



City of
Central
Point

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

March 2017
Adopted by Ordinance
No.

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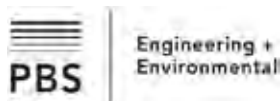
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This citywide Parks Master Plan is a ten-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park, trail and recreation services in Central Point. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, greenspaces and recreational opportunities. This Plan provides a vision for the City's park and recreation system, proposes updates to City service standards for park classifications and addresses departmental goals, objectives and other management considerations toward the continuation of high-quality recreation opportunities to benefit residents of Central Point.

This Plan was guided with input and direction of city residents and the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Plan inventories and evaluates existing park and recreation areas, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development and operations and offers policies and recommendations to achieve the community's goals.

CENTRAL POINT'S PARK & RECREATION SYSTEM

The City of Central Point currently provides approximately 122 acres of developed and undeveloped park and open space lands distributed among 31 parks, special facilities and open space areas. This system of parks supports a range of active and passive recreation experiences. The City provides a skate park and access to approximately 4.9 miles of trails within its parks and along the Bear Creek Greenway between the Boes property and the southern city limits.

The City offers a variety of general recreational and educational programs, which vary from cultural arts to fitness, education and outdoor recreation. The majority of the City's recreation programming focuses on youth. The City does not have a multi-purpose community recreation center, and the number and types of activities the Department can offer in its facilities are currently limited by a lack of capacity at existing facilities. Additional

recreation, fitness and community space is needed to serve community needs and promote wellness, active recreation and social engagement.

Central Point is a maturing young city with a blend of young families with children and a growing retirement-age population. New investments in parks and recreation will be necessary to meet the needs of the community, support youth development, provide options for residents to lead healthy, active lives and foster greater social and community connections.

GOALS & POLICIES

This Plan includes goals and objectives intended to guide City decision-making to ensure the parks and recreation system meets the needs of the Central Point community for years to come. These goals and objectives were based on community input and technical analysis. They include:

- **Community Engagement and Communication:** Encourage meaningful public involvement in park and recreation planning and inform residents through department communications.
- **Recreation Programming:** Establish and maintain a varied and inclusive suite of recreation programs that accommodate a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities and promote the health and wellness of the community.
- **Parks & Open Space:** Acquire and develop a high-quality, diversified system of parks, recreation amenities and open spaces that provides equitable access to all residents.
- **Trails & Pathways:** Develop a high-quality system of multi-use trails and bicycle and pedestrian corridors that connects to regional trails and provides access to public facilities, neighborhoods and businesses.
- **Design, Development & Management:** Plan for a parks system that is efficient to maintain and operate, while protecting capital investment.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

As an update to the 2003 Parks Master Plan, this Plan assessed the City's service standards for parks and recreation facilities to achieve community goals within projected resources. These standards include:

- **Community, Neighborhood & Pocket Parks:** This Plan proposes a combined service standard for the City's core parks, namely community, neighborhood and pocket parks. The proposed acreage standard for core parks to 3.5 acres per 1,000 people to emphasize the relative importance of active use parks within the park system. The City currently is close to meeting this standard, and the City should aim to acquire 32 acres of parkland, and develop 43 acres, between today and 2026 to fully meet the desired level of service standard.
- **Open Space & Trails:** This Plan does not include numeric standards for open space areas, but rather proposes protection of sensitive natural areas through

existing regulations. Acquisitions should be focused on properties necessary to fill crucial connections in the greenway and trail system. Similarly, trail acquisition and development priorities are designed to provide a comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle system, connecting neighborhoods to commercial areas and other key destinations, rather than toward meeting a population-based mileage standard.

- **Specialized Recreation Facilities:** The previous Master Plan did not include a numeric standard for special use facilities, and this Plan maintains that approach. Special use recreation facilities are, by their nature, unique and do not translate well to a population based numeric standard.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Central Point is anticipated to grow to approximately 20,710 residents over the next ten years. Serving existing and future residents will require improvements to existing parks and expansion of the park, trail and recreation system. The 20-year Capital Facilities Plan proposes approximately \$16.5 million of investment in acquisition, development and renovation of the parks system and identifies additional investment priorities for the future.

To ensure existing parks provide desired recreational amenities and opportunities, the Plan includes investments in the development and improvement of neighborhood and community parks. For example, redevelopment of Community Park will greatly expand recreational resources for the community. The Plan also proposes smaller improvements throughout the park system to enhance accessibility, safety and usability of park features. Also, given the momentum to establish a community recreation facility for programming, this Plan recommends the continued review of funding alternatives, as well as updating the modeling of user demand and analyzing options for facility and program cost recovery.

The Plan includes a focused land acquisition program to ensure sufficient land and trail corridors for outdoor recreation as City population grows. It identifies target acquisition areas to secure future community parkland and fill gaps in neighborhood park access and to close gaps in the trail network.

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OVERVIEW & PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The City of Central Point began development of this update to its Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2016 to provide a logical blueprint for the management and growth of the City's park system. As a ten-year guide and strategic plan for enhancing park and recreation amenities for the community, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities throughout Central Point. The Plan addresses goals, objectives and other management considerations toward the continuation of quality recreation opportunities and potential upgrades to benefit the residents of Central Point.

This citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed with the input and direction of Central Point leaders and residents, which included public meetings and a community survey. The Plan is a document that will guide City elected and appointed officials, management and staff when making decisions or taking actions regarding planning, acquiring, developing or implementing parks, open space, recreation programs or recreational facilities. The Plan is intended to be updated periodically to remain current with local interests and maintain eligibility for state-based grants.

The Plan considers the park and recreation needs of residents citywide. It inventories and evaluates the existing parks, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development and operations, and includes capital project phasing. The Plan establishes specific goals, objectives, recommendations and actions for developing, conserving and maintaining high-quality parks, trails, facilities and programs across the City.



GUIDED BY VALUES

The City of Central Point adopted its most recent Strategic Plan in 2007, and it reinforced the mission, values and priorities for the City's future.

City Mission

It is the mission of the City of Central Point to build and maintain a highly livable community by working in harmony and being a catalyst for partnership with all the members of the community, public and private.

City Statement of Values

Growth: We value planned growth that will retain our small town atmosphere.

Public Safety: We value a professional service oriented public safety policy that promotes a sense of safety and security in our city.

Transportation: We value a system of transportation and infrastructure that is modern, efficient and sensitive to the environment.

Community: We value a clean and attractive city with parks, open space and recreational opportunities.

Service: Provide highest level of service possible in the most efficient and responsible manner.

Additionally, City Council outlined ten core goals to fulfill its mission, of which eight relate directly to the provision of park and recreation services by the City. These citywide goals provided a foundation for the policies and recommendations within this Plan.

Parks and Recreation Vision Statement

Central Point's Parks and Recreation system provides safe, high quality parks, open space and recreational facilities that encourage residents and visitors to live, invest and play in the community, and develop recreation programs that promote memorable experiences in people's lives.

Central Point is a community determined to preserve those aspects of its heritage that are unique and represent important moments in our community's cultural and natural history. This heritage can provide settings for individual, family and group recreation activities, community gatherings and remain an important part of what will continue to make Central Point a special place in which to live, work and play.

BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report in 2005 called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.

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- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.

Approximately one in four Jackson County residents are overweight or obese, a rate that exceeds national health targets but is low compared to counties nationwide. Parks, open space, trails and recreational facilities provide opportunities for residents to be physically active and to experience nature. Jackson County has many such places, including parks and public or private community centers, gyms or other recreational facilities. In fact, 85% of Jackson County residents have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, a level slightly lower than the average (89%) for all Oregon residents. This accessibility of recreational opportunities may contribute to residents' physical activity levels. Only 17% of Jackson County adults age 20 and older report getting no leisure-time physical activity, compared to 16% across Oregon. This rate is better than even the highest performing counties nationwide, which average 20%.

However, according to the County Health Rankings, Jackson County ranks in the bottom half of Oregon counties (22 out of the 34) for health outcomes (including length and quality of life) and health factors (such as health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment).

Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety.

Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the CDC reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week. Park location and access also matters. According to a study in Los Angeles, people who live within 1 mile of a park are four times more likely to visit the park one or more times per week, compared to those who live farther away.

Social and Community Benefits

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.

From the winter 2015 issue of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) magazine, the direct link between how communities are built and grow is tied to health and quality of life. More walkable and bike-able environments with better access to nature and parks have become essential for personal well-being and needs to be integrated into community planning. The NAR articles identify walkable communities as a prescription for better health.

Even the U.S. Surgeon General sounded a call to action challenging communities become more walkable to allow more Americans to increase their physical activity through walking. The Center for Disease Control and its Healthy Community Design Initiative focuses on walkability and the need to better integrate into transportation planning.

The NAR magazine issue also reported on the value of bicycle-friendly communities and the direct tie to healthy and sustainable living. Access to healthy, locally-grown food choices is reported with the value of community gardens and urban food hubs for healthy diets, as well as connection to community engagement.

Realtors have long been aware that housing near a good system of parks and trails will hold strong appeal to buyers. The winter NAR issue illustrates the recognition that community design for healthy living goes beyond the single house location. People want choices, and these healthy community design traits of walking, biking, trails and parks all play an important role in housing prices, sales and re-sales.



Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities.

CONTENTS OF THE PLAN

The remainder of the Central Point Parks Master Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Planning Context – provides an overview of the planning process, the City and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Engagement – highlights the methods used to engage the Central Point community in the development of the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Existing Inventory & Recreational Opportunities – describes the existing parks and recreation system in the City.
- Chapters 5: Needs Assessment – discusses survey results and other recreation trend data and provides context to the identification of potential park and recreation system enhancements.
- Chapter 6: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the parks and recreation system grouped by major functional or program area.
- Chapter 7: Capital Facilities Plan – details a 10-year program for addressing park and recreation facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Chapter 8: Implementation Strategies – describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort.



PLANNING CONTEXT

SETTING & PLANNING AREA

Incorporated in 1889, the City of Central Point is located in the northwestern part of Jackson County immediately north and west of Medford. It currently encompasses an area of 3.52 square miles and is bisected by Interstate 5. Approximately one-third of the city lies to the east of Interstate 5. The planning area for this Plan includes land within Central Point city limits, plus the unincorporated land within the City's urban growth boundary (UGB).

As noted in the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the City of Central Point provides a range of services including police protection, construction and maintenance of streets, storm drains, water, building inspection, planning, economic development, parks and recreation. Fire protection, library, sanitary sewer services, public transportation and public education services are not City services and are provided by separate districts. The City maintains a well-distributed system of neighborhood and community parks, along with numerous open space natural areas, and the City provides recreation programming and special events. The City's largest park, the Don Jones Community Park, was recently developed to include play areas, a splashpad, community gardens and Veterans Memorial Plaza. Also, plans are underway for the initial development of the Skyrman Arboretum.

Central Point's terrain is defined by its location within a river valley surrounded by mountains. The Rogue River runs approximately three miles north of the City, at its closest point. Bear Creek, one of the Rogue River's primary tributaries, flows through the City of Central Point, and the 20-mile multi-use Bear Creek Greenway connects Central Point to Medford, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland. Central Point is surrounded by rugged mountains that range from 3,000 to 8,000 feet in elevation, which include the Cascades to the east, the Coast Range to the west and the Siskiyou to the south. Mount McLoughlin, an often snow-capped volcanic peak, rises over the skyline east of Central



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Point. Two flat-topped volcanic buttes, the Upper and Lower Table Rocks, are just north of the city.

The regional economic base is tied to agriculture, tourism, higher education, health care, transportation and manufacturing. Growth in residential development over the past decade along with an influx of retirees moving into the area has created additional demands on the parks and recreation system. The build-out of Twin Creeks is a testament to the City's ability to attract and retain new residents in a mixed residential community with integrated parks and open space.

Central Point offers a number of family friendly events with opportunities for the community to gather throughout the year, including; the Eggstravaganza, the Grow A Pear 5k fun ride, run, or walk, a Geocache Challenge, the Run 4 Freedom 5k, Munch N Movies in the park, Battle of the Bones, the Christmas Lights Parade, and the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day commemorations at Don Jones Memorial Park. In addition, residents also have access to City Parks and the Bear Creek Greenway, all of which have benefitted from the investments Central Point has made over the past ten years.

PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Efforts on the Central Point Parks and Recreation Master Plan began in late spring 2016 with the intent to have a completed, adopted plan by early 2017.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a reflection of the community's interests and needs for park and recreational facilities, trails and programming. The planning process was aimed to encourage and enable public engagement in the choices, priorities and future direction of the City's park and recreation system. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan project team conducted a variety of public outreach activities to solicit feedback and comments, in concert with the refinement of the park system inventory, level of service review and the current and future needs assessment.

Current community interests surfaced through a series of public outreach efforts that included mail and online surveys, open house meetings, stakeholder meetings, online engagement, website content and Parks and Recreation Commission meetings. An assessment of the park inventory became the basis for determining the current performance of the system to potential standards for parks. An overarching needs analysis was conducted for recreation programs and facilities, parks and trails to assess current demands and project future demand accounting for population growth. To guide the implementation of the goals of the Plan, a capital facilities plan was developed with a set of strategies that identified costs and potential funding sources. Together, this process is represented in this planning document, which will be reviewed by the public and elected officials. Once adopted, the Plan can become a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan and direct park and recreation service delivery for the next 10 - 20 years.

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OREGON GOAL 8 ON RECREATION PLANNING

Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 8 states:

“The requirements for meeting such needs, now and in the future, shall be planned for by governmental agencies having responsibility for recreation areas, facilities and opportunities: (1) in coordination with private enterprise; (2) in appropriate proportions; and (3) in such quantity, quality and locations as is consistent with the availability of the resources to meet such requirements. State and federal agency recreation plans shall be coordinated with local and regional recreational needs and plans.”

The City of Central Point has included these elements in this Plan.

City residents are proud of Central Point for its small town character and for what has been accomplished in the park system with modest resources, but they are also interested in certain facility improvements. This Plan documents those desires and provides a framework for addressing capital development and funding in the near-term.

PARKS & RECREATION DIVISION OVERVIEW

The Central Point Parks and Recreation Division is responsible for the planning, acquisition, construction and maintenance of City parklands and the provision of recreation programs and events. The Division provides landscape management within the 13 parks, 140 acres of greenspace and 1.5 miles of trail system that offers varied, safe and attractive places for public recreation. The Division also provides diverse, year-round leisure opportunities through the recreational programs, events and services that respond to the changing needs within the community. The benefits of these services are especially designed to meet the physical, mental, cultural and social needs of the residents and visitors to Central Point, while enhancing the overall quality of life in the city. The Division has 6.15 full-time staff and is funded through several sources, including user fees, parks maintenance fee and grants. The total budget for fiscal biennium 2015/17 was slightly more than \$2.9 million.

The Division has successfully implemented many of the recommendations from the previous 2003 Park Master Plan, and accomplishments include the following:

- Built Water Play Facility at Don Jones Park- Completion of large Park and Memorial Park at same location
- Increased open space- including accepting the Boes area as park of the park system (29 acres for future development)
- Increased playgrounds and currently have at least one in most areas of the City of Central Point
- Replaced one older play structure to make it safer for kids at Van Horn Park
- Resurfaced all the tennis courts 5 years ago.
- Took over the maintenance and scheduling of the Civic Field area from the Central Point School District
- All parks over 1 acre currently have restroom facilities



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- Expanded the recreation offerings and upgraded the recreational guide-RECreate
- Took over several parks from builders or developers - Twin Creeks, Griffin Oaks, S. Haskell
- Started removing invasive plants along creeks and then planted trees to help improve health of the creek areas
- Established relationships with EXPO, Chamber, School District and civic organizations for volunteering as well as partnering for grant opportunities
- Expanded the relationships with other cities to form maintenance agreements for the whole of the Bear Creek Greenway

DEMOGRAPHICS

Central Point is a small city of approximately 17,500 people in southern Oregon. The City was founded in 1889 and has grown steadily since its incorporation. Today, Central Point is the third largest city in Jackson County and is expected to continue to grow over the coming decades.

Central Point is home to many families with children, which represent over one-third of households. Residents are relatively young, particularly when compared to the remainder of Jackson County. However, this may be changing. This city is experiencing growth in the percentage of residents over 45 and a decline in the number of young children.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

Demographics	Central Point	Jackson County	Oregon
Population Characteristics			
Population (2015)	17,485	210,975	4,013,845
Population (2010)	17,169	203,206	3,831,074
Population (2000)	12,493	181,269	3,421,399
Percent Change (2000-15)	40.0%	16.4%	17.3%
Persons w/ Disabilities (%)	15.6%	16.9%	14.2%
Household Characteristics			
Households	6,637	82,977	1,522,988
Percent with children	31.4%	24.6%	26.9%
Median HH Income	\$46,765	\$44,086	\$50,521
Average Household Size	2.61	2.44	2.5
Average Family Size	3.04	2.96	3.05
Owner Occupancy Rate	61.8%	62.4%	61.5%
Age Groups			
Median Age	36.5	42.1	38.4
Population < 5 years of age	7.5%	5.9%	6.2%
Population < 18 years of age	26.5%	21.8%	22.6%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	58.7%	60.6%	63.5%
Population > 65 years of age	14.8%	17.6%	13.9%

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Approximately six in ten residents over 18 are employed, though 10% are unemployed, and the remaining 30% are out of the work force. Residents are generally well educated; over 86% of those over 25 years of age have completed a high school degree and 57% have some college or higher-level education.

REVIEW OF OTHER COMMUNITY PLANS

Past Central Point community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks, trails and recreation opportunities in Central Point. The development of each involved public input and adoption by their respective responsible legislative body.

Central Point Park Master Plan

The 2003 Central Point Park Master Plan was the second citywide park system plan for the City and outlined goals, community needs and implementation strategies. Community interests were identified through a public process that included a citywide survey, a community open house meeting and guidance from a project-specific steering committee. The plan outlined a capital improvement plan that listed and prioritized projects across the city. Major recommendations included the acquisition of additional parkland, development of a swimming pool, development of a community center and the development of additional walking and bicycle paths throughout the city.

Central Point Comprehensive Plan

The Central Point Comprehensive Plan is the guiding policy document for land use and growth-related planning for the City. It was adopted in 1984, and only three of twelve sections have been updated: Population Element (2008), Transportation System Plan (2008) and Economic Element (2013). The Parks and Recreation Element provides an overview of recreational demand and participation, it also provides an overview of the City's inventory, addresses service standards and offers guidelines for park development. The Parks and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan preceded the preparation of the City's first citywide Park Master Plan in 1991.

Citywide Strategic Plan

The intent of the Central Point Strategic Planning was to create the vision for the future and formulate a way to make this future happen through community teamwork and actions. It provides a blueprint for the vision, goals and outcomes that must occur to realize the desired future. The Strategic Planning process identified six priorities for moving the City of Central Point towards its long-term vision, which included proactive government and citizen involvement, downtown revitalization, managed growth and infrastructure, recreation, transportation, and economic development. Within the recreation priority, three goals were identified that included revising the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, providing high-quality facilities that attract users, and provide high-quality, age-appropriate recreation programs that benefit all residents. Recreation themes were present within the other noted priorities and included promoting healthy neighborhoods, cooperating with developers to plan for park needs, celebrating community events, finishing the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, and incorporating natural environment and open spaces into new development.



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Skyrman Arboretum Site Plan

The 3.1-acre Skyrman Arboretum is located near the Oregon State Police offices along Highway 99. The site master plan for this future park has been completed, and the City is expected to open the site to the public in fall 2016. The master plan for the site includes a plaza, re-purposed buildings for educational programming, trails and interpretive signage.

Jackson County Comprehensive Plan

The Jackson County Comprehensive Plan, most recently amended in 2006, is the long-range land use policy document for Jackson County. The plan defines general land use planning policies and allocates land uses into multiple categories. The County's Comprehensive Plan addresses each of the 14 applicable Statewide Planning Goals, as well as local goals, and contains policies and implementation strategies aimed at compliance with these goals. The Plan includes a Recreation Element that describes existing recreational resources in the county, whether they are owned and operated by the County or another jurisdiction or organization. Some of the objectives of the Recreation Element include the continuation of the Bear Creek Greenway program, cooperation with public agencies and other land owners in planning an interconnecting trail system between the county's population centers, evaluating future recreation needs within urban growth boundaries in cooperation with the incorporated cities, and continuing to offer technical assistance to the cities.

Jackson County Transportation System Plan

This plan provides specific information regarding transportation needs to guide future transportation investment across Jackson County for vehicular, rail, air, bicycle and pedestrian travel modes. Also, the 2005 TSP replaces the County's previous countywide Bicycle Master Plan. Specific to parks and recreation, the TSP identified nine goals for bicycles and pedestrian facilities, in an effort to develop complementary infrastructure and provide a more diverse range of transportation choices for county residents. The TSP also mapped specific priority improvements for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Projects in the area of Central Point include enhancements to Taylor Road, Old Stage Road, Scenic Avenue, Highway 99 and Highway 234.

Oregon Trails 2005-2014: A Statewide Action Plan

The last Statewide Trails Plan for Oregon was completed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) in February 2005 and maintains the state's eligibility to participate in the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). That plan is called "Oregon Trails 2005-2014: A Statewide Action Plan" and was written primarily for recreation planners and land managers. In 2013, OPRD started working on a two-year statewide trails planning effort. The effort involved separate (but concurrent) All-Terrain Vehicle, snowmobile, non-motorized, water trail, and Scenic Waterway planning components. The plan segmented the state into planning regions and identified the southwest region to include Coos, Curry, Josephine, Jackson and Douglas Counties. With regard to non-motorized trail needs, the plan stressed the need for trail connectivity in the region including making trail connections within urban areas and to trails in adjacent public lands to connect communities with nearby parks and open spaces and connect land-based trails with water trails.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement and feedback played an important role in establishing a clear planning framework that reflects current community priorities. Most residents care deeply about the future of Central Point's parks, recreation and trail system and appreciated the opportunity to offer feedback in the development of this Plan. A variety of public outreach methods were used, including:

- A mail and online community survey
- Two community meetings
- Six stakeholder discussions
- Website content & email blasts
- mySidewalk online engagement platform
- Parks and Recreation Commission sessions

Throughout this planning process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about their needs and priorities for parks, trails and recreation facilities and programs in Central Point. This feedback played a crucial role in updating policy statements and prioritizing the capital facilities project list contained within this Plan.

COMMUNITY SURVEYS

The development of this Plan included the administration of a community survey between April and May 2016. The purpose of the survey was to gather input to help determine park, trail, open space and recreation priorities of the community. In collaboration with staff, the project team designed a 19-question survey to assess residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities. This allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future of the parks and recreation system.



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The survey was designed to obtain results from households throughout the City and was administered as a mixed-mode mail and online survey. The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,000 households in Central Point on April 26, 2016. An online version of the survey was posted to the Central Point's website on the same day. Reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,000 households two weeks later. Information about the survey was included in the RECreate guide, on the City's website home page and on the Park and Recreation Department's subpage. The survey was also promoted during a public open house meeting held on May 10, 2016. The survey was closed in late May, and 380 responses were recorded. Since the survey was open to the general public and respondents were not selected solely through statistical sampling methods, the results are not necessarily representative of all Central Point residents.

Major survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the Needs Assessment (Chapter 5). The survey instrument and a summary of the response data from the survey is provided in Appendix A.

The City also conducted a youth survey in May 2016 for their perspectives on what they like about local parks. A summary of the response data from the youth survey is provided in Appendix B.

Major Findings

Central Point residents generally are satisfied with parks, trails and recreation opportunities in the City, but many indicated an interest in additional or expanded services and facilities.

- Among youth respondents, additional water parks (e.g., splashpads) and sport courts for tennis, basketball and volleyball were the most desired amenities.
- Youth also identified what they like to do at parks as running on the grass (49.7%), playing on playgrounds (48.2%), sitting and talking (46.7%), and playing in the water (44.6%) as top interests.
- 93% felt that Central Point's parks and recreation services are essential or important to the City's quality of life.
- 78% said that they are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the overall value they receive from Central Point Parks & Recreation.
- There is strong park usage in Central Point. 58% of respondents replied that they, or member of their household, visited a park or recreation facility at least once per month in the past year. More than one-in-five visited at least once a week.
- A large majority of residents (at least 75%) rated the condition as of all other City parks and recreation facilities as either "excellent" or "good".
- Strong majorities of respondents supported upgrading existing and developing new walking and biking trails, upgrading existing neighborhood parks, and upgrading picnic shelters and playground.
- The overall quality of recreation programs rated highly (71% as "excellent" or "good"). Special events had the broadest appeal with a majority (53%) of respondents participating over the past year.
- Very few respondents (less than 2%) felt the City should reduce offerings of any of its recreational programs. Remaining respondents were relatively evenly split

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on whether they thought the City provided adequate offerings for each type of program, or whether more are needed.

- Citywide yard sales are incredibly popular with residents of all ages, including 100% of respondents between the ages of 20 and 34.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The project team aimed to get feedback from local residents and program users at three events during the course of the project. Three public meetings were held at Central Point City Hall. Meeting flyers, newspaper articles, social media and email announcements were used to publicize the events and encourage participation. Summary responses from each of the meetings are provided in Appendix C.

Community Open House Meeting #1 (May 10, 2016)

Community members were invited to an open house on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Central Point City Hall. As the first of three public sessions for the Plan update, the project team prepared informational displays covering three major themes for parks and recreation. These display stations included Recreation Programming, Trails & Linkages, and Parks & Outdoor Recreation. Attendees were encouraged to talk with staff, record their comments and complete a written comment card. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to explore current issues, needs and interests related to park, trail and recreation opportunities and needs.

Community Open House Meeting #2 (September 15, 2016)

The second public session included informational displays that highlighted community survey results and posed a series of questions to spark ideas and feedback from attendees. The meeting was held immediately following a Commission meeting, which also gave Park and Recreation Commissioners who were unable to attend the first public meeting an opportunity to review project information.

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting (November 17, 2016)

The Parks and Recreation Commission provided feedback on the Plan during a regularly scheduled public session. The Commission heard a presentation from the project team that provided an overview of the planning process, key themes and draft recommendations for parks, recreation programs and trails.

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

Interviews with internal and external stakeholders were conducted to more broadly assess the opportunities for program enhancements, partnerships and coordination. Stakeholders were identified by City staff based on their past coordination with the City and their involvement or interest in the future of Central Point's park, recreation or trail facilities. The stakeholder meetings were held between August and October 2016, and



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the following organizations and local businesses provided insight to the Plan:

- Central Point Chamber of Commerce
- Central Point Elementary
- Jackson County Greenway Coordinator
- Southern Oregon Spine + Rehab
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Parks and Recreation staff

Stakeholder comments were often specific to the particular perspective or interest of the stakeholder group. Overall, comments were favorable with regard to existing City programs and opportunities, in addition to the improvements to Central Point parks. Stakeholders recognized the limited financial capacity of the City and were quick to offer suggestions for potential partnerships or other means to accomplish specific projects. Suggested projects included the following:

- Coordinating the development of trail connections to Bear Creek Greenway and crossing I-5,
- Identifying opportunities to expand community information and marketing about recreation programs, and
- Exploring opportunities for shared programming.

Specific recommendations are reflected in the Needs Assessment chapter, and stakeholder discussion summaries are provided in Appendix D.

OTHER ENGAGEMENT PLATFORMS

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities noted above, the Central Point community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media. The following venues were used to inform residents about the project, as well as opportunities to participate and offer comments.

- RECreate program guide
- City monthly newsletter
- City website
- mySidewalk online platform
- Facebook

A project webpage was posted on the City's website to provide background information, meeting announcements and project materials such as meeting notes, displays and summary reports. The page was updated periodically to keep residents informed of progress and alerted to opportunities for involvement during the process.

In addition to the City's social media feeds via Facebook, the project team utilized the mySidewalk platform (mysidewalk.com) as an integrated, on-going online community discussion. The tool allowed for integration with the traditional public meetings, and it enabled residents to submit ideas, offer feedback and answer questions about key issues and topics. The mySidewalk site was also linked to the City's social media accounts.



PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community’s recreational needs. The Central Point park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreation and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system will serve the full range of community needs. Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses.

The classification characteristics are meant as general guidelines addressing the intended size and use of each park type. The following five classifications are recommended for Central Point and are defined as follows:

- Community Parks
- Neighborhood & Pocket Parks
- Open Space Lands
- Special Use Areas
- Trails

Community Parks

Community parks are large sites developed for organized play, contain a wide array of facilities and, as a result, appeal to a more diverse group of users. Community parks are generally 10 to 50 acres in size and serve residents within a 2-mile drive, walk or bike ride from the site. In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks. Don Jones Park is an example of a community park.

In general, community park facilities are designed for organized or intensive recreational activities and sports, although passive components such as pathways, picnic areas and natural areas are highly encouraged and complementary to active use facilities. Developed community parks typically include amenities such as sport courts (basketball, tennis), covered activity areas, soccer and/or baseball fields and bike and pedestrian trails. Since community parks serve a larger geographic area and offer more facilities than neighborhood parks, parking and restroom facilities should be provided. Often community parks contain specialized facilities such as boat launches, river front, historic structures or access to other significant natural landscape features.

Neighborhood & Pocket Parks

Neighborhood parks generally are considered the basic unit of traditional park systems. They are small parks designed for unstructured, non-organized play and limited active and passive recreation. They may range from 0.25-5 acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location and opportunity. To accommodate a typically desired amount of recreational amenities and open areas a minimum size of 1.5 acres is recommended, if possible.

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (up to ½-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Access to neighborhood parks is mostly pedestrian, and park sites should be located such that people living within the service area can reach the park safely and conveniently. Park siting and design should ensure pedestrians do not have to cross a major arterial street or other significant natural or man-made barrier to get to the site, unless safe crossings are provided. Neighborhood parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the parks. Connecting and frontage streets should include sidewalks or other safe pedestrian access. Additionally, street plans should encourage maximum connectivity and public access to park sites.

Developed neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as pedestrian paths, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, a multi-use open field for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas and landscaping. Restrooms are typically not provided due to high construction and maintenance costs. When neighborhood parks contain amenities that result in longer visits, such as tennis courts and picnic shelters, restrooms could be an asset to provide services that are conducive to extended playing times. Parking is also not usually provided; however, on-street, ADA-accessible parking stall(s) may be beneficial.

Pocket parks are small parks that provide limited opportunities for active play and passive recreation. They are generally less than 0.5 acres in size and provide modest recreational amenity to residents within a ¼-mile walking distance. Due to their small size, pocket parks should be discouraged in lieu of larger facilities. This Plan recommends against pursuing additional pocket parks due to the higher maintenance costs and lower recreational value. The existing pocket parks have little to no opportunity for expansion.

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Open Space Lands

Open spaces are undeveloped lands primarily left in a natural state with recreation use as a secondary objective. These lands are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency, which may or may not accommodate public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, preserved wildlife habitat or other similar spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered open space and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Open space lands may accommodate trail corridors and provide for low-impact or passive activities, such as walking or nature observation. No standards currently exist or are proposed for open space lands. Potential acquisition of open space land is typically evaluated for its significant merits beyond outdoor recreation value.

Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. This classification includes stand-alone sport field complexes, arenas, community centers, community gardens or sites occupied by buildings.

Trails

Trails are non-motorized recreation and transportation corridors generally separated from roadways. Trails can be developed to accommodate a single use or shared uses, such as pedestrians and bicyclists. Recreation trail alignments aim to emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment and may not provide the most direct route from a practical transportation viewpoint. Trails may be developed in conjunction with various recreational activities, such as jogging, cycling and nature observation.

The trail should be sufficiently wide enough to accommodate the intended type of trail user(s), preserve the features through which the trail is traversing and buffer adjacent land use activities. Surfaces will vary with location and use. Provisions for parking, consistent signage and interpretive markers also may be included in trail development. In order to provide an appealing, safe, accessible, economical and diverse trail system, trail standards and classifications should be developed and may be based on the following.

- **Regional Trail:** Paved, shared-use, long-distance linear trail corridors for the exclusive use of pedestrians, bicycles and other approved trail users. Regional trails are typically 10'-14' wide with a 2' wide gravel shoulder on both sides and usually connect communities across more than one jurisdiction. The Bear Creek Greenway is the sole regional trail within Central Point city limits.
- **Park Trail or Community Trail:** Paved, shared-use trails typically found within community parks or linking park facilities. Community trails are typically 6'-10' wide. The Flanagan Trail is an example of a community trail.
- **Bike Routes:** Typically associated with the transportation system, these linear paths are heavily used within urban areas and should be included in trail planning efforts in coordination with the Transportation System Plan.

Figure 2. Trail Design Considerations by Type

Classification	Use Type	Function	Surfaces	Width	Clearance	Users	Amenities
Regional Trail	Multi-Use	Provides major connections to adjacent communities and significant natural features, such as rivers and streams Separated right of way from motor vehicles with exclusive use for pedestrians and cyclists, includes grade separated and signalized crossings. May include rail trails.	Asphalt, Concrete or Boardwalk	10' - 14'	Side: 2'-0" Vertical: 10'-0"	Pedestrians, Cyclists, Skaters.	Trailhead, Parking, Restrooms, Site Furnishings, Lighting, Signage
Community Trail	Multi-Use	Connects important land uses and areas of interest, often within a neighborhood, typically using street rights of way	Asphalt, Concrete or Boardwalk; Gravel connections are permitted where needed	8' - 10' Can narrow to protect natural resources	Side: 2'-0" Vertical: 10'-0"	Pedestrians, Cyclists, Skaters.	Site Furnishings, Signage
Park Trail	Multi- or Single-Use	Interior loops or point-to-point routes within parks or natural area properties and include paved walking paths or rustic hiking trails	Asphalt, Concrete, Boardwalk, Gravel, Wood Chip, Earthen	4' - 10' * *depending on maintenance vehicle needs & vehicle weight rating	Varies by use	Pedestrians, Cyclists, Skaters.	Site Furnishings, Signage; may include other amenities as elements to overall park design
Bike Route	Single-Use	Provides separated or shared connections along roadway corridors using signage, striping and/or barriers	Asphalt, Concrete	See Transportation Standards	See Transportation Standards	Pedestrians, Cyclists, Skaters.	

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FACILITY INVENTORY

The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within Central Point. The City owns and maintains approximately 122 acres of developed and undeveloped park and open space lands. Additionally, the City Hall houses the library and indoor spaces for recreation programs and activities.

Figure 3. Existing Inventory: Park & Open Space Lands by Type

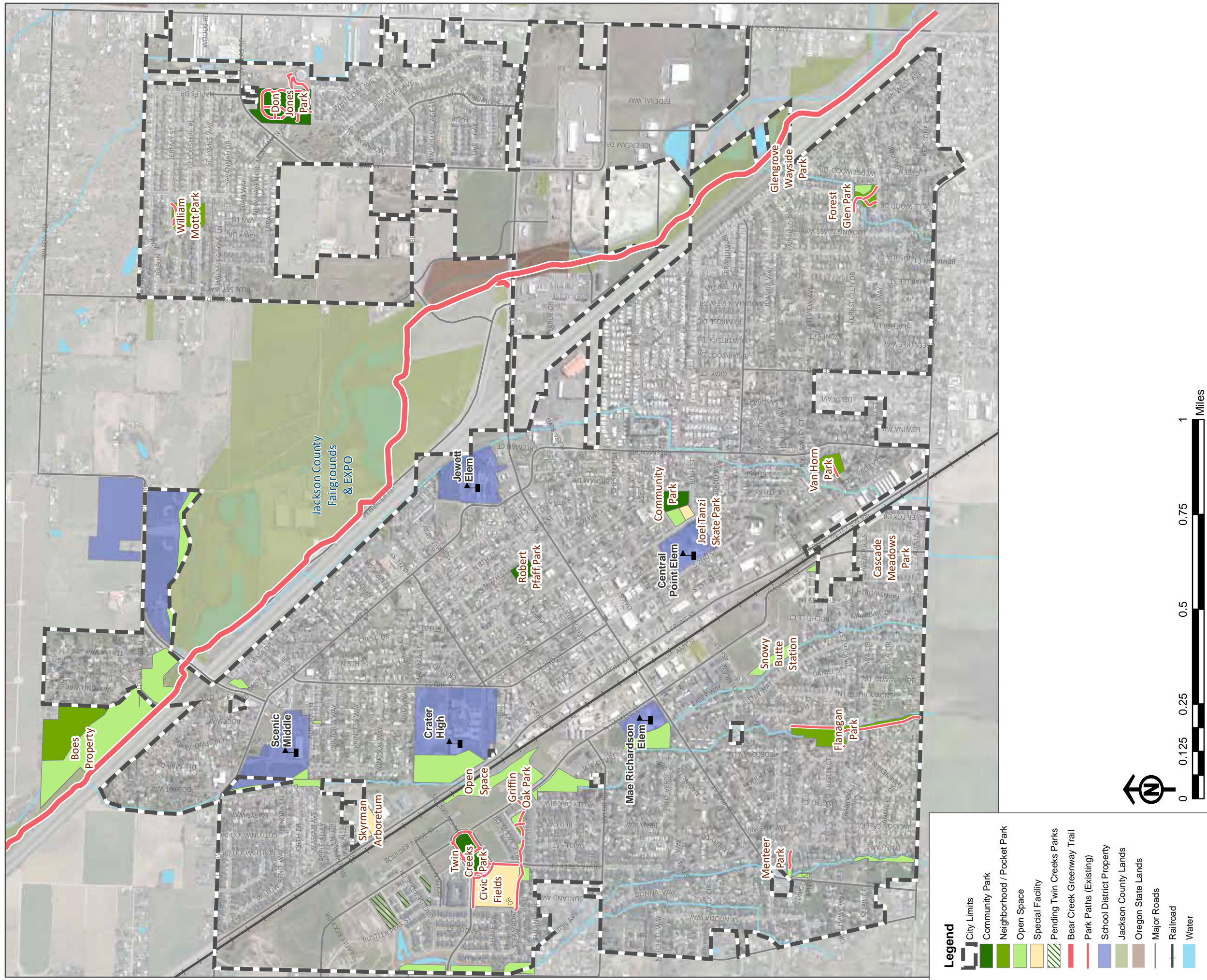
Community Park Name	Status	Acreage
Community Park	Developed	2.05
Don Jones Park	Developed	8.60
Robert Pfaff Park	Developed	1.48
Twin Creeks Park	Developed	3.21
Total Community Park Acreage		15.34
Neighborhood Park Name	Status	Acreage
Boes property	Undeveloped	9.32
Flanagan Park	Developed	5.34
Forest Glen Park	Developed	1.90
Griffin Oak Park	Developed	0.79
Van Horn Park	Developed	2.04
William Mott Park	Developed	3.58
Total Neighborhood Park Acreage		22.97
Pocket Park Name	Status	Acreage
Cascade Meadows Park	Developed	0.23
Glengrove Wayside Park	Developed	0.24
Mentee Park	Developed	0.46
Total Pocket Park Acreage		0.93
Special Facility Use Park Name	Status	Acreage
Civic Field	Developed	7.26
Joel Tanzi Skate Park	Developed	0.59
Skyrman Arboretum	Developed	1.77
Total Special Facility Acreage		9.62
Open Space / Natural Area	Status	Acreage
Open Space (all combined)	Undeveloped	72.87
Total Open Space Acreage		72.87
Total Park System Acreage		121.73

The following map shows the location of existing parks, trails and open spaces within the City.



