

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 9, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers @ Central Point City Hall

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

David Painter (Chair), Sam Inkley, Jr., Larry Martin, Cameron Noble, Cinda Harmes, Patrick Smith and Caitlin Butler

III. MINUTES

Review and approval of November 14, 2017 minutes

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

V. BUSINESS

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Open Discussion regarding proposed traffic signal or round about at the intersection of Beebe and Hamrick Roads.

B. Parks Element, Central Point Municipal Code

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**City of Central Point
Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes
November 14, 2017**

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were: David Painter(chair), Cameron Noble, Cinda Harmes, Caitlyn Butler, and Sam Inkley.

Also in attendance were: Tom Humphrey, Community Development Director, Stephanie Holtey, Community Planner and Karin Skelton, Planning Secretary

III. MINUTES

Cameron Noble made a motion to approve the minutes of October 10, 2017. Caitlin Butler seconded. All members said "aye". Motion approved.

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES – NONE

V. BUSINESS

A.

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Open discussion about a Conceptual Land Use and Transportation Plan for Urban Reserve Areas CP-5 and CP-6.

David Painter read a statement regarding the purpose of the Citizen's Advisory Committee. He said this meeting was a continuation of the discussion regarding the Conceptual Plan for CP-5 and CP-6. There were no comments from the Committee.

Tom Humphrey explained the Regional Planning Process. He said the purpose of the Regional Planning Process was to anticipate growth over the next 50 years and was intended to preserve farmland and maintain the identity of the City. He described the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and the Urban Reserve Areas

Mr. Humphrey said the City had agreed to an average density of 6.9 units per acre. He said this was an average of all residential lands contained within the City limits.

He explained the state requires the City to maintain a 20 year inventory of developable land. He stressed there was no obligation for any of the residents of CP-5 or CP-6 to come into the Urban Growth Boundary or annex into the City.

He stated that some residents of CP-6 have submitted their own concept plans. He showed the submitted plans and discussed the differences between them.

David Painter polled the audience to see where the population was situated and what their thoughts were about being in the UGB.

75 to 80% of the people in attendance lived in the southern area of CP-6. The majority did not want to be in the UGB.

In the Center area of CP-6 there were 6 residents present. 100% of those residents wanted to be included in the UGB.

In the north area of CP-6 there were 2 persons present. One did want to be included in the UGB and one did not.

Mr. Humphrey said the City currently needed 150 additional residentially designated acres in order to have a 20 year supply as required by the state.

The Committee asked if a portion of CP-6 could be excluded from the Concept Plan. Mr. Humphrey said there was not an option for excluding a portion of a URA. The entire Urban Reserve Area would need to have a designation. He added that the low density designation which the City depicted in their concept plan was closest to the current county zoning.

The meeting was opened for public comments

Katy Mallams, Heritage Road.

Ms. Mallams explained the reasoning for her map excluding the southern portion of CP-6. She asked if roads could be built that would impact lands that do not come into the Urban Growth Boundary. Mr. Humphrey replied that roads outside the city limits were the jurisdiction of the County.

Ms. Mallams said she did not want their neighborhood to change. She expressed an appreciation for narrower streets and stated her preference for open space or parks as buffers for the neighborhood.

Dean Finch – New Ray Road

Mr. Finch presented his version of the concept plan. He reviewed the density as set out in his plan. He said the City's plan did not transition the density into existing neighborhoods effectively.

Russell Cox – Grant Rd.

Mr. Cox stated he was in favor of coming into the UGB. He said he lives in the middle section of CP-6. He asked if the roads that were depicted on the City's proposed plan had speed limits designated. Mr. Humphrey said the Oregon State Police would establish the speed limits.

Duane Mallams – Heritage Road

Mr. Mallams stated he appreciated the CAC for continuing the matter to a second meeting. He thought having two meetings for agenda items should be standard procedure

Mr. Humphrey opened the meeting for questions.

Katy Mallams – Heritage Road

Ms. Mallams asked why the City had zoned the area as it had in their proposed concept plan. Mr. Humphrey responded that the LMR zoning worked well with the current County zoning.

