sales agreement more attractive to the property owner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Limited application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ May come with strings or requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange of Property</td>
<td>▪ Limited application, since City must have property to exchange.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Only for property acquisition.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Innovative Funding Measures

Due to the increasing limitations on property taxes, some public agencies are looking toward alternative methods of funding the park and open space systems that citizens find essential to quality of life. These alternative mechanisms are generally taxes, and some are more viable than others as funding sources. Eugene should also explore the potential of other alternative mechanisms as part of the City’s overall revenue strategy. The City should investigate the use of the following taxes to fund park and recreation development:

- Entertainment taxes
- Utility taxes
- Corporate Income Tax
- Income Tax Surcharge
- Personal Income Tax
- Gross Receipts Tax
- Payroll Tax
- General Sales Tax
- Restaurant Tax
- Business License Tax
- New Construction Fees

B. Special District Formation

Another funding strategy that the City may consider is the development of a special district for parks and recreation. The advantage of a special district is that it has its own dedicated tax base to fund projects. There are two types of Special Districts that may provide park and recreation services: independent districts and county service districts. Both types of districts have taxing authority, and their tax rates are subject to the 10/$1,000 general government property tax limitations.

A county service district, formed under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 451, is governed by the County Board. This type of special district is not recommended because the directors are not independently elected. The only special district in Oregon formed under ORS 451 is the North Clackamas Park & Recreation District.

The other type of district, a special parks district formed under ORS 266, is governed by an independently elected Board of Directors. Examples of this type of district include Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation
District, Willamalane Park & Recreation District, and Bend Metro Park & Recreation District.

The advantage of a special district is that it has its own tax rate and revenue stream, whereas City park and recreation services must now share the jurisdiction’s general property tax revenues.

However, there are a number of drawbacks to forming a special district in Eugene. Specific procedural steps for the formation of a special district—including a petition process, County involvement, and a public vote—could be difficult to achieve. These steps also require citizen support to occur. In addition, the formation of a special district would require an amendment to the Metro Plan. Finally, additional property tax levies by a special district will result in increased tax revenue compression affecting all general government taxing districts.
CHAPTER VI

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance measures will be developed by the City to evaluate Plan implementation. The performance measures will help evaluate progress toward achieving the following goals (See Chapter 2):

1. Provide opportunities to enjoy nature and the outdoors.
   - Number of outdoor and environmental education activities provided
   - Number of acres of open space purchased annually
   - Amount of money invested in parks and open space capital improvements
   - Total acres of developed and undeveloped City park land available per 1000 city residents
   - Total acres of developed and undeveloped City parkland available per 1000 residents as compared to the median parkland available of comparison cities
   - Number of miles of trails developed annually to increase connectivity

2. Identify underserved populations and provide outreach to engage diverse community members.
   - Number of people with disabilities that participate in recreation programs and activities
   - Number of seniors that participate in recreation programs and activities
   - Percentage of supervisory and leadership staff that are trained in youth development principles and in diversity/inclusion principles
   - Percentage of residents that report recreation services are affordable
   - Number of citizens representing diverse population groups involved in the planning process per year

3. Promote lifelong human development through diverse recreation opportunities.
   - Number of patrons served in each recreation program area
   - Percentage of participants reporting that recreation programs and services made a positive difference or improvement in their lives or the lives of their family members

4. Support and enhance individual and community health and wellness.
CHAPTER VI

- Number of recreation services and programs that feature physical activity, fitness or health education
- Percentage of participants who report improved health status from participation in Recreation Division fitness and wellness programs or use of recreation facilities
- Number and severity of crimes reported annually that occurred in parks

5. Build environmental stewardship through volunteer, environmental education and outdoor recreation opportunities.
   - Percentage of outdoor programs and services that include an environmental education component

6. Promote human understanding and sense of community through cultural opportunities.
   - Number of recreation programs intended to raise awareness of diverse cultural traditions
   - Number of historic or cultural interpretive signs provided

7. Distribute parks, open space and recreation services equitably throughout the community.
   - Number of recreation programs and services in each planning area
   - Number and type of recreation facilities in each planning area
   - Number of citizens involved in the planning process per year