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Map 1: Existing Parks, Trails & Open Space





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Central Point Parks & Recreation Master Plan
Park & Facility Condition Assessment Matrix

	Park Type	Recreation Amenities								Site Amenities					Park Structures				Vegetation				ADA	Comments
		Playgrounds	Paved Courts: Basketball	Paved Courts: Tennis	Soccer Fields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Pathways/Trails	Skate Park / Spray Park	Other Rec Element	Site Furnishings	Lighting (Y/N)	Signage	Parking Areas	Public Art	Restrooms	Picnic Shelters	Amphitheater/Stage	Concession Building	Turf	Park Trees	Landscaped Beds	Natural Areas	ADA Compliance *	
PARKS																								
Don Jones Park	Community	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	Y	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	Minor ADA issues
Willie Mott Park	Neighborhood	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	Play ramps needed
Robert Pfaff Park	Community	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	Y	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	2	Benches, tables, play not ADA
Community Park	Community	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	Limited amenities
Van Horn Park	Neighborhood	1	2	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	Y	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	Play ramp needed, detectible warnings strips
Cascade Meadows Park	Neighborhood	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	Table not ADA, no ramp into swings
Flanagan Park	Neighborhood	2	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	N	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	Noxious invasives in natural area; Play not ADA
Menteer Park	Neighborhood	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	Y	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	Tables, benches not ADA
Griffin Oak Park	Neighborhood	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	Play ramp needed, detectible warnings strips
Twin Creeks Park	Community	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	Y	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	1	-	3	Only one shelter with ADA path
Forest Glen Park	Neighborhood	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	Y	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	3	Benches, tables, play not ADA
Glengrove Wayside Park	Neighborhood	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	N	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	Simple picnic spot. Limited visibility.
Average:		1.33	1.25	2.00	1.00	-	1.09	1.00	1.00	1.00	-	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-	1.00	1.09	1.00	1.75	2.00	
SPECIAL USE																								
Joel Tanzi Skate Park	Special Use	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	H/C parking & sign adjustments needed
Civic Fields	Special Use	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	Y	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	Sand volleyball courts need added sand
Skyrman Arboretum	Special Use	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Average:		-	1	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1.33	

* NOTE: Ratings related to ADA compliance do not constitute a legal opinion about conformance to federal guidelines. This information is based on a visual inspection and did not include field measurements.

Park & Facility Condition Assessment

RATING SCALE

Playgrounds:

1	In good condition: no drainage issues; 0-10% material deterioration safety surfacing with a border at the site.
2	In fair condition: drainage issues; 10-25% material deterioration; some small compliance issues that could be spot fixed.
3	In poor condition: drainage issues; 25% or greater material deterioration; needs repair or replacement (but workable).

Paved Courts:

1	In good condition: no cracks in surfacing; fencing is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes/passages; painting and striping are appropriately located, whole, and uniform in color.
2	In fair condition: hairline cracks to 1/4"; surfacing required; fencing has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play; painting and striping have flaking or color fading.
3	In poor condition: horizontal cracks more than 1/2" wide; surfacing required; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects; painting and striping are patchy and color has faded dramatically.

Sports Fields:

1	In good condition: thick grass with few bare spots; few depressions; no noticeable drainage issues, proper slope and layout; fencing if present is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes.
2	In fair condition: grass with bare turf areas in high-use locations, some drainage issues in overuse areas, slope is within one percent of proper field slope, infields have grading problems (bump) at transition to grass and have no additive, may not have proper layout and/or orientation, fencing if present has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play.
3	In poor condition: bare areas throughout the year; uneven playing surface that holds water in certain places, drainage issues, slopes not uniform and/or more than one percent from proper field slope, improper layout and/or orientation; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects.

Pathways / Trails:

1	In good condition: surface generally smooth and even, proper width and material for type of pathway; proper clearances; minimal drainage issues.
2	In fair condition: uneven surfaces in places; some drainage issues; some cracking; narrow widths in some places.
3	In poor condition: uneven surfaces; inadequate width; significant cracking or heaving; clearance issues.

Skate Park:

1	In good condition: little to no signs of cracking; little or no erosion; elements target a diversity of age groups.
2	In fair condition: some cracking, but still usable; furnishings (i.e., metal rails) might need spot fixes.
3	In poor condition: parts of the structure are damaged or deteriorated, chipped off or broken; edges of the structure are eroded possibly causing safety issues; elements target a specific / narrow age range.

Spray Park:

1	In good condition: spray pad has little or no cracking; spray furnishings have little or no damage; no vandalism; good drainage.
2	In fair condition: spray pad has some cracking; spray furnishings have signs of wear, but are in working condition; color fading.
3	In poor condition: drainage issues with clogging or sinking pad; large cracks; spray furnishings broken.

Site Furnishings:

1	In good condition; not damaged; free of peeling or chipped paint; consistent throughout park. Trash receptacles, drinking fountain, picnic tables, benches on paved surface.
2	In fair condition; 0-20% furnishings are damaged and require replacing parts; some peeling or chipped paint; furnishings are not consistent, but are operational.
3	In poor condition; 20% or more are damaged and require replacing parts; significant peeling or chipped paint; multiple styles within park site require different maintenance.

Lighting:

Y	Yes.
N	No.

Signage:

1	In good condition: a signage system for the site, appropriate signs, no damaged signs.
2	In fair condition; multiple signage system within one site, a few damaged signs (0-10%), need maintenance.
3	In poor condition; multiple signage systems within one site, signs that are not legible from a reasonable distance, some damaged signs (10-25%), old logos, deteriorated materials, no signage.

Parking Areas:

1	In good condition: paving and drainage do not need repair; pavement markings clear; pathway connection provided to facility; proper layout.
2	In fair condition: paving needs patching or has some drainage problems; has wheel stops and curbs.
3	In poor condition: surfaces (gravel, asphalt, or concrete) needs repair; uneven grading; limited signage; no delineation for vehicles.

Public Art:

1	In good condition: no vandalism; no signs of weathering.
2	In fair condition: minor signs of weathering or wear.
3	In poor condition: metal leaching/concrete efflorescence/paint peeling/wood chipped or carved into or warping; vandalized.

Park Structures (Restrooms, Picnic Shelters, Concession Building):

1	In good condition: roof has no leaks; floor shows little sign of wear; finishes are fresh with no graffiti or vandalism; all elements are in working order.
2	In fair condition: roof shows signs of wear but is structurally sound; floor shows some wear; finishes show some wear with some marks or blemishes.
3	In poor condition: roof leaks or otherwise needs repair; floor show significant wear and is difficult to maintain; finishes are dull or discolored, have graffiti, or are not easily maintained; some elements not working or in need of repair (e.g., non-functioning sink).

Amphitheater/Stage:

1	In good condition: paving, stage and stair materials have little to no cracking or peeling; vegetation that is present is healthy; seating and other furnishings show modest signs of wear. Views to stage from all seating vantage points.
2	In fair condition: paving, stage and stair materials have some cracking or peeling; vegetation that is present is healthy, but some soil compaction might be present; seating and other furnishings show signs of wear, but are still usable; stage orientation not be ideal for all viewers.
3	In poor condition: paving, stage and stair materials have significant cracking or peeling; vegetation is unhealthy (pests, disease, topped trees), compacted soil; seating and other furnishings need repair or replacement; redesign of space is needed for proper viewing and access.

Turf:

1	In good condition: lush and full, few weeds, no drainage problems.
2	In fair condition: some bare spots, some drainage problems.
3	In poor condition: irrigation problems, bare spots, weeds, soil compacted.

Park Trees:

1	In good condition: trees overall have good form and spacing; no topping; free of disease or pest infestation; no vandalism; no hazard trees.
2	In fair condition; some crowding may exist but overall health is good; less than 5% of trees show signs of topping, disease or pest infestation; vandalism has not impacted tree health (graffiti, not girdling).
3	In poor condition: Form or spacing issues may exist; evidence of disease or pests; vandalism affecting tree health; some hazard trees or trees in danger of becoming hazard trees.

Landscaped Beds:

1	In good condition: few weeds; no bare or worn areas; plants appear healthy with no signs of pest or disease infestation.
2	In fair condition: some weeds present; some bare or worn spots; plants are still generally healthy.
3	In poor condition: many weeds present; large bare or worn areas; plants show signs of pests or disease; compacted soils.

Natural Areas:

1	In good condition: barely noticeable invasives, high species diversity, healthy plants.
2	In fair conditions: Noticeable invasives, fewer species but still healthy.
3	In poor condition: Invasives have taken over, low diversity, unhealthy plants.

ADA Compliance:

1	Appears to comply with ADA standards.
2	Some items appear to not comply, but could be fixed by replacing with relative ease.
3	A number of park assets appear not to comply, including large-scale items like regrading.



Community Park

3.72 acres

Cedar, Bush & Rostell Streets

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider allocating specific sport field areas to allow for the incorporation of a perimeter walking trail including areas with shade trees with picnic tables.

Community Park

AMENITIES

- Sports fields (grass)
- Playground (tot lot)
- Fencing



Don Jones Park

8.66 acres

Hamrick Road

Community Park

AMENITIES

- Veterans Memorial Plaza
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Spray Park
- Picnic Shelters (3)
- Tennis courts
- Basketball court
- Picnic tables (12)
- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Perimeter paved trail
- Lighting (parking, courts, trail)
- BBQ grills
- Trees
- Planting beds
- Open grass lawn
- Stormwater basin

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Minor considerations should be given to meeting ADA compliance consistently.
 - ◆ Sign at handicapped parking near Veterans Memorial is missing.
 - ◆ Mutt mitt dispenser is not reachable and located off paved path.
 - ◆ Picnic table spacing inside shelters does not allow for wheel chair access.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- One piece of play equipment is missing its parts.
- Van-accessible ADA parking signs would be beneficial.
- Exterior sign for women's restroom is missing its sign.
- Medallions are missing in a number of the pavers in the Veterans Memorial.
- At least two (2) or one half of picnic tables should be ADA compliant.



Robert Pfaff Park

1.52 acres

Manzanita Street

Community Park

AMENITIES

- Parking
- Restrooms
- Tennis court
- Basketball court
- Playgrounds (2)
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables (5)
- Benches (4)
- Drinking fountain
- BBQ grills (3)
- Bandshell
- Kiosk
- Mutt mitt dispenser
- Trees
- Open grass lawn

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add playground ramp for ADA access.
- Add detectible warning strips wherever trails meet vehicular areas.
- Handicapped parking signs should be mounted higher to meet ADA compliance.
- Mutt mitt dispensers should be positioned to allow lower reach and paved trail access.
- Provide several ADA compliant picnic tables with ADA access (firm & stable surface).



Twin Creeks Park

3.21 acres

Twin Creek Crossings Loop

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Link the primary amenities (connect shelters to the paved path system for better access and ADA compliance, since only one shelter has an accessible paved path)

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Add handicapped signs for parking to meet ADA requirements.
- Switch out half the picnic tables with tables that provide wheelchair spaces to meet ADA compliance.
- Replace dead and dying (young) trees in park.

AMENITIES

- Parking (50 spaces)
- Picnic shelters (4)
- Benches (3) (one in each small shelter)
- Picnic tables (6)
- Elk statue (public art)
- Planting beds
- Trees
- Open grass lawn
- Perimeter sidewalk
- Mid-park path with bollard lighting



Flanagan Park

5.46 acres

Tiffany Avenue

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Playground
- Restroom
- Tennis court
- Picnic tables
- Benches (5)
- Drinking fountain
- Walking trails
- Creek with natural area
- Bridge
- Mutt mitt dispensers (2)
- Trees
- Open grass lawns

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add detectible warning strips at end of trails intersecting with traffic areas.
- Provide an ADA compliant picnic table.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Tennis court needs resurfacing and fence repairs.
- Playground surfacing (existing pea gravel) should be removed and replaced with approved safety materials such as engineered wood chips.



Forest Glen Park

1.96 acres

Gatepark Drive

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider how adjacent open space (stormwater basin) could be integrated into park design.
- Existing playground is surfaced with pea gravel and does not comply with fall safety or ADA standards. Playground needs ADA ramp for access.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Plantings along riparian corridor could benefit from restoration efforts once control of invasive species is successful.
- Switch out one of the picnic tables with an ADA table that provides a wheelchair seating space.

AMENITIES

- Playground
- Swing set
- Restroom
- Drinking fountain
- Basketball court
- Memorial bench
- Picnic tables (2)
- Mutt mitt dispenser
- Trees
- Creek with natural area
- Bridge
- Stormwater basin (fenced)



Griffin Oak Park

0.80 acres

Between Haskell & Silver Creek, south of Blue Moon Dr.

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add detectible warning strips where paved path meets road.
- Add playground ramp for ADA compliance.
- Provide an ADA compliant picnic table.

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Playground
- Swing set
- Paved paths
- Picnic table
- Benches (2)
- Trees
- Grass lawn
- Planting beds



Menteer Park

0.46 acres

Rosewood Lane at Brandon Street

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Paved path
- Bollard lighting
- Ornamental fish pond with waterfall
- Picnic shelter
- BBQ grill
- Benches (2)
- Horseshoe pits
- Picnic tables (2)
- Trees
- Grass lawn
- Drinking fountain
- Mutt mitt dispenser
- Park sign with plantings

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Provide at least one ADA compliant picnic table.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Asphalt path beginning to deteriorate from root heaving, and cracking in some locations.



Van Horn Park

2.09 acres

Freeman Road

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Connect the two playgrounds with a paved path.
- Add more shade trees between playgrounds and near back entrance area.
- Add at least two (2) ADA-compliant picnic tables.
- Add detectible warning strip where back entrance trail intersects with road.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Tennis court needs resurfacing to be playable.
- Basketball court will need resurfacing soon.
- Re-mount handicapped parking sign to meet ADA compliance.

AMENITIES

- Parking (9 stalls)
- Restrooms
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables
- Playgrounds (2)
- Tennis court
- Drinking fountain
- Basketball court
- Benches (3)
- Trees
- Open grass lawn



Willie Mott Park

3.27 acres (*acreage including detention pond*)

Jeremy Street

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Swing set
- Parking (6 stalls plus 8 on-street spots)
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Mutt mitt dispenser
- Natural basin (fenced)
- Benches
- Picnic table
- Trees
- Planting beds
- Grass lawn

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add playground ramp for ADA accessibility.
- Detectible warning strips should be added where trails intersect with traffic ways.
- On-street handicapped parking spot does not allow for a designated (safe) accessway from vehicle to curb ramp. Consider relocating H/C space to parking stall, reallocating spaces and adding an accessible curb cut.
- Add at least one ADA-compliant picnic table.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Natural wet basin provides habitat for waterfowl that dries up before hatchings can fly. Consider feasibility for design or management changes that facilitate more reliable habitat value.



Cascade Meadows Park

0.23 acres

S. Haskell Street

Pocket Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Replace play equipment with manufacturer that supports its parts.
- Add park ID sign.
- Provide at least one (1) ADA compliant picnic table (with wheelchair space).
- Add ramp into swing set area for ADA access compliance.

AMENITIES

- Picnic shelter
- Swing set
- Playground (missing equipment – closed)
- Picnic table
- Drinking fountain
- Trees
- Planting beds
- Grass lawn



Glengrove Wayside Park

0.25 acres

Glengrove Avenue

Pocket Park

AMENITIES

- Paved path
- Picnic shelter
- Trees
- Elk Creek
- Bench
- Grass lawn

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider streambank naturalization plantings combined with limbing-up existing Lawson cypress hedge to allow partial views of the creek bank.



Civic Fields

2.09 acres

Silver Creek Road & Twin Creeks Loop

Special Facility

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Areas north and south of sports courts could provide additional amenities such as picnic tables, shade trees and playground.
- Add detectible warning strips wherever paths meet vehicular traffic/parking areas.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Parking provision is inadequate for existing fields.
- Switch out one picnic tables to provide ADA compliance.

AMENITIES

- Soccer fields (natural grass)
- Sand volleyball courts (2)
- Basketball courts (2)
- Parking
- Picnic tables (2)
- Drinking fountain
- Perimeter sidewalk and paved path
- SWM basin
- Trees and plantings along south path
- Port-a-potties (2)
- Mutt mitt dispenser
- Lighting along south path



Joel Tanzi Skate Park

3.72 acres

S. 4th Street

Special Facility

AMENITIES

- Parking (5 paved spaces)
- Street style skate/bike amenities
- Paved perimeter path
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Trees
- Planting beds
- Grass lawn

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider how/if the skate park's perimeter path could connect to Community Park and a potential perimeter path with picnicking facilities.

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OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

Although the City of Central Point is the major provider of parks, open space and recreation opportunities within the Central Point planning area, other providers also contribute recreation opportunities. Several other parks, recreation and open space areas are located within close proximity to Central Point and provide city residents opportunities for a wider array of outdoor activities. Providers of these facilities include the following.

Jackson County

Jackson County has ten parks with facilities that include a multi-use sports park, RV parks, campgrounds, cabin rentals, meeting space and facility rentals, picnic areas, gardens, boat launches, boat rentals, fishing platforms, swimming areas, a water slide, trails and playgrounds. Jackson County's Expo Park is home to the Jackson County Fair and includes the Bob and Phyllis Mace Watchable Wildlife Memorial Center and the Seven Feathers Event Center. The fairgrounds are used 365 day a year by community groups, private promoters, and organizations that plan special events and private functions. Facilities include the 57,600 sf Isola Memorial Arena, the 7,381 sf Padgham Pavilion, the covered Olsrud Arena, along with livestock barns, horse stalls, a sale pavilion and lawn areas. Overnight RV parking for large recreational vehicles is under development.

Medford

The City of Medford, contiguous on the south and east edge of Central Point, is Southern Oregon's largest provider of recreation services. The City currently provides over 2,500 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among 36 park sites and numerous open space parcels. This system of parks supports a range of active and passive recreation experiences. Medford's Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance and programming of the U.S. Cellular Community Park and the Santo Community Center, and its staff coordinate over 300 programs, services and events each year.

Phoenix

The City of Phoenix, located approximately six miles south of Central Point, has 35 acres of park land. Facilities at their three parks include playgrounds, a softball field, concession stand, picnic area, community garden, nature paths and wetland observation platforms. Colver Road Park and City Hall Park have localized service areas, which would not likely attract Central Point residents. However, the 24-acre Blue Heron Park is connected to Central Point via the Bear Creek Greenway.

Talent

The City of Talent, located approximately nine miles south of Central Point, manages 19 acres as parks and recreation facilities. The facilities for their eight parks include playgrounds, sports fields, picnic areas and shelters and trails. The Downtown Park has a multi-use facility for skateboarders, in-line skaters and BMX bikers that may attract Central Point users. Also, Lyn Newbry Park is connected to Central Point via the Bear Creek Greenway.



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Oregon State Parks

Oregon State Parks: Seven state parks and recreation sites are located in the Central Point vicinity. These include day-use sites, waysides, campgrounds, scenic viewpoints, and state heritage sites. These diverse sites provide recreational opportunities for picnicking, fishing, boating, swimming, bicycling, hiking, bird and wildlife watching and cultural and environmental interpretation. Touvelle State Recreation Site, 8 miles north of Central Point, provides water-based recreation opportunities on the Rogue River. Touvelle is a popular site for picnicking, boating, swimming and fishing. Next to the park, Denman Wildlife Refuge teems with local and migratory wildlife. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks Rainbow trout in this section of the river.

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM has a number of campgrounds, day use areas, trails, and snow parks within their Medford District. Some sites have specific functions, such as hiking trails. Some sites, such as the Hyatt Lake Recreation Complex, provide many different recreation opportunities, such as camping, fishing, swimming and hiking. The Upper and Lower Table Rocks are an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) co-managed by the BLM and the Nature Conservancy. They are located approximately 10 miles north of Central Point. The Nature Conservancy manages about 3,600 acres of Lower Table Rocks, and the BLM manages 1,280 acres on Upper and Lower Table Rocks. The area provides outstanding opportunities for hiking and environmental education.



PARK & RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This chapter assesses Central Point’s needs for park and recreation facilities and programming, based on the community’s vision, input and priorities. It also includes specific recommendations for the improvement of Central Point’s park and recreation system, which form the foundation of the ten-year capital improvement plan. The needs and recommendations presented here are based on public input – including survey results, stakeholder discussions, and public meetings – as well as information gathered through site inventories and state and national recreation trends.

TRENDS & LOCAL FEEDBACK

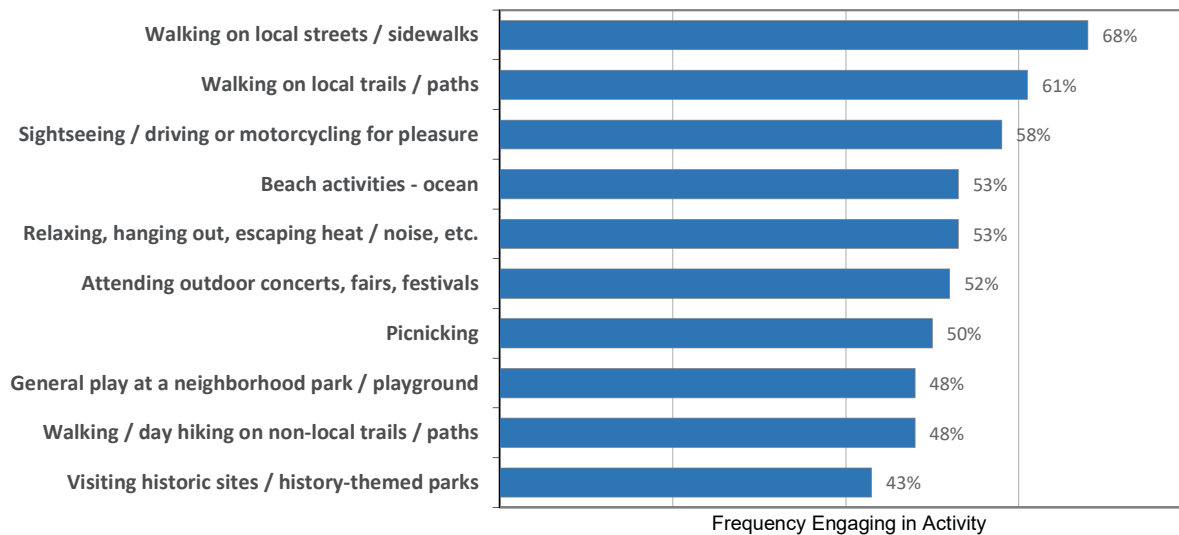
Outdoor Recreation Trends

Statewide and national recreation trends can provide useful context for understanding local needs in Central Point. The reports and studies discussed below point to a general increasing trend in overall recreation participation and continued high popularity of traditional, low-cost recreation (like walking, free play, and picnicking).

Oregon State Outdoor Recreation Trends

The *2013-2017 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* is Oregon’s five-year policy plan for outdoor recreation and provides guidance for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program and for other Oregon Parks and Recreation (OPRD)-administered grant programs. The SCORP included a listing of outdoor activities by participant and frequency, as shown below in Figure 4. Overall, 92% of Oregonians participated in at least one outdoor recreation activity in Oregon during the year of the study. Walking ranked highest in terms of participation levels. A high degree of consistency exists between local interests and statewide results.

Figure 4. Participation Rates of Top Ten Activities for Oregon Residents (SCORP)



The participation rates confirm that outdoor recreation is an integral part of life in Oregon’s communities and a pervasive value in the Pacific Northwest. Research indicates that nature and outdoor recreation have a significant positive impact on human health, both physical and mental health. Oregon’s economy also benefits directly and indirectly from outdoor recreation through consumer spending, tax revenue and jobs.

The SCORP also outlined the most significant issues effecting the provision of outdoor recreation across the state. As part of the planning process, public recreation providers in the state were queried about the importance of a range of park system issues. The top statewide issues included the following.

- Provide adequate funds for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities
- Fund major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life
- Add more recreational trails and better trail connectivity between parks and communities
- Recognize and strengthen park and recreation’s role in increasing physical activity in Oregon’s population
- Recommend a standard set of sustainable park practices for outdoor recreation providers

A set of strategic actions addressing each issue also was noted in the Oregon SCORP.

National Survey on Recreation and the Environment

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) is a comprehensive survey that has been collecting data and producing reports about the recreation activities, environmental attitudes and natural resource values of Americans since the 1980s. The NSRE core focus is on outdoor activity participation and personal demographics. The most recent 2012 NSRE reports the total number of people participating in outdoor activities between 2000 and 2007 grew by 4.4% while the number of days of participation increased by approximately 25 percent. Walking for pleasure grew by 14% and continues to lead as the top favorite outdoor activity.

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Nature-based activities, those associated with wildlife and natural settings, showed a discernible growth in the number of people (an increase in 3.1% participation rate) and the number of days of participation. Americans' participation in nature-based outdoor recreation is increasing - with viewing, photographing, or otherwise observing nature clearly measured as the fastest growing type of nature-based recreation activity.

Outdoor Industry Association

The Outdoor Industry Association produces reports on the outdoor recreation economy for the entire country and for each state. The most recent *Oregon Outdoor Recreation Economy State Report* (2013) reveals that at least 68% of Oregon residents participate in outdoor recreation each year. This does not include the participants in hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing, which are estimated separately. "Americans want and deserve access to a variety of quality places to play and enjoy the great outdoors. Outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy if we manage and invest in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for America." In Oregon, outdoor recreation generates \$12.8 billion in consumer spending, creates 141,000 direct jobs and results in \$955 million in state and local tax revenue. Preserving access to outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside.

Public Parks and Health: The Trust for Public Land

Aside from the recreational activity and sports participation figures noted in this Plan, a number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report in 2005 called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space;

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and act as natural air conditioners, assisting with storm water control and erosion.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.

Another significant, recent trend is that of the relationship between child development and access to nature or nature play. Stemming from Richard Louv's book *Last Child in the Woods*, a relative network of organizations and agencies have come together to discuss the impacts of nature play and seek funding and partnerships to facilitate ways to connect kids to their local environment. Recent studies show that children are smarter, more cooperative, happier and healthier when they have frequent and varied opportunities for free and unstructured play in the out-of-doors, according to the Children & Nature Network, a national non-profit organization working to reconnect children with nature and co-founded by Louv.

Parks for Health

Parks are an important destination for people engaging in outdoor physical activity. Physical activity is one of the most important behaviors that reduces chronic diseases and improves health incomes for all age groups. Numerous studies have demonstrated that public parks contribute to health even beyond physical activity. The NRPA report *Quantifying the Contribution of Pubic Parks to Physical Activity and Health* outlines several variables for parks' role in improving both community and individual health. An important variable for promoting community health is the provision of parks which are accessible through safe walking routes and contain elements that create an attractive destination.



Community Survey Feedback

In April 2016, the City mailed a survey to a random sample of 2,000 Central Point households to assess residents' recreational needs, preferences, and priorities. The following is a summary of the overall survey findings. Survey results specific to facility types and programming are also discussed throughout this chapter.

Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Services

In general, Central Point residents believe parks and recreation are essential to the quality of life in the city. This value holds whether or not residents actually use available park and recreation services. Residents are also generally satisfied with Central Point's existing park and recreation system.

Residents are also generally satisfied with the number of park and recreation opportunities in the city. A slight majority of residents (54.4%) feel there are "about the right number" of park and recreation opportunities in Central Point. Approximately 21% believe there are not enough opportunities, while 13% believe there are more than enough. Residents who live west of I-5 are slightly more likely to feel there are not enough parks and recreation opportunities than those on the eastern side of the city.

In general, Central Point residents use the park closest to their residence, though they also frequent other parks and facilities available in the community. For example,

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Community Park, Robert Pfaff Park, the Bear Creek Greenway and the Central Point Senior Center attract visitors from across the city. The most popular parks citywide are Twin Creeks Park, Robert Pfaff Park and the Bear Creek Greenway.

Residents are generally happy with the condition of local parks – a large majority of residents (at least 75%) rated the condition of most City parks and recreation facilities as either “excellent” or “good”. However, residents were critical of the condition of the Bear Creek Greenway (35% rated the condition as either “fair” or “poor”) and Cascade Meadows Park (30% rated the condition as either “fair” or “poor”).

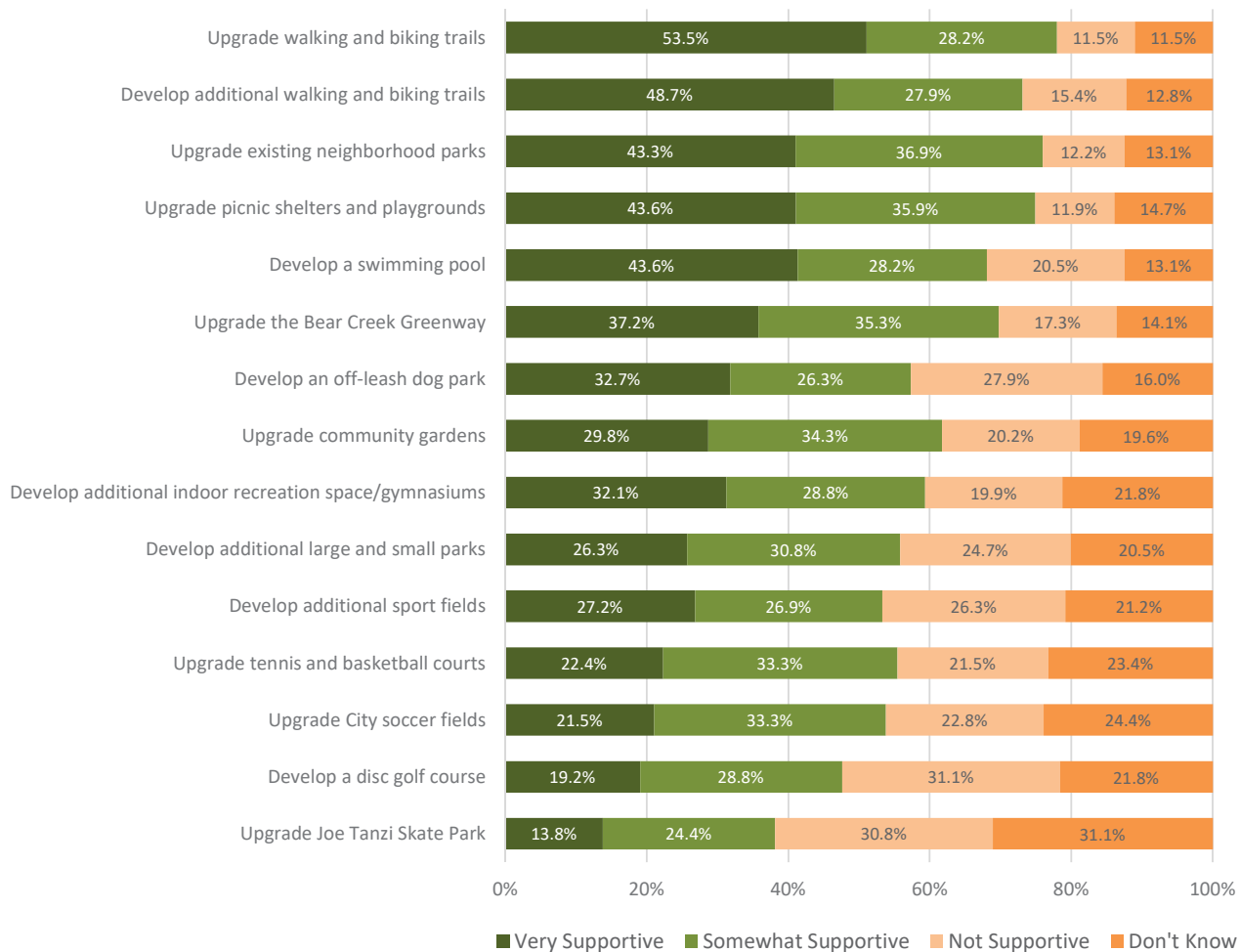
Park and Facility Improvement Priorities

Survey respondents were presented with a list of potential improvements to Central Point’s parks and recreation system, including upgrades to existing facilities and development of new facilities. Over half of respondents were very or somewhat supportive of nearly all improvements listed. More than three-quarters of respondents supported upgrading existing and developing new walking and biking trails, upgrading existing neighborhood parks, and upgrading picnic shelters and playgrounds. Between 50% and 74% respondents supported a variety of other park improvements including developing a swimming pool, off-leash park, indoor recreation space, and additional parks and sports fields, as well as upgrading the Bear Creek Greenway, community gardens, and existing sports fields and courts. Of the responses to this question, fewer supported development of a disc golf course (48%) and improving Joe Tanzi Skate Park (38%).

In general, younger residents – particularly those between 35 and 44 years of age - were more than twice as likely to support park and recreation improvements than residents over 55. Women were more likely than men to be very supportive of upgrades to Joe Tanzi Skatepark (17% to 8%) and picnic shelters and playgrounds (49% to 28%) as well as the development of additional indoor recreation space (38% to 21%) and a swimming pool (48% to 29%).

Many residents are willing to pay additional fees or taxes to support the improvement and development of parks, trails and recreation facilities. The majority of residents (65%) were willing to pay at least \$4 per month to fund improved recreational opportunities.

Figure 5. Resident Priorities for Park and Recreation Improvements



2014-15 Central Point Citizen Survey

In the City’s annual Residential Satisfaction Survey, respondents were asked which park and recreation amenities they would like included in the community pending funding availability. A majority of respondents reported wanting a year round swimming pool (40.5%), additional community trails (39.3%) and a dog park (32.2%). While this annual citizen survey was conducted independent of the development of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, these top three priorities were echoed by residents who responded to the telephone survey.

Community Demographics

Meeting the Needs of a Growing Community

In 2015, Central Point was home to an estimated 17,485 people, according to the Portland State University Population Research Center. The city has been growing steadily for the past four decades, with a 329% increase in population from 1970 to 2010

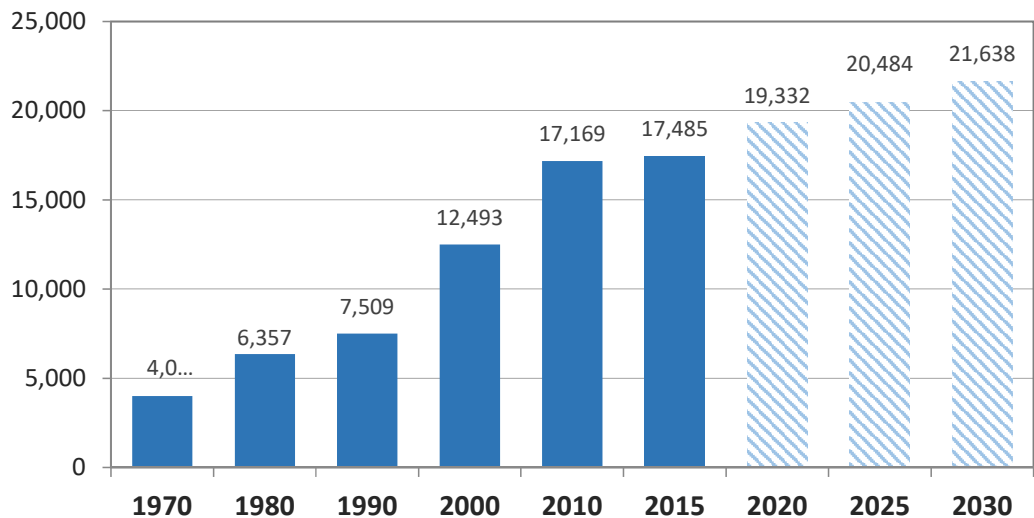
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(see Figure 6). Much of this increase occurred during between 1990 and 2000, when the city grew by nearly 5,000 people, an annual rate of approximately 6.6%. While the rate of population growth has slowed since - to approximately 2.7% annually over the past 15 years, it remains three times faster than population growth in Jackson County as a whole.

In 2016, the City of Central Point's updated the Population Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan to reflect the latest population forecast compiled by Portland State University. This update projects further population growth over the next 25 years. It estimates the population of the UGB will grow to 19,332 people by 2020 and 21,638 by 2030. This growth would represent a 26% increase in total population between 2010 and 2030.