Tim Higinbotham – Taylor Road

Mr. Higinbotham said some people wanted to be in the UGB and develop their land. He said that coming into the UGB gave residents an option of annexing into the City and he stated that no one was required to annex.

Jim Geiger – Grant Road

Mr. Geiger said he wants access to City water.

Mr. Humphrey said a property would have to be in the UGB in order to obtain city water, although the Water Commission may make exceptions for people in the URA. He said he would get more specific information.

Louise Sakrida – Scenic Ave.

Ms. Sakrida asked how it would affect her property if someone near her brought sewer and water to their property. Mr. Humphrey responded that it should not adversely affect her.

Duane Mallams – Heritage Road

Mr. Mallams said he was responding to Mr. Higinbotham's comments. He said he does not want to come into the UGB because he does not want to see a lot of development in the area.

Mr. Humphrey responded that the likelihood of a majority of the area being annexed was not great.

Dean Finch – New Ray Road

Mr. Finch asked if the land owners would keep their water rights. Mr. Humphrey said that until a property is annexed nothing will change. Once a property is annexed, they can use wells for irrigation.

Mr. Finch asked about keeping livestock. Mr. Humphrey said if a property were annexed they would be able to keep some livestock.

Mr. Finch asked when the railroad crossing would be open. Mr. Humphrey said the crossing was targeted to be finished by April of 2018.

Mr. Finch asked how development would be monitored if this concept plan was approved. Mr. Humphrey explained there were processes in place to make sure everything was done according to the Municipal Code.

Stephanie Holtey said at the time of preparing a master plan there were more processes in place to assure a product that complied with the requirements of the municipal code.

Jimmy Caldwell- Freeland Road

Mr. Caldwell said if the City put in more apartments it would ease the density requirements. Mr. Humphrey said the City did monitor development and was aware of the density requirements.

Mr. Caldwell said the City should develop land already in the City limits. He said Mr. Higinbotham's land was excellent farm land. It was his opinion that there should be a way to subsidize people who would agree not to develop their land. He was also concerned about the environmental impact if the area were developed more.

The public portion of the meeting was closed.

The Commissioners discussed the fact that as the people in the southern portion of CP-6 were against coming into the UGB, and because an exclusion zone was not an option, they thought the low density designation was appropriate for that area.

Additionally, they clarified the City's zoning would only apply should a property be annexed into the City. Otherwise it remained as it was.

The Commissioners were in favor of recommending Staff alternative "B" to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Humphrey explained there would be an opportunity for the citizens to speak to the Planning Commission at their meeting in December.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

Development Update

Mr. Humphrey advised the Planning Commission that

- Costco was opening on November 16th.
- the County was obtaining bids for the Table Rock Road improvements.
- The Saxbury Building on Front Street has been demolished and plans submitted for two new office buildings on the site.
- Work is beginning on the Smith Crossing apartments and the Pear Valley assisted living and memory care

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Cameron Noble made a motion to adjourn. Caitlyn Finley seconded the motion. All parties said "aye". Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The foregoing minutes of the November 14, 2017 Citizens Advisory Committee were approved by the Citizens Advisory Committee at its meeting of January 2, 2018

Chairman

**OPEN DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL OR ROUND ABOUT AT THE
INTERSECTION OF BEEBE AND HAMRICK ROADS**



December 13, 2017

TO: Citizens Advisory Committee
FROM: Matt Samitore, Parks & Public Works Director
SUJECT: Beebe-Hamrick Signal

PURPOSE:

The City has budgeted for the construction of a new traffic signal or round about at the intersection of Beebe and Hamrick Roads. The project has been in the City's Transportation System Plan since 2008 and in original plans for the development since 1999. Warrants have been met.

The City Budget has the project listed, but has not had a sufficient revenue stream to fund it. With the passage of the state transportation package the City is anticipating receiving an additional \$150,000 in funds in the 17-18 budget and \$300,000 in the 18/19 FY. If funds are received as anticipated staff will bring back a formal request to fund the project in March of 2018 with construction anticipated for Spring 2019.

In an effort to work with the Central Point East Subdivision Public Works met with the Homeowner's Association regarding their entrance islands in the spring of 2017. City staff explained that the elimination of the island is needed to accommodate a designated left turn lane. After a series of meetings an agreement was made whereby the City agreed to move the "Central Point East" subdivision sign to the landscaped area north of the intersection and install lighting for the sign when construction begins.