8. Build and maintain sustainable parks, recreation, and open space infrastructure.
   - Number of development or management plans completed per year
   - FTE per total inventory (in acres) maintained
   - Net annual operating and maintenance expenditures per capita
   - Percentage of participants reporting that they are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with recreation program and services

9. Protect and enhance diverse, healthy, and interconnected ecosystems.
   - Total acres of developed and undeveloped City park land available per 1,000 city residents
   - Ranking of the use of City parks compared to other City services (from Community Survey)
   - Total acres maintained annually
10. Make fiscal responsibility a high priority.
   - Total service cost per acre
   - Net annual operating and maintenance expenditures per capita
   - FTE per total inventory (in acres) maintained

11. Ensure the efficient use of resources.
   - Percentage of Recreation Service budget offset by revenues
   - Cost per Recreation Services patron served
   - Number of volunteer hours in Recreation and POS
   - FTE per total inventory (in acres) maintained
   - Total service cost per acre
   - Percent of survey respondents who believe the City’s parks are maintained at an above average level of quality (from Community Survey)

12. Build a sense of community by developing strong community partnerships
   - Number of community partners developed by Recreation Services
   - Number of citizens involved in the planning process per year

A variety of methods may be used to measure Plan implementation. These methods may include the collection of budget data, inventory data, attendance data, and customer satisfaction survey data. Once baseline data is collected, the City may set annual goals for each of these measures. However, some performance measures will be harder to gauge than others. In addition to providing feedback on the success of this Plan, this data will guide future planning decisions.

The Comprehensive Plan should be updated every five years to reflect current needs and trends.
Neighborhood Park

Purpose
Small park located within biking and walking distance of users that provides access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents, enhances neighborhood identity, and preserves neighborhood open space.

Service Area Radius of 1/4 to 1/2 mile.

Benefits
Provides ACCESS to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents of all ages

Contributes to NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTITY

Size
Current Range: 0.37 to 20 acres
Proposed size for new parks: minimum 4 acres

Features
Children's play areas
Picnic tables and benches
Paths
Lighting
Informal play areas
Portable rest rooms, when needed
Basketball

Park Examples
Irwin
Charnel Mulligan
Bramblewood
Oakmont
Skyview
Community Park

Purpose
Larger park that provides active and passive recreational opportunities for all City residents.

Accommodates large group activities. Internal parking area and sport field areas available.

Service Area Radius of 2 miles.

Benefits
Provides a variety of ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES for all age groups

Provides ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION opportunities

Serves RECREATION NEEDS OF FAMILIES

Provides opportunities for COMMUNITY SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES and positive COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Size
Current Range: 8.36 to 90 acres
Proposed size for new parks: minimum 40 acres

Features
Children's play areas
Competitive sports fields, including lights
Community recreation facilities
Court sports facilities
Skateboarding facilities
Off-street parking
Public art/fountains
Single and group picnic areas
Paths
Natural areas
Restrooms
Interpretive facilities
Water access
Amphitheaters
Festival space
Community garden

Park Examples
Amazon Park
Bethel Community Park
Westmoreland Park
Sheldon Sports Park
Urban Plaza

**Purpose**
Provides social gathering space within urban areas

**Benefits**
Provides opportunities for PUBLIC GATHERING
Contributes to NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTITY

**Size**
Current Range:  1.1 acres
Proposed size for new parks: variable -- sufficient size to accommodate activities

**Features**
Provides opportunity for public to gather in urban locations. May include hard surfaces or green space.

**Local Examples**
City of Eugene: Park Blocks
County: Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza
U of O: Erb Memorial Union Plaza
EWEB: Willamette River Plaza
Private: Oakway Plaza
Metropolitan Park

Purpose
Larger park that provides features and facilities that attract users from the entire Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area or preserves unique cultural and natural areas.

Accommodates large group activities.

Benefits
Provides a variety of ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES for all age groups

Provides ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION opportunities

Serves RECREATION NEEDS OF FAMILIES

Provides opportunities for COMMUNITY SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES and positive COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Size
Current Range: 1.25 to 402.20
Proposed size for new parks: variable

Features
Provides a large, regional scale park.
Can include natural areas, active and passive recreation, trails, and other recreation facilities.