As the population of Central Point grows, the City will need to acquire and develop additional parkland to meet community needs. The City's recreational facilities and programs may be in increasing demand. The City of Central Point can also expand into urban reserve areas through annexation. These areas fall to the west of the city and to the north, along Interstate 5. Growth in these areas may require the City to plan for and provide parks to serve existing and new residents.

Figure 6. Population Change - 1970 - 2030



Providing Age-Appropriate Recreational Services

Central Point's population is much younger overall (median age 36.5) compared to Jackson County (42.1) and Oregon (38.4). In fact, youth under 19 years old make up Central Point's largest 20-year population group, comprising 29% of the overall population in 2010. This differs from Jackson County, where the largest group is 45 to 64 year olds (29%). Central Point's younger population has important implications for park and recreation needs.

Youth under 5 years of age make up 7.5% of Central Point's population, see Figure 3. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.

Children 5 to 14 years make up current youth program participants. Approximately 14% of the city's population falls into this age range. Based on data from the Central Point



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Youth Survey, local youth in this age group are particularly interested in open lawn areas, playgrounds, water play areas, sport courts and places to be with friends or their dogs.

Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth program to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. Thirteen percent of Central Point residents are teens and young adults.

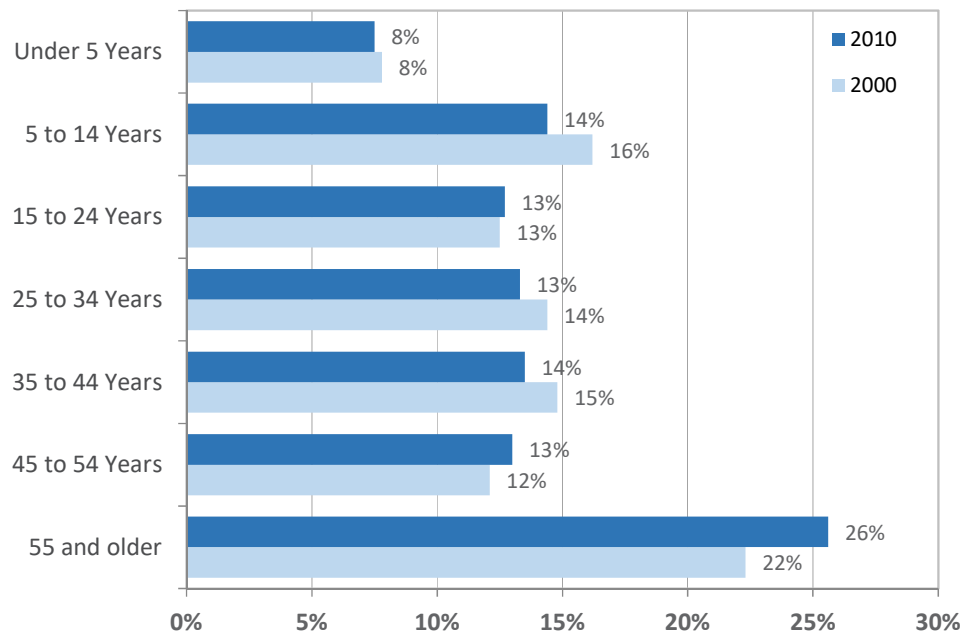
While Central Point’s overall population is relatively young compared to the county and state, the average age of a city resident has increased by two years since 2000 (34.4). Much of this change is due to a growing percentage of adults over 45 years of age and a declining percentage of youth under 19. This increasing percentage of adults also has impacts on recreational needs.

Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. Approximately 13% of Central Point residents are in this age category. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families. Over one-third of Central Point households are families with children (37.5%).

Adults between 35 and 54 years of age represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This age group makes up 26.5% of Central Point’s population.

Older adults, ages 55 years plus make up more than one quarter (25.6%) of Central Point’s population. This group represents users of older adult programs exhibiting the characteristics of approaching retirement or already retired and typically enjoying grandchildren. This group generally also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

Figure 7. Age Group Distributions: 2000 & 2010



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Providing services for community members with disabilities

Approximately one in seven Central Point residents (15.6% or 2,710 persons) have a disability that interferes with life activities. While this rate is relatively similar to levels in Jackson County (16.9%) and the state (14.2%), it signals a potential need to design inclusive parks, recreational facilities, and programs. Planning, designing, and operating a park system that facilitates participation by residents of all abilities will also help ensure compliance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Of Central Point youth 5 to 17 with a disability (4.1%), the majority has cognitive difficulties (3.2%). These young residents, and their families, may need additional support or accommodations to fully enjoy recreational activities.

Nearly half of residents 65 and older (48% or 1,497 persons) have a disability that impacts daily life. This is approximately 10 points higher than the percentage found in the general senior population of Oregon (38%). The majority of older residents with a disability are affected by a mobility impairment (31%), hearing difficulty (28%) or cognitive difficulty (18%), which may have implications for park design and recreation programs like those offered at the Central Point Senior Center.

Recreation for a Diversifying Community

In 2010, nearly 91% of Central Point residents identified as White alone. In the same year, the city was 1% Asian, 0.4% African American, 1% American Indian or Alaskan Native, 0.4% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 3.1% some other race, and 3.2% from two or more races. Approximately 9% of residents identified as Hispanic or Latino.

While Central Point's population is predominately white, there has been an increase of 4% in the population of communities of color since 2000. Additionally, 5.5% of Central Point's population speaks a language other than English at home, compared to 15% across Oregon, according to the 2014 American Community Survey. About one in four of these residents do not speak English very well. The most popular language spoken at home is Spanish (4% of the population).

A community's level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members as well as their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. Perhaps more importantly, household income is also closely linked with levels of physical activity. Low-income households are three times more likely to live a sedentary lifestyle than middle and upper-income households, according to an analysis of national data by the Active Living by Design organization.

In 2014, the median household income in Central Point was \$46,765, according to the American Community Survey. This figure is about \$2,799 (6%) higher than the median household income for Jackson County residents but about \$3,750 (-7%) lower than Oregon households. In addition, the median household income in Central Point declined by 8% (\$3,866) since 2010.

At the lower end of the household income scale, 20% of Central Point households earn less than \$25,000 annually, which is fewer than in Jackson County (27%), Oregon (24%) and the nation (23%). According to 2014 American Community Survey, 12% of city residents and 9.6% of families are living below the poverty level. The poverty threshold



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was an income of \$23,850 for a family of four. Poverty affects 17% of children under 18 and 3% of those 65 and older, also higher than county and statewide levels.

Lower-income residents can face a number of barriers to physical activity including poor access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time, and poor health. Low-income residents may also be less able financially able to afford recreational service fees or to pay for services, like childcare, that can make physical activity possible.

Higher income households have an increased ability and willingness to pay for recreation and leisure services, and often face fewer barriers to participation. Approximately 12% of City households have household incomes over \$100,000, fewer than the county (14.4%) and state (19.5%).

As Central Point grows and diversifies, the City may need to consider whether its recreational opportunities, programs, and information are accessible to, and meet the needs of, all community members.

CORE PARKS: COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Community and neighborhood parks form the basic foundation of a healthy park and recreation system, providing opportunities for residents of all ages to exercise, reflect, and spend time with friends and family outdoors. Today, Central Point's parks provide residents with a variety of active and passive recreational options. Continuing to invest in and improve these park spaces will ensure they continue to serve the recreational needs of the whole community for generations to come.

Distribution, Proximity & Level of Service

Central Point residents are fortunate to have access to great parks and access to the Bear Creek Greenway. Through thoughtful planning, the City has secured several new park sites over the years, and a strong core system of parks and open spaces exist today. However, the continued and projected growth of the city will place further pressure on access to new lands for parks. While about half of residents believe the City currently has enough parks, just over 20% feel that there are not enough park and recreation opportunities in the City. Understanding the known gaps in the park system will provide a foundation for strategic planning to ensure that tomorrow's residents have access to a distributed system of parks and trails to stay healthy and active.

Parkland Gap Analysis

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be directed, this Plan examines and assesses the current distribution of parks throughout the city through a gap analysis. The gap analysis reviews the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since

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neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, primary and secondary service areas were used as follows:

- Community parks: ½-mile primary & 1-mile secondary service areas
- Neighborhood parks: ¼-mile primary & ½-mile secondary service areas

Map 2, 3 and 4 on the following pages illustrate the application of the distribution standards from existing, publicly-owned neighborhood and community parks. These maps show that the eastern portion of the city (east of I-5) is well served with reasonable access to public parkland. The portion of the City west of Highway 99 is also reasonably well served, though a gap exists in the southern portion of this area. The majority of the City’s park needs exist in the central portion of the city, between I-5 and Highway 99.

Resulting from this assessment, the Proposed Parkland Target Acquisition Areas (Map 5) highlights those regions of the City that will require special focus for park acquisition and development in the coming years. A total of three potential acquisition areas are identified within current city limits and include one proposed community parks and two proposed neighborhood parks, see Figure 8. Additionally, a number of future parkland acquisition target areas are identified within urban reserve areas. As annexations and/or new residential development occur within these urban reserve areas, the City should be prepared to purchase or negotiate for the protection of developable lands for recreational uses. Efforts to secure future parklands in these urban reserve areas may require developer incentives, such as density bonuses, to entice landowners into cooperating to set aside appropriately-sized areas for future use as parks (see Appendix E for other acquisition tools).

The greatest documented land need is for additional community park sites to provide the land base for a blend of passive and active recreation opportunities, such as sport fields, picnicking and walking. Secondly, new neighborhood parks are needed to improve overall distribution and equity throughout the City, while promoting recreation within walking distance of residential areas.

Figure 8. Parkland Service Gap Areas by District & Park Type

Gap Area	Location	Park Type
1	South central (near Bursell Road and Hopkins Road)	Community
2	North central (near N 10 th Street and N 3 rd Street)	Neighborhood
3	South east (near Glenn Way and Timothy Street)	Neighborhood

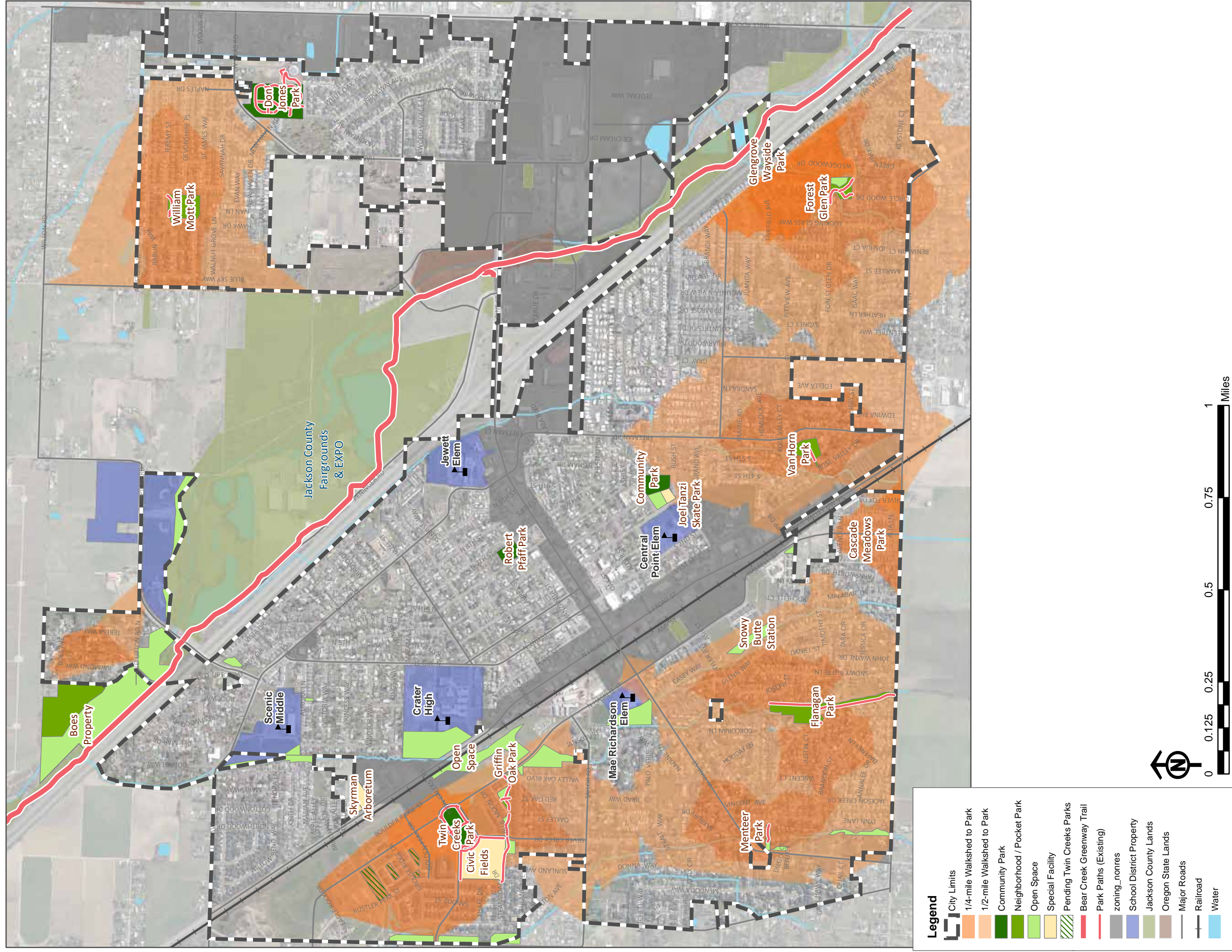
While the targeted acquisition areas do not identify a specific parcel(s) for consideration, the area encompasses a broader region in which an acquisition would be ideally suited. These acquisition targets represent a long-term vision for improving parkland distribution throughout Central Point.

In addition, the City should look to proactively acquire neighborhood and community park sites in newly incorporated areas, should the City’s urban growth boundary and city limits expand in the future. Such acquisitions would help ensure the City can adequately provide parks in future neighborhoods.



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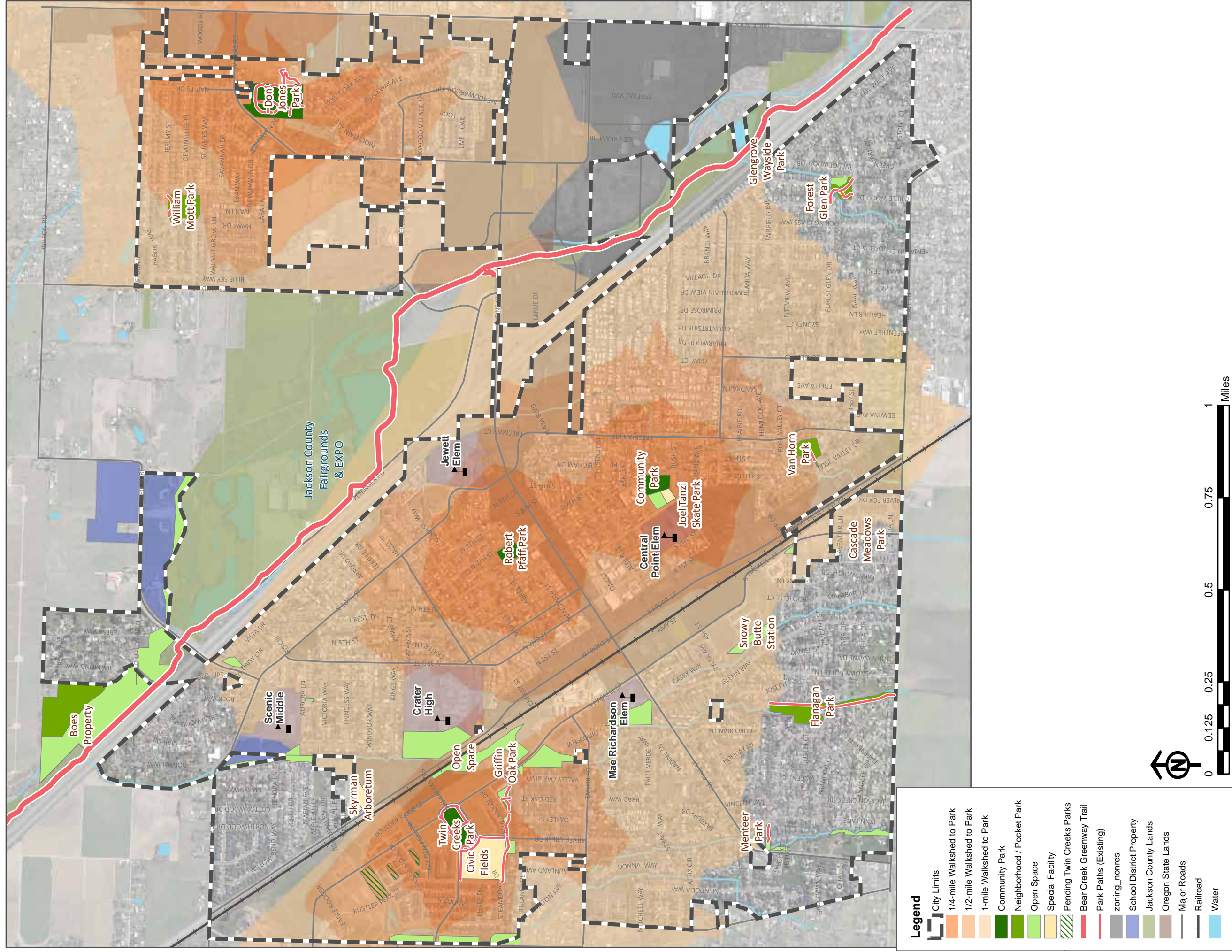
Map 2: Park Walkshed Map (Neighborhood & Pocket Parks)





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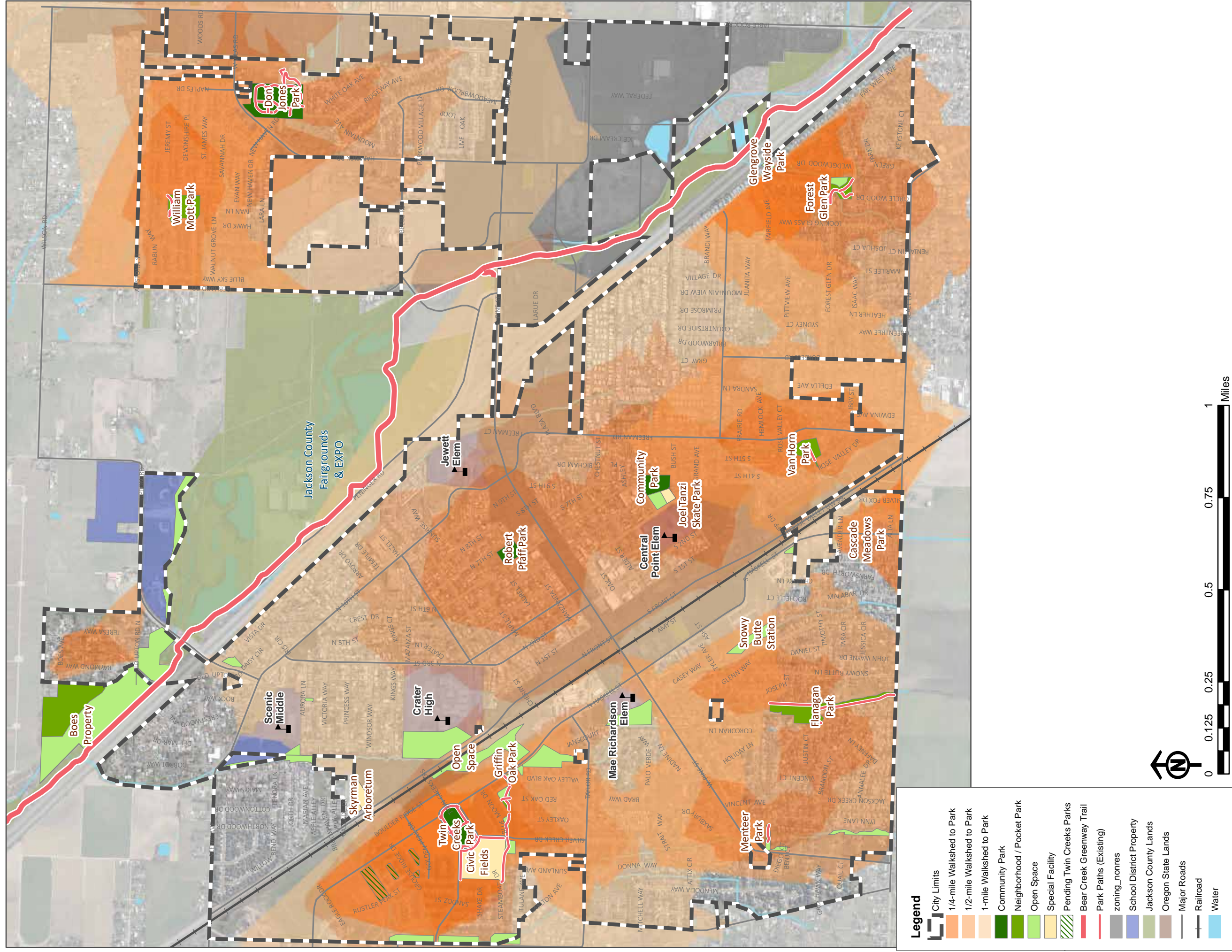
Map 3: Park Walkshed Map (Community Parks)





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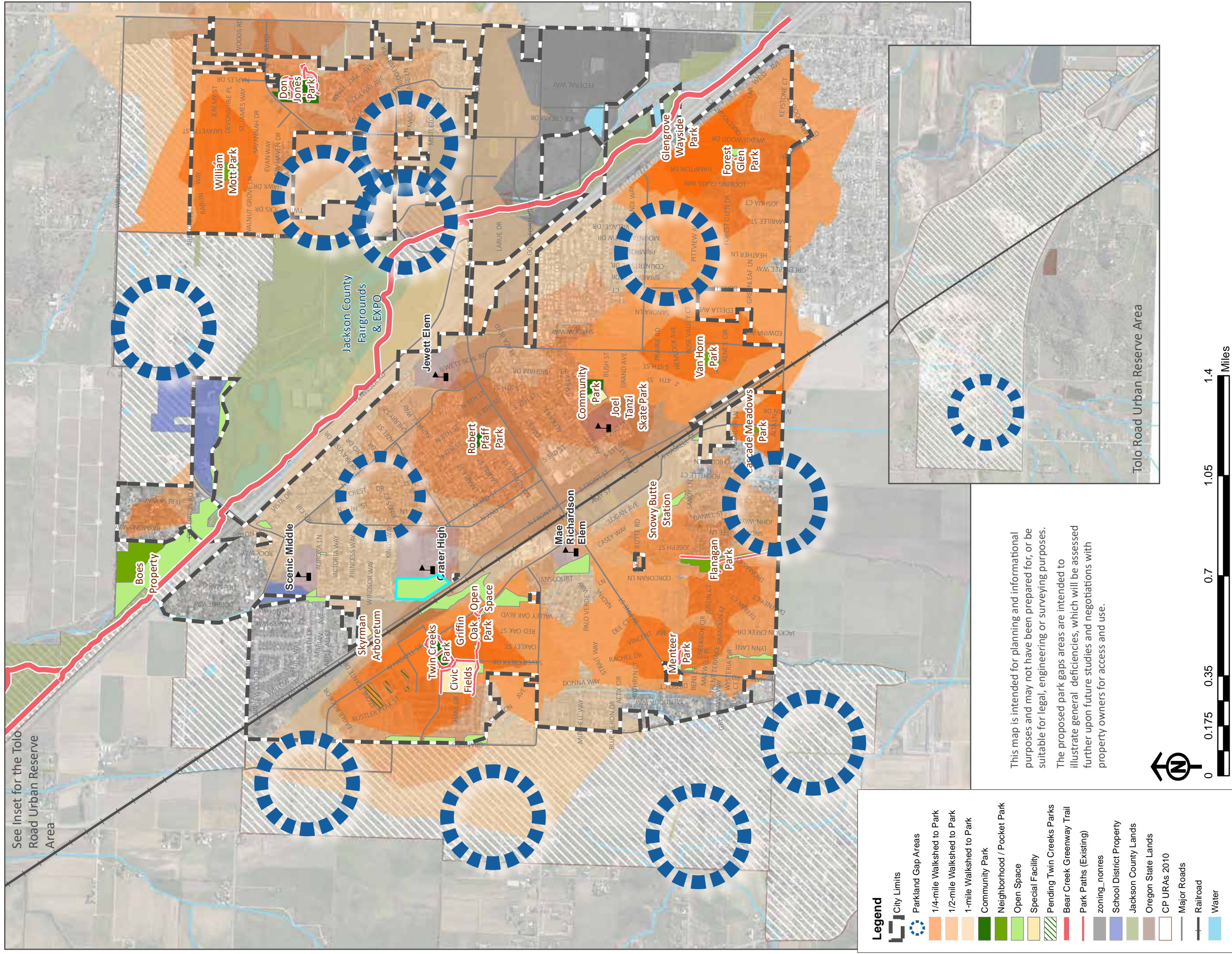
Map 4: Composite Park Walkshed Map





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See Inset for the Tolo Road Urban Reserve Area

Legend

- City Limits
- Parkland Gap Areas
- 1/4-mile Walkshed to Park
- 1/2-mile Walkshed to Park
- 1-mile Walkshed to Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood / Pocket Park
- Open Space
- Special Facility
- Pending Twin Creeks Parks
- Bear Creek Greenway Trail
- Park Paths (Existing)
- zoning_nontres
- School District Property
- Jackson County Lands
- Oregon State Lands
- CP URAs 2010
- Major Roads
- Railroad
- Water

This map is intended for planning and informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes. The proposed park gaps areas are intended to illustrate general deficiencies, which will be assessed further upon future studies and negotiations with property owners for access and use.



Map 5: Proposed Parkland Acquisition Target Areas





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Level of Service

Central Point's existing community, neighborhood and pocket parks make up approximately 39.24 acres of parkland, of which 30 acres are developed. This system acreage results in a current (2016) level of service of 2.23 acres per thousand residents, see Figure 9. Given a level of service target of 3.5 acres per thousand residents, the City currently faces a deficit of 22 acres of parkland to meet community goals. Since some parkland is currently undeveloped, the City would need to develop approximately 31 acres of parkland to meet current needs.

Central Point's population is anticipated to grow by approximately 3,000 residents by 2025. In order to serve future residents, the City would need to acquire and develop an additional 10 acres of parkland, in addition to current needs. Accordingly, the City should aim to acquire 32 acres of parkland, and develop 42 acres, between today and 2025 to fully meet the desired level of service standard (3.5 acres/1,000 residents). The acquisition and development of the four community and neighborhood parks necessary to meet the geographic distribution goals described above would likely meet, or significantly address, the current and future level of service needs.

Figure 9. Level of Service and Parkland Needs - 2016 and 2025

Metric		Measurement			
Existing Level of Service (LOS) Standard		3.5 acres per 1,000 residents			
2016 Population (City only)		17,485 residents			
2025 Population (Central Point UGB)		20,484 residents			
Parkland Acreage (Core Parks - City Only)		Total		Developed	
City-owned & maintained		39.24 acres		29.92 acres	
Total		39.24 acres		29.92 acres	
Level of Service	2016	2025	2016	2025	
Effective Level of Service based on total acreage (acres/1,000 residents)	2.23	1.92	1.70	1.46	
Net LOS to Standard (acres/1,000 residents)	(1.27)	(1.58)	(1.80)	(2.04)	
Performance to Standard	64%	55%	49%	42%	
Acreage surplus (deficit)	(22.31)	(32.45)	(31.63)	(41.77)	

Source: Population data from PSU Center for Population Research

PARK DEVELOPMENT

Community Parks

Community parks are large park sites that generally include a wide variety of both passive and active recreation facilities. Central Point has four existing community parks, which together provide 15.34 acres of parkland. These parks are the most popular parks and attract visitors from all parts of the city. The City should improve community parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds.



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Figure 10. Existing Community Parks

Park Name	Status	Acreage
Community Park	Developed	2.05
Don Jones Park	Developed	8.6
Robert Pfaff Park	Developed	1.48
Twin Creeks Park	Developed	3.21
Total Community Park Acreage		15.34

The City could improve recreational experiences at Community Park by reconfiguring the sports fields to create room for a perimeter walking path with benches and trees. Otherwise the city’s community parks are generally in good condition, only minor repairs and accessibility improvements are recommended, see the associated general sections below.

Twin Creeks is the most popular park (with 70% of community members having visited in the past year) and also the most popular among youth – over one-third of Youth Survey respondents said they had visited in the past year, more than any other park. The City should add paved paths to link the shelters to the main path for better access and ADA compliance and replace dead or dying trees.

New Community Parks

Central Point should acquire and develop two new community parks (of 10 to 30 acres in size) to provide adequate space for needed community recreation amenities, improve geographic distribution, and help meet the desired park level of service. One community park should be located in the northern portion of the city, to the east of Highway 99, see Map 5, to serve residents of neighborhoods near Scenic Avenue and Dobrot Way. A second community park should ideally be located near the intersection of Bursell Road and Hopkins Road to serve residents in the southern portion of the city.

As opportunities to acquire large park sites may be limited, the City should prioritize available opportunities to secure large sites and/or multiple adjacent properties and should consider acquisition partnership opportunities with the Central Point School District or other education and recreation providers.

The City should consider adding the following recreation features in the development of new community parks to expand recreational opportunities:

- Walking trails
- Picnic shelters that allow larger family and community events.
- An accessible playground that provides play opportunities for people with physical or mobility disabilities.
- Spraygrounds, water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost.
- Sports fields and courts
- Amenities such as dog off-leash areas, community gardens, and skateboard or BMX features.
- Restrooms, bicycle parking, drinking fountains and other site furnishings that support residents’ use of parks.

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Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are generally under five acres in size and are designed for unstructured, non-organized play and provide active and passive recreational opportunities for local residents. Central Point currently has nine neighborhood parks, which provide approximately 24 acres of parkland.

Figure 11. Existing Neighborhood Parks

Park Name	Status	Acreage
Boes property	Undeveloped	9.32
Cascade Meadows Park	Developed	0.23
Flanagan Park	Developed	5.34
Forest Glen Park	Developed	1.9
Glengrove Wayside Park	Developed	0.24
Griffin Oak Park	Developed	0.79
Mentee Park	Developed	0.46
Van Horn Park	Developed	2.04
William Mott Park	Developed	3.58
Total Neighborhood Park Acreage		23.9

City residents are generally satisfied with the condition of existing neighborhood parks, though improving existing neighborhood parks was the third highest priority among survey respondents.

In addition to general accessibility and maintenance improvements discussed later in this chapter, the following recommendations would improve the overall usability of existing parks:

- **Boes property:** This currently undeveloped neighborhood park site is located at the terminus of Boes Avenue in the northern portion of the city. Once developed, it would serve local residents and provide a new connection to the Bear Creek Greenway. The site's location and topography offers a unique opportunity to combine traditional neighborhood park amenities, such as playgrounds and open fields, with trail access and interpretive opportunities in the adjacent open space.
- **Cascade Meadows:** Thirty percent of residents rated the condition of this park as either 'fair' or 'poor', one of the lowest park ratings in the City's system. The City should replace play equipment, as the manufacturer of the current equipment no longer supports replacement parts. The park is also in need of an entrance sign.
- **Forest Glen Park:** The City should consider ways to integrate the adjacent open space/stormwater basin into the park's design. In addition, the plantings along the riparian corridor could benefit from restoration efforts once control of invasive species is successful.
- **Glengrove Wayside Park:** The City should add streambank naturalization plantings and limb-up existing Lawson cypress hedge to allow partial views of the creek bank.
- **Van Horn Park:** Connecting the entrance of the two playgrounds with a paved path would improve accessibility for parents of young children and people with mobility impairments. The City should also add shade trees between playgrounds and near western entrance.



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- William Mott Memorial Park: The large natural wet basin adjacent to the park provides habitat for waterfowl frequently dries up before hatchings can fly. The City should consider the feasibility of design or management changes that facilitate more reliable habitat value. Improving the ecological function of this site could also create opportunities for interpretive education at the park.

The City should also make improvements to neighborhood parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds. Accessibility and maintenance recommendations are discussed further later in this chapter.

New Neighborhood Parks

Central Point’s neighborhood park system goal is to provide a neighborhood park within walking distance (¼-mile) of every resident. Achieving this goal will require acquiring new neighborhood park properties in currently underserved locations. As the city develops and acquisition opportunities diminish, the City will need to be prepared to take advantage of acquisition opportunities in strategic locations to better serve residents.

Central Point should acquire and develop two new neighborhood parks of 3 to 5 acres to serve local neighborhoods. One new neighborhood park should be located in the north-central portion of the city, near the intersection of N 10th Street and N 3rd Street, see Map 5. A second neighborhood should ideally be located near the intersection of Glenn Way and Timothy Street to serve residents in the southeastern portion of the city.

New neighborhood parks should be developed with walking paths, play areas, shade trees, picnic areas and benches, and other appropriate amenities as desired by the local community. For example, the City could consider adding half-court basketball courts, small skate park elements and other recreation features in the development of new or existing neighborhood parks to expand recreational opportunities.

Special Use Facilities

Central Point’s special use facilities, including Civic Field, the Joe Tanzi Skate Park and the Skyrman Arboretum provide unique recreational options that attract visitors from around the city and from nearby communities.

Figure 12. Existing Special Use Facilities

Park Name	Status	Acreage
Civic Field	Developed	7.26
Joel Tanzi Skate Park	Developed	0.59
Skyrman Arboretum	Developed	1.77
Total Special Facility Acreage		9.62

Civic Field

Civic Field is a community sports park located adjacent to Twin Creek Park in the northwestern part of the city. Civic Field includes over 7 acres of multi-use fields, sand volleyball courts, basketball courts, and walking paths. The site is a partnership between the City of Central Point and the Central Point School District 6. Adding a playground, picnic tables and shade trees in the areas to the north or south of the sports courts would provide additional recreational opportunities for local neighbors and visitors.

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Skyrman Central Point Arboretum

The Skyrman Central Point Arboretum is the newest addition to the Central Point Park system and was opened to the public in November 2016. The arboretum was donated to the City by Mr. Skyrman, who stipulated that it be used as a public arboretum for education and enjoyment. The 3.1-acre site includes a variety of shrubs and every tree species native to Oregon, including the largest gray pine tree in the state. The park will include trails and interpretive signage. The park's structures, a log cabin and the former Skyrman home, will be used as educational space.

Joel Tanzi Skate Park

The Joel Tanzi Skate Park is a 0.25-acre concrete park that offers rails, stairs, double sets and grinding blocks for both beginning and expert skateboarders, as well as a restroom. The park is centrally located south of E Pine Street, between Community Park and the Central Point Elementary School. One in five survey respondents thought that the skate park was in 'fair' condition, giving it one of the poorest condition ratings of all city parks. However, improving the park was one of the lowest priorities community-wide.

Specialized Park Amenities

In addition to landbanking for future parks, new park amenities or facilities could be considered for development within existing parks or as components of future sites.

Spraygrounds

Spraygrounds are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. Central Point currently has one spray park located at Don Jones Memorial Park. The City should consider at least one additional sprayground to serve residents west of I-5. This special use amenity typically is supported by parking and restrooms, since it draws users from a wider area.

Off-Leash Dog Area

Walking with a dog is a very popular recreational activity, and off-leash areas have become desired amenities for dog owners living in urban environments who may otherwise have limited opportunities to exercise their pets. The City of Central Point currently does not have an official off-leash dog area, but recreational trends and community input indicate an existing need for an off-leash area. It is recommended that the City provide a minimum, 2-acre site for this use within the next five years.

Appropriate sites should be safe, not isolated, and noise impacts on neighbors should be considered. Ideally, a dog park would be a component to a larger community park, where infrastructure (e.g. parking, restrooms and garbage collection) exists and supports multiple activities. One potential site for consideration is the Boes property in the northeast corner of the city. Also as the City develops or redevelops park sites, consideration should be given for potential off-leash areas, if demand and infrastructure exists to support additional locations.

The City also should continue and enhance signage and the enforcement of leash laws in parks or natural areas where only on-leash activities are allowed. Additionally, the development of a dog park will require specific code revisions, the development of rules

and policies and community support for self-policing for behavioral issues and waste pick-up. Communities throughout the Northwest have relied on grassroots or non-profit organizations for the on-going operations and maintenance of such facilities.

Community Gardens

Community gardens provide common space for residents to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers. Gardens have been shown to increase healthy food consumption, while providing opportunities for active living, social connections and lifelong learning. Community gardens are becoming more popular park amenities in urban environments, where residents may have limited outdoor space. Gardens are also popular to a diverse range of residents.

Central Point currently offers community garden plots at two locations: Don Jones Memorial Park and Hanley Farm (private farm). Community members can rent plots to grow vegetables, flowers, and other plants. The plots are either 10' x 10' or 10' x 20' size and include water hookups. Based on the community survey, approximately 65% of residents supported upgrading community garden plots. Siting of community garden plots should be considered in the design and development of future parks and opportunities should be examined to install gardens in other public lands as appropriate.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The park condition assessment noted opportunities to improve universal access for park visitors and ensure American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Community members also voiced support for a variety of accessible park improvements, including accessible play equipment, picnic tables, gazebos, and park furnishings.