The Home Owners group requested if we could do the same thing with the island off of Meadowbrook and Biddle. Public Works agreed to do this work at the same time. Since the time of that meeting several people who live in the White Oak phase of the development have come out in opposition of eliminating the islands. Council requested staff obtain additional public input on the construction options (i.e. traffic signal or roundabout). The objective of this meeting is to obtain a preferred alternative and forward that recommendation to City Council for formal approval.

Hamrick-Biddle Discussion

Staff will present Pros and Cons to the Citizens Advisory Committee on both a traffic signal and a roundabout. Staff is requesting that the CAC recommend a preferred alternative, which will be forwarded to City Council.



STAFF REPORT

January 9, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: VI-B

Consideration of Parks and Recreation Element, City of Central Point Comprehensive Plan (File No. CPA-17005)
Applicant: City of Central Point. **File No.:** CPA-17005.

STAFF SOURCE:

Justin P. Gindlesperger, Community Planner II

BACKGROUND:

The City's Parks and Recreation Element ("Parks Element") was last acknowledged in 1983 and needs to be updated to account for community changes since 1983 and to plan for future park needs. As the population of Central Point grows, interest in and use of parks will increase. Although the residents of Central Point are satisfied with the current park system, the current amount of parklands will not adequately serve new residents. The purpose of the Parks Element is to guide City decision-making to ensure the parks and recreation system meets the needs of the Central Point community as the city continues to grow over the next 20 years.

The updated Parks Element includes chapters on community engagement reflecting the interests of City residents, an inventory of the existing parks system, assessment of future parkland needs, goals and policies and implementation strategies. Discussion at the meeting will focus on the needs assessment for future parks development, and proposed goals and policies to support the development and maintenance of parks, open space, and recreational facilities.

Attached are copies of the chapters for the Executive Summary, the Needs Assessment and the Goals and Policies. The working draft of the entire Parks Element is available on the City's webpage (<http://www.centralpointoregon.gov/cd/page/parks-and-recreation-element-2018-2038>) and will be available for review at the meeting upon request.

ISSUES:

The primary issue in considering the Parks Element pertains to the parkland needs assessment. Given the current level of service, the City will need to develop 52 acres of parklands by 2038.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment "A" – Executive Summary
Attachment "B" – Needs Assessment
Attachment "C" – Goals and Policies

ACTION:

Consideration of the Parks and Recreation Element.

1. Executive Summary

This citywide Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Element (Parks Element) is a twenty-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. The Parks Element 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.

The Parks Element was guided with input and direction of city residents and the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks Element 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

1.1. 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.

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. 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.

1.2. Goals & Policies

The Parks Element includes goals and policies intended to guide City decision-making to ensure the parks and recreation system meets the needs of the Central Point community. These goals and policies are 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.
- Facilities Development Plan: development and implementation of a comprehensive facilities plan in cooperation and coordination with surrounding cities/county and school district.

1.3. Service Standards

The Parks and Recreation Department follows a set of service standards in order to provide quality recreational opportunities and to achieve community goals. The standards are applied to the three (3) main components of the Parks and Recreation system:

- Community, Neighborhood & Pocket Parks: The City classifies three (3) types of core parks, including community parks, neighborhood parks and pocket parks. The proposed acreage standard for core parks is 3.5 acres per 1,000 people to emphasize the 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 43 acres of parkland, and develop 52 acres, between 2018 and 2038 to fully meet the desired level of service standard.
- Open Space & Trails: The Parks Element 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 Parks Element does not include a numeric standard for special use facilities. Special use recreation facilities are, by their nature, unique and do not translate well to a population based numeric standard.

1.4. Future Improvements

The City of Central Point is anticipated to grow to approximately 23,497 residents over the next twenty 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 Improvement 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 Parks Element 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 Parks Element 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, it is recommended to continue the review of funding alternatives, as well as updating the modeling of user demand and analyzing options for facility and program cost recovery.

The Parks Element includes a focused 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.

6. 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.