Park Examples
Alton Baker Park
Skinner Butte Park
Hendricks Park
Natural Area Park

**Purpose**
Area managed for both recreational use and natural values. Provides opportunities for nature-based recreation, such as wildlife viewing, hiking, jogging, bicycling, and nature photography.

**Benefits**
Provides opportunities for EXPERIENCING NATURE close-to-home

Provides valuable NATURAL RESOURCES and WILDLIFE

Contributes to the ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH of the community

**Size**
Proposed size for new parks: sufficient size to protect resource and accommodate passive recreation

**Features**
Trail-head amenities
Multi-purpose paved trails
Soft-surface trails
Boardwalks
Benches
Interpretive facilities
Wildlife blinds
Water access

**Park Examples**
Delta Ponds
Meadowlark Prairie
Spencer Butte
Linear Park / Greenway

**Purpose**
A linear park provides public access to trail-oriented activities, which may include walking, running, biking, skating, etc., and preserves open space.

May also provide neighborhood recreation facilities where adequate space is available.

**Benefits**
Provides opportunities for TRAIL-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

Reduces AUTO-DEPENDENCY

Protects valuable NATURAL RESOURCES

Connects COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Serves as WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

**Size**
Proposed size for new parks: sufficient size to accommodate trail-related activities and greenspace

**Features**
Multi-purpose paved trails
Multiple access points
Benches
Children's play area
Soft-surface trails
Water access
Picnic facilities
Natural areas

**Park Examples**
Amazon Parkway
Willamette West Bank
Special Use Facility

**Purpose**
Special use facilities have unique features, historical significance, and/or specialized functions.

**Benefits**
Provides a variety of ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES for all age groups

Provides ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORICAL EDUCATION opportunities

Serves RECREATION NEEDS OF FAMILIES

Provides opportunities for COMMUNITY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**Size**
Proposed size for new parks: sufficient size to accommodate activities

**Features**
- Historical sites
- Interpretive facilities
- Botanical gardens
- Community centers
- Senior centers
- Pools
- Golf courses
- Sports complex
- Performing arts complex
- Amphitheaters

**Park Examples**
- Campbell Center
- Amazon Pool
- Shelton McMurphy Johnson House
Table B-1: Park & Open Space Standards and Anticipated Need

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<th>COMPARISON TOOLS</th>
<th>EUGENE DATA</th>
<th>NET NEED</th>
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*Comparable Cities/Districts include Boise, Boulder, Corvallis, Portland, Salem, Spokane, Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District, and Willamalane Parks & Recreation District. Figures were not available from all agencies in all categories.

*Oregon Average includes 45 Oregon cities surveyed between 1992 and present. Figures are expressed in acres/1,000 population. Figures were not available from all agencies in all categories.

*From NRPA 1983 "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines"*

*LOS is based on the total acres in each category expressed in acres /1,000 population.

Note: In the case of all parks, and especially Neighborhood Parks, it is important to consider distribution of parkland as well as numerical standards.
Table B-2: Parks and Open Space Inventory: Summary by Planning Sub-area

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Table B-3: Parks and Open Space Inventory: Bethel/Danebo Planning Sub-area (Percent of current population: 15%)
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Percent of System

| 10% | 8% | 10% | 8% | 28% | 8% | 24% | 8% | 40% | 8% | 43% | 8% | 30% | 8% | 6% | 30% | 8% | 3% | 4% | 38% | 8% | 0% | 40% | 8% | 16% | 8% | 0% | 8% |

* This facility is counted as a special use facility.
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Table B-6: Parks and Open Space Inventory: South Eugene Planning Sub-area (Percent of current population: 21%)

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Percent of System 30% 44% 39% 17% 47% 18% 10% 40% 19% 14% 50% 60% 100% 29% 57% 60% 20% 28% 41% 40% 50% 0% 30% 40% 50% 100% 97% 55% 88%
# Table B-7: Parks and Open Space Inventory: Willakenzie Planning Sub-area (Percent of current population: 21%)

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Percent of System: 18% 20% 27% 17% 18% 18% 24% 20% 21% 14% 0% 33% 0% 18% 29% 0% 20% 21% 6% 17% 0% 0% 33% 10% 50% 33% 0% 3% 36% 0%

* These facilities are counted as special use facilities.
### Parks and Open Space Inventory: Willow Creek Planning Sub-area (Percent of current population: 12%)

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Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.