Recommended improvements range from providing site furnishings that are designed for accessibility, providing pathway connections to amenities and features within parks, and repairing or improving the surfacing of trails throughout the system. More specific recommendations include:

- Adding detectible warning strips wherever paths meet vehicular traffic/parking areas at Flanagan Park, Civic Fields, Griffin Oak Park, Robert Pfaff Park, Van Horn Park, and Willie Mott Park.
- Adding ADA-accessible picnic table(s) at Flanagan Park, Civic Fields, Don Jones, Cascade Meadows, Forest Glen, Griffin Oak Park, Menteer Park, Robert Pfaff Park, Twin Creeks Park, Van Horn Park, and Willie Mott Park.
- Making improvements to accessible parking spaces, including adding signage at Don Jones, Robert Pfaff Park, Twin Creeks Park, and Van Horn Park; and relocating the accessible parking space at Willie Mott Park and adding a curb cut.
- Adding playground ramps at Don Jones, Forest Glen, Griffin Oak Park, Robert Pfaff Park, and Willie Mott Park. The City should also look for opportunities to add accessible play equipment at city parks.

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PARK MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

Respondents to the both the Community Survey conducted as part of this planning process and to the City of Central Point's 2014-15 Citizen Survey were generally satisfied with the park and recreation facilities.

To maintain this high level of public satisfaction, Central Point should continue to prioritize proactive park maintenance and repair and aim to dedicate sufficient funding for both repairs and maintenance staff. Regular park maintenance and repair of over-used or deteriorating equipment can ensure park visitors continue to have safe and enjoyable experiences and can help protect the community's investment in its park system. While many of Central Point's parks and facilities are in good condition, the following maintenance and repair needs were identified:

- Resurfacing and/or replacement of sports courts at Flanagan Park (tennis), Van Horn Park (tennis and basketball), Civic Fields (sand volleyball)
- Replacement of playground chips at Flanagan Park and Forest Glen Park
- Minor other repairs to Flanagan Park (fence), Don Jones Park (replacement restroom signage), and Menteer Park (path repair)

TRAILS

Walking, walking a dog, running, and biking are among the most popular forms of recreation in the Central Point vicinity and statewide. Trails can serve as a safe location for all of these recreational activities, while providing active transportation connections and creating opportunities for users to enjoy nature. In the future, a Central Point trail system could build on the outstanding amenity of the Bear Creek Greenway to offer connections throughout the community. Upgrading existing trails and developing new trails were the top two resident priorities expressed in the community survey.

Bear Creek Greenway

Central Point is located along the northern portion of the Bear Creek Greenway, a multi-use trail that stretches 20 miles from Ashland to Central Point. The trail, which runs along Bear Creek and parallel to both I-5 and Highway 99, offers area residents a car-free route to walk and bike. With its proximity to the creek and adjacent riparian areas, the Greenway provides unique bird watching, wildlife viewing and interpretive education opportunities.

The Greenway is one of the most popular recreational amenities in the City. However, while two thirds of residents are happy with the condition of the Bear Creek Greenway, one third rated the condition as fair or poor – the highest negative rating of all City parks and facilities. In addition, 73% of residents were supportive of improving the Greenway. The City has set aside funding for trail maintenance (i.e. pavement repair and consistent signage), but the City should continue to partner with adjacent communities to improve the quality of experience along the trail.

Trail Network Walksheds

Paths and trails provide people with valuable links between neighborhoods, parks, schools and other public facilities, commercial centers and other regional non-motorized facilities. A gap analysis was conducted to examine and assess the distribution of existing recreational paths and trails. As with the parkland analysis, shared-use trail walksheds were defined using ¼-mile and ½-mile primary service areas with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points of each existing segment. Trails within parks were also examined, and service areas were calculated with ¼-mile walksheds. Map 6 illustrates the citywide distribution of trails and the relative access to these corridors within reasonable travel walksheds.

Approximately 20% of the City is well-served with reasonable access to recreational trails, even though the Bear Creek Greenway traverses Central Point. The limited number of trail access points and the physical barriers created by I-5 and the railroad severely hamper east-west connectivity. Additional on-street and riparian corridors are needed to expand the trail network and improve connectivity and accessibility for users.

New Trail Connections

Map 7 illustrates potential on-street and off-road corridors.

- Connections between downtown, the Jackson County EXPO Center, and the Bear Creek Greenway
- Options to improve connectivity to Bear Creek Greenway
- Safe & enjoyable crossings over I-5 (Potential option – protected bikeway or cycle track on Pine Street)
- Options to improve connectivity west of I-5, crossing railroad and HWY 99
- Connections to local schools

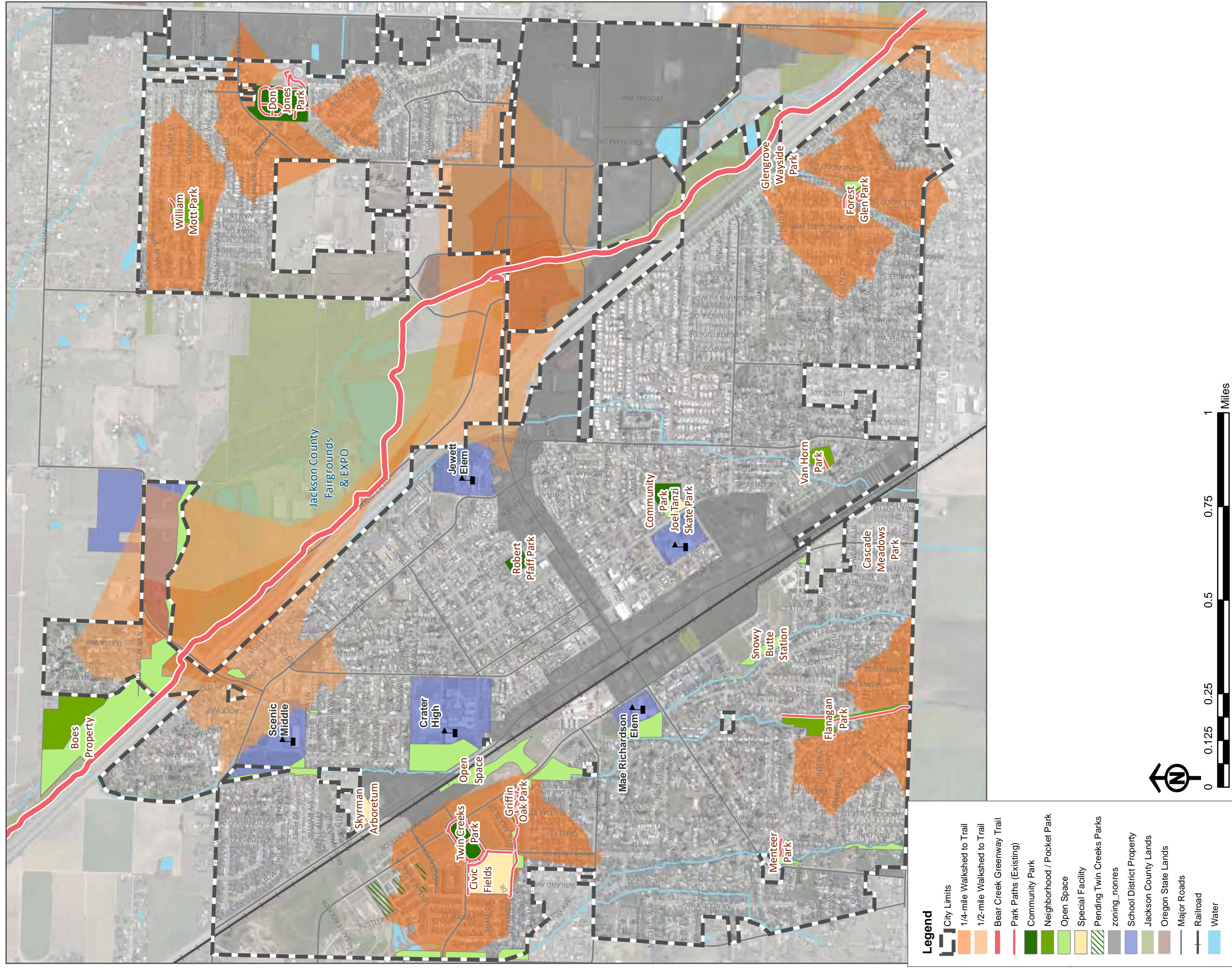
Bear Creek Greenway

As the backbone of the regional trail system, the Bear Creek Greenway is an important non-motorized transportation facility for both the City of Central Point and the broader region. Classified as a multi-use regional path, it extends from Central Point to Ashland, for a total of approximately 20 miles. The entire length of the trail through the City of Central Point is paved and is generally 10-feet wide.

“The vision of building a trail through the Bear Creek Valley was grand and the task seemingly insurmountable yet, remarkably, the communities of Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland are now connected by the trail system.”

- Excerpt from the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation website





- Legend**
- City Limits
 - 1/4-mile Walkshed to Trail
 - 1/2-mile Walkshed to Trail
 - Bear Creek Greenway Trail
 - Park Paths (Existing)
 - Community Park
 - Neighborhood / Pocket Park
 - Open Space
 - Special Facility
 - Pending Twin Creeks Parks
 - zoning_nonres
 - School District Property
 - Jackson County Lands
 - Oregon State Lands
 - Major Roads
 - Railroad
 - Water

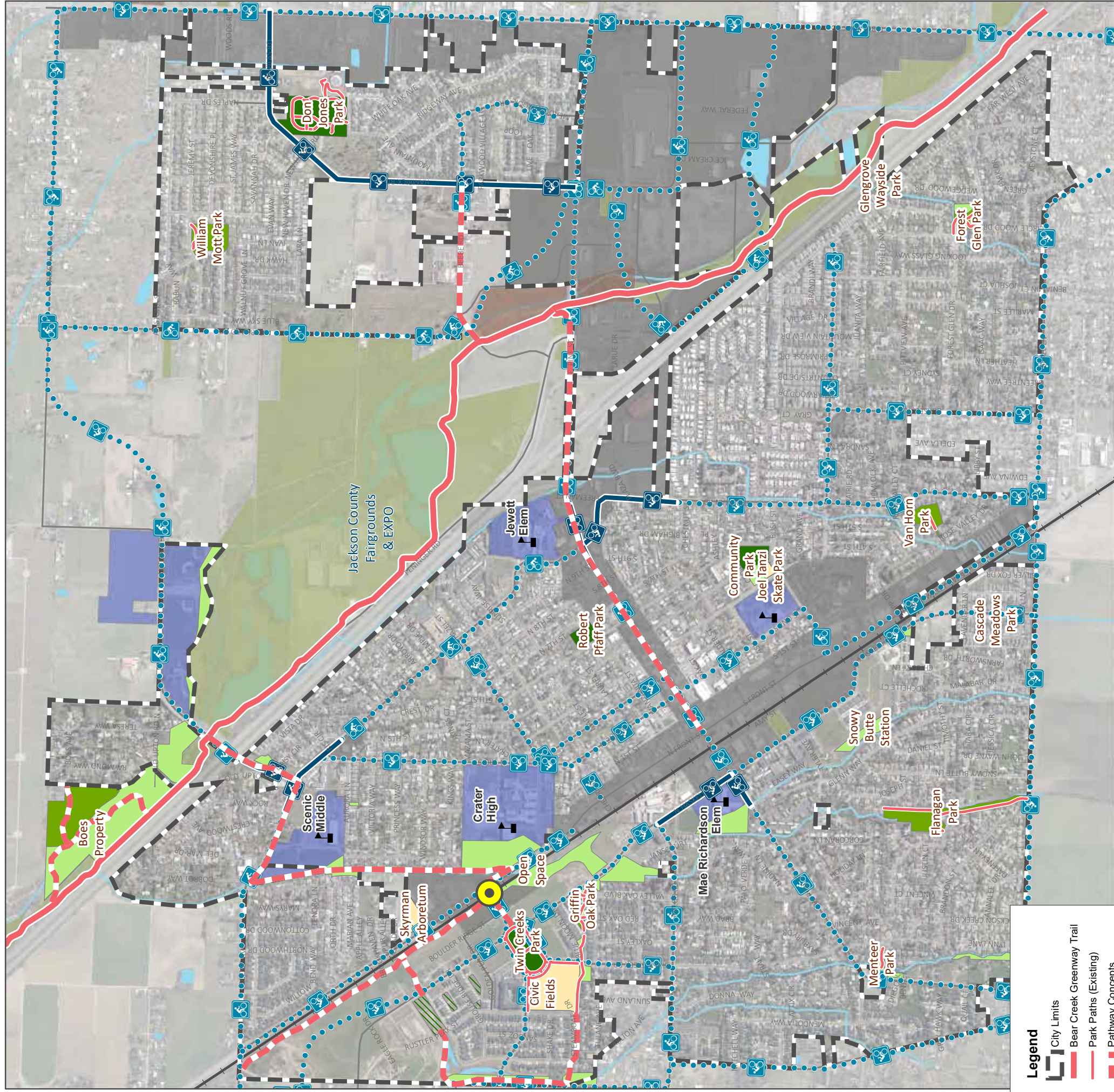
Map 6: Trail Walksheds





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This map is intended for planning and informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes.

The proposed trail routes are intended to illustrate general alignments, which will be contingent upon future design studies and successful negotiations with property owners for access and use.

Legend

- City Limits
- Bear Creek Greenway Trail
- Park Paths (Existing)
- Pathway Concepts
- Bike Lanes (Existing)
- Bike Lanes (Proposed)
- Safety Crossing
- Community Park
- Neighborhood / Pocket Park
- Open Space
- Special Facility
- Pending Twin Creeks Parks
- zoning_nonres
- School District Property
- Jackson County Lands
- Oregon State Lands
- Major Roads
- Railroad
- Water



Map 7: Proposed Trails & Paths





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RECREATION PROGRAM PLANNING

Central Point's recreation services are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members. The City currently offers or promotes a variety of programming, including fitness, education and general interest classes, outdoor recreation, day camps and a variety of special events for all ages.

Recreation Program Trends

The current national trend is toward a "one-stop" recreation facility to serve all ages. Large, multi-purpose regional centers help increase cost recovery, promote customer retention and encourage cross-use of the facility by other city departments and community groups. Amenities that are common in large multi-purpose regional centers (65,000 to 125,000+ sq. ft.) include:

- Gymnasium space
- Indoor walking tracks
- Lap, leisure and therapeutic pools
- Weight and cardiovascular equipment
- Outdoor recreation and education centers
- Interactive game rooms
- Playgrounds
- Community, event or party rooms

2016 Outdoor Participation Report

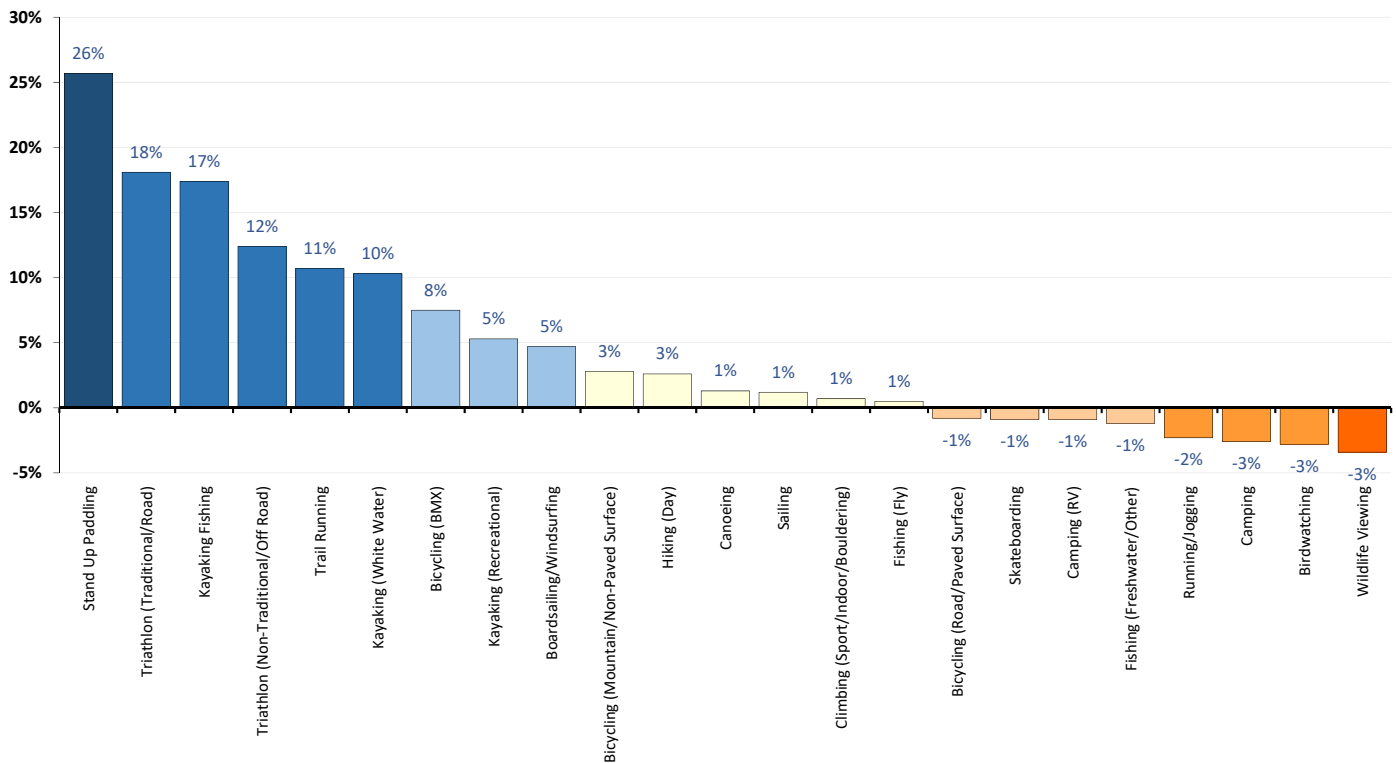
According to 2016 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual's age. Gender also plays a role in determining behaviors and participation trends. Figure 13 illustrates the three-year trend changes by major activity. Recent trend highlights include the following:

- The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.
- Running, including jogging and trail running, was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings.

- Walking for fitness is the most popular crossover activity.
- Almost one-quarter of all outdoor enthusiasts participated in outdoor activities at least twice per week.
- Indoor fitness becomes the preferred activity among young women ages 16 to 20 and remains the most popular form of activity. Males, however, favor outdoor activities until they are age 66 and older.
- Outdoor activities are popular among children, especially among boys ages 11 to 15.

Participation rates drop for both males and females from ages 16 to 20. These rates climb back up slightly for females into their early 20's and males late 20's before gradually declining throughout life.

Figure 13. 3-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation of Youth (6-24) (2016 Outdoor Foundation)



2016 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this 2016 participation report establishes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. Overall there was a slight increase in measures of activity from 2014 to 2015 with fluctuations in sports showing an increase in team, water, winter, and fitness sports while individual sports declined slightly. A slight decrease in inactivity in the last year from 28.3% of Americans (age six and older) in 2014 to 27.7%. Inactivity rates remained higher in low income households: 28.4% of households with combined incomes under \$25,000 and 28.1% of households in the \$25,000-\$49,999 income range. These levels of inactivity have been increasing slight over the last five years.

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In terms of interest, all age groups continue to look at swimming as a means for future fitness followed heavily by outdoor activities (such as camping and biking). The trend shows that more Americans are interested in getting outside and being in natural settings. Most adult age groups focus on fitness activities while team sports are more attractive to youths. Participants in the surveys conducted for this report shared that having someone else participating in any fitness activity was a strong motivator. A shortage of available time and current health issues were cited as the biggest obstacles to more participation in active lifestyles.

Another revealing trend was the effect of PE during school years on physical activities during school and post-school years. Participation in physical exercise during grade and high school influenced degree of engagement in team sports, outdoor recreation and fitness activities both during school years and after age 18. Those who did not have PE, only 15% also participated in team sports and outdoor recreation. 80% of adults ages 18+ who had PE in school were active compared to 61% of adults who didn't have PE in school.

The report surveyed spending on wearable devices for fitness tracking. Fitness trackers that sync with smartphones/tablets/computers increased from 8.4% of participants in 2014 to 12.9% in 2015. The interest in purchasing and using wearable technology in the future increased by 3.2% over the last year among active individuals.

2015 State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2015 State of the Industry Report listed the top 10 program options most commonly planned for addition over the next three years, along with the frequency (in parentheses) noted by survey participants:

- Mind body / balance programs (25.2%)
- Fitness programs (24.9%)
- Educational programs (24.3%)
- Day camps & summer camps (22.8%)
- Environmental education (21.5%)
- Teen programming (20.4%)
- Adult sports teams (19.4%)
- Active older adult programs (19.4%)
- Holidays & other special events (19.1%)
- Nutrition & diet counseling (17.4%)

For most programming types, community centers are the ones most likely to be planning to offer such programs. There are a few exceptions; parks are most likely to be planning to add environmental education, sports tournaments or races, individual sports activities and water sports.

The same report indicated park systems that are planning to add features to their facilities in the next three years list their top five planned amenities as:

- Playgrounds
- Park shelters, such as picnic areas and gazebos
- Park restroom structures



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- Outdoor sports courts for basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc.
- Bike trails

Sport Participation Trends

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) reported on participation levels in 47 sports indicating that 32 sports experienced growth during 2012. Highlights from the 2013 NSGA participation survey include:

- Fitness sports each increased about 5%.
- Team sports showed mixed results with participation lagging in basketball, baseball, ice hockey and soccer and increases in lacrosse, softball and volleyball.
- Tackle football experienced the largest team sport drop of nearly 13% decline in participation. Over half the decline was in the 7-11 age group of those who might participate on an infrequent basis.
- Female participation in 40 of the 47 sports/activities has increased compared to only 11 sports showing increased male participation.
- Indoor gaming activities increased by an average of 11%.

Overall the trend shows that participation in many sports is rebounding with some sports continuing to struggle to attract new participation.

Community Feedback

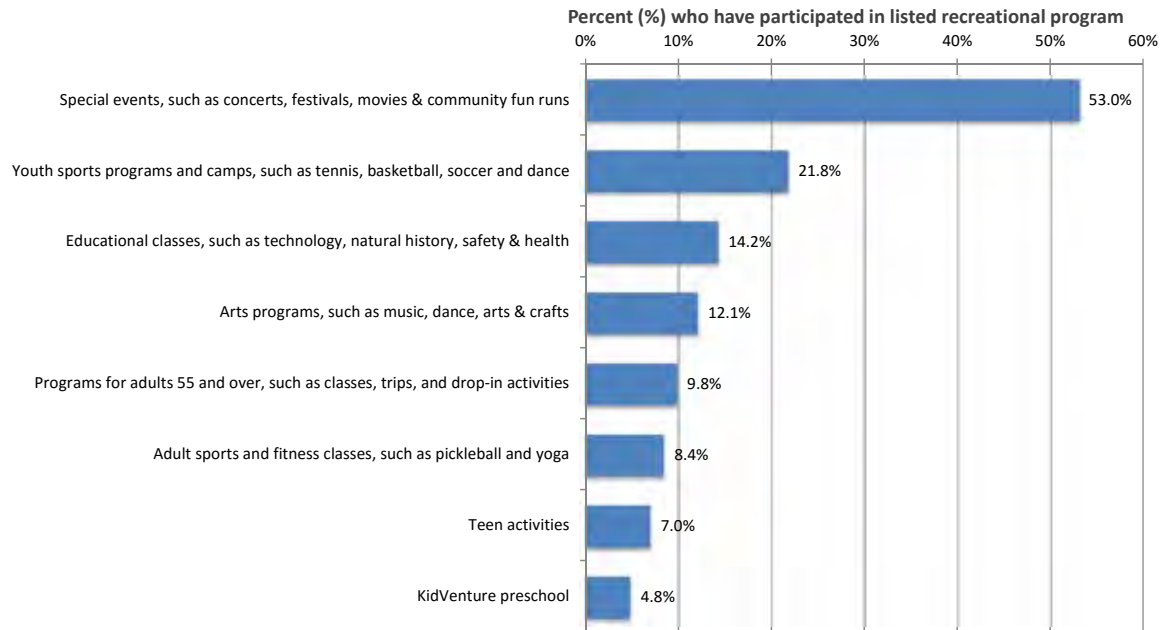
The community survey conducted as part of this Plan included a set of questions pertaining to recreation programs and facilities.

Survey respondents generally feel that Central Point's recreational programs and activities are of excellent (45%) or good (27%) quality. Only 2% of respondents feel that programs they, or member of their household, have participated in are of poor quality. In a separate question regarding priorities for recreation amenities, a large majority of respondents (72%) were supportive of building a swimming pool, and 61% were supportive of developing community recreation center.

Regarding participation in recreation programs and events, special events had the broadest appeal with a majority (53%) of respondents having participated during the past year. Residents between the ages of 35 and 44 were more likely to have used youth and teen programs, likely with their children. Adults over the age of 55 are the primary users of programs for adults 55 and over, such as classes, trips, and drop-in activities.

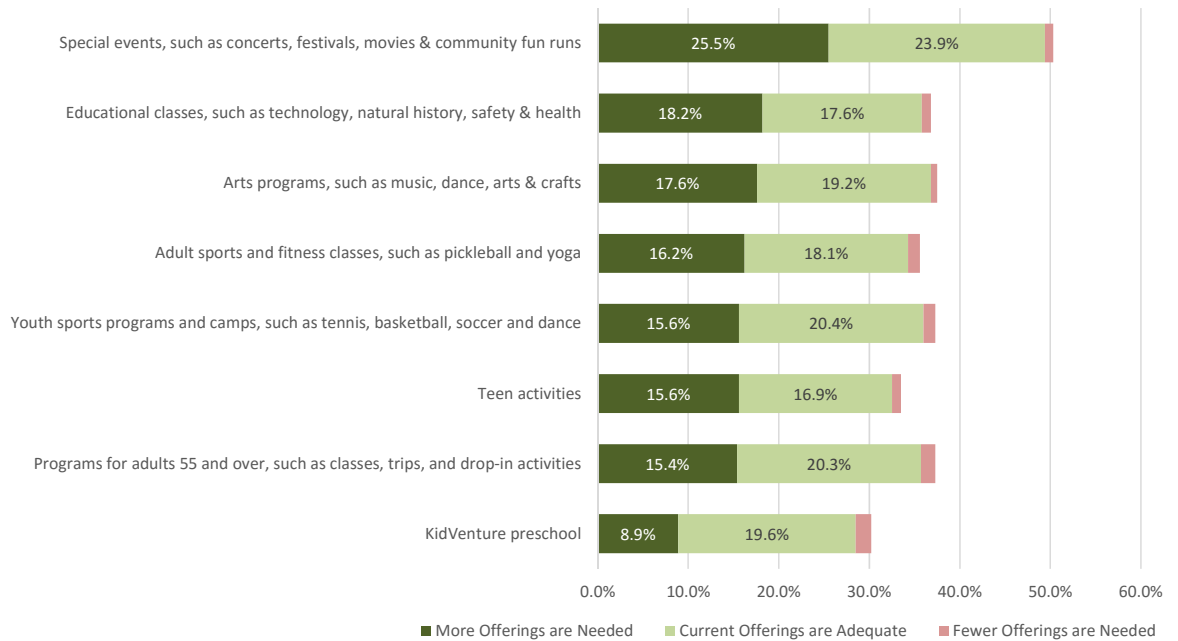
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Figure 14. Participation in Recreational Programs



Respondents were asked whether existing recreational programs and activities were adequate. Very few respondents (less than 2%) felt the City should reduce offerings of any of its recreational programs. The remaining respondents were relatively evenly split on whether they thought the City provided adequate offerings for each type of program, or whether more are needed.

Figure 15. Demand for Recreation Programs





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Beyond the survey, public open house feedback included interest in the following items:

- Art programs (music, dance, arts & crafts)
- Adult fitness and wellness programs
- Special events, festivals & movies
- Work with Twin Creeks to help seniors and provide senior activities
- Adult programs (classes, trips, drop-in)
- Activities where special needs children and typical children can interact together
- Swimming pool with zero-depth entrance, preferably indoor for year round activity
- Recreation center for open sports night in the winter and for multi-cultural programs/classes (language, costumes, artifacts, etc.)

Community Recreation Center

The City does not have a multi-purpose community recreation center, and the number and types of activities the Department can offer in its facilities are currently limited by a lack of capacity at existing facilities. The recreational programs the City offers or promotes currently are provided in public school buildings, at private facilities (fitness centers, studios, etc.), non-profits (Rogue Valley YMCA) or at City facilities (City Hall and Rec A&B behind Joel Tanzi Skate Park). Additional recreation, fitness and community space is needed to serve community needs and promote wellness, active recreation and social engagement.

Former guidelines from the National Recreation and Parks Association suggested a service standard of one community center per 15,000-25,000 people, and while that standard is no longer in use, it suggests that a certain population density is required to support such a facility. The Central Point community has reached a population size to support a multi-use center. Based on the survey conducted for this Plan, approximately 61% of respondents supported the development of a community center in Central Point.

The need for a community center in the area previously was identified in the City's 2003 Park Master Plan, and significant effort has been made in the intervening years to explore and examine the feasibility for a new center. The City conducted a master plan process for a community center between 2011 and 2012, which included concept schematics, elevations and cost estimates. Following the master plan, City staff prepared a preliminary business plan to outline operational costs for the center and noted the need for additional public revenue to support the operations of a fully built-out community center. In 2013, an ad-hoc committee was created to review project phasing and make recommendations on funding levels.

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Figure 16. Community Center Concept Plan



Given the momentum to establish a multi-use community recreation facility for programming, this Plan recommends the continued review of funding alternatives, as well as updating the modeling of user demand and analyzing options for facility and program cost recovery. As originally conceived, the community center was designed for land adjacent to Community Park; however, if an option exists for the Public Works operations yard north of Community Park to be relocated, then that site could be redeveloped to support additional parking for the community center. This approach would support a layout that links the park to the skatepark and the community center, as well as establish a major recreation activity node in the downtown core.

Special Events

The Parks & Recreation Department has a major focus on special events. The City puts on more than ten special events throughout the year, which include the following:

- Central Point Eggstravaganza
- Arbor Day
- City Wide Yard Sale
- Memorial Day Commemoration
- Run 4 Freedom & Freedom Festival (with Chamber of Commerce)
- Munch-N-Movies
- Battle of the Bones @ Harvest Fest
- Grow A Pear Harvest Fun Bike Ride, Run, and 5K walk
- Geocache Challenge
- Veterans Day Commemoration
- Community Christmas Lights Parade

Special Events should continue to be a core program and primary area of emphasis for the Department in the future. Special events draw communities together, attract visitors from outside the community and are popular with residents. However, due to the time and resource requirements of special events, the overall growth in the number of events should be limited in the future. This will ensure the City can adequately invest in its overall recreational offerings and ensure high-quality special events. Other community groups should be encouraged to be the primary funders and organizers of as many community wide events as possible. If the City decides to offer more events, it should seek to share costs with private sponsors and look to develop a series of seasonal activities.

General Recreation Programs

The City of Central Point offers a variety of general recreational and educational programs, which vary from cultural arts to fitness, education and outdoor recreation. The majority of the City's recreation programming focuses on youth. The programs, which are in addition to special events, include the following examples:

- Fitness: zumba, yoga, tai chi and senior exercises
- Cultural Arts: art, music, dance, fiber arts and photography
- Education: computer skills, personal finance, CPR, weather measurement and Engineering Camp for Kids
- General Interest: Cooking, babysitting bootcamp and adult parenting

The scope and capacity for recreation programming is impacted by the general lack of indoor and outdoor spaces that can enable and support a wider variety of recreation services, in addition to staffing limitations and the challenge of recruiting and retaining locally-based instructors. Many general recreation programs are provided on a contract basis with the City of Central Point working with other local providers.

In an effort to refine and focus programming, this Plan recommends providing recreational programs and activities based on three categories of priority – core, secondary and support. The placement of programs into these three categories does not indicate the overall importance of these activities in the community, but rather the role of the Department in providing these programs. While the proposed distribution of program areas between the Core, Secondary and Support categories is similar to the City's current focus of recreation programs, it should be re-evaluate and restructured when a multi-use community center is available.

- **Core Programs** are programs that are a primary responsibility of the City of Central Point Parks & Recreation Department to provide. This Plan recommends that education, cultural arts, general interest and special events be considered core programs.
- **Secondary Programs** are programs that are a lower priority for direct provision by the Parks & Recreation Department, but may be offered by other organizations through contract with the City. This Plan recommends that adult sports, youth sports, outdoor education and fitness/wellness be considered secondary programs.
- **Support Programs** are programs that are not a priority for the Parks & Recreation Department to provide directly, but where the City may provide

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support for other local providers through facilities and promotion of other providers' activities. This Plan recommends that teen programs and special needs be considered support programs.

Core Program Recommendations

Cultural Arts

The City currently offers a wide array of cultural arts programs for youth and adults. These programs and classes include visual art, fiber arts, crafts, music and dance. The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to provide and enhance cultural arts programs and strive to find and retain volunteer instructors or vendors to expand the offerings and maintain a fresh rotation of classes.

General Interest

Central Point's Park and Recreation Department currently offers a large number of youth and adult general interest classes and programs. General interest programs – and summer camps in particular – are often a major focus for recreation departments. This Plan recommends that the City continue to place a strong focus on these programs in the future, with an emphasis on offering additional summer camp programs and options.

Secondary Program Recommendations

Fitness & Wellness

Fitness and wellness programs are one of the fastest growing program areas in public recreation programming. As Americans become increasingly aware of the benefits of good health and that obesity (especially among children) is a major health risk, demand for programming in this area has risen. Fitness/Wellness programs will need to receive increased emphasis as a response to a renewed interest locally and nationally on improving the overall health and physical condition of people, especially youth. The Parks and Recreation Department currently has few fitness and wellness programs due to the lack of a recreation center. However, the City should focus on enhancing fitness/wellness programs in the future, potentially in partnership with a local health care provider. The Department should also emphasize the importance of integrating wellness initiatives into other program areas as well. The City should consider incremental growth in recreation programs that are not currently offered by local or regional providers. Potential options could include gardening classes, organized group walks and health and fitness education for youth.

Education

Central Point offers a variety of adult-based educational classes, but a more limited set of youth-focused programs. Much of the youth programming is being provided by specialized non-profit or private providers (e.g., Bugs R Us). It is not anticipated that the City will directly grow its educational programming much in the future, but rather maintain the volume of offerings; however, the City could offer and promote its parks and trails as venues for use in support of third party based programs.



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Outdoor Recreation

With outdoor areas and resources available, the City should continue to place an emphasis on these activities, as it has through its partnerships with other agencies and organizations in the area. There might be an opportunity for the City to partner with the School District in providing or expanding outdoor education programs, to include camps and summer programs. The District may be able to assist with transportation and provide staff who are knowledgeable in sciences.

Support Program Recommendations

Teen Programs

Central Point offers very few programs focused on teens. Teen programming will need to see a much greater emphasis in the coming years, but it is expected that these services will be primarily provided by other organizations.

Special Needs

The Department currently does not provide focused special needs programming, and it is often difficult for recreation agencies to have a significant special needs program on their own. As a result, recreation departments often offer these programs in partnership with other local jurisdictions and service agencies in order to provide high quality programs in a cost effective manner. The Department should explore how to provide special needs programming through contracts with other providers or as a consortium with Medford or other cities in the region.

Aquatics

Swimming Facility

Residents of Central Point have for many years expressed their interest in a public pool. An investment in a community pool was a noted goal in the 2003 Parks Master Plan, and the topic of a swimming pool remains as a desire. The community survey illustrated continued interest in a pool, with 72% of respondents supportive of building a swimming pool. The City of Central Point does not own or operate a pool, and the Jackson Aquatic Center operated by the City of Medford is the only public, outdoor pool in the immediate area; however, it may need to cease operations in the future due to age and deterioration.

Unfortunately, a common misconception exists about public swimming pools, namely that they can pay for themselves. The design and development costs of a public pool are, in fact, very high, and these costs are compounded by the need for pool water treatment and management and for programming staff and lifeguards. The operating costs can be somewhat mitigated through fees, charges and partnerships with other organizations (i.e., school district) to help offset general fund support.

The City should continue to explore options to build and operate a pool for its residents. The City should also explore options to partner with Medford for a jointly-funded facility or for the establishment of a park and recreation district, again in partnership with Medford, as a financing tool for an aquatic facility.

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Athletics

Youth Sports

The City currently offers limited youth athletic programs and classes, which include basketball, tennis and golf. The City supports the various youth sport leagues and organizations with regard to field access. With the demand for youth sports fields continuing to grow, it is not unusual for youth sports organizations to build and operate their own fields on their own property or on leased undeveloped public land.

- Central Point Little League serves area residents and teaches baseball and softball to the youth of Central Point ages 4 to 18 years. The League operates from the Eloy Sutton Fields, a complex of six ball fields located south of city limits along Hanley Road.
- Table Rock Soccer Club serves area residents and offers recreational and competitive soccer for youth from 5 to 18 years of age. In Central Point, the Club plays at Community Park, Civic Park, Mae Richardson Elementary School and Jewett Elementary School.
- Central Point Pop Warner Association has been serving youth in the Rogue Valley for a decade and offers full contact football for kids 7 to 12 years old. The league plays at Crater High School and is a feeder program to high school football.

Additionally, the City hosts the Challenger Sports British Soccer Camp during the summers. The camps are held at Community Park and Twin Creeks Park. Each day of camp includes individual skills, technical drills, practices and scrimmages, and a daily World Cup tournament. The City also hosts Mighty Mites indoor basketball in the winter season and plays at Central Point Elementary School. The introductory basketball program is for children 5 to 8 years old, with an emphasis on basic skills, team work and sportsmanship.

Encouraging tournaments may present the potential to generate income for the leagues and local businesses, and they could be conducted in concert with Medford's sport programs and/or provide additional venues to expand tournaments regionally. Typically, parents and teams stay between 4-6 nights for tournaments, which in turn may stimulate local economic development through lodging and food services revenue.