6.1. Trends & Local Feedback

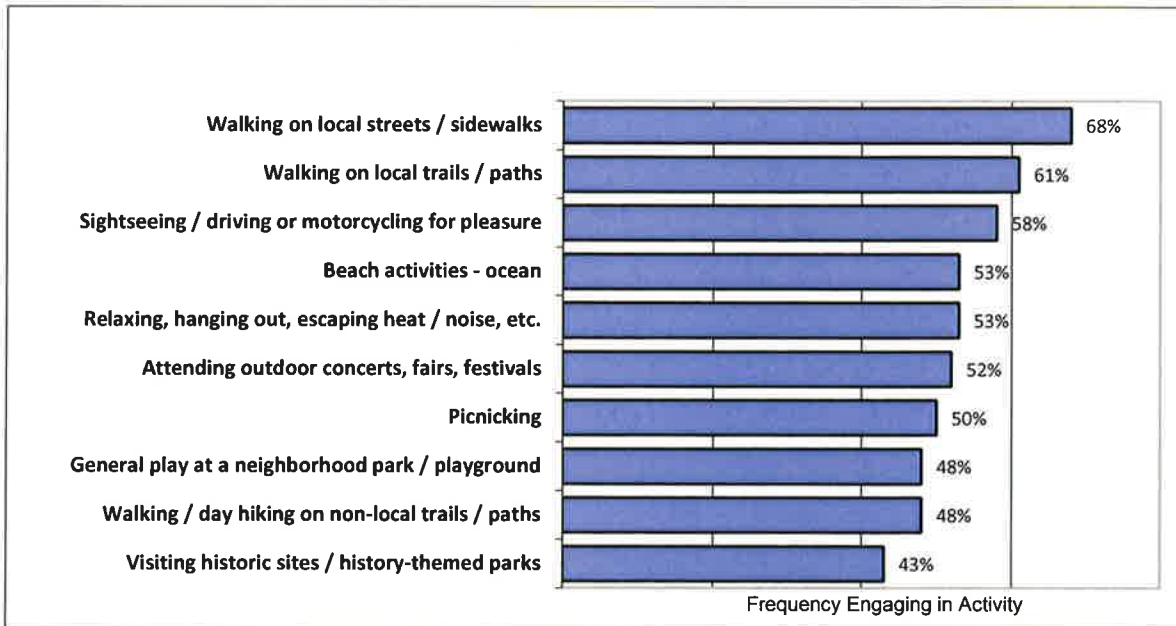
6.1.1. Outdoor Recreation Trends

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).

6.1.1.1. 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.

6.1.1.2. 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.

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.

6.1.1.3. 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.

6.1.1.4. 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.

6.1.2. 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.

6.1.2.1. 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, 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").

6.1.2.2. 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

6.1.3. 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.

6.1.4. Community Demographics

6.1.4.1. Meeting the Needs of a Growing Community

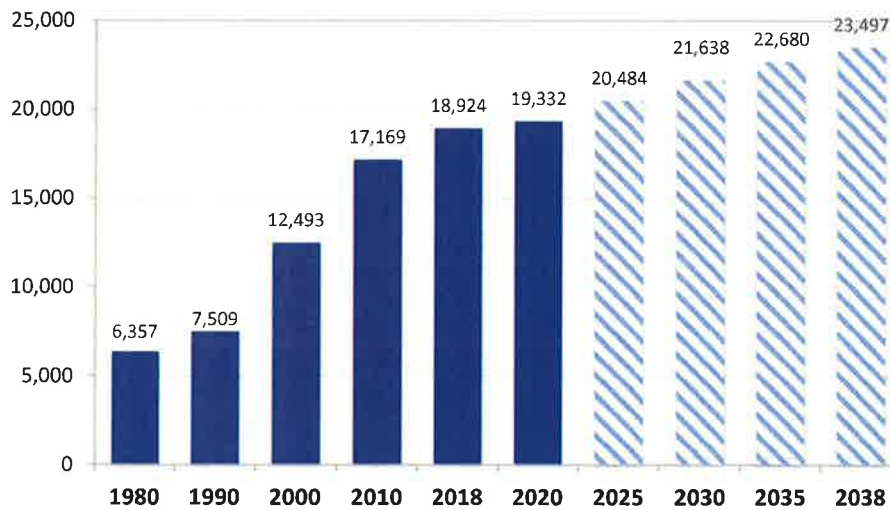
In 2017, Central Point was home to an estimated 18,724 people, according to the Portland State University Population Research Center. The city has been growing steadily for the past four decades, with a 329% increase in population from 1970 to 2010 (see Figure 6). Much of this increase occurred during 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 2017, the City of Central Point proceeded with work to update the Comprehensive Plan utilizing population forecast data compiled by Portland State University. This population forecast projects continued growth over the coming 20 years. It estimates the population of the urban area will grow to