To meet local needs, the Parks and Recreation Department should continue to support and enhance youth sports in the future. The demand for and participation in youth athletic programs is likely to grow in the future as the city grows. The Department should also consider opportunities to expand youth sports camps and clinics and increase its focus on the development of adventure sports (skateboarding, climbing, archery, fencing, Ultimate Frisbee, BMX, etc.) as a niche market.

Adult Sports

The City is not currently a provider of adult sports leagues or individual sports, which is in part due to limited staffing and limited field facilities available for sports activities. Since adult sports can often generate significant revenue, there may need to be an increased emphasis in this area in the future. Designating certain facilities or time periods for adult sports may be necessary if greater focus is going to be placed on this program area. The Department may also want to develop more individual, league and



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adventure sports for adults, potentially in partnership with other groups or organizations, and designate certain facilities or time periods for adult sports.

Sport Courts

Central Point provides a variety of outdoor sport courts in their park system and partners with the Central Point School District for indoor courts (gymnasiums) to be available for different recreation programs. Outdoor tennis courts, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts are available for public use in the park system on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Figure 17. Sport Courts by Park

Park	Basketball	Tennis	Volleyball (sand)	Pickleball
Don Jones Memorial Park	1	2		4
Robert Pfaff Park	1	1		
Flanagan Park		1		
Van Horn Park	1	1		
Forest Glen Park	1			
Civic Park	2		2	

The inclusion of basketball (full court), volleyball and/or tennis courts should be considered in the planning and development of future community parks or community centers. Half-court basketball courts may also be appropriate for neighborhood parks, particularly in underserved areas or where there is expressed neighborhood interest. The City also should track the usage of its pickleball courts at Don Jones Memorial Park and assess the demand for future court installations or tennis court conversions.

Alternative Sports

Providing facilities for alternative or emerging sports, such as skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, ultimate frisbee, climbing and parkour, can offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences, while creating destinations that attract local and regional visitors. Central Point currently has an outdoor, concrete skatepark (Joel Tanzi Skate Park) located adjacent to Community Park. Opportunities and facilities for other alternative sports are limited in the city.

While survey and recreational trend information is limited, residents have voiced support for additional facilities for alternative sports via communications with Department staff. Opportunities exist to develop alternative sports facilities at existing parks and in the potential development of the Boes Property.

Bike Skills Park

Although an extensive network of mountain biking trails exists at Medford’s Prescott Park, limited opportunities exist for bicycle skills development. The City should consider utilizing a portion of an existing park or future acquisition for a bike skills course. To protect the site from degradation, a bike course should be designed to minimize erosion

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and rogue trails. Additional site enhancements such as erosion control, stormwater management and invasive species removal could balance the overall health of the site with this potential use. Possible sites for consideration may include the Boes Property or the open space along the Bear Creek Greenway south of East Pine Street. Parking and other use-related impacts would need to be reviewed and addressed if this park were considered for such improvements.

Xtreme Sports

The City also should consider the future development of a site that could focus on alternative sports, including skateparks, BMX courses, pump track, bouldering walls or outdoor parkour features. Depending on the characteristics of the site, such a park also could contain an off-leash dog area or other amenities to draw a variety of users to activate the site. Parking and restroom facilities should be provided with a development project of this nature.

One potential site for consideration could be Community Park or the Parks Operations yard north of the skatepark, if this use were relocated and the overall site re-assessed for recreational uses. The adjacency of the skatepark could be a complementary use and help localize such uses within the park system. The potential development of a community center on-site or on a nearby block could further aggregate recreational uses in this area to form an activity center for Central Point.

Planning & Administration

Program Planning

The Department should develop a detailed plan for the delivery of recreation services to the citizens of Central Point for the next 5 years. This plan should take into consideration the future Core and Secondary services, along with the role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. There will need to be clearly identified areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation.

Agency Coordination

Across the country, recreation departments often serve as a coordinating agency and a clearinghouse for multiple recreation organizations and providers, in an effort to bring a comprehensive scope of recreation programs to a community. This has also increased the number of partnerships that are in place to deliver a broader base of programs in a more cost effective manner. There is also a much stronger emphasis on revenue production and raising the level of cost recovery to minimize tax dollar use to offset recreation programming. The City currently cross-markets and promotes programs from other agencies in its RECreate activity guide from the following agencies:

- City of Medford
- City of Ashland
- OSU Extension Service
- Rogue Valley Family YMCA
- KidVenture Preschool



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- Bugs R Us
- Central Point Senior Center

Staffing

In order to continue to grow the number of recreation programs and services that are offered, adequate staffing is necessary to not only conduct the program itself, but also to supervise and administer the activities. With staffing costs being the single greatest expense for parks and recreation departments, many agencies have attempted to minimize the number of full-time staff by contracting for certain programs or partnering with other providers for services. Nationally, the need to reduce full-time staff became even more acute with the poor financial condition of most municipal governments during the recent recession. However, even with this approach, there still needs to be adequate full-time staff to oversee and coordinate such efforts.

Part-time staff are still the backbone of most recreation departments and comprise the vast majority of program leaders and instructors. Many departments have converted program instructors to contract employees with a split of gross revenues (usually 70% to the instructor and 30% to the city) or developed a truer contract for services that either rents facilities and/or takes a percentage of the gross from another organization. The use of volunteers can help to augment paid staff but should not be seen as a substitute for them. As part of its detailed planning for the provision of recreation services, the City should explore staffing alternatives and trade-offs to fulfill its mission and meet its programming goals.

6

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

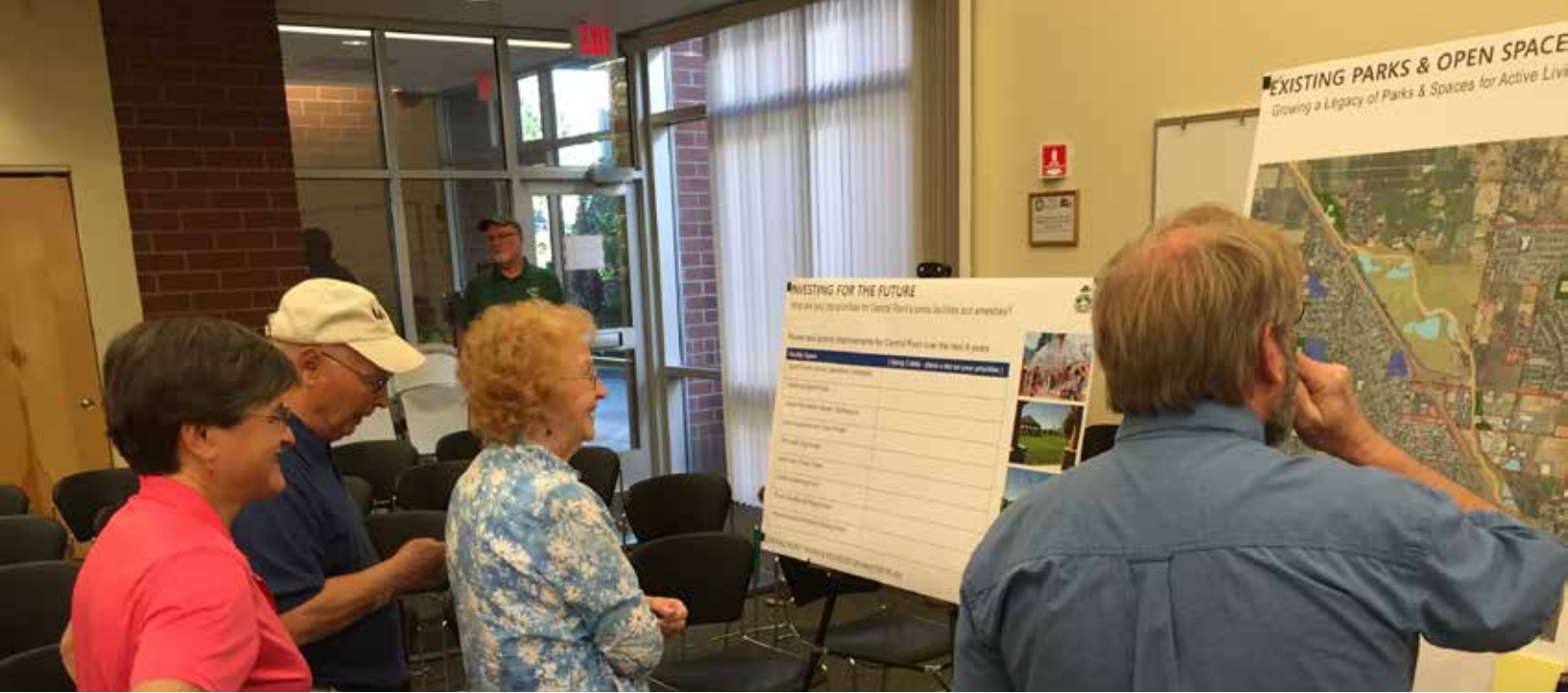
OVERVIEW

The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the park and recreation services that Central Point aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff and officials and community members.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Taken together, the goals and objectives provide a framework for the city-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Objectives are more specific, measurable statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Objectives may change over time. Recommendations are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and objectives and are contained in other chapters of the Plan.

This Plan supports those policies addressing Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 5: Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas and Natural Resources, and Goal 8: Recreation Needs. The Plan also complies with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's 2013-2017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).



Community Engagement and Communication

Goal 1: Encourage meaningful public involvement in park and recreation planning and inform residents through department communications.

- 1.1 Support the Parks and Recreation Commission as the forum for public discussion of parks and recreation issues and conduct joint sessions as necessary between Commission and City Council to improve coordination and discuss policy matters of mutual interest.
- 1.2 Involve residents and stakeholders in system-wide planning, park site facility design and recreation program development and continue to use a diverse set of communication and informational materials to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- 1.3 Support volunteer park improvement and stewardship projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, faith organizations and businesses to promote community involvement in parks and recreation facilities.
- 1.4 Continue to promote and distribute information about recreational activities, education programs, community services and events, and volunteer activities sponsored by the City and partner agencies and organizations.
- 1.5 Prepare and promote an updated park and trail facilities map for online and print distribution to highlight existing and proposed sites and routes.
- 1.6 Implement a comprehensive approach for wayfinding and directional signage to, and identification and interpretive signage within, park and trail facilities.
- 1.7 Survey, review and publish local park and recreation preferences, needs and trends periodically to stay current with community recreation interests.



Recreation Programming

Goal 2: Establish and maintain a varied and inclusive suite of recreation programs that accommodate a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities and promote the health and wellness of the community.

- 2.1 Expand and enhance the diversity of programs offered, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users.
- 2.2 Enable programming and services to meet the needs of diverse users, including at-risk communities or those with special needs.
- 2.3 Maintain and enhance program scholarships, fee waivers and other mechanisms to support recreation access for low-income program participants.
- 2.4 Continue to pursue development of a multi-use community center that provides additional space for recreation programs.
- 2.5 Pursue opportunities to develop an indoor aquatic facility and recreation center, potentially in partnership with other organizations or agencies. Consider financial feasibility and long term operations needs prior to design or construction of any new facility.
- 2.6 Implement and support special events, festivals, concerts and cultural programming to promote arts, health and wellness, community identity and tourism, and to foster civic pride.
- 2.7 Leverage city resources by forming and maintaining partnerships with public, non-profit and private recreation providers to deliver recreation services; coordinate with the school district for access to existing facilities (e.g. schools gymnasiums, tracks, fields) for community recreational use.
- 2.8 Explore partnership opportunities with regional healthcare providers and services, such as Providence, Asante and the Jackson County Health and Human Department, to promote wellness activities, healthy lifestyles and communications about local recreation facilities and the benefits of parks and recreation.
- 2.9 Periodically undertake a comprehensive evaluation of existing recreation program offerings in terms of persons served, customer satisfaction, cost/subsidy, cost recovery and availability of similar programs via other providers.



Parks & Open Space

Goal 3: Acquire and develop a high-quality, diversified system of parks, recreation amenities and open spaces that provides equitable access to all residents.

- 3.1 Provide a level of service standard of 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents of developed core parks (community, neighborhood and pocket).
- 3.2 Strive to provide equitable access to parks such that all city residents live within one-half mile of a developed neighborhood park.
- 3.3 Prioritize park acquisition and development in underserved areas where households are more than ½-mile from a developed park.
- 3.4 Explore partnership with local utilities, public agencies and private landowners for easements for parkland, trail corridors and recreation facilities.
- 3.5 Pursue low-cost and/or non-purchase options to preserve open space, including the use of conservation easements and development agreements.
- 3.6 Continue to provide community gardens at suitable sites to provide opportunities for gardening, healthy eating and social connections.
- 3.7 Provide and maintain facilities for alternative or emerging sports, such as pickleball, disc golf, climbing and parkour, to offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences.
- 3.8 Coordinate with public agencies and private landowners for the protection of valuable natural areas and sensitive lands through the purchase of development rights, easements or title and make these lands available for passive recreation as appropriate.
- 3.9 Maintain and apply annually for Tree City USA status.
- 3.10 Manage vegetation in natural areas to support or maintain native plant species, habitat function and other ecological values; remove and control non-native or invasive plants as appropriate.



Trails & Pathways

Goal 4: Develop a high-quality system of multi-use trails and bicycle and pedestrian corridors that connects to regional trails and provides access to public facilities, neighborhoods and businesses to promote exercise, walking and biking.

- 4.1 Coordinate recreational path and trail system planning and development with the City's and Jackson County's Transportation System Plan to provide a comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle network. Coordinate with Medford's pathway plans for improved connectivity. Create an updated Pedestrian and Bike Trails Plan.
- 4.2 Facilitate and provide improved pedestrian and bicycle connectivity from major shared-use paths, such as the Bear Creek Greenway, to parks and other destinations.
- 4.3 Coordinate with the Planning Department and integrate the siting of proposed path and trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated routes to be designed to incorporate path and trail segments as part of the project.
- 4.4 Expand the system of off-street trails by utilizing greenways, parks, utility corridors and critical areas as appropriate; purchase rights-of-way or easements as necessary.
- 4.5 Partner with local utilities, public agencies and private landowners to secure easements and access to open space for path and trail connections.
- 4.6 Implement trail, route and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities, informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities.
- 4.7 Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, signage, restrooms and other amenities.



Design, Development & Management

Goal 5: Plan for a parks system that is efficient to maintain and operate, while protecting capital investment.

- 5.1 Develop and maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition. Repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification. Maintain and update an inventory of assets including condition and expected useful life.
- 5.2 Establish and utilize design standards to provide continuity in furnishings (e.g., signage, trash cans, tables, benches, fencing) and construction materials to reduce inventory and maintenance costs and improve park appearance.
- 5.3 Update this comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan periodically to ensure facilities and services meet current and future community needs.
- 5.4 Formulate illustrative master plans for the development or redevelopment of each City park, as appropriate, to take advantage of grant or other funding opportunities.
- 5.5 Design parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels and age, as appropriate.
- 5.6 Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities.
- 5.7 Estimate the maintenance costs and staffing levels associated with the acquisition, development or renovation of parks or open spaces, and pursue adequate long-term maintenance, life-cycle replacement and operation funding.
- 5.8 Develop and maintain minimum design and development standards for park and recreation amenities within private developments to address community facility needs, equipment types, accessibility and installation procedures.
- 5.9 Update this comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan periodically to ensure facilities and services meet current and future community needs.
- 5.10 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the skills and engender greater commitment from staff, Commission members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) and the Oregon Recreation & Parks Association (ORPA).

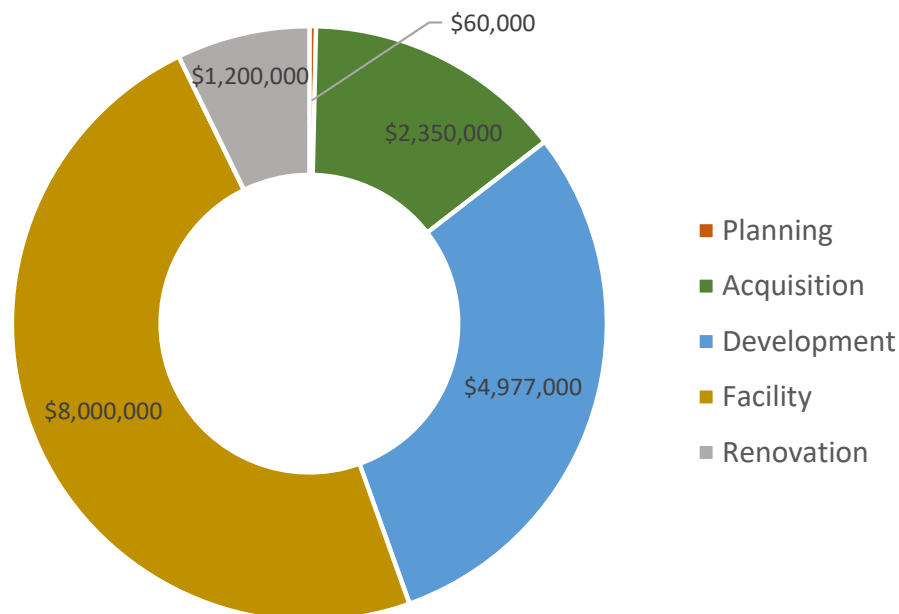


CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

The following Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) lists all park and facility projects considered for the next five years. The majority of these projects entail the development of parks and facilities, renovating or repairing existing park amenities and improving ADA access to amenities. Based on survey results and other feedback, Central Point residents have indicated an interest in park upgrades and trails as near-term priorities, and the proposed CIP is reflective of that desire.

The following CIP project list provides brief project descriptions and priority ranking to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

Figure 18. 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan Summary by Project Type





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Central Point Parks & Recreation Master Plan
20-Year Capital Improvements Plan
2017-2037

Class	Park Site	Project Description	Activity	Priority	Funding	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31	2031-33	2033-35	2035-37	2037+	Sum
COM	Community Park	Conduct site master plan to guide park redevelopment	P	2	GF			\$ 35,000									\$ 35,000
		Park development/improvements - phased	D	3	SDC, GF, Gr, Priv				\$ 125,000		\$ 1,500,000				\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 4,125,000
COM	Don Jones Park	Water Feature upgrade	R	1	GF		\$ 90,000										\$ 90,000
		Replace grass and fix irrigation issues at Memorial	R	1	GF	\$ 9,500											\$ 9,500
		Add trees to Don Jones	D	1	GF	\$ 3,500											\$ 3,500
		Shade enhancement at Don Jones	D	1	GF	\$ 15,000											\$ 15,000
		Slide Hill at Don Jones	D	2	GF, Gr					\$ 45,000							\$ 45,000
		Place concession stand at Don Jones	D	2	GF, Gr, Priv						\$ 95,000						\$ 95,000
COM	Robert Pfaff Park	Pfaff on sidewalk trip hazard	R	1	GF	\$ 3,500											\$ 3,500
		New play structure at Pfaff	D	2	GF, Gr, Priv			\$ 180,000									\$ 180,000
		Total surface replacement for Pfaff Tennis	R	2	GF					\$ 65,000							\$ 65,000
COM	Twin Creeks Park	Tree replacements	R	2	GF	\$ 3,500											\$ 3,500
		Paved paths to shelters	D	2	GF			\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000								\$ 45,000
NH	Boes	Conduct site master plan to guide park development	P	1	GF		\$ 25,000										\$ 25,000
		Riparian corridor restoration	R	2	GF, Gr			\$ 35,000									\$ 35,000
		Park development	D	3	SDC, Gr, Priv						\$ 100,000	\$ 150,000					\$ 250,000
NH	Cascade Meadows Park	Replace play structure & fall safety material	R	1	GF					\$ 60,000							\$ 60,000
		Add shade trees	D	2	GF					\$ 1,500							\$ 1,500
NH	Flanagan Park	Replace playground fall material	R	1	GF	\$ 14,000											\$ 14,000
		New play structure at Flanagan	D	2	GF, Gr							\$ 95,000					\$ 95,000
		Resurface tennis court and repair fence	R	2	GF			\$ 30,000									\$ 30,000
		Riparian corridor enhancements	R	3	GF, Gr			\$ 15,000									\$ 15,000
NH	Forest Glen Park	Replace playground fall material	R	1	GF		\$ 14,000										\$ 14,000
		Overlay or seal coat basketball court at Forest Glen	R	1	GF		\$ 9,500										\$ 9,500
		New play structure at Forest Glen	D	2	GF, Gr				\$ 95,000								\$ 95,000
		Riparian corridor enhancements	R	3	GF, Gr		\$ 5,000										\$ 5,000
NH	Griffin Oak Park	Play ramp addition (ADA)	R	1	GF		\$ 10,000										\$ 10,000
NH	Mentee Park	Replace/repair pathway & rubber panels	R	1	GF	\$ 10,000											\$ 10,000
NH	Van Horn Park	Trees removal and replacement for large trees with disease	R	1	GF	\$ 8,000											\$ 8,000
		Install paved pathway connecting playgrounds w/ ramps	R	2	GF			\$ 25,000									\$ 25,000
		Tennis Court/Basketball Court replacement to fix under surface problem	R	2	GF						\$ 85,000						\$ 85,000
NH	William Mott Park	New play structure at Willie Mott	D	2	GF, Gr								\$ 60,000				\$ 60,000
SPEC	Community Center	Construct community center	F	2	Gr, Priv, TBD				\$ 8,000,000								\$ 8,000,000
SPEC	Civic Fields	Install ADA-accessible picnic tables	D	1	GF		\$ 12,000										\$ 12,000
		Install new playground	D	2	GF, Gr, SDC					\$ 65,000							\$ 65,000
SPEC	Skyrman Arboretum	Phase 2 development (main building, landscape & amenities)	D	2	SDC, Gr, Priv					\$ 270,000							\$ 270,000
NH	Neighborhood Park Acquisition		A	2	SDC, Gr, Priv					\$ 450,000							\$ 450,000
NH	Neighborhood Park Acquisition		A	2	SDC, Gr, Priv								\$ 400,000				\$ 400,000
COM	Community Park Acquisition		A	2	SDC, Gr, Priv						\$ 650,000						\$ 650,000
COM	Community Park Acquisition		A	3	SDC, Gr, Priv									\$ 850,000			\$ 850,000
Trail	Bear Creek Greenway	Vegetation management	R	1	GF	\$ 28,000		\$ 15,000		\$ 20,000			\$ 15,000			\$ 20,000	\$ 98,000
Systemwide	Minor Repairs & Renovations		R	1	GF	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 130,000
Systemwide	ADA Compliance Upgrades	ADA-compliant benches, picnic tables, ramps, signs, access	R	1	GF	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000							\$ 100,000
						\$ 115,000	\$ 205,500	\$ 400,000	\$ 8,285,000	\$ 1,001,500	\$ 1,790,000	\$ 905,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 410,000	\$ 2,110,000	\$ 1,280,000	\$ 16,587,000

Code Funding Source

- SDC System Development Charges
- Priv Private funds; Dedications; Donations
- Gr Grants
- GF General Fund / Local Share
- TBD To Be Determined: Other funding sources needed for replacement, rehabilitation and general maintenance

Code Activity

- A Acquisition
- D Development
- R Renovation / Repair
- P Planning / Design
- F Facility

Code Priority

- 1 High Priority
- 2
- 3 Lower Priority

NOTES:

This CIP identifies planning-level cost estimates. Detailed costing may be necessary for projects noted.

This CIP is intended as a guiding document for City staff in the preparation of departmental budgets.



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The goals and objectives that guided the identification of proposed projects for future park and recreation service delivery for Central Point will require significant resources for successful implementation. The Capital Improvement Plan summarizes the estimated costs and proposed timing for individual projects.

During the development of this Plan, the assessment of current and future needs translated into additional system-wide strategies and CIP projects. The provision of park and recreation services will trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional operations and maintenance responsibilities.

Given that the operating and capital budget of the Department is limited, additional resources will be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed policies, programs and projects. The following highlights potential strategies to facilitate near-term direction on implementation of this Plan.

PROJECT-LEVEL OPTIONS

Partner Coordination & Collaboration

Specific projects and goals identified in this Plan demand a high degree of coordination and collaboration with other City departments and outside organizations.

Internal coordination with the Community Development Department can increase the potential of discrete actions in the review of development applications with consideration toward potential parkland acquisition areas, planned trail corridors and the need for easement or set-aside requests. However, to more fully extend the extent of the



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park system and recreation programs, additional partnerships and collaborations should be sought.

Continued coordination with the Central Point School District will advance some projects in which resources can be leveraged to the benefit of the community. The City should maintain an open dialogue with the School District regarding the potential to expand or support recreation or outdoor-based programming that can serve local youth and the broader goals of both organizations.

Central Point should explore partnership opportunities with regional health care providers and services, such as Asante, Providence and the Jackson County Health & Human Services Department, to promote wellness activities, healthy living and communications about the benefits of parks and recreation. For example, these groups could more directly cross-market services and help expand resident understanding of local wellness options, and they could sponsor a series of organized trail walks across Central Point as a means to expand public awareness of local trail opportunities and encourage residents to stay fit.

Developing or strengthening these types of partnerships will be essential for reaching the goals of the Plan and meeting the needs of the future park system. Partnerships may allow the City to share responsibilities for the financial, acquisition, development, planning and operational activities. Partnerships, like many relationships, require time to develop and establish the mutual values that keep the partners at the table, leverage all accumulated resources and lead to successful project or program implementation. City staff may need to grow to allow for the capacity to capture stronger partnerships.

Volunteer & Community-based Action

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of park and recreation services in Central Point. Volunteer projects range from recreation program and event support to park-specific projects that include invasive plant removal, planting, and debris removal. The City should maintain and update a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects for the website, while also reaching out to the high schools to encourage student projects. Enhancing and supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals will continue to add value to the process for improving Central Point and implementing its future programs and projects.

Grants & Appropriations

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including Oregon State Parks, LWCF and MAP-21. Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Central Point should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation projects, and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects.

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Parkland Donations & Dedications

Parkland donations from private individuals or conservation organizations could occur to complement the acquisition of park and open space lands across the City and the UGB. Gift deeds or bequests from philanthropic-minded landowners could allow for lands to come into City ownership upon the death of the owner or as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Parkland dedication by a developer could occur in exchange in exchange for Park SDCs or as part of a planned development where public open space is a key design for the layout and marketing of a new residential project. Potential dedications should be vetted by the Department to ensure that such land is located in an area of need or can expand an existing City property and can be developed with site amenities listed in the Acquisition and Development Standards(see Appendix F).

Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are increasingly necessary for local agencies to leverage their limited resources in providing park and recreation services to the community. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, conservation stewardship programs and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. The City has existing partners and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement these Plan recommendations.

SYSTEM-WIDE OPTIONS

Although a variety of approaches exist to support individual projects or programs, the broader assessment of community needs suggests that additional, dedicated system-wide funding may be required to finance upgrades to and growth in the parks system. The inventory and assessment of the park system identified a backlog of deferred maintenance and ADA enhancements that must be addressed to ensure the provision of a safe, secure and accessible park system.

Local Funding - Bonds

According to the 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Central Point maintains reserve debt capacity of \$38 million. The selective use of general obligation bond capacity for park and recreation system enhancements should be discussed and considered in parallel with other needs for Citywide expenditures. Based on the community feedback conducted as part of this Plan, the development of a new community center and/or swimming pool may warrant a review of financing alternatives and debt implications for such large capital projects, in addition to the consideration of polling voters regarding their potential support for such projects.

System Development Charges

Park System Development Charges (SDCs) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. SDCs can only be used for parkland acquisition, planning and/or development. They cannot be used for



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operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Central Point currently assesses Parks SDCs, but the City should periodically update the methodology and rate structure, as appropriate, to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from residential development. The City should prioritize the usage of Parks SDCs to secure new park properties and finance park or path/trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan.

Parks Utility Fee

In May 2015, Central Point City Council adopted a parks maintenance fee for the purpose of providing for the operation and maintenance of parks and facilities within the city. The fee program is based on a model used by Medford, and the funds are earmarked for repair and replacement of existing park facilities. Given the newness of this program, the City should periodically revisit the fee methodology and rate, as appropriate, to ensure adequate resources for the sound and timely maintenance of existing park amenities and facilities.

Park & Recreation District Formation

Another approach to financing park, recreation and path/trail needs is through the formation of a special district. Municipalities across Oregon have favored the creation of Park and Recreation Districts (PRD) to meet the recreational needs of residents, while also being sensitive to the set of demands placed on general purpose property tax funds. Bend and Willamalane are two examples of successful PRDs in Oregon.

The Oregon Revised Statutes (Chapter 266) detail the formation and operation of such a district. Upon formation, the district would be managed by an elected board and have the authority to levy taxes, incur debt and issue revenue or general obligation bonds.

In particular, a PRD may be a viable option to help finance the construction and operation of a new multi-use community center and/or swimming pool. A feasibility study should be conducted to explore the potential, financial viability and voter support for a PRD.

Other Funding Tools

Appendix E identifies other implementation tools, such as grants and acquisition tactics, that the City could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the CIP.

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ENHANCING COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Many of the Plan recommendations will require the continued execution of effective communications and outreach. Promoting the City's park, recreation and trail system will require broader marketing and outreach that entails a combination of better signage, more public news coverage, enhanced wayfinding, enhanced user maps and information, expanded use of engaging social media, and intuitive website/online resources.

To enhance residents' awareness of Central Point's park and recreation offerings, the City should:

- Frame its services around the goals of health, fitness, activity and safety.
- Provide enhanced maps of parks and trails that are visually appealing and translatable to mobile devices.
- Provide wayfinding signage within the park and trail system to direct residents and visitors to the City's parks and facilities.
- Continue to improve the City's website and social media presence to promote events, recreational and education programs, and volunteer activities.
- Continue to coordinate with web-based mapping applications, such as Google Maps, to ensure park names and locations are shown correctly on these often used sites.

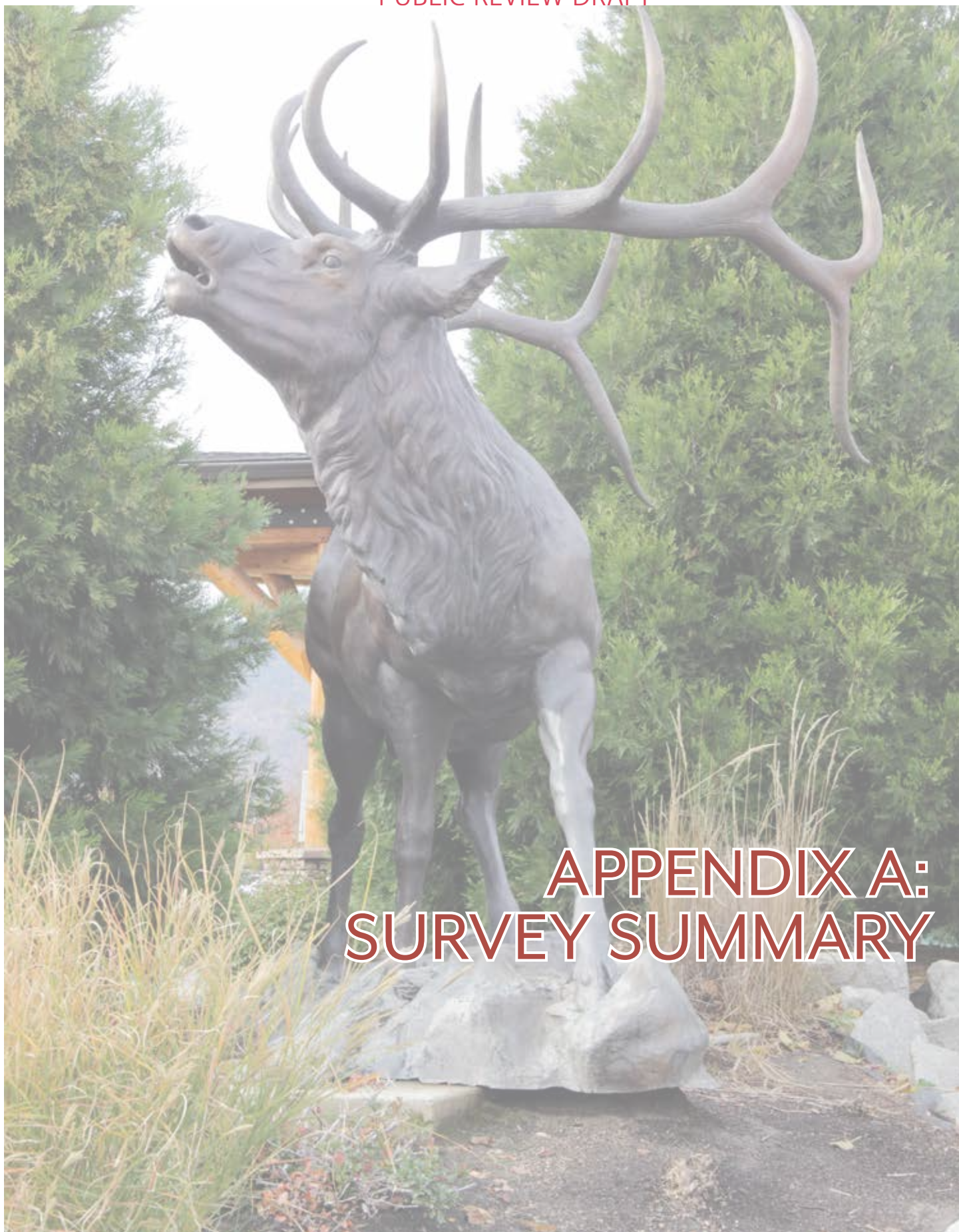
In addition, the City should continue to act as the local hub for information about recreation, programs, events and activities in the community. This may include providing print and web-based information about the benefits of active lifestyles and available recreation resources, but it may also include information about high school sports and other general fitness or health information.



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APPENDIX A: SURVEY SUMMARY



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To: Jennifer Boardman, Recreation Manager
From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.
Date: June 30, 2016
Re: **City of Central Point Parks Master Plan**
 Community Survey Summary Results

I. Methodology

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of the survey of the general population of Central Point assessing residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities. In close collaboration with staff and Parks Commissioners, Conservation Technix developed the 19-question survey that was estimated to take approximately five minutes to complete. A total of 380 completed surveys were recorded.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,000 households in Central Point on April 26, 2016. An online version of the survey was posted to the Central Point's website on the same day. Reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,000 households on May 6th. Information about the survey was provided in the RECreate guide, on the City's website home page and on the Park and Recreation Department's subpage. Program users, stakeholders and civic groups were notified about the survey via email. The survey was also promoted during a public open house meeting held on May 10, 2016 that serviced as the first public meeting for the update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The survey was closed on May 27, 2016, and preliminary data were compiled and reviewed. In all, 278 responses were completed from the print version mail survey, and 102 responses were generated via the online link published on the City's website.

This report includes findings on general community opinions. Since the survey was open to the general public and respondents were not selected solely through statistical sampling methods, the results are not necessarily representative of all Central Point residents. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.



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II. DEMOGRAPHICS

The following table compares Central Point’s demographics, based on the 2014 American Community Survey, to the respondents to the Central Point Parks and Recreation Survey. The survey did not accommodate a controlled collection protocol, and response quotas by age or gender were not included.

Of the 380 residents who completed the survey, 44% were over 65 years old, 33% were between 45 and 65, 22% were between 20 and 45, and less than 1% were under 20 years old. The majority of respondents were female (65%). Most (70%) have no children at home while the remainder had a single child (9%), two children (11%), or three or more children (9%).

In general, survey respondents were significantly more likely to be older adults and female as compared to Central Point’s population in general.

Demographic group	US Census (2014) 17,443	Survey Respondents n = 380
Gender		
Female	52%	64.9%
Male	48%	35.1%
Age		
Younger than 20	28.4%	0.6%
20 to 34	18.1%	9.5%
35 to 44	13.7%	12.9%
45 to 54	11.0%	18.4%
55 to 64	10.8%	14.9%
65 and older	17.9%	43.7%
Children Under 18 in Household		
No children	67.2%	70.1%
1 child	32.8% (all households with	9.2%
2 children	children under 18	11.2%
3 or more children	combined)	9.5%
Residency Location		
East of I-5	n/a	18.3%
Between Hwy 99 & I-5	n/a	44.2%
West of Hwy 99	n/a	36.3%
Don't live in Central Point	n/a	1.2%

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Parks and Recreation Survey 2016

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III. KEY FINDINGS

A. AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS

i. Community Value of Parks and Recreation

Seven in ten residents feel that parks and recreation opportunities are essential to the quality of life in Central Point. An additional 22% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not really necessary. Fewer than 5% believe parks and recreation are “a luxury that we don’t need”. Female respondents were significantly more likely to feel that parks and recreation are essential to quality of life (78% for female to 63% for male respondents).

When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Central Point, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are... (Q2)

Response options	Response Percent	
Essential to the quality of life here	70.8%	93%
Important, but not really necessary	22.2%	
More of a luxury that we don’t need	4.7%	
Don’t know	2.2%	

Similarly, the majority of respondents (85%) feel that Central Point’s parks and recreation services are important to the community’s quality of life, regardless of their use of the services. Younger residents were more likely to feel that “members of my household use parks and recreation programs on a regular basis, and I believe that these facilities are important to quality of life.” For example, 73% of respondents under the age of 34 agreed with this statement, compared to 21% of residents over 65.

Which one of the following statements comes closest to the way you feel about parks in your community? (Q3)

Response options	Response Percent	
Members of my household use parks on a regular basis, and I believe that these facilities are important to quality of life.	38.4%	85.4%
Although members of my household do not use parks frequently, I believe that they are important to quality of life.	47.0%	
Parks do not currently play an important role in my life or the life of my immediate family members.	14.9%	

ii. Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation

More than three-quarters (77.6%) of respondents indicated that they are very or somewhat satisfied with the overall value they receive from parks and recreation in Central Point. Less than 8% of respondents are very or somewhat dissatisfied. Approximately one in seven respondents answered “Don’t know”, which is similar to the percentage of respondents who stated that parks do not currently play a role in their or their family’s life (*see Question 3 above*).



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Please rate your satisfaction with the overall value your household receives Central Point Parks & Recreation. (Q5)

Satisfaction rating	Response Percent
Very Satisfied	44.0%
Somewhat Satisfied	33.6%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	5.7%
Very Dissatisfied	1.9%
Don't Know	14.8%

iii. Information Sources

City residents obtain information about park and recreation facilities and programs from a variety of sources. The City’s recreation guide, RECreate, is a popular source of information and used by nearly 80% of survey respondents. Family and friends, social media and community event signs are sources of information for approximately one-third of respondents. Though not explicitly mentioned in the survey, a number of respondents wrote in the “city’s water bill” or “utility bill” as a source of information.

Notably, RECreate, the City’s website and event signs are popular sources of information for residents of all ages. Other sources of information are less popular, but may still provide information to certain segments of the population. For example, social media, the internet, and friends and neighbors are more popular sources with younger residents – though residents of all ages gain information from these sources. Newspapers are used most by older respondents, including 42% of those between 55 and 64 years of age and 35% of those over 65.

Response options	Response Percent
RECreate, the City’s recreation guide	79.1%
From family, friends and neighbors	37.2%
Social media	36.1%
Community event signs	35.8%
Newspaper	28.5%
City website	24.7%
Internet/Search Engine	11.9%
Flyers at City facilities	11.1%
School fliers/newsletters	9.3%
Other	8.7%
Conversations with City staff	7.6%
None	4.1%

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B. PUBLIC USE OF PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES

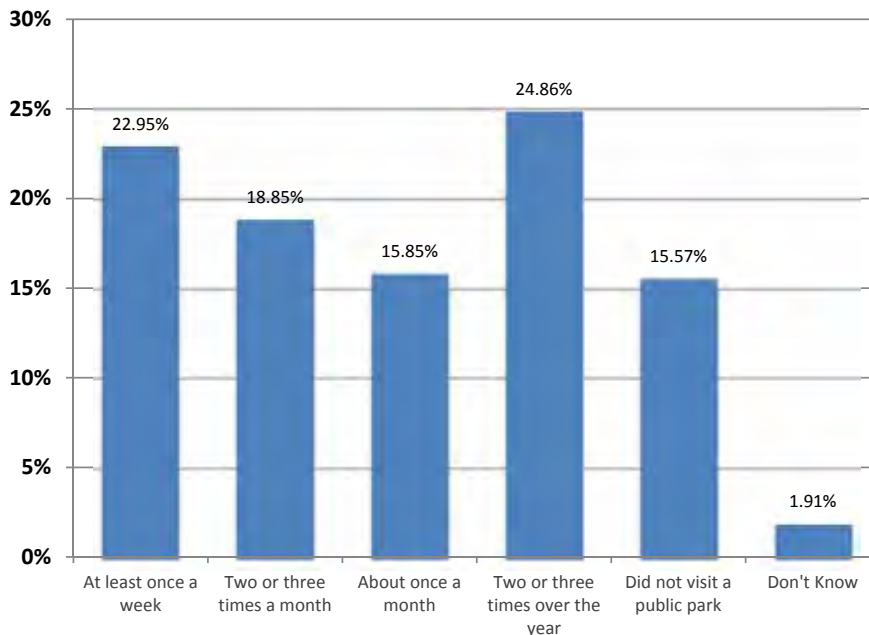
The City asked residents a number of questions about respondents use of parks and recreational facilities in Central Point.

i. Frequency of Park Use

Respondents were asked how often they, or members of their household, visited parks or recreation facilities over the past year. Over half (57.7%) of respondents replied that they, or member of their household, visited a park or recreation facility at least once per month in the past year. More than one in five visited at least once a week (23%). However, 16% of respondents did not visit a park or facility at all.

Younger respondents were more likely to visit parks frequently - 91% of respondents between 20 and 34 years old visit at least once a month, as compared to 41% of respondents over the age of 65. Residents of neighborhoods west of Highway 99 were more likely to be frequent park visitors than residents of other areas: 31% visit a park at least once a week, compared to 24% of residents east of I-5 and 18% of residents between Highway 99 and I-5. Approximately 21% of residents of neighborhoods between Highway 99 and I-5 did not visit a public park in the past year.

How many times over the past year have you or members of your household visited a public park or recreation facility in Central Point? (Q6)



i. Park & Recreation Facility Use

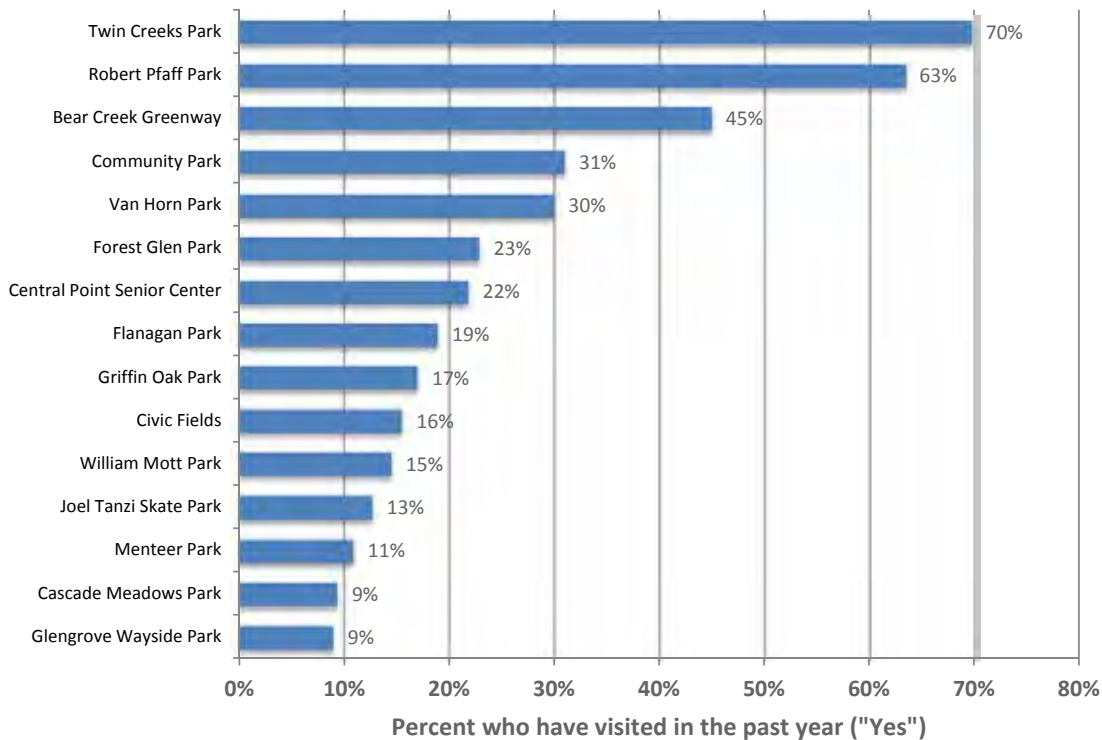
The City asked residents which parks and recreation facilities they, or members of their household, have visited. All City parks and recreation facilities were visited by at least 9% of respondents. The



most popular parks were Twin Creeks Park (70% of respondents) and Robert Pfaff Park (63%). The Bear Creek Greenway is also popular with residents – 45% of respondents have used the Greenway. Cascade Meadows and Glengrove Wayside Parks were visited by less than 10% of respondents, the lowest rate for City parks.

Generally, respondents who live near parks are most likely to report using them. However, some park and recreation facilities – Community Park, Robert Pfaff Park, the Bear Creek Greenway, and the Central Point Senior Center – attract visitors from across the city. As might be expected, residents over the age of 65 were more likely to have visited the Central Point Senior Center than younger residents.

Please indicate if YOU or any member of your HOUSEHOLD has used any of the following parks and recreation facilities listed below. (Q7)



C. FACILITY PRIORITIES

i. Rating of Park Condition

Survey respondents were asked to rate the general condition of parks and recreation facilities that they had visited. Residents were most critical of the condition of the Bear Creek Greenway (35% rated the condition as either “fair” or “poor”) and Cascade Meadows Park (30% rated the condition as either “fair” or “poor”). However, a large majority of residents (at least 75%) rated the condition as of all other City parks and recreation facilities as either “excellent” or “good”.

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For those you marked with a YES on the previous page (carried forward below), please indicate how you would rate the condition of the park or recreation facility. (Q8)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total Responses
Twin Creeks Park	70.9%	27.3%	1.8%	0.0%	220
William Mott Park	55.2%	37.9%	6.9%	0.0%	29
Van Horn Park	44.3%	47.1%	8.6%	0.0%	70
Menteer Park	39.1%	56.5%	4.4%	0.0%	23
Griffin Oak Park	43.2%	43.2%	13.5%	0.0%	37
Civic Fields	28.1%	71.9%	0.0%	0.0%	32
Forest Glen Park	36.5%	53.9%	9.6%	0.0%	52
Community Park	40.5%	50.0%	4.1%	5.4%	74
Robert Pfaff Park	35.6%	52.6%	10.3%	1.6%	194
Flanagan Park	25.6%	67.4%	7.0%	0.0%	43
Joel Tanzi Skate Park	39.3%	39.3%	21.4%	0.0%	28
Glengrove Wayside Park	30.0%	55.0%	15.0%	0.0%	20
Central Point Senior Center	35.9%	49.1%	9.4%	5.7%	53
Cascade Meadows Park	25.0%	45.0%	15.0%	15.0%	20
Bear Creek Greenway	15.7%	49.6%	26.1%	8.7%	115

ii. Need for additional park and recreation opportunities

A slight majority of residents (54.4%) feel there are “about the right number” of park and recreation opportunities in Central Point. Approximately 21% believe there are not enough opportunities, while 13% believe there are more than enough. Approximately one-quarter of respondents who live west of I-5 feel there are not enough parks and recreation opportunities (22% for those between Hwy 99 and I-5, and 23.4% for those west of Hwy 99).

When it comes to meeting the needs of the community, would you say there are... (Q4)

Response options	Response Percent
More than enough parks and recreation opportunities in the City of Central Point	13.5%
About the right number	54.4%
Not enough parks and recreation opportunities in the City of Central Point	21.4%
Don't know	10.7%

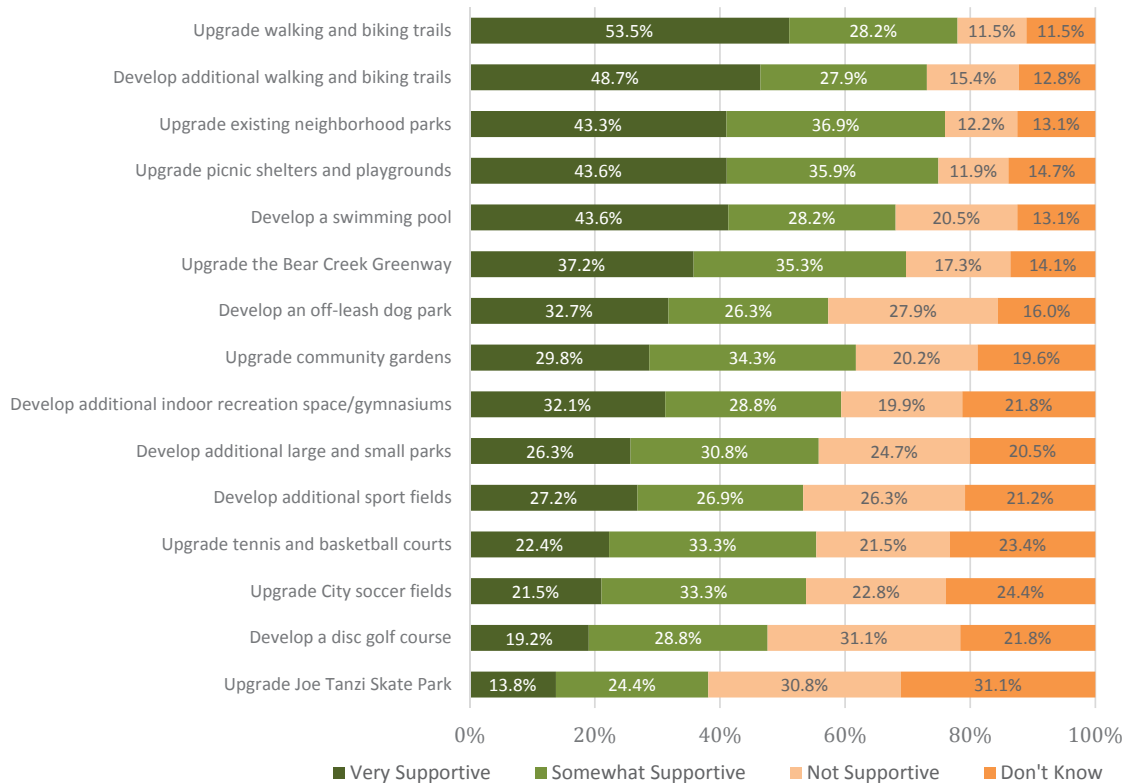


iii. Park and Facility Improvement Priorities

Survey respondents were presented with a list of potential improvements to Central Point’s parks and recreation system, including upgrades to existing facilities and development of new facilities. Over half of respondents were very or somewhat supportive of nearly all improvements listed. More than three-quarters of respondents supported upgrading existing and developing new walking and biking trails, upgrading existing neighborhood parks, and upgrading picnic shelters and playgrounds. Between 50% and 74% respondents supported a variety of other park improvements including developing a swimming pool, off-leash park, indoor recreation space, and additional parks and sports fields, as well as upgrading the Bear Creek Greenway, community gardens, and existing sports fields and courts. Of the responses to this question, fewer supported development of a disc golf course (48%) and improving Joe Tanzi Skate Park (38%).

In general, younger residents – particularly those between 35 and 44 years of age - were more than twice as likely to support park and recreation improvements than residents over 55. Women were more likely than men to be very supportive of upgrades to Joe Tanzi Skatepark (17% to 8%) and picnic shelters and playgrounds (49% to 28%) as well as the development of additional indoor recreation space (38% to 21%) and a swimming pool (48% to 29%).

The following are major actions that the City of Central Point could take to UPGRADE and DEVELOP parks and recreation facilities. Please indicate whether you would be very supportive, somewhat supportive, not sure, or not supportive of each action by checking the box next to the action. (Q10)



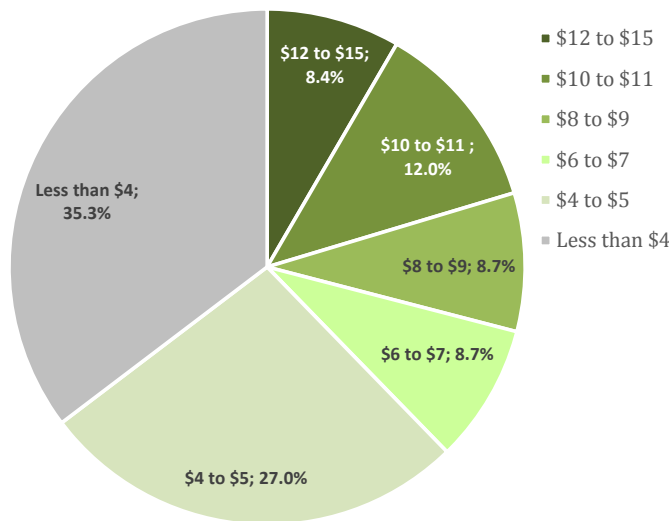
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i. Willingness to pay to support park improvements

The City asked residents about their willingness to pay additional fees or taxes to support the improvement and development of parks, trails and recreation facilities. The majority of residents (65%) were willing to pay at least \$4 per month to fund improved recreational opportunities. One in five respondents were willing to pay at least \$10 per month. Sixteen of 278 respondents to the mail survey (7%) wrote in that they were not willing to pay any additional fees or taxes – these responses were included in the “Less than \$4” category.

Female respondents were more likely to support additional taxes or fees to fund improvements to the park and recreation system. Nearly one-quarter of women (23.8%) were willing to pay \$10 or more per month, compared to 13.8% of men; while 31.4% of women were willing to pay less than \$4 per month, compared to 43% of men. Approximately 45% of respondents over 55 would prefer to spend less than \$4 per month to fund park and recreation improvements. This represents a higher percentage of respondents than in younger age groups.

Costs to improve and develop parks, trails and recreation facilities (including a pool facility) may need to be paid through additional fees paid by participants and taxes paid by the community. Knowing that, what is the maximum amount of additional money you would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks, trails and recreation facilities that are most important to your household? (Q12)

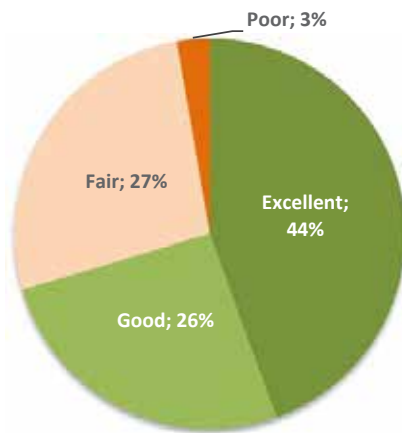


D. RECREATION PROGRAM PRIORITIES

i. Quality of Recreational Programs

Survey respondents generally feel that Central Point’s recreational programs and activities are of excellent (45%) or good (27%) quality. Only 2% of respondents feel that programs they, or member of their household, have participated in are of poor quality.

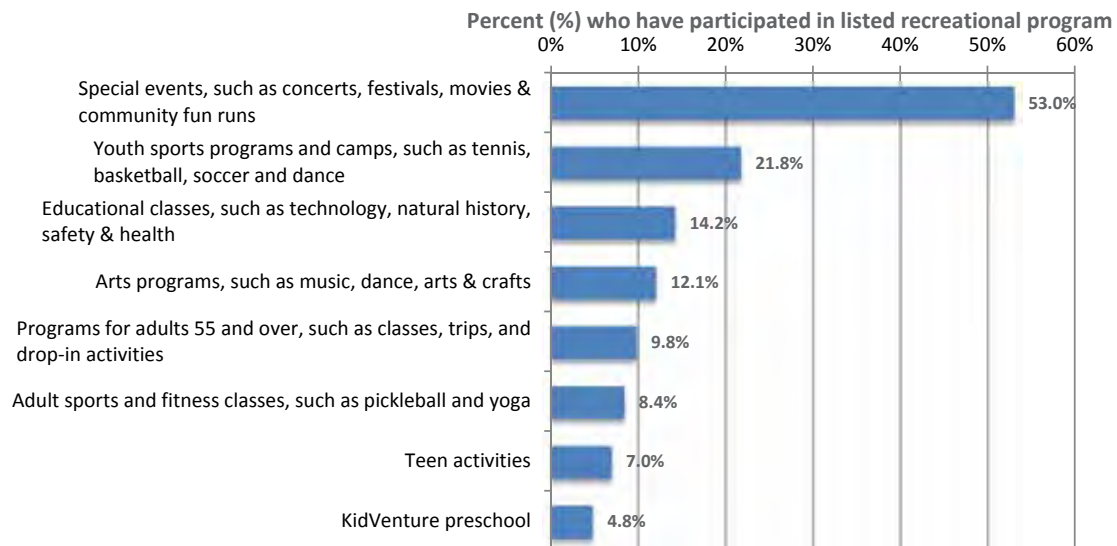
How would you rate the overall quality of the programs and activities that you and members of your household have participated in? (Q11)



ii. Participation in Recreational Programs

Special events had the broadest appeal with a majority (53%) of respondents having participated during the past year. Residents between the ages of 35 and 44 were more likely to have used youth and teen programs, likely with their children. Adults over the age of 55 are the primary users of programs for adults 55 and over, such as classes, trips, and drop-in activities.

Please indicate all of the Central Point Parks and Recreation programs and activities that you or members of your household have participated in during the past year. (Q9a)



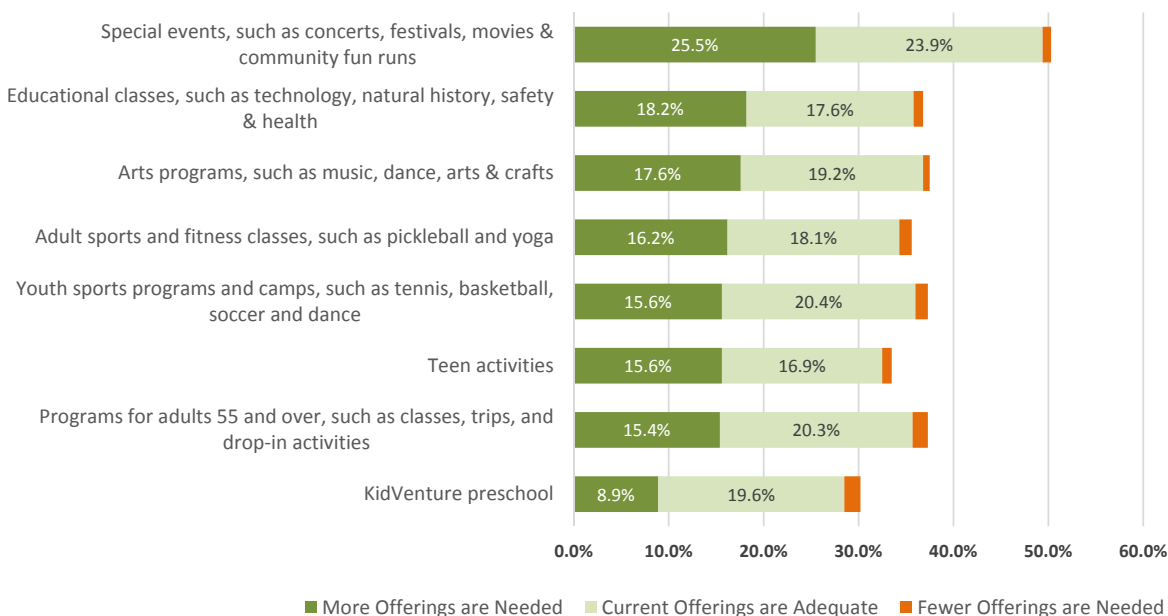
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iii. Recreational opportunities

Respondents were asked whether existing recreational programs and activities were adequate. Very few respondents (less than 2%) felt the City should reduce offerings of any of its recreational programs. Remaining respondents were relatively evenly split on whether they thought the City provided adequate offerings for each type of program, or whether more are needed. (Note: Many respondents answered Part A of this question, which asked about participation, without answering Part B. As such, the total percentages for Part B do not add to 100%.)

For each activity, please mark whether you think there should be more of this type of activity available, whether the current program offerings are adequate, or whether there should be less of this activity available. (Q9b)

	More Offerings are Needed	Current Offerings are Adequate	Fewer Offerings are Needed
Special events, such as concerts, festivals, movies & community fun runs	25.5%	23.9%	0.9%
Youth sports programs and camps, such as tennis, basketball, soccer and dance	15.6%	20.4%	1.3%
Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety & health	18.2%	17.6%	1.0%
Arts programs, such as music, dance, arts & crafts	17.6%	19.2%	0.7%
Programs for adults 55 and over, such as classes, trips, and drop-in activities	15.4%	20.3%	1.6%
Adult sports and fitness classes, such as pickleball and yoga	16.2%	18.1%	1.3%
Teen activities	15.6%	16.9%	1.0%
KidVenture preschool	8.9%	19.6%	1.7%

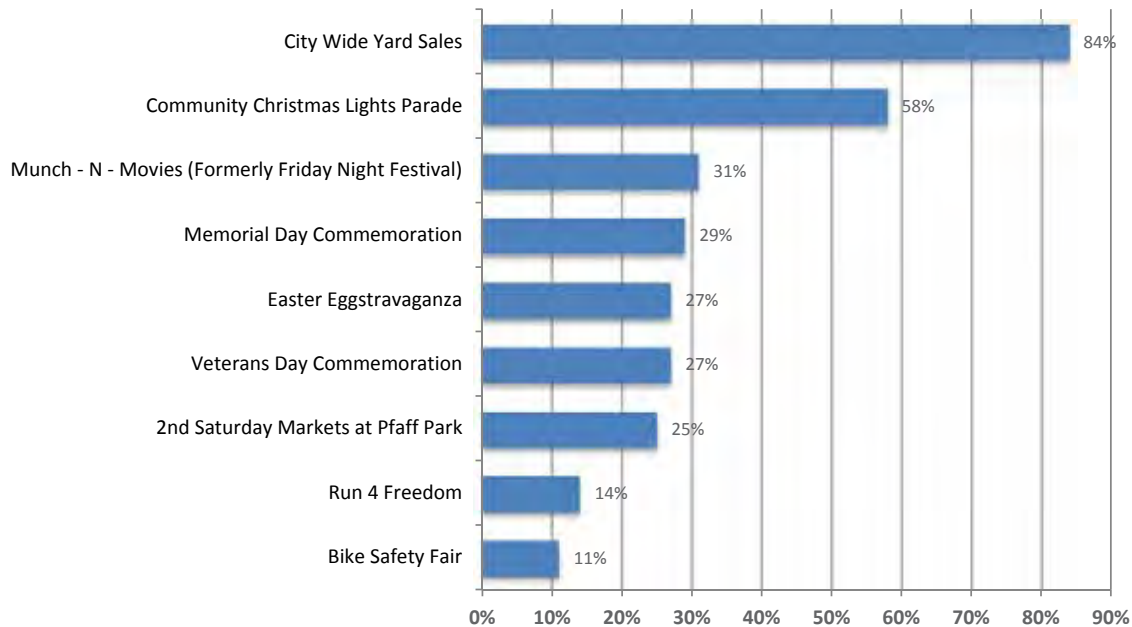




iv. Special Events

Citywide yard sales are incredibly popular with residents of all ages, including 100% of respondents between the ages of 20 and 34.

From the following list, please check ALL the Central Point sponsored special events you and members of your household have participated in over the past 12 months. (Q13)



v. Volunteerism

The survey asked about respondents' volunteer activities. Two-thirds of respondents (67.4%) have not volunteered in the community. Just under one-fourth (23.6%) have volunteered with a community organization or group, such as schools, faith organizations and neighborhood groups. Approximately 9% have volunteered with Central Point Parks and Recreation Department.

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A copy of the survey instrument follows.



Central Point Parks & Recreation

Community Survey on Parks & Recreation Preferences

Dear Central Point Community Member:

The City of Central Point is conducting a short survey to assess the recreational needs of community members to prepare an updated Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The new Plan will establish a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks and recreation amenities throughout the city. The Plan will establish goals and recommend specific projects for the city's parks and recreational facilities for the next 5-10 years. Final review of the Plan tentatively is targeted for January 2017.

Your participation is crucial for the success of this project. The survey consists of 17 questions regarding current use of facilities, preferred activities, and support for future improvements. It takes on average about 5-6 minutes to complete, and residents of all ages are encouraged to participate.

Thank you in advance for participating!

1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Central Point, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are... (check one option)

- Essential to the quality of life here
- Important, but not really necessary
- More of a luxury that we don't need
- Don't Know

2. Which one of the following three statements comes closest to the way you feel about parks and recreation in Central Point.

- Members of my household use parks and recreation programs on a regular basis, and I believe that these facilities are important to quality of life.
- Although members of my household do not use parks or recreation programs frequently, I believe that they are important to quality of life.
- Parks and recreation programs do not currently play an important role in my life or the life of my immediate family members.

3. When it comes to meeting the needs of the community, would you say there are...

- More than enough parks and recreation opportunities in Central Point
- About the right number
- Not enough parks and recreation opportunities in Central Point
- Don't Know

4. Please rate your satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from the Central Point Parks & Recreation.

- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied
- Don't know

5. How many times over the past year have you or members of your household visited a public park or recreation facility in Central Point?

- At least once a week
- Two or three times a month
- About once a month
- Two or three times over the year
- Did not visit a public park
- Don't know

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Save a stamp! Take this survey online at the City's website:
<http://www.centralpointoregon.gov>
 Or send it back in the self-addressed envelope provided.
 Thank you in advance for participating!

6. Please indicate if YOU or any member of your HOUSEHOLD has used any of the following parks and recreation facilities listed below. If YES, please indicate how you would rate the condition of the park or recreation facility.

Park Name	Have you visited in the past year?		If YES, how would you rate the condition of the park?			
	No	Yes	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Cascade Meadows Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flanagan Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest Glen Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glengrove Wayside Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Griffin Oak Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joel Tanzi Skate Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mentee Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert Pfaff Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twin Creeks Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Van Horn Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
William Mott Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wear Creek Greenway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Central Point Junior Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Please indicate all of the Central Point Parks and Recreation programs and activities that you or members of your household have participated in during the past year. For each activity, please mark whether you think there should be more of this type of activity available, whether the current program offerings are adequate, or whether there should be less of this activity available.

Type of Program / Activity	Have you participated in the past year?		Do you think there should be more or less of this type of activity available?		
	No	Yes	More Needed	Current Offerings are Adequate	Fewer Needed
Youth sports programs and events, such as tennis, basketball, soccer and dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult sports and fitness classes, such as pickleball & yoga	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts programs, such as music, dance, arts & crafts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special events, such as concerts, festivals, movies & community fun runs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety & health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teen activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for adults 55 and over, such as classes, trips, and drop-in activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KidVenture preschool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Community Survey on Parks & Recreation Preferences



8. The following are major actions that the City of Central Point could take to UPGRADE and DEVELOP parks and recreation facilities. Please indicate whether you would be very supportive, somewhat supportive, not sure, or not supportive of each action by checking the box next to the action.

Project Type	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Don't Know
Upgrade existing neighborhood parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgrade Lion Tamarisk Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgrade the Bear Creek Greenway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgrade City soccer fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgrade walking and biking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgrade tennis and basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgrade picnic shelters and playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgrade community gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop additional large and small parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop additional sports fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop additional indoor recreation spaces / gymnasiums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop additional walking / biking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a disc golf course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop an off-leash dog park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. How would you rate the overall quality of the programs and activities that you and members of your household have participated in?

- Excellent
- Fair
- Good
- Poor

10. Costs to improve and develop parks, trails and recreation facilities (including a pool facility) may need to be paid through additional fees paid by participants and taxes paid by the community. Knowing that, what is the maximum amount of additional money you would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks, trails and recreation facilities that are most important to your household?

- \$12-\$15 per month
- \$10-\$11 per month
- \$8-\$9 per month
- \$6-\$7 per month
- \$4-\$5 per month
- Less than \$4 per month

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

11. From the following list, please check ALL the Central Point sponsored special events you and members of your household have participated in over the past 12 months.

- Easter Eggstravaganza
- City Wide Yard Sales
- Memorial Day Commemoration
- 2nd Saturday Markets at Pfaff Park (Market starts on May 14 - Oct 8)
- Run 4 Freedom
- Munch - N - Movies (Formerly Friday Night Festival)
- Bike Safety Fair
- Veterans Day Commemoration
- Community Christmas Lights Parade

12. Have you volunteered within the Central Point community within the past year?

- Yes, with Central Point Parks & Recreation
- Yes, with another organization or group, such as schools, faith organizations, neighborhood groups.
- No

13. From the following list, please check ALL the ways that your household has learned about Central Point's parks, recreation programs and special events during the past 12 months.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RECreate, the City's recreation guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Conversations with City staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City website | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers at City facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media | <input type="checkbox"/> School fliers/newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> From family, friends and neighbors | <input type="checkbox"/> Community event signs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet/Search Engine | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

These last questions help us understand whether we have a cross section of the community. It's important that you provide a response to each question. Please remember your answers are confidential.

14. What is your age?

- Younger than 20
- 20 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 and older

16. In which section of Central Point you live?

- East of I-5
- Between Hwy 99 & I-5
- West of Hwy 99
- Don't live in Central Point

15. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

17. How many children under age 18 live in your household?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3 or more

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Your input and insights will be used to help guide the development of the Central Point Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Save a stamp! Take this survey online:

<http://www.centralpointoregon.gov>

Check the City's website for more information about the Parks & Recreation Master Plan project.

Save the Date! Open House Meeting on May 10th

An open house on May 10th in the Central Point City Council Chambers (140 S. 3rd Street) will launch the public conversation on the parks plan. Please drop in between the hours of 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. to share your ideas and visions for the future of Central Point's park and recreation opportunities.

The City of Central Point is utilizing the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed Return-Reply Envelope addressed to:

Conservation Technix Inc.
PO Box 12736
Portland, OR 97212



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APPENDIX B: YOUTH SURVEY SUMMARY



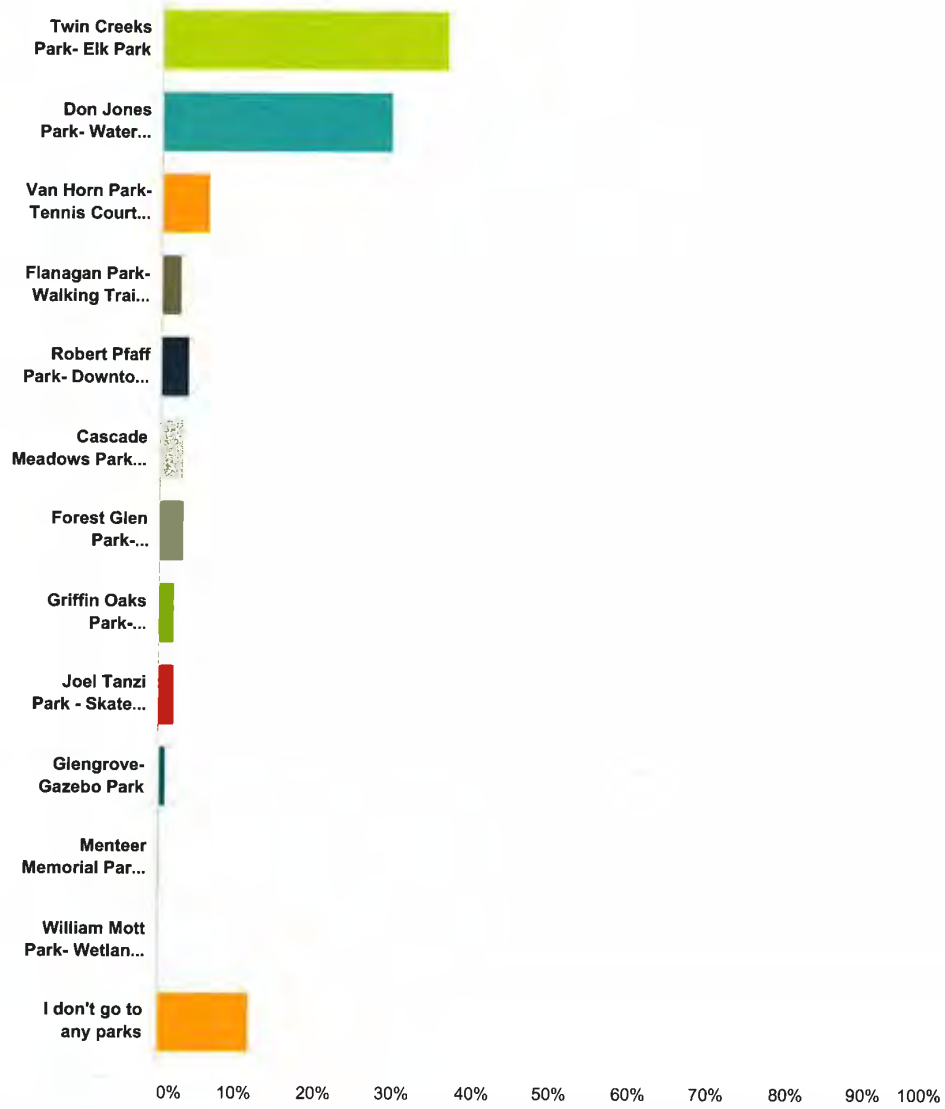
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Q1 Which park do you go to most?