20,484 people by 2025 and 23,497 by 2038. This growth would represent a 24% increase in total population between 2018 and 2038.

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 - 2038



6.1.4.2. 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 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.

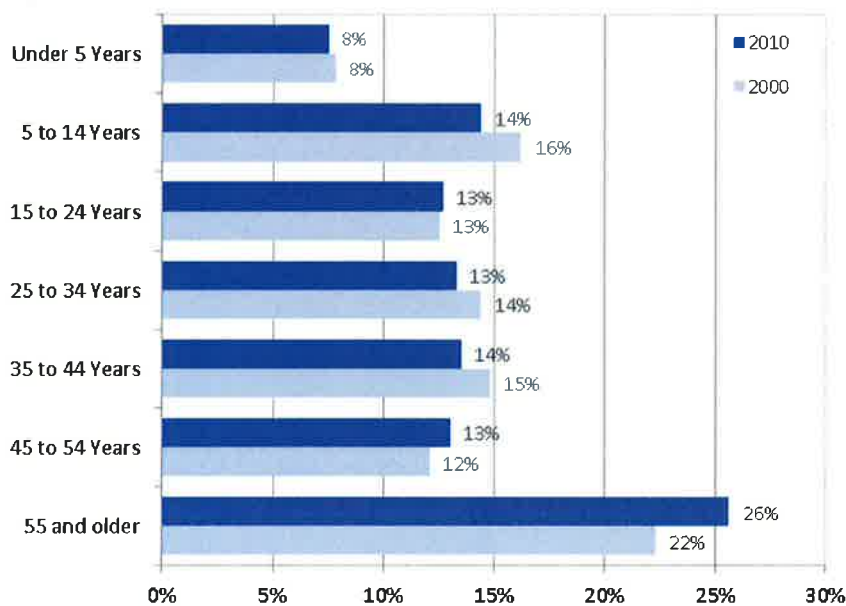
While Central Point’s overall population is relatively young compared to the county and state, the average age of a city resident has increased by two years since 2000 (34.4). Much of this change is due to a growing percentage of adults over 45 years of age and a declining percentage of youth under 19.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



6.1.4.3. 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.

6.1.4.4. 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 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.

6.2. 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.

6.2.1. 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.

6.2.1.1. Parkland Gap Analysis

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be directed, the Parks Element 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 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 8A.

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

Gap Area	Location	Intended Park Type
1	North central (near N 10 th Street and Upton Rd.)	Neighborhood

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).

Figure 8B. Parkland Service Gap Areas within the URA by Location & Park Type

Gap Area	Location	Intended Park Type
2	CP-3 - near Beebe Rd. & Hamrick Rd.	Community
3	CP-6A - south of Scenic Ave.	Neighborhood
4	CP-6A - near Taylor Rd.	Community
5	CP-6A - north of Beall Ln.	Neighborhood
6	CP-6B - southwest of Beall Ln. & Hanley Rd.	Community
7	CP-2B - southeast of Wilson Rd. & Upton Rd.	Community

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.

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.

6.2.2. 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 level of service of 2.07 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 27 acres of parkland to meet community goals. Since some parkland is currently undeveloped, the City would need to develop approximately 36 acres of parkland to meet current needs. The level of service table below includes the undeveloped acreage of the Boes property in the CP-4D urban reserve area, and if that site were developed to serve as a new neighborhood park, the remaining urban area deficit would be approximately 27 acres.

Central Point’s population is anticipated to grow by approximately 4,500 residents by 2038. In order to serve future residents, the City would need to acquire and develop an additional 16 acres of parkland, in addition to current needs. Accordingly, the City should aim to acquire 43 acres of parkland, and develop 52 acres, between 2018 and 2038 to fully meet the desired level of service standard (3.5 acres/1,000 residents). Additionally, the acquisition and development of the 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 – 2018 and 2038

Metric	Measurement			
Existing Level of Service (LOS) Standard	3.5 acres per 1,000 residents			
2018 Population	18,924 residents			
2038 Population Forecast	23,497 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)	2.07	1.67	1.58	1.27
Net LOS to Standard (acres/1,000 residents)	(1.43)	(1.83)	(1.92)	(2.23)
Performance to Standard	59%	48%	45%	36%
Acreage surplus (deficit)	(26.99)	(43.00)	(36.31)	(52.32)

Source: Population data from PSU Center for Population Research

6.3. Park Development

6.3.1. 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.

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.

6.3.1.1. 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 be located to the east of Interstate 5, northeast of the intersection of Beebe Road and Gebhard Road to serve residents in the eastern portion of the city. Due to size requirements for community parks, and areas of the city that are heavily developed, it will be difficult to locate new community parks within existing developed sections 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.

6.3.2. 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
Menteer 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.
- **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.

6.3.2.1. 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.

Within the current city limits, Central Point should acquire and develop two new neighborhood parks of 3 to 5 acres to serve local neighborhoods. A new neighborhood park, Summerfield Park, is scheduled for construction 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, Don and Flo Bohnert Farm Park, is currently under construction in the north-west portion of the city, near Stone Pointe Drive. A third neighborhood park should ideally be located near the intersection of Glenn Way and Timothy Street to serve residents in the southeastern portion of the city. Other proposed neighborhood park locations are identified on Map 5 and aim to address parkland distribution needs within the urban reserve areas.

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.

6.3.3. Open Space Areas

Central Point is fortunate to have retained several significant natural areas across the city, especially along Bear Creek and Griffin Creek. The open space inventory includes nearly 73 acres and includes approximately 20 acres adjacent to the Boes property in CP-4D that will provide a future connection to the Bear Creek Greenway. While many of the city-managed sites do not currently accommodate formal public access, many of these properties may serve as the backbone for future trail corridors.

In addition to protecting habitat and maintaining ecologic benefits (e.g., stormwater management and air quality), the open space system provides educational and stewardship opportunities and is the primary framework for off-street recreational trails. The installation and integration of interpretive signage that reflects Central Point's unique history, natural assets and wildlife populations also may enable programmed or self-guided outdoor learning.

No numeric standards are proposed for open spaces and natural areas. While numerical planning standards are common for helping to determine a desirable number of neighborhood parks per thousand residents, they do not translate easily to natural areas because of the uniqueness of the land base itself.

Instead, the city’s natural area acquisition efforts should be focused toward those lands that expand ownership of adjacent city-owned properties or locations that support of the expansion of the trail network and linkages to the Bear Creek Greenway. In other locations, the City should encourage the holding of open spaces as development common areas or tracts, whenever possible, and include public access easements or rights over those tracts to minimize maintenance demands while allowing future development for public use. In areas where the private open space tracts overlap with mapped sensitive areas, the City should request additional lands within these set-asides to accommodate trail connections that do not encroach upon the sensitive areas.

6.3.4. 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

6.3.4.1. 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.

6.3.4.2. 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.

6.3.4.3. 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.

6.3.5. Specialized Park Amenities

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

6.3.5.1. 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.

6.3.5.2. 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.

6.3.5.3. 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.

6.4. 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.

6.5. 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)

6.6. 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.

6.6.1. 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.

6.6.2. 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.

6.6.3. 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

6.7. 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.