Answered: 333 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses
Twin Creeks Park- Elk Park	36.34% 121
Don Jones Park- Water Park	29.13% 97
Van Horn Park- Tennis Court Park	6.01% 20
Flanagan Park- Walking Trail Park	2.40% 8
Robert Pfaff Park- Downtown Park	3.60% 12
Cascade Meadows Park- Neighborhood Park	3.00% 10



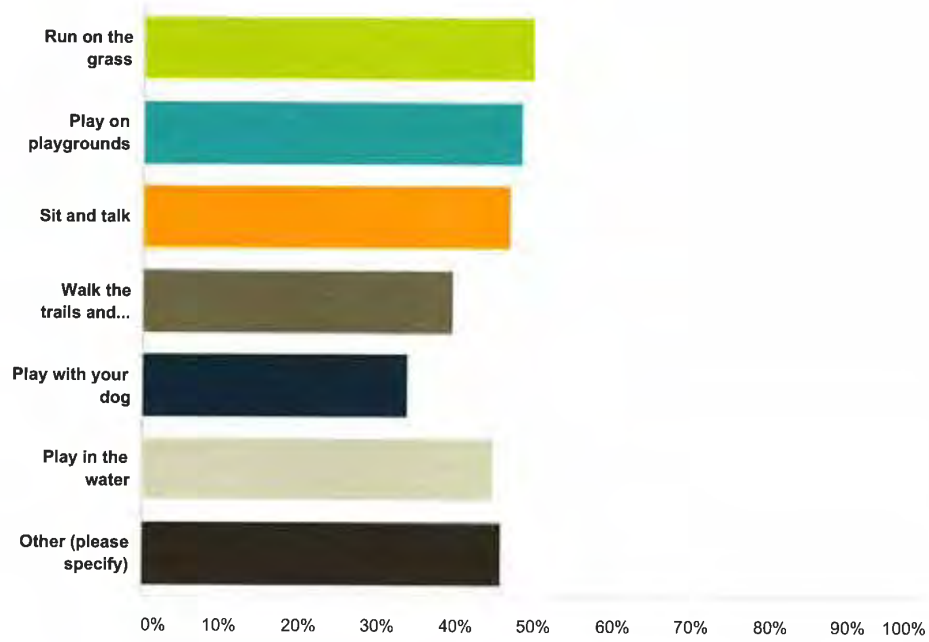
PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Forest Glen Park- Neighborhood Park	3.00%	10
Griffin Oaks Park- Neighborhood Park	1.80%	6
Joel Tanzi Park - Skate Park	1.80%	6
Glengrove- Gazebo Park	0.90%	3
Mentee Memorial Park- Small Pond Park	0.30%	1
William Mott Park- Wetland Park	0.00%	0
I don't go to any parks	11.71%	39
Total		333

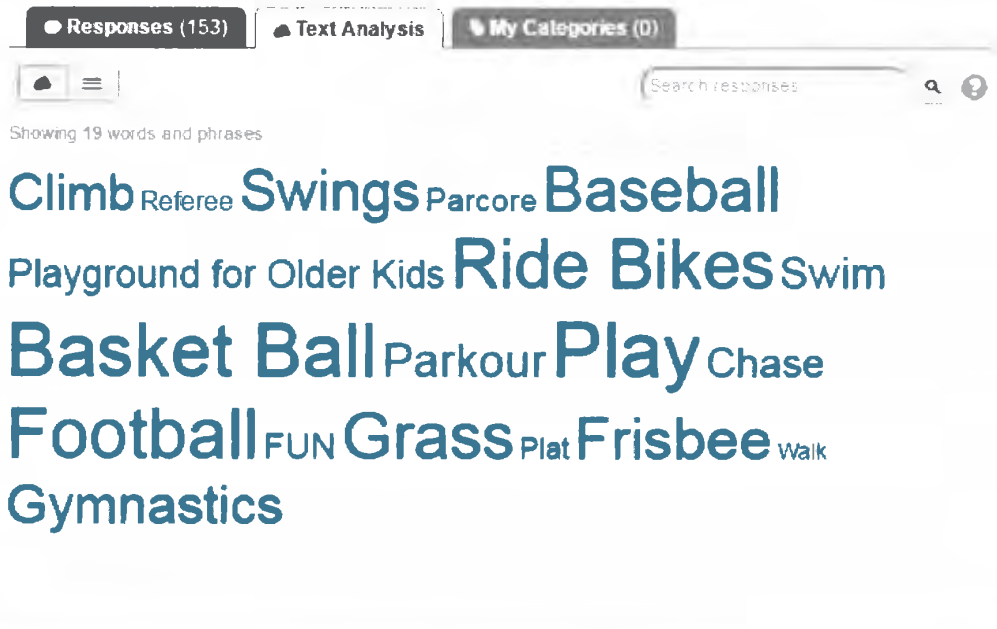
PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Q2 What do you like to do at parks? (Pick all that apply)

Answered: 334 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Run on the grass	49.70%	166
Play on playgrounds	48.20%	161
Sit and talk	46.71%	156
Walk the trails and explore	39.52%	132
Play with your dog	33.53%	112
Play in the water	44.61%	149
Other (please specify)	45.81%	153
Total Respondents: 334		



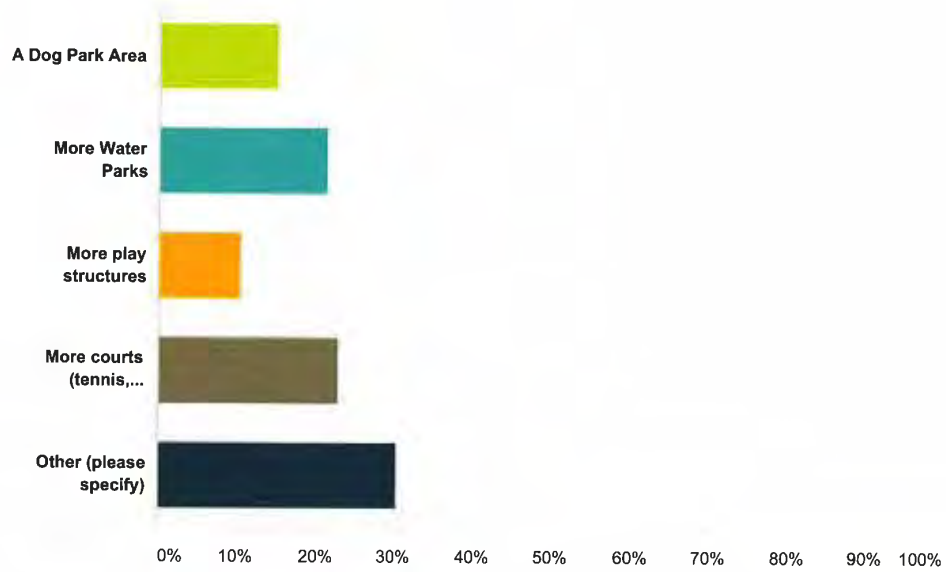
Total Respondents: 334

Question 2 text analysis
based on 153 responses

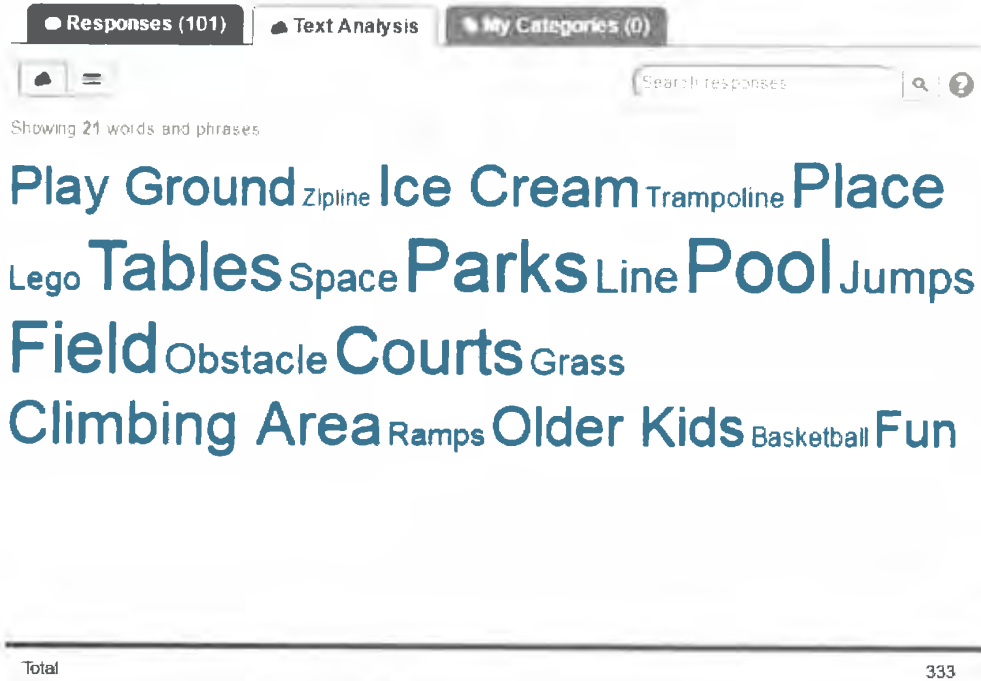
PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Q3 What would you want to add to a park?

Answered: 333 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses	
A Dog Park Area	15.02%	50
More Water Parks	21.32%	71
More play structures	10.51%	35
More courts (tennis, basketball, volleyball)	22.82%	76
Other (please specify)	30.33%	101
Total		333

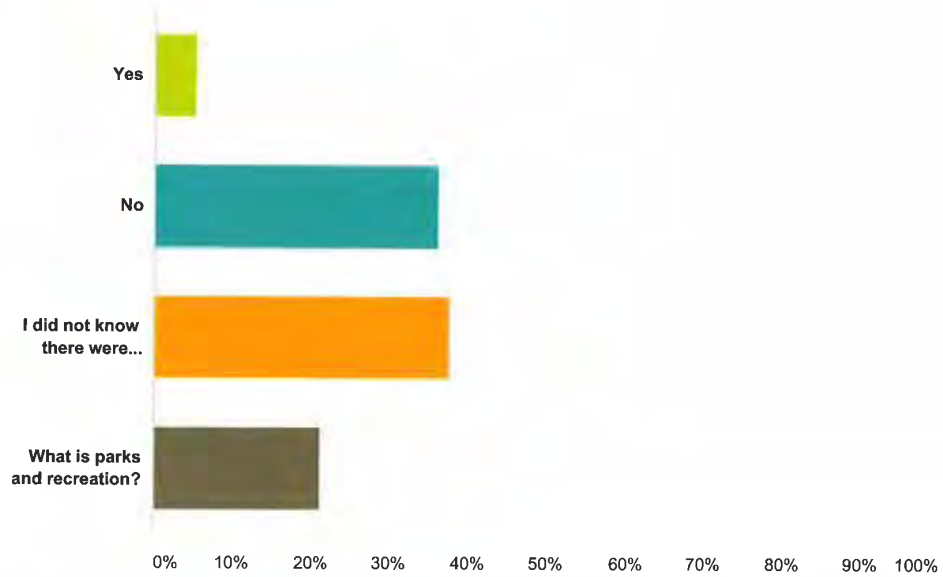


Question 3 text analysis based on 101 responses.

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Q4 Do you take classes with Parks and Recreation?

Answered: 332 Skipped: 5

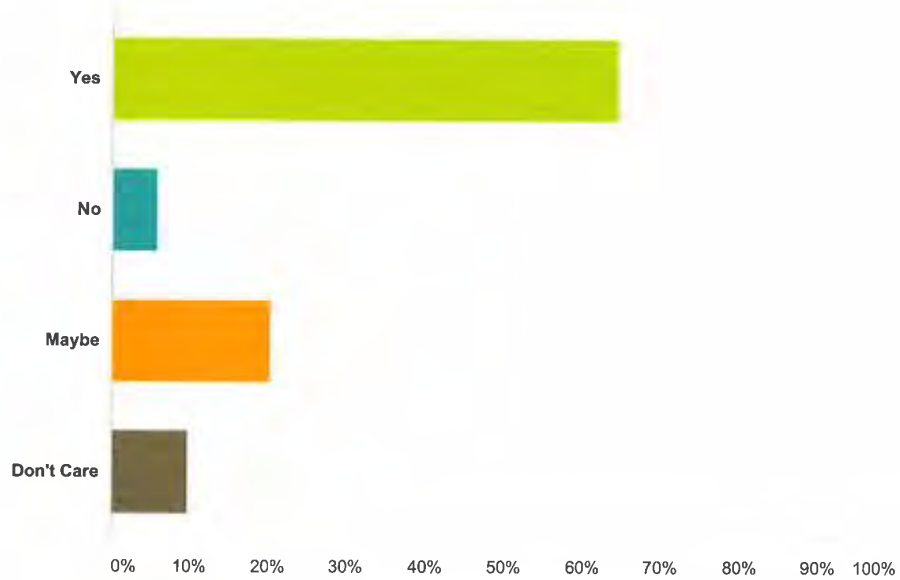


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	5.12%	17
No	36.14%	120
I did not know there were classes offered	37.65%	125
What is parks and recreation?	21.08%	70
Total		332

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Q5 Would you like to have building you can go to after school to do sports, take classes, swim, etc?

Answered: 336 Skipped: 1

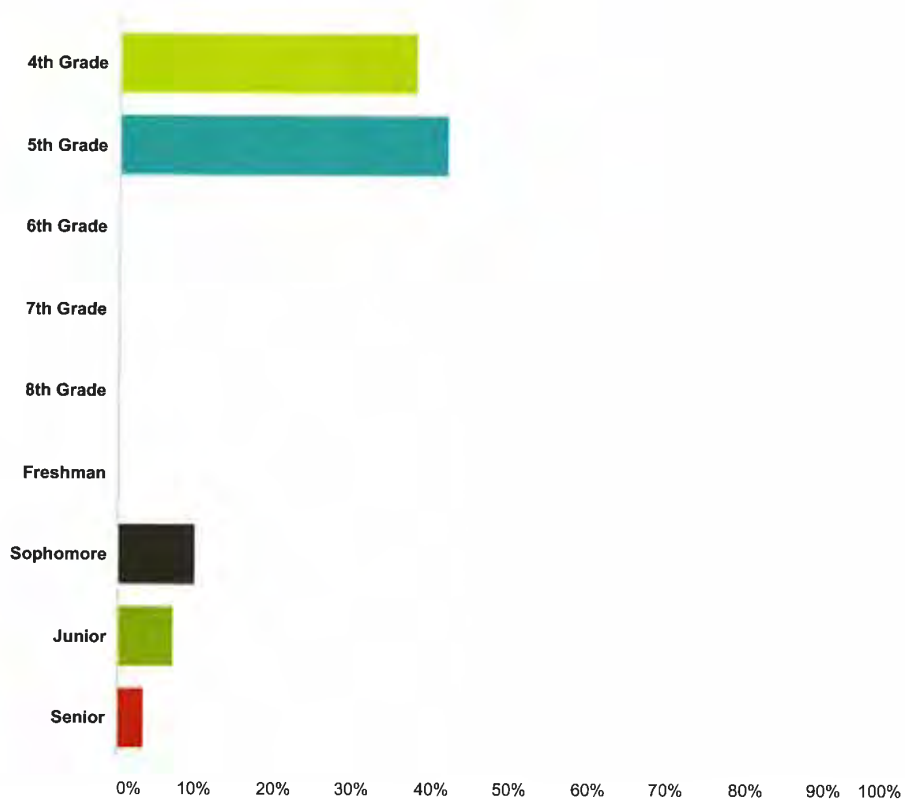


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	64.58%	217
No	5.65%	19
Maybe	20.24%	68
Don't Care	9.52%	32
Total		336

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Q6 What is your current grade level?

Answered: 336 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
4th Grade	37.80%	127
5th Grade	41.67%	140
6th Grade	0.00%	0
7th Grade	0.00%	0
8th Grade	0.00%	0
Freshman	0.30%	1
Sophomore	9.82%	33
Junior	7.14%	24
Senior	3.27%	11
Total		336



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PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT



APPENDIX C:
PUBLIC MEETING NOTES



PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

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PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT



MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER: # 16-079PLN ISSUE DATE: May 12, 2016
 PROJECT NAME: Central Point Parks & Recreation Master Plan

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh / Jean Akers
 TO: FILE
 PRESENT: Members of the public
 Staff from Central Point Parks & Recreation Department
 Central Point Parks & Recreation Commission
 Project team members from Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House Meeting Notes (May 10th)

Community members were invited to an open house on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. The project team prepared informational displays covering the major themes of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These displays included Project Overview, Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Recreation Programs, Trails & Linkages, Parks & Trails Maps, and Investing in the Future. Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members, record their comments and complete a written comment card.

City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to explore proposed recommendations and general needs and interests for park and recreation in Central Point.

COMMENTS FROM DISPLAY STATIONS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

Written Comments from Flip Charts

- Provide accessible playground and amenities
- Multi-cultural Rec program/classes (language, costumes, artifacts, etc.)
- More picnic tables and gazebos at existing parks
- Swimming pool with zero entrance.
- Rec center for open sports night in the winter.
- More pools that wheelchairs can get to.
- I like swings because they are fun.
- Current Tai Chi class is expensive.
- More space for seniors.
- Safe access for kids to get from CP West to CP East (i.e. Don Jones Park facilities)
- More cultural events/resources.
- More safe bike paths throughout the community.
- Trail building. Let's start here!
- More connections to Bear Creek Greenway.
- How about activities where special needs children and typical children can interact together?
- Safer routes to school.
- More wheelchair swings.



PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Open House Meeting Notes (May 10th)

Central Point Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Project Number # 16-079PLN

Page 2

- Great job of events and offerings. It is appreciated.
- Work with Twin Creeks to help seniors.
- Senior activities
- Wheelchair accessibility
- I like what we are currently doing. Great job!
- Pool indoors – year round activity.
- Average distance when using trails = 2-5 miles.
- More volunteer activities.

Investing For The Future (tally dot voting)

- 8 - Public Swimming Pool
- 6 - Multi-Use, Paved Trails
- 5 - Picnic Shelters & Playgrounds
- 4 - Improve and/or Enhance Existing Parks
- 4 - Off-Leash Dog Areas
- 3 - Indoor Recreation Space / Gymnasium
- 1 - Sport Courts (tennis, basketball, pickleball)
- 0 - Additional Sport Fields
- 0 - Land Acquisition for Future Parks

Priority Recreation Programs (tally dot voting)

- 7 - Art programs (music, dance, arts & crafts)
- 6 - Adult fitness and wellness programs
- 6 - Special events, festivals & movies
- 5 - Other: Work with Twin Creeks to help seniors; Senior activities; Wheelchair accessibility
- 3 - Adult programs (classes, trips, drop-in)
- 2 - Outdoor education / nature programs
- 2 - Youth summer camps
- 1 - Youth fitness and wellness programs
- 0 - Before and after school programs
- 0 - Youth sports

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- End of Notes --

cc: Jennifer Boardman
File

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT



APPENDIX D: STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES



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PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT



MEETING NOTES

Project Name: Central Point Parks & Recreation Master Plan **Project No.:** Proj-# 16-079PLN
Location: Phone Conference **Meeting Date:** August 25, 2016 **Time:** 1:30 am
Minutes by: Steve Duh
Attendees: Tanea Browning, Executive Director Steve Duh – Conservation Technix
Subject: Central Point Stakeholder Session – Central Point Chamber of Commerce

Steve offered an overview of the process for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and began with questions for Tanea.

Comments

The City should look for ways to incorporate underutilized [city-owned] properties into its system. San Diego has a program called “Taking Back Alleyways” which could be a model. In Central Point, the City could create a destination for the ‘through-market’ (I-5 travelers). It could be business as a destination location. It could be a corridor with art features, a path down the alleyways, interpretive displays with area history, and gathering places for residents.

Central Point has some of the best parks in the valley. Community events are great, and the City offers things to do in all seasons. Spring is Easter egg hunt, Summer is 4th of July, Winter is light festival. Cory has been a great addition and just orchestrated a fun run. She is a breath of fresh air and had fun with an edgy naming for the run, which was good.

Central Point has a really unique business dynamic in that many of the downtown shops are beauty parlors and bars, which might not make for strong ties to things related to parks and recreation. It is hard to get local businesses involved.

Connecting downtown with the EXPO and the Greenway trail would be great, but need to make for safe and enjoyable crossing over I-5.

Central Point, globally, has a great partnership with the Chamber. The Chamber has worked with the City on the Munch-N-Movies; the City creates a space for the whole family to get together. They also partner on the Saturday Market, an artisanal market, with hand-crafted goods. It has been a challenge to get food vendors due to the expensive permit requirements from the Jackson County Health Department. The Chamber is exploring barriers for having more vendors attend, including local farmers.

City already does a lot to help out and partner with the Chamber, but Tanea would like to continue the dialogue between City and Chamber to know their intentions about projects and improvements. The two organizations are already so well linked with the community.



PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Meeting Minutes (continued)

In the future, she would want to hear that the City and its partners valued the input they received and did their best to implement enhancements. She would want to make sure that people had their voices heard.

In the coming 10 years, she would like to the City to maintain its Tree City USA designation, but she wonders how will the City will maintain the trees we have already. Is there a plan for keeping the trees maintained as they mature? There are many right-of-way, homeowner association and city park trees. She would like to see specific additions of tree workers for maintenance and management as these trees grow across the city.

By 2026, she thinks it would be great to have a seasonal, outdoor pool. Medford has one, but it is old and might not be there in 10 years. A pool in Central Point would get a lot of use, but they are expensive to operate and maintain.

Another item that Tanea thinks is crucial is a place for the tween/teen/young adults to have as a place to call their own within the parks system in Central Point. The skate park is lacking and needs some updates. She does not believe the City should move the location, since it needs to remain near the population it serves and near the higher density residences. A new skate park would bring a new tourism attraction to the City that is not dependent on private business, yet benefits the private businesses.

-- End of Notes --

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT



MEETING NOTES

Project Name:	Central Point Parks & Recreation Master Plan	Project No.:	Proj-# 16-079PLN
Location:	Phone Conference	Meeting Date:	August 31, 2016
Minutes by:	Steve Duh	Time:	11:00 am
Attendees:	Jenna Marmon, Greenway coordinator		Steve Duh – Conservation Technix
Subject:	Central Point Stakeholder Session – Jackson County		

Steve offered an overview of the process for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and began with questions for Jenna.

Comments

Jenna manages trail planning for the County and leads the Joint Powers Committee for the Bear Creek Greenway. Jennifer Boardman sits on the committee and the City has set aside money for trail maintenance (i.e., pavement repair, consistent signage). The County coordinates for major maintenance. Matt Samitore also has been involved in the past with bike/ped grant submittals and projects.

Central Point is a great partner with the Greenway. City staff and programs encourage the use of the trail and have hosted programming/events.

Separately, the City has been doing a great job encouraging alternative transportation to big events. For example, during the Battle of the Bones, the City encourages folks to walk/bike to the event.

Jenna is working to improve connectivity to the Bear Creek Greenway. There is no transit service within Central Point, and it is hard to cross I-5 to connect to the trailheads. There is an east/west issue with Central Point and general access the Greenway, and I-5 is a major barrier.

One idea is to install a protected bikeway or cycle track on Pine Street to enable better connections to the Greenway from downtown. This would not be a widening project, but more of a re-allocation of travel lanes and shoulders. A road diet on Pine Street in downtown might also be an option to help, but the local businesses are not interested in removing on-street parking to accommodate bicycles. She suggested looking at the TSP for bike/ped improvement projects.

Another project area of interest is to encourage system improvements and connectivity west of I-5 and crossing the railroad and HWY 99.

The County is securing funding for an Active Transportation Plan, which will focus on the Bear Creek Greenway as a regional destination. The project will look for better ways to link to the Greenway and maybe explore a bike share concept (multi-city with Central Point and Medford).



PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Meeting Minutes (continued)

Another idea for the City to consider is to encourage seniors to walk to programs, like bingo, and maybe see if there are ways to coordinate with AARP for walking tours.

-- End of Notes --

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT



MEETING NOTES

Project Name: Central Point Parks & Recreation Master Plan **Project No.:** Proj-# 16-079PLN
Location: Phone Conference **Meeting Date:** September 16, 2016 **Time:** 9:15 am
Minutes by: Steve Duh
Attendees: Walt Davenport, Principal Steve Duh – Conservation Technix
Subject: **Central Point Stakeholder Session – School District: Central Point Elementary**

Steve offered an overview of the process for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and began with questions for Walt.

Comments

The relationship with Parks and Recreation is good, and there are a lot of good things going on. Staff are nice folks and are always helpful, and there has never been a problem in working together. The City has used the school facility many times in the past, and that includes Parks and Recreation, the Police Department and Maintenance Services. Mighty Mites Basketball uses the gym as well.

The City offers programs like basketball, but they don't have their own facility so they use the school gym. The gym is booked all the time. This school is the newest in the district, and it is already 13 years old. The parking lot is also used for city yard sale events.

Needs

Local youth needs activities to keep them busy, keep them plugged in and participate in. The City struggles with having indoor space. Priority #1 should be a large, indoor multi-use space where they can program for basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer/futsal. Program offerings have been limited by the lack of space, and the school's space is also used by other groups.

Another area to explore is with outdoor education programming. The school has a good outdoor education program, and there are many local enthusiasts and a wealth of locations nearby (i.e., Table Rock, Rogue River, etc.). There might be an opportunity for the City to partner with the school in providing or expanding outdoor education programs, to include camps and summer programs. The school could assist with transportation and staff knowledgeable in sciences. Opportunities to overlay City programs with the STEM platform would be welcomed, and this would help align with school needs and interests.

The school district is considering the purchase of land to support a "makers lab" for more project-based learning. This would help students cross over between STEM and crafts to apply their learning to physical projects. The site



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Meeting Minutes (continued)

might also include an industrial/commercial kitchen to accommodate teaching in culinary arts. Walt referenced the Art Design Portland as a model (<http://adxportland.com>).

Students are getting the reading, writing and math in school, and Parks and Recreation may be able to offer programs to help them apply STEM, so there is some overlap in school-based learning. Parks and Recreation could give kids purpose and thoughts on how to apply their learning. For example, there could be an option to build bird houses, that then translates into field work looking at habitat and include counts and measurements. This could also be a way to maybe get parents more involved (i.e., Frisbee day where you can have fun tossing discs and learn about gravity or physics).

Mr. Lewis (teacher at Central Point Elementary) is another resource to tap into. He has been around a long time and may have some good ideas.

-- End of Notes --

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT



MEETING NOTES

Project Name: Central Point Parks & Recreation Master Plan **Project No.:** Proj-# 16-079PLN
Location: Phone Conference **Meeting Date:** September 28, 2016 **Time:** 11:00 am
Minutes by: Steve Duh
Attendees: Dr. Heidi Henson, DC Steve Duh – Conservation Technix
Subject: **Central Point Stakeholder Session – Local Businesses: Southern Oregon Spine + Rehab**

Steve offered an overview of the process for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and began with questions for Heidi.

Comments

Southern Oregon Spine + Rehab is a chiropractic office and health care practice, with massage and rehabilitation services. The business is located along HWY 99 on the border of Central Point and Medford. They are the fourth owner in this location, and the site has been home to health care practices since the 1950s.

Efforts to spur activity in the downtown core (along Pine St) would not benefit them too much, given their location on the south side of the city.

The office has helped out on past city events, specifically for the 4th of July Run, where they assisted as stand-by first aid professionals for run participants.

They would like to receive more direct information from the City about recreation programs and events. Last year, they received a stack of RECreate guide, and patients took them from the waiting area fairly quickly. The office also has a community bulletin board and calendar, and they are willing to advertise/notice City programs and events. Heidi said that it would be great if the City were able to do some specialized marketing to offices and providers like theirs and simply make the 'ask' to promote/advertise City activities.

The hospital offers a good range of 'heart healthy' classes related to nutrition and pregnancy issues. Heidi said that there seems to be a desire among younger women in the area for natural techniques, yet complementary to what the hospital offers. Regarding physical activities related to their services, there are several 'high end' places for yoga, and other people think about the Medford YMCA as an option for classes. There might be a latent demand for more yoga, pilates or core strengthening classes that the City could offer.

Central Point does a better job than Medford for the community to get together, and this includes activities and events. The City is doing a great job, and Heidi is impressed with Parks and Recreation. It shows that the City is doing and creating opportunities for residents to be active, but they need to do more to get the word out about offerings. The City needs to keep promoting the artisan corridor and hosting parades. Having the Country Crossings in the city is a great addition (located at the Fairgrounds).



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Meeting Minutes (continued)

Regarding the Bear Creek Greenway, there needs to be a concerted effort between Central Point, Medford and Ashland about the quality of the experience along the trail. Heidi said she uses it for running, but only to a limited extent because she doesn't feel safe. She used to live in Minneapolis and used their greenway trail system, which was lit, cleared of brush and had heavy usage.

-- End of Notes --

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CALL NOTES

PROJECT NAME: Central Point Parks & Recreation Master Plan ISSUE DATE: September 28, 2016

PREPARED BY: Jean Akers

TO: Jennifer Boardman, Parks & Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Operations Considerations: Conference Call Notes

PARTICIPANTS

Jennifer Boardman, Corey Qualls, Don Dunn, Joe Hatten and Jean Akers conducted a conference call to discuss operational considerations on September 28th from 3-4:00pm.

NOTES

The operations staff were able to participate in a question/discussion session regarding their park operations perspectives on issues facing the Central Point parks system and potential opportunities regarding the outdoor recreation facilities. The questions listed below are followed by notes intended to capture most of the discussion during the call:

What are the greatest strengths of this department and your parks & recreation system?

- Knowledge, background in parks & grounds, even before Central Point P&R as well as training in landscape management. Many years of service in the parks maintenance field (Don & Corey), and experience in construction (Joe).

What are the most critical components needed in the next 5 years to make the recreation experiences of your users more balanced/robust?

- Aquatic facility, community center, spray parks, change out or upgrade play structures (early 1990's reaching renewal time). Tennis courts' base courses will need replacement in coming years (not just resurfacing).
- The parks themselves seem pretty adequate in general with playgrounds, restrooms, tennis courts,
- Annual budget target for capital repair scope - \$150K would be ideal; even \$100K would get a lot done.
- New parks user fee may finance some repairs as it accumulates (after paying for the master plan). Eventually, parks fee would provide \$60K for capital repairs.
- SDC funding provides capital projects. Still paying off Don Jones Community Park. Lack of SDC surplus limits grant match funding.



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Operations Considerations: Conference Call Notes

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- Maintenance costs for vandalism is an unexpected cost for repairs. Storm damage and resulted tree work created shortages. Towards end of year if City has shortfalls they cut parks remaining budget – then they cut out repairs, turn off water, etc.
- There is a demand for an off-leash dog area (“dog park”). Developing an adequate space for this use could allow for more control in other parks where off-leash dogs may be causing a conflict.

What's happening too fast? Too slow? What are the pinch points for you in your work areas?

- It's all about the budget: underfunded staffing needs in the past and currently, now needs also include materials (fertilizer, etc.).
- Central Point went into recession with low number of parks then more added at same time as the parks budget cuts. System still trying to catch up. Parks' budget competes with public safety.

Progress within park operations over last few years?

- Beyond budget cuts, progress has occurred through “sheer determination”.
- Up until last year they have not had to replace anything in the parks. Staffing does not cover extent of lands to be maintained.
- Outside contractors have been sub-contracted to close the gap. Likely to continue the need to sub out. Maybe more efficient but things can lack attention and get missed. Contractors may not be as proactive about quality. Low bidder is not always best quality. Parks crew has to cover gaps in QA/QC. They then get called to fix the issue that shouldn't be needed.

Repetitive maintenance headaches vs challenges?

- Understaffed. Under appreciated. Behind public safety.

Staffing vs capacity to manage parks infrastructure?

- Infrastructure has expanded beyond simple park land to include water utilities, specialty items, more work and more staff. Tasks now include more specialized work such as plumbing, electricity, etc.

Adequacy of operational budgets & capital repairs?

- Parks ends up spending money on repairs that is more triage then proactive with maintenance. Partly due to poorer quality of work by outside contractors. Outside contractor's laborers may not have the “eye” or “buy in” for providing good work.

Ability to handle future capital improvements, trail expansions, park acquisitions, additional site responsibilities?

- Parks expects to “push” city council, etc. to increase staffing to manage any increased facilities and infrastructure.

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Operations Considerations: Conference Call Notes

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What's the level of involvement in the process of design review/construction inspection/final checklists for park, trail or other capital projects prior to dedication/acceptance by Central Point Parks & Rec?

- None. Not of the design. Maintenance headaches result.
- They have been able to offer advice on irrigation, valves, etc. but advice is not always taken.
- Parks now pushes to work more closely but that help and expertise if not always being accepted.

What else is needed to increase performance, expand programming, expand acreage, increase utilization of programs/parks, increase resident awareness, increase user satisfaction?

- Awareness of the elected officials about parks and their work/influence/importance.
- City council went on parks tour when they were elected. Most were unaware of the extent of facilities.
- Public awareness is limited. Expectation of turf management needs adjusting (grass may not always look good). Jennifer tries to get out articles about lawns & park grass thru the seasons. More parks information could be beneficial on how park lands should look.
- Guy lost his drone in a tree & wanted parks to retrieve it for them. Call just came in. Prohibited in parks – question of appropriate Parks response...?

Do you have an available break down for number of personnel required for park site/acreage/facility?

- We have this to a certain extent but Public Works has been doing this for 3 years & put out reports... not used in Parks yet. Data could be available through outside contractors and their costs.

How about cost per acre per type of facility?

- Not yet....

What are the primary maintenance concerns for the following specific sites relative to environmental management?The Greenway

Central Point Parks is responsible for maintenance on a section from Table Rock Road to Pine Street even though they only own a tiny piece. Key tasks: litter removal, blackberry control/removal.

Boes

Blackberry removal needed. ODFW permitting to avoid impact of black berry removal and its shading of the stream. Within 50 feet of streambed, needs a plan for replacement of invasive species prior to control. So other areas have been controlled while waiting for permission.

Mowing of grass fields – maintenance costs. Lots of dead trees need to be cleaned up.



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Hanley

Site also has a creek with invasive blackberries needing control. Streambank is starting to erode. Blackberries currently provide edge protection from steep drop-off into creek along with old construction fence (covered with blackberries.)

Flanagan

Also a creek area with blackberries. Maintenance needs on the bridge. Clear sight lines were created for trail users to avoid conflicts (hidden folks). Transients wander in the area. Kids like to play along the creek. Central Point Parks has raised up tree limbs to open sight lines to avoid any potential issues. Need to remove invasive plants and replace shade for creek.

Cascade Meadows Detention pond/wetland

Natural growth within detention pond triggers park visitors/residents to ask about trimming the vegetation as though it's park-like. Proximity of natural areas within park lands that have other functional values (not designated for public park/recreation use) creates some misunderstanding within some sectors of the public. Resultant pressure to maintain detention as a park but shouldn't/can't due to stormwater needs/functions.

Snowy Butte Station along Daisy Creek.

Parks did some planting there for Arbor Day last year. Same need for invasive blackberry removal along riparian corridor where shade replacement is mandated and permitting (and associated costs/time) slows progress for vegetation management & control.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The general content shared during the conference call regarding park operations helps to inform the master plans needs assessment.

Some highlights from this conference call centered on:

- the limitations of staffing for park maintenance due to inadequate budget for the extent of existing park facilities,
- the need for greater public (and elected official) awareness of the assets and values of the Central Point park system to the community,
- an aging park infrastructure within a growing community that will continue to be expanding its park infrastructure with a subsequent need to expand operational capacity,
- the desire for a proactive approach to park staff involvement in design review (and control) of any proposed future facilities to be dedicated to public park use, and
- the recognition that more public messaging/communication regarding vegetation management practices could benefit general public acceptance of standard park practices.

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APPENDIX E: FUNDING OPTIONS & OTHER TOOLS



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LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

The City of Central Point possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks and recreation system. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with city leadership is critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing city revenue sources in favor of parks and recreation programs.

General Obligation Bond

These are voter-approved bonds with the authority to levy an assessment on real and personal property. The money can only be used for capital construction and improvements, but not for maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). Passage requires a simple majority in November and May elections, unless during a special election, in which case a double majority (a majority of registered voters must vote and a majority of those voting must approve the measure) is required.

Park Utility Fee

A park utility fee provides dedicated funds to help offset the cost of park maintenance and could free up general fund dollars for other capital project uses. Most city residents pay water and sewer utility fees. Park utility fees apply the same concepts to city parks, and a fee is assessed to all businesses and households. The monthly fee would be paid upon connection to the water and sewer system. Central Point assesses a park utility fee.

System Development Charges

Central Point currently assesses a parks system development charge (SDC). SDCs are charged for new residential development to help finance the demand for park facilities created by the new growth.



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Fuel Tax

Oregon gas taxes are collected as a fixed amount per gallon of gasoline purchased. The Oregon Highway Trust Fund collects fuel taxes, and a portion is paid to cities annually on a per-capita basis. By statute, revenues can be used for any road-related purpose, which may include sidewalk repairs, ADA upgrades, bike routes and other transportation-oriented park and trail enhancements.

FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service

www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a community resource administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

Community Development Block Grants

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

These funds are awarded to cities and urban counties for housing and community development projects. Coos County administers CDBG funds locally through a grant-based program. The major objectives for the CDBG program are to meet the needs of low and moderate income populations, eliminate and prevent the creation of slums and blight and meet other urgent community development needs.

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) Grant

U.S. Forest Service

www.treelink.org/nucfac/

The National Urban and Community Advisory Council has overhauled their criteria for the US Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry challenge cost share grant program for 2009. Grants will be solicited in two categories: innovation grants and best practices grants. As with the previous grant program, a 50% match is required from all successful applicants of non-federal funds, in-kind services and/or materials.

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Urban and Community Forestry Small Projects and Scholarship Fund

Oregon Department of Forestry

The purpose of the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program's Small Projects and Scholarship Fund (UCF-SPSF) is to cover the small, yet sometimes prohibitive, administrative and material expenses directly related to community forestry projects encountered by smaller volunteer groups and cities across Oregon. Applications must be received by the end of each quarter for consideration.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program

US Fish & Wildlife Service

www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. There is a. Both are Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. In Mexico, partners may also conduct projects involving technical training, environmental education and outreach, organizational infrastructure development, and sustainable-use studies.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT

Oregon Parks and Recreation

www.oregon.gov/OPRD/GRANTS/pages/local.aspx

Local government agencies who are obligated by state law to provide public recreation facilities are eligible for OPR's Local Government Grants, and these are limited to public outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities. Eligible projects involve land



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acquisition, development and major rehabilitation projects that are consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant

Oregon Parks and Recreation

www.oregon.gov/OPRD/GRANTS/pages/lwcf.aspx

LWCF grants are available through OPR to either acquire land for public outdoor recreation or to develop basic outdoor recreation facilities. Projects must be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives stated in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and elements of local comprehensive land use plans and park master plans. A 50% match is required from all successful applicants of non-federal funds, in-kind services and/or materials.