6.7.1. 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

6.7.1.1. 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:

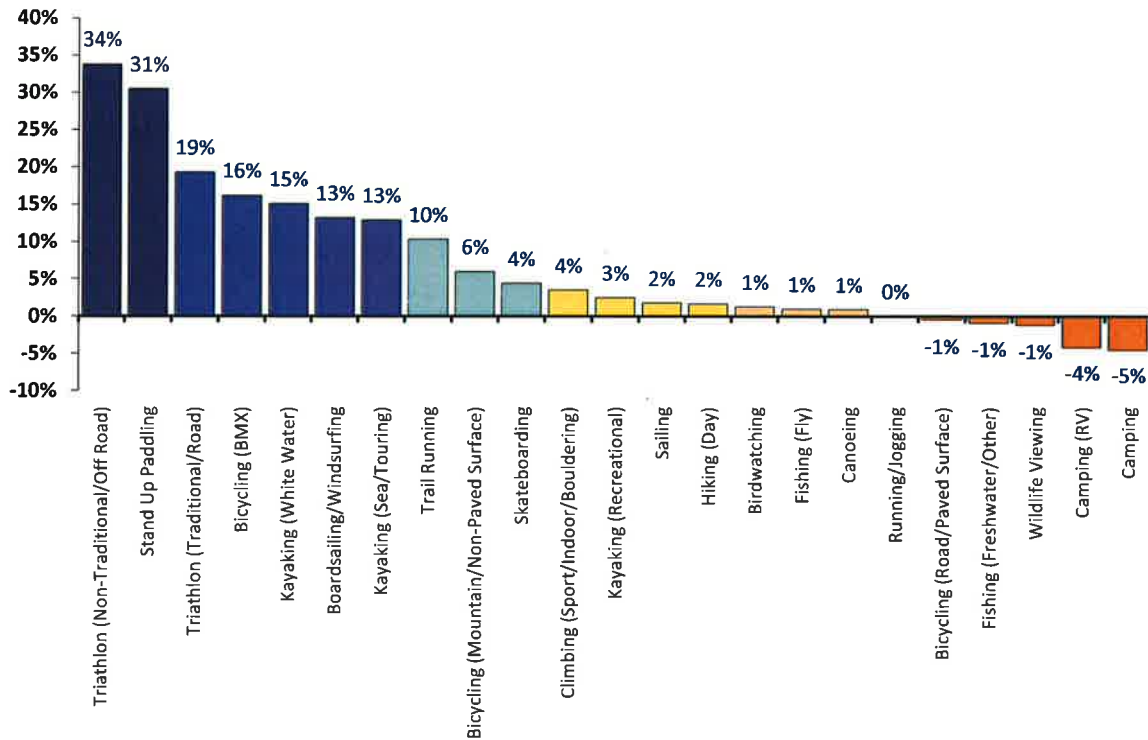
The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.

- 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)



6.7.1.2. 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.

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.

6.7.1.3. 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
- Outdoor sports courts for basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc.
- Bike trails

6.7.1.4. 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.

6.7.2. Community Feedback

The community survey conducted as part of the Parks Element 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.

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

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.)

6.7.3. 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 was previously 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.

Figure 16. Community Center Concept Plan



Given the momentum to establish a multi-use community recreation facility for programming, the Parks Element 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.

6.7.4. 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.

6.7.5. 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, the Parks Element 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-evaluated 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. The Parks Element 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. The Parks Element 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 support for other local providers through facilities and promotion of other providers' activities. The Parks Element recommends that teen programs and special needs be considered support programs.

6.7.5.1. 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.

6.7.5.2. 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.

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.

6.7.5.3. 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.

6.7.6. Aquatics

6.7.6.1. 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.

6.7.7. Athletics

6.7.7.1. 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.

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

6.7.8. 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 Pfa ff 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.

6.7.9. 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.

6.7.9.1. 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 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.

6.7.9.2. 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.

6.7.10. Planning & Administration

6.7.10.1. 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.

6.7.10.2. 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
- Bugs R Us
- Central Point Senior Center

6.7.10.3. 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.

7. Goals & Objectives

7.1. 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.

7.2. Goals & Objectives

Taken together, the goals and objectives provide a framework for the city-wide Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Element. 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.

The Parks Element 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).

7.2.1. 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.

7.2.2. 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.

7.2.3. 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.

7.2.4. 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.

7.2.5. 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 the comprehensive Parks and Recreation Parks Element 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).

7.2.6. Facilities Development Plan:

Goal 6: Develop and implement a comprehensive facilities plan in cooperation and coordination with surrounding cities/county and school district.