Recreational Trails Program Grant

Oregon Parks and Recreation

www.oregon.gov/OPRD/GRANTS/pages/trails.aspx

Recreational Trails Grants are national grants administered by OPRD for recreational trail-related projects, such as hiking, running, bicycling, off-road motorcycling, and all-terrain vehicle riding. Yearly grants are awarded based on available federal funding. RTP funding is primarily for recreational trail projects, rather than utilitarian transportation-based projects. Funding is divided into 30% motorized trail use, 30% non-motorized trail use and 40% diverse trail use. A 20% minimum project match is required.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Grants

Oregon Department of Transportation

www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BIKEPED/pages/grants1.aspx

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Grant Program is a competitive grant program that provides approximately \$5 million dollars every two years to Oregon cities, counties and ODOT regional and district offices for design and construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Proposed facilities must be within public rights-of-way. Grants are awarded by the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Project types include sidewalk infill, ADA upgrades, street crossings, intersection improvements, minor widening for bike lanes.

Transportation Alternative Program

Oregon Department of Transportation

www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/AT/Pages/TAP.aspx

In July 2012, the US Congress passed a new transportation funding bill called Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 or "MAP-21". MAP-21 did not reauthorize the

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Transportation Enhancement Program. Instead, it established a new program called Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) that includes elements of the former TE program, in combination with elements from other programs and some new activities. Eligible enhancement activities include bicycle and pedestrian projects, historic preservation, landscaping and scenic beautification, and environmental mitigation.

Wetland Grant Program

Oregon Department of State Lands

www.oregon.gov/DSL/pages/index.aspx

The Wetland Mitigation Revolving Fund was established to accept payments to compensate for small wetland impacts from permitted activities (“payment in lieu”). The goal of the program is to use these pooled funds for larger projects that provide more effective replacement of wetland resources. The Department of State Lands accepts wetland projects to be funded through the Payment in Lieu (PIL) program. Additionally, the Wetland Program staff work closely with cities in their local wetland planning efforts by providing both technical and planning assistance. Key elements of the program include state and local wetland inventory, wetland identification, delineation, and function assessments as well as wetland mitigation, public information and education.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

www.oregon.gov/OWEB/GRANTS/pages/index.aspx

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board focuses on projects that approach natural resources management from a whole-watershed perspective. OWEB encourages projects that foster interagency cooperation, include other sources of funding, provide for local stakeholder involvement, include youth and volunteers and promote learning about watershed concepts. There are five general categories of projects eligible for OWEB funding: watershed management (restoration and acquisition), resource monitoring and assessment, watershed education and outreach, Watershed council support and technical assistance.

OTHER METHODS & FUNDING SOURCES

Park & Recreation District

www.leg.state.or.us/ors/266.html

Many cities form a parks and recreation district to fulfill park development and management needs. The Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 266, details the formation and operation of such a district. Upon formation, the district would be managed by an elected board and have the authority to levy taxes, incur debt and issue revenue or general obligation bonds. The total tax levy authorized for a Park and Recreation District shall not exceed one-half of one percent (0.0050) of the real market value of all taxable property within the district.



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Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fund raising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

Business Sponsorships/Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between parks, school districts, other municipalities and utility providers.

ACQUISITION TOOLS & METHODS

Direct Purchase Methods

Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

Life Estates & Bequests

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to

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live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the city in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Conservation Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property – often the right to subdivide or develop – and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city (or private organization) that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. The preservation and protection of habitat or resources lands may best be coordinated with the local land trust or conservancy, since that organization will likely have staff resources, a systematic planning approach and access to non-governmental funds to facilitate aggressive or large scale transactions.

Landowner Incentive Measures

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the “sending” and “receiving” property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 Exchange

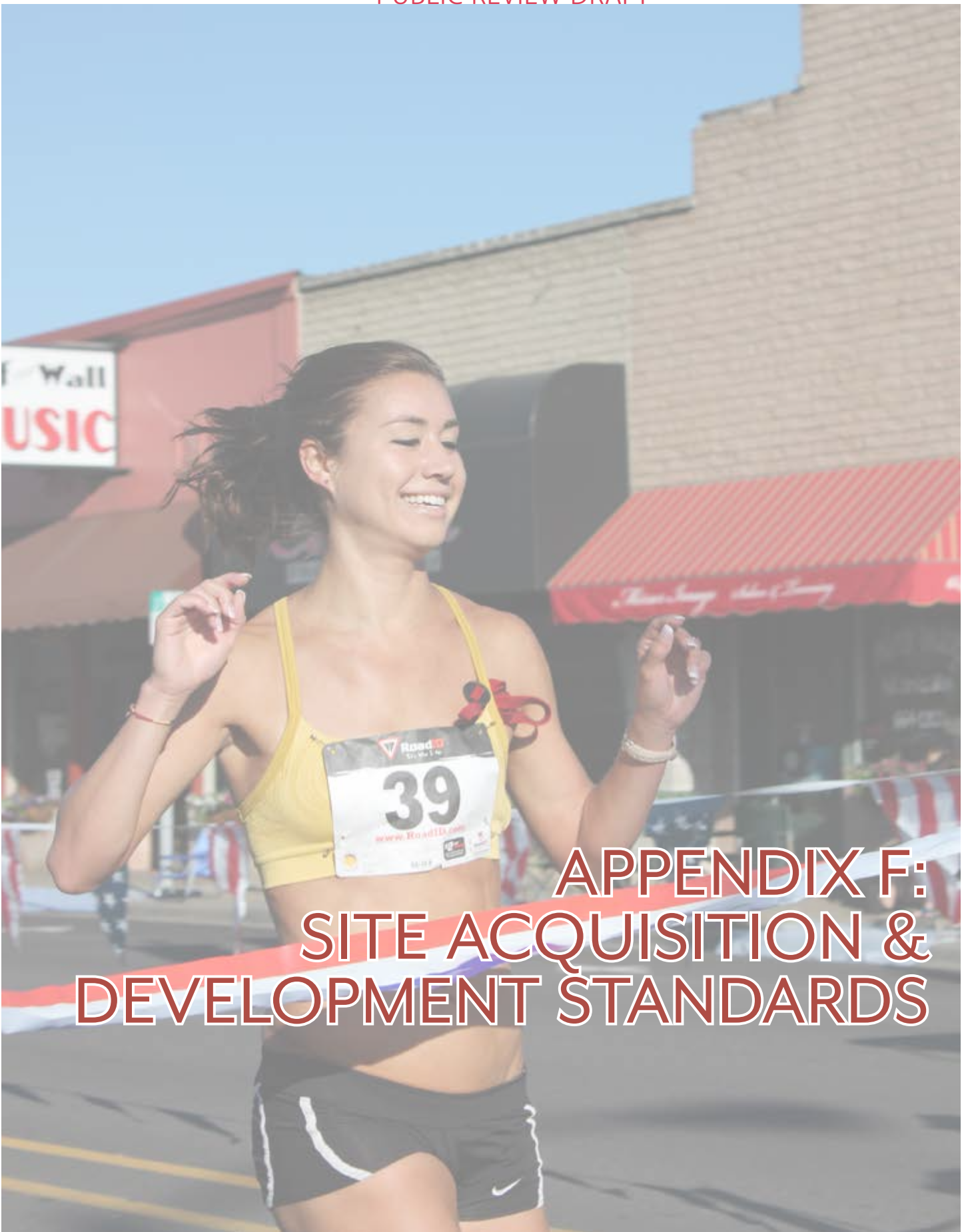
If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irc.gov for more details).

Other Land Protection Options

Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. The Southern Oregon Land Conservancy is the local land trust serving the Central Point area. Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.

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APPENDIX F: SITE ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS



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ACQUISITION GUIDELINES

Planning and land acquisition for future parks is a recognized component in land use and urban growth management, since the provision of parks and open space is considered essential to the livability of urban areas. For the recreation resource planner, the land acquisition process is an important task for ensuring the availability of future recreation resources for the majority of the community. The established planning goals for a community's framework plan recognize the development of parks and retention of open space with conservation values as a tool for managing effects of increased density and fostering livability.

The previous Central Point Parks Master Plan (2003) shared a vision Central Point will provide "safe, high quality parks, open space and recreational facilities that encourage residents and visitors to live, invest and play in the community, and develop recreation programs that promote memorable experiences in people's lives." In 2003, Parks and Recreation targeted specific future improvements that would likely involve necessary land acquisitions including:

- A water play facility and a regional swimming pool
- Increased open space including a new regional park that will house multiple softball and soccer fields along with volleyball and tennis court
- Additional walking and bicycle paths throughout Central Point; especially those that will link the downtown core to the east side of town and the Jackson County Exposition Center
- Acquire additional land for all park and recreation opportunities

The Central Point Forward Fair City Vision 2020, a city-wide strategic plan, adopted in 2007, stated one of the City's values as "Community: We value a clean and attractive city with parks, open space and recreational opportunities." A goal within the Recreation element of the strategic plan is to "Provide high quality facilities, parks, and open spaces that attract resident and non-resident use."

Level of Service (acreage needs)

The 2016 Parks Master Plan proposes the provision of a service standard of 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents of core parks, which include community, neighborhood and pocket parks. The Plan also sets a park and open space goal to strive to provide equitable access to parks such that all city residents live within one-half mile of a developed neighborhood park.

Distribution Equity (location/gaps)

Equitable distribution of public park facilities is a community goal (articulated in the parks and recreation master plan). In the 2016 Plan, GIS mapping and analysis documented and tracked the existing public park inventory and areas where public parks are lacking in search for park land acquisition targets. Park acquisition should be prioritized in underserved areas where households are more than ½ mile from a developed park.

Specific Site Suitability for Developed/Active Parks

According to the 2016 Parks & Recreation Master Plan, the minimum size for a typical neighborhood park is 1.5 acres to allow for the accommodation of the desired range of recreational amenities. While existing neighborhood parks may range from 0.25-5 acres in size, some basic location and land characteristics influence how accessible, “developable” and convenient a potential site might be for a future public park. Evaluating a potential land parcel should include consideration of the following property features.

- Access and visibility to the property. An adequate amount of public right-of-way is needed to allow for creating bike/pedestrian pathways, at a minimum, and either on-street parking or a parking lot for park visitors who must drive a vehicle.
- Existing publicly owned lands, easements and right-of-way. Are there existing lands under public ownership that could be converted to public park use? What other public amenities are proximate and complementary to a future park development (e.g., schools, police stations, etc.)?
- Connectivity to trails, schools, parks, neighborhoods and connectivity of the trail links. Connections to and from related land uses can add value to a potential park location.
- Environmental constraints, field assessment (does not include Environmental Assessment level detail), regulatory and permitting requirements and GIS data for critical areas, wetlands and streams. Sensitive environmental lands should be protected but often are not the best sites for development of recreational amenities for public parks. Protected and conserved lands can provide complementary value to public parks while the public park land can create a buffer for the conserved land.
- Topography. Existing landforms, whether flat or hilly, will influence the park's design and best fit for provision of recreational facilities.
- Technical analysis of park standards and development costs should be evaluated to help provide realistic site development costs. For example, existing road improvements within the public right-of-way or lack of public water and sewer may trigger additional park development costs.

Within identified neighborhoods that may lack or have limited access to public parks, potential properties should be evaluated for suitable site conditions for the development of future recreational amenities and/or access to natural resources & water.

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Neighborhood/Community Park Site Suitability Criteria:

- Access / visibility
- Parcel size / configuration
- Contiguous public land / connectivity
- Extent of sensitive areas
- Cost factors (acquisition, development & maintenance.)
- Compatibility with surrounding uses
- Vacant land preference

Trail Site Suitability Criteria:

- Development feasibility
- Continuity / connectivity (“safe routes”)
- Natural, cultural, historic value
- Public ROW access
- Land costs / value

Urban Open Space Site Suitability Criteria:

- Ecological, cultural, historic value
- Continuity / connectivity
- Public ROW access
- Development pressure (threat of conversion)
- Acquisition costs, donations, etc.

Site-Specific Concerns

Once a targeted park land acquisition has been identified and evaluated with consideration to its potential suitability as a future public park, more specific assessments should be conducted to ensure a measure of known development variables for future park use.

- A boundary survey and review of the title is important to identify an existing encroachments, encumbrances or entitlements that need to be addressed or corrected prior to closing.
- Environmental constraints, such as wetlands, waterways, other sensitive habitats and any associated buffers, should be identified to determine their impact on developable park spaces.
- An environmental site assessment should be conducted to identify environmental conditions that could have resulted from a past release of hazardous substances and determine any potential mitigation requirements to protect public health. Additionally, environmental law typically leaves the burden of responsibility on the property owner, so conducting an environmental site assessment is important to protect the City’s liability.
- An archeological assessment to review potential cultural resources may also help bring to light future park development costs and variables.

- Any underground tanks, wells, septic systems and existing structures should be evaluated for the need to remove, decommission, or demolish after closing of land sale.

Design Standards for Environmental Site Assessment

Considering current use of a property is typically not sufficient for evaluating potential environmental concerns. For example, a vacant lot may have previously been used for agricultural purposes and may contain pesticide residues in the soil, or a current retail building may have formerly housed an auto repair business with underground tanks. Additionally, properties that are considered low-risk, such as a residence, could have a leaking underground heating oil tank or other concerns. Therefore, conducting an environmental site assessment is an important step in purchasing and managing property.

Prior to purchasing or accepting ownership of a property, the City should conduct an environmental site assessment to determine if contaminated soil, sediment, or groundwater could be present. This process typically begins with a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) per ASTM E1527-13 to identify environmental conditions or other business risk issues that could impact site development, pose a liability to the City, or present a risk to human health or the environment. Depending on the results of the Phase I ESA, a subsequent Phase II ESA may be warranted to sample and test soil, sediment, or groundwater for the presence of contamination.

For property currently owned by the City, conducting an ESA prior to redevelopment can help to identify issues that could affect building design or result in construction delays.

For property that will be leased by the City, conducting a baseline environmental assessment may be warranted to establish initial conditions prior to the City occupying the site.

PRESERVING FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

Public outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities are eligible for funding assistance through the Oregon Local Government Grant Program (LGGP). Land acquisition projects must be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) or the recreation elements of local comprehensive plans and local master plans. Acquisition of land and waters for public outdoor recreation areas and facilities, including new areas or additions to existing parks, forests, wildlife areas, open spaces, beaches and other similar areas dedicated to outdoor recreation are eligible for assistance through the LGGP. To be eligible in the LGGP, the acquisition procedures set forth by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) should be closely followed. The grant funding program requires a percent match based on the population size of the eligible jurisdiction.

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DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

With the planned park upgrades, next phases of master plan development projects and undeveloped park properties anticipating future development, Central Point would benefit from park design and facility standards that help unify the system's amenities, operations and maintenance going into the future. Standards can begin with the adoption of typical bench details and expand to incorporate graphic sign styles, materials, colors and specific site furnishings. With the desire of Central Point to create a unifying identity and enhance park maintenance efficiencies, guidelines for park standards should be planned, endorsed and implemented.

If the City should annex its urban reserve area, the acquisition and development of additional parks will be necessary. There may be opportunities to partner with residential development projects for providing new parks to be dedicated to the City upon completion. The establishment of park design and development standards with predetermined requirements for consistency and quality of site amenities would ensure that new parks could readily fit within on-going park operations and maintenance.

All newly developed parks and trails shall adhere to the Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas as set forth by the United States Access Board.

Design Standards for Core Parks

Public park space should be clearly identifiable and provide a safe and secure environment for outdoor recreation and enjoyment. To help communicate the identity, amenities and uses within the park, some unified design standards should be applied. These standards are intended to help with public access, communication of safety and appropriate behaviors, and efficiency in operations and maintenance without creating a park system of identical "cloned" core parks. Standardizing the designs for park signage, benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, lighting, bollards, irrigation systems and fencing can allow for easier and less expensive procurement, installation, maintenance and replacement. The visual character of unified park amenities can quickly convey to the park visitor that the space is part of an overall system of public spaces where they are welcome.

While sharing standard site furnishings and signage styles helps unify the system identity, each individual park should have its own unique character. The shape and size of the land, the layout of circulation and location of key features, the styles, types and colors of play equipment, the architecture of restrooms, picnic and other park structures should be specific to that park. Even though each park contains some standardized site furnishings, each master plan design for park land should strive to create a sense of place that highlights the character of that park in its local context and for its primary purpose (such as passive park with natural area or active sports-oriented facility).

The following tables highlight the range and considerations of various amenities that may be provided within core parks (community, neighborhood and pocket parks) and can provide guidance for negotiating facility development opportunities in situations when private entities propose park development in-lieu of payment or for other, alternative arrangements, such as density bonuses.

Figure F1. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Pocket Parks

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 2,000 sq.ft. play area ▪ Play equipment should be age-specific targeting pre-school and elementary school children ▪ Playground should be ADA-compliant
Paved Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ADA compliant surfacing for barrier-free access
Picnic Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use standard ADA compliant picnic table style
Drinking Fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide ADA-compliant standard fixture
Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use standard ADA compliant bench style
Grass Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open play space with sun exposure; 800-1,000 sq.ft. minimum size; irrigated
Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide shade for portion of playground area ▪ Provide tree canopy for >40% of park space
Bicycle Racks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accommodate 2-bike minimum
Trash Receptacles & Dog Waste Disposal Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of 1 located at entry

Figure F2. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Neighborhood Parks

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of 4,000 sq.ft. play area ▪ Equipment should be suitable for and developmentally-appropriate for toddlers and elementary school-aged children ▪ Playground should be ADA Accessible and play equipment should be ADA Compliant
Loop Walking Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 8' wide ▪ ADA-compliant surface to accessible elements (benches, tables, play area) ▪ Pathway slope not to exceed 5% grade or no more than 8% for more than 30 lineal feet without switchbacks or railings
Picnic Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of 2, Use standard ADA compliant picnic table style
Drinking Fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide ADA-compliant standard fixture
Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of 2, Use standard ADA compliant bench style
Open Turf Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide at least 15% of total lawn area with irrigation, preferably adjacent to the play area
Trees & Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide shade for portion of playground area ▪ New trees and shrubs should be irrigated for a minimum of 2 years until established
Bicycle Racks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of 2, with capacity to serve 4 bikes
Trash Receptacles & Dog Waste Disposal Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of 1

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For community parks, any or all of the following outdoor recreation features should be considered in addition to the same amenities provided in neighborhood parks.

Figure F3. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Community Parks

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on types of amenities and their parking quantity requirements ▪ Include requisite number of handicapped parking stalls at appropriate locations ▪ Consider need for parking provision at multiple access points, where appropriate
Loop Walking Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a perimeter trail in addition to pathways accessing all major park amenities
Multiple Access Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide connectivity to neighborhoods and public rights-of-way
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide ADA-compliant standardized design facilities
Picnic Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide minimum of 1 group picnic shelter
Sports fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Type and quantity dependent on available space and current public demand for each sport facility
Sports courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Type and quantity dependent on available space and current public demand for each sport facility
Tree Canopy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Target a 25-45% tree canopy dependent on other park amenities and feasibility
Open Grass Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open play area with sun exposure ▪ Minimum target of 1 acre
Natural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on existing and restored environmental characteristics
Off-leash Dog Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum target of 1 acre ▪ Fenced enclosure with double-gate access ▪ Provide doggy waste dispenser and trash receptacle at entrance

Figure F4. Design Considerations for Other Park Amenities

Amenity	Considerations
Picnic Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of 400 sq.ft.
Sport field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practice level for youth soccer, T-ball, baseball and/or softball
Sport court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ½ court basketball court
Tennis court	
Alternative recreation court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Such as bocce ball, pickleball, horseshoes, lawn bowling
Skate spot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 600 to 1,200 sq.ft. with small ramps, bowls or features for beginners
Disc golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 9 baskets
Sprayground	
Natural area	
Water feature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Such as a passive water-based amenity that provides a visual focal point, i.e. fountains, ponds, or waterfalls
Restroom	
Drinking fountain	
Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automatic Irrigation, Electricity, Water
Parking	

Design Standards for Open Space and Natural Areas

Open space and natural areas are primarily intended to conserve places with ecological sensitivity or natural landscape value. Most natural areas have some space where low-impact recreational uses can be accommodated without reducing the environmental integrity of the land or water resource. Since the open space can range from wetlands and riparian corridors to fields and forests, design standards are not applied uniformly across the site. Each natural landscape is treated according to its level of sensitivity, need for conservation/restoration and tolerance for outdoor recreational use. However, where passive recreation opportunities can be provided, the standardized designs for park benches, picnic tables, signs, and other site amenities should be applied.

Design Standards for Special Use Facilities

Consideration should be given in the design and renovation of any special use facility as to how and how much the site and its amenities should be identifiable within the park system through the application of standardized park signage and site furnishings. For example, a future sport field complex could accommodate some of the standardized park benches, picnic tables and signage, but it would also require its own specialized features, such as bleachers, backstops, field lighting, score boards and other equipment, that are unique to the facility. Each master plan design for new facilities should give careful consideration as to how a unique sense of place and identity is conveyed while still communicating that the facility is part of a system of outdoor recreation accommodation provided by the City of Central Point.

Design Standards for Trails

A successful trail system is integrated with other transportation alternatives to include a range of trail, sidewalk, bike path and connection opportunities designed to the human scale. The typical recreational trail hierarchy (outlined on page 17) is aligned from regional shared-use trails to local neighborhood paths and park trails. Trail systems can also incorporate specially designated trails for single track mountain biking, primitive hiking, equestrian and water trails for paddlers.

Designing the actual physical trail starts with overall purpose of the trail, connecting travelers from one location to another (point A to point B) or through a particular environment (loop trail through a park). With a clear purpose for the trail, an appropriate alignment can then be determined to help provide the desired outdoor recreation experience or transportation value. For example, regional multi-use shared trails should be designed to a minimum width of 10 feet. In expanding urban centers, providing a 16-foot trail width can help accommodate significant bike and pedestrian use as the community grows and linkages to public transit enable increased trail usage. The most heavily used urban trails benefit from the installation of permanent pavement to withstand heavy traffic in a variety of weather conditions.

It should be noted that changes in transportation engineering and trail construction methods may warrant the need to update any trail design standards over time. Trail widths and surfacing types will vary across the trail hierarchy. Site furnishings along the trail are one method for standardizing trails as part of the outdoor recreation system provided by Central Point. The same benches, picnic tables, bollards and

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other site furnishings used throughout Central Point's park system could be installed along its trails to help unify the sense of place, reduce procurement costs and simplify maintenance.

The unifying standard for Central Point's trail system can be visually expressed through a designed wayfinding plan. Linked with the graphic character for the City Center and park system wayfinding, the trail signage should provide identification, direction, destination, travel information and safety messaging, while clearly reinforcing Central Point's sense of place.

Trails should be constructed according to City specifications. It is recommended that trail layout and surfacing materials be approved by the City and meet the following general requirements:

- Trail width should be a minimum of 8 feet wide
- Surfacing should be appropriate to the location; paved asphalt or concrete is recommended for upland areas, and wood chip, crusher waste or boardwalks are appropriate in lowland, wet or sensitive areas (City codes shall apply)
- Hard-surfaced trails should comply with ADAAG guidelines for slope and cross-slope; soft-surfaced trails should include properly placed and designed water bars or other surface water management techniques to minimize run-off and erosion.
- Entry signage should be provided at trailheads or access points, and boundary signage should be placed, as appropriate, to demarcate sensitive edges or private property boundaries.
- Trash receptacles should be provided at trailheads

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

The inventory assessment highlighted an opportunity to consider incorporating crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles to enhance park and trail safety and facilitate the monitoring of park uses and behaviors. CPTED applies four principles that are used to deter criminal behavior in outdoor environments:

- Natural surveillance
- Natural access control
- Territorial reinforcement
- Maintenance

CPTED natural surveillance (“see and be seen”) asserts that sight lines for better visibility can deter undesirable behavior and increase the perceptions of safety and comfort by park patrons. Lowering understory vegetation or raising lower tree branches through intentional vegetation management can provide more clear lines of sight in and around trails and other areas of use. Providing clear visibility and reducing blind corners can also improve safety by limiting conflicts between different users (e.g. runners, cyclists, dog walkers), where unanticipated encounters may result in crashes or entanglements.

Natural access control in park design is often very subtle. Controlling where vehicles enter and exit park facilities through designed barriers, bollards, boulders, and post and cable fencing can protect park users and minimize park property damage from misguided vehicular traffic. Walkways, lighting, fencing and landscaping provide explicit direction for park users. The flow of users through a park will help decrease the opportunity for crime and improve clarity for the intended park behaviors.

Territorial reinforcement comes through clear demarcation of boundaries. For public parks, those boundaries between public and private lands, safe and unsafe areas, and special use, limited access or reserved sites can be delineated with the appropriate placement of fencing, signs, landscaping or other physical or visual design techniques.

Finally, clearly visible, high-quality maintenance is an important element of CPTED, as well as general public safety. CPTED recognizes the “broken window” theory where neglected and poorly maintained amenities are more attractive targets for vandalism or other criminal activity. Deferred maintenance can also result in park amenities that put users at risk. Broken pavement, worn decking, uneven playing fields and missing play safety surfacing can create injuries. Overall attention to CPTED principles can help ensure safer public park environments.

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MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS STANDARDS

General Standards

Grounds

- Grounds are mowed and trimmed.
- Park is free of litter, debris and hazards.

Walkways & Paths

- Walkways have a uniform surface and are level with the ground and free of trip hazards.
- Walkways are free of litter and debris.
- Walkways have unobstructed accessibility, i.e. free from low and protruding limbs, guide wires, etc.
- Walkways are neatly edged.
- Walkways are clear of weeds and grass growth in cracks and expansion joints.

Signage

- Park identification signs are secure and properly installed in a noticeable location.
- Handicap parking signs (as applicable) are secure, visible and to city code.
- Signs are clean, painted and free of protrusions.

Ornamental Plants & Landscaping

- Plants are healthy.
- Plant beds are free of litter, debris, and weeds.
- Plant selection is appropriate for season and area usage.

Playgrounds

Play Equipment

- Play equipment and surrounding play areas meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.
- Play equipment and hardware is intact.
- Play equipment is free of graffiti.
- Age appropriateness for the play equipment is noted with proper signage.
- Shade structure is secure and free from tears, if applicable.

Surfacing

- Fall surface is clean, level and free of litter and debris.
- Fall surface meets ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.
- Fall surface is well drained.
- Rubber cushion surfaces are free of holes and tears.
- Rubber cushion surfaces are secure to the base material and curbing.



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Borders

- Playground borders are well defined and intact.
- Playground borders meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.

Decks

- Planks are intact, smooth, structurally sound, free of splinters and have no cracks greater than ¼ inch.
- Nails, bolts or screws are flush with the surface.
- Planks are level with no excessive warping.

Fixtures

Benches

- Slats are smooth and structurally sound.
- Hardware is intact and structurally sound.
- Nails, bolts or screws are flush with the surface.
- Seats and backing are smooth with no protrusions and have no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners.

Tables

- Tables are clean, free of rust, mildew and graffiti.
- Table hardware is intact.
- Table frames are intact and slats are properly secured.
- Table seats and tops are smooth with no protrusions and have no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners.

Trash Receptacles

- Receptacles are clean; Area around trash receptacles is clean and free of trash and debris.
- Wood receptacles are painted and free of damage or missing parts; hardware for wood receptacles is intact.
- Concrete receptacles are intact and free of cracks or damage.

Sport Courts

Surfacing

- Surface is smooth, level and well drained with no standing water.
- Surface is free of large cracks, holes and trip hazards.
- Surface is painted and striped as per court specifications.
- Worn painted surfaces do not exceed 20% of total court surface.
- Surface is free of litter, debris, gravel and graffiti.

Goals and Backboards

- Goals and backboards are level with hardware intact and painted as appropriate.
- Nylon nets are properly hung and are not torn or tattered.

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- Support poles are secure in the ground and straight.

Restrooms

- Restrooms are clean, sanitary and properly stocked with paper products.
- Lights and ventilation systems are operational.
- Toilets, water faucets, stall doors and hand air dryers are operational.
- Restrooms are free of graffiti.
- Restroom doors are properly marked according to gender.
- Restrooms have clean trash receptacles.
- Restroom doors and locks are operational.
- Restrooms are in compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

Weeds can be defined as plants growing in places where they are not wanted. Native vegetation may be considered undesirable in a park because of its growth habit or harmful properties. For example, the City of Central Point considers native poplar trees a nuisance, because the roots can break up sidewalks or clog sewer pipes. Likewise, poison oak is native to southern Oregon, but is highly undesirable in a park setting because of its toxicity. Fortunately, management of unwelcome natives is not particularly difficult. On the other hand, control of noxious weeds and invasive plant species can be extremely difficult. These non-native plants have the capacity to spread rapidly and out-compete more desirable native plants or landscaping. They can impact agriculture, forestry, and recreation, as well as fish, wildlife, recreation, and overall watershed health. Control of these species is important both in terms of improving the condition of the parks, but also in preventing spread to neighboring properties. This plan is focused on the control of noxious or invasive species.

Regulations Pertaining to Weeds

The State of Oregon maintains a list of noxious weeds and attempts to control the spread of these species through statewide restrictions on sales and transport. The focus tends to be on catching new invaders before they become a serious problem. Once the species is widespread, eradication becomes much more difficult, if not impossible. Himalayan blackberry, for example, is now so thoroughly established and widespread that eradication is not feasible, so the focus has shifted to limiting further spread and protecting desirable resources. The City of Central Point has a weed abatement ordinance (Chapter 8.08 M CCP) that is geared towards fire prevention and requires landowners to maintain vegetation at a height of 10 inches or less. The ordinance does not distinguish between designated weeds and native vegetation. Exceptions are provided for landscaping, agricultural crops, and grazed pasture.

Weed Management Strategy

Weed management is a continuous process and management requires a long-term approach. Most land management agencies, including the State of Oregon, have adopted what is known as an “Integrated Weed Management Approach.” This type of approach sets weed management objectives and relies on a variety of techniques to achieve the desired objectives in a manner that is both cost effective and minimizes risk to human health and the environment. Early detection and prevention is emphasized along with modifications in land management that favor desirable species over invasive species. One of the best ways to reduce weeds is to foster a healthy plant community of desirable species. The steps in developing and implementing an Integrated Weed Management Plan are as follows:

1. Conduct a weed assessment

Before a plan can be developed, the extent of the problem must be known. The assessment will identify which species are present and the extent of their coverage. Invasive species are not likely to be much of a problem at the more developed parks or portions of parks which are managed as lawns and landscaped areas, since regular maintenance tends to preclude any major colonization. They are more likely to be a problem in those areas that are left in a natural state. Invasive species can be a particular problem in riparian areas where some of the more intensive control practices are not feasible or desirable.

2. Establish objectives

Developing a list of objectives helps to focus and guide management activities so that limited resources are used where they will provide the most benefit and so that management activities can be evaluated based on whether they are meeting the stated objectives.

3. Set priorities

Since resources tend to be limited, priorities must be set. These should be based on the following guidelines

- State requirements - Is the weed considered a high priority for removal by the state?
- Potential impact to the environment and use – Is the presence of the weed adversely impacting use of the park or degrading habit? What impacts will control techniques have on the environment and use? Is the weed poisonous or have other undesirable properties making it incompatible in a park setting?
- Available resources for control – Does funding allow for weed control? Are grant funds available through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board or other groups for weed control or planting? Can some level of control be realistically achieved with the available resources? Are there non-governmental organizations interested in assisting with weed-control activities?
- Planned development activities - Are any development activities planned for the park that could facilitate or necessitate control?
- Coordination with other agencies – Are there other governmental agencies implementing weed-control activities in the area?

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4. Select weed management techniques

The decisions regarding which techniques to use to control a particular species should be based on the biology of the species, the potential impact to sensitive resources, the identified objectives and priorities, and available resources. There is considerable literature available on specific weed-control techniques and each technique has associated pros and cons. One of the fundamental principles of an integrated approach is that a combination of approaches may be needed over time to achieve the objective. More information on specific techniques is provided in the next section.

5. Evaluate the success of weed-control activities

Monitor activities to document the success of particular weed management techniques. Try to determine why a particular technique or series of techniques was or was not effective. Note any unanticipated consequences, such as increased erosion?

6. Refine and revise plan

Continue to refine and revise the plan based on observed results, changes in priorities, new information, and other factors.

Target Species

Table 1 lists invasive species that have been identified in the vicinity of Central Point. This list is not meant to be an exhaustive list but includes most of the common or more problematic weeds likely to be in the area. The species listed in Table 1 are all Class B weeds in the State of Oregon. Class B weeds are of economic importance and regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties. Management recommendations vary by species on a case-by-case basis. If a statewide management plan is not being implemented, then biological control is the primary control method, if available. Information regarding the species in Figure F5 and other noxious weeds in the State of Oregon can be found on the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Oregon Noxious Weed Profiles web page (<http://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/weeds/oregonnoxiousweeds/pages/aboutoregonweeds.aspx>).

Figure F5. Noxious Weed Species in the Vicinity of Central Point, Oregon.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Difficulty of Control
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Moderately difficult
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Moderately difficult
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Moderately difficult
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Very difficult but may not be high priority
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Difficult
Hawkweeds	<i>Hieracium sp.</i>	Moderately difficult
Himalayan blackberry	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Very difficult – spreads quickly, resprouts
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Very difficult – reprints readily from root and stem fragments, shade tolerant
Knapweeds	<i>Centaurea sp</i>	Difficult
Kochia	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	Difficult
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Difficult
Puncture vine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Moderately difficult
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum slicaria</i>	Very difficult
Ragweed	<i>Ambrosia artemisifolia</i>	Difficult
Scotch broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Difficult – prolific seeder, deep tap root
St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Difficult
Tansy ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Moderately difficult
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonium</i>	Moderately difficult
Yellow nutsedge	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	Very difficult
Yellow star thistle	<i>Centuarea solstitialis</i>	Relatively easy if control action implemented regularly

The invasive species that is likely to be the biggest problem for Central Point parks is Himalayan blackberry. It is found throughout the city and forms dense stands that are virtually impenetrable and preclude establishment of more desirable plants. The blackberry grows and spreads rapidly and is very difficult to control. It takes a concerted effort over many years to completely get rid of it and because of the local abundance, new plants are continually colonizing available habitat. The most effective control appears to be a combination of mechanical cutting with fall herbicide application, followed by mulching and replanting. Conversion of blackberry thickets should only be undertaken when there is adequate funding to follow-through with conversion to desirable species. Since the blackberry does provide some habitat and food for wildlife, conversion should look at replacing these functions. Periodically cutting back the edges of blackberry thickets can keep patches from expanding.

Common weed management techniques

Figure F6 lists the common techniques used for controlling invasive species and some of the pros and cons of each method. Each species responds differently to different control techniques and it is important to use methods that are known to be effective against a

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particular species. Timing can be a very important factor in success. The Jackson County Cooperative Weed Management Area is a good source of information. The Bear Creek Greenway Management Plan provides a comprehensive plan for managing the entire greenway and includes recommendations for weed control.

Figure F6. Weed Management Techniques

Technique	Description	Pros	Cons
Mechanical	Mowing, cutting, disking, mechanical root removal, grading, etc.	Useful for conversion of large areas or for knocking back weeds before they flower or fruit. Mowing of lawn areas keeps these areas from converting to shrubs or trees. Regular mowing can eventually get rid of blackberries but should not be used on knotweeds or other species that sprout from plant parts.	Cutting does not generally kill the plant unless repeated and regularly. Mechanical methods that expose the soil should only be undertaken where the site can be immediately mulched and replanted. Not recommended for steep slopes, stream banks, wetlands, etc.
Hand pulling	Pulling weeds out by hand or using hand tools with the intent of removing the entire plant	Very effective for small infestations of species that can be hand pulled. Can be performed by volunteers.	Not practical for large infestations, deep rooted plants, or plants that tend to re-sprout from root fragments
Mulching or matting	Installing a thick layer of mulch or organic matting to prevent weed germination	Most effective as a preventative measure to avoid exposed soils in landscaped areas or during conversion.	Only partially effective – should be combined with other methods
Burning	Using fire to kill weeds or knock them back	Can be a good alternative to herbicides for some species with limited distribution where a spot burner can be used.	Many species readily resprout following burning. Do not burn poison oak as fumes can cause lung inflammation. Controlled burns of larger areas may not be acceptable within the city limits.
Herbicides	Chemical applications that target the weed species	Can be the only effective method against some weeds. Can be targeted to individual plants.	Not usually a long term solution. Chemicals can adversely impact desirable vegetation and other organisms. Restrictions may apply in aquatic areas.
Biological control	Use of insects, fungus, bacteria or disease that targets a specific weed species	Can be the only long-term solution to plants that are widespread. Biological control agents are carefully studied before being approved for use.	Will not eradicate a species, but will reduce vigor and competitive advantage. Only a few species have approved biological control agents.
Revegetation	Use of desirable species to outcompete weed species	One of the best long-term strategies. Seeding can also be used as a temporary measure to quickly cover bare ground and prevent erosion and new weed establishment.	Usually needs to be conducted in conjunction with other control methods to give the desirable plants a chance to get established. Not effective against all weeds.

While herbicides can be an important part of a weed management approach for some species, they should be viewed as a short term solution that is part of a longer term means of management. Mulches, cultivation and other methods of management are usually lower cost and often more effective than the use of chemicals. Herbicides should not be used in areas where the public could be adversely impacted or proximate to streams or wetlands without a special permit.



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Training

Park staff should be trained in the identification of target weed species so that appropriate measures can be taken in a timely manner.

Public involvement

The public can be engaged in weed-control efforts through volunteer work parties, education, and stewardship activities.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Consultant's Guide to Park Design and Development; Park and Recreation Department,
City of San Diego, CA

<http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/pdf/consultantguide.pdf>

Design Standards for Park and Trail Development (Specifications); Park and Recreation
Department, City of Bellingham, WA

<http://www.cob.org/government/rules/guidelines/park-design-standards.aspx>

Accessible Recreation Facilities Guidelines - Access Board

<https://www.access-board.gov/attachments/article/1637/outdoor-guide.pdf>

Handbook for Public Playground Safety - National Product Safety Commission

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/325.pdf>



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