

## PARKS and RECreate

### DRAFT Stakeholder Listening Key Findings

October 20, 2015

Listening Sessions were held with over 100 people to understand what the main issues are that should be considered in the system plan. These sessions were held with the following groups:

- Friends-of/Park Advocates
- Recreation Partners
- Sports Organizations
- Natural Areas and Trails
- Aquatics
- Youth

Additionally, numerous one on one conversations have been held with specific individuals and partner organizations:

- Bethel and 4J School Districts
- Boys and Girls Club
- Kidsports
- Willamalane
- Lane County Parks
- Lane County Public Health
- Private Recreation Providers
- YMCA
- EWEB
- Chamber of Commerce
- Homebuilders of Lane County
- University of Oregon

Numerous issues were discussed in various degrees of specificity. The following themes were most commonly discussed in these sessions.

- A. Adequate **maintenance funding** for parks was the most commonly discussed topic. A majority of stakeholders hold the opinion that needs of existing parks and amenities must be addressed before building new. Stakeholders recognize that there are many competing needs and that there are not enough resources to maintain everything to the desired level (trails, community gardens, ornamental gardens, neighborhood parks, restrooms, etc.). There was some talk of building a coalition of voices (comprised of many various interest groups) to advocate for better funding. The Parks Foundation may lead that effort.
- B. The provision of **basic amenities**, such as restrooms, picnic tables, benches and water fountains was commonly brought up as a need. In addition to re-opening restrooms that were closed due to budget cuts, there is a desire for more restrooms in many parks. While some individuals would like to see nicer restroom amenities (with stall doors), others say they would be happy with seasonal port-a-pottys. Parks frequented by small children and seniors have a particular need. Benches and picnic tables are important elements to encourage seniors to be more active and use parks for walking (and resting when needed). They are also specifically requested by teens, who tend to socialize and hang out with friends in parks.

- C. **Safety and security** is a topic that is closely related to maintenance funding and basic amenities. There is a sense that these very basic levels of service are not being adequately provided and it is taking a toll on the system. The number of homeless individuals sleeping and using parks is identified as the primary contributor to this lack of safety in parks, but it can be more specifically linked to negative behaviors and unsafe conditions (drug sales and use, theft, vandalism, intimidating behaviors, trash, feces, needles). In general, people want the unsafe conditions remediated, the illegal activities stopped, and the homeless people housed. While some areas of the system are more heavily impacted (the Willamette River, Amazon Creek, parks closer to the urban core), most every park experiences issues related to safety and security.
- D. Ensuring **equity** in service delivery is a value that was repeatedly expressed, particularly in regards to Recreation Facilities. Equity is inclusive of geographic location, income, age, ability and ethnicity.
- E. Virtually all stakeholders recognize the value of partnerships and particularly emphasized better **partnerships with schools**. Suggestions for deeper collaboration with schools include improved coordination of school facilities by sports groups, swim lessons to all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and coordinated and holistic wrap-around care and prevention for vulnerable students and families.

## PARKS and RECreate: Picture, Plan, Play

Listening Session Summary: **Aquatics**

August 24, 2015, 4-6pm, Hilyard Community Center

### Participants:

TEAM Swim Club: Jeff Winter, Scott Kerr

Emerald Aquatics Swim Club: Gina Dhom, Steve Johnson

Water Fitness Participants: Susan Schwerin, Linda Handshaw

### Staff:

Craig Smith, Rich Fay, Carolyn Burke

### Considerations:

**Eugene is an underserved community with regard to pools.**

#### New Facility needs:

- An additional 50 meter indoor pool at Amazon. This creates event capacity and a revenue stream
- 25 meter outdoor pool at Whiteaker. Focus on kids learn to swim programs.
- 25 meter outdoor pool at Churchill. This area is remote and not served by other pools.

#### Enhanced Facility needs:

- Year round Amazon Pool. Put a seasonal bubble over it- cheapest way to add more water. Ranges in cost from \$1.7 million (Mt. Hood) to \$7.5 million (Bend).

#### Plan for replacement of:

- Sheldon (address temperature issues)
- Echo Hollow (address liner and fix bulkhead wall to achieve 50 meter)

TEAM has a waiting list of 70 kids due to lack of pool space. These kids eventually lose interest or find other activities. Sheldon has a waitlist for swim lessons. We are not accommodating the community need. Already putting up to 8 swimmers in a lane at a time. This is not feasible for disabled kids, they need more space.

Emerald Aquatics adult team is also full, no more room. As community demographics continue to shift toward more seniors, we will need more room to accommodate them. Swimming is a lifelong sport- infant to death.

Water Fitness classes are getting squeezed out: smaller space, fewer days, shorter times. It does not feel like those participants are being respected. They are rushed out of pool which is difficult for elderly

and disabled. There used to be many more participants, but because of cramped space, fewer people come now.

Put schools closer to schools to facilitate 3<sup>rd</sup> grade learn to swim program. This makes excellent use of time of day when pools are typically not getting much use.

Locker rooms, showers, facilities need improvements for accessibility.

#### Best Outcomes:

- Using and repairing existing pool areas and building new to get to a place where we have at least 5 pools in different parts of the city- at least 2 of which are outside pools in warm months. Equitable pool areas and time for aqua aerobic patrons. Smaller therapeutic or warm water pools at least 3 locations for children's classes and those who need the warmth. Better accessibility and safety concerns for all pools for disabled and elderly. Pools, showers and locker rooms need to be considered as well as access to the facility.
- Pools adapted for disabilities. New pools and facilities to accommodate all aquatic needs as the city of Eugene grows. Funds to maintain existing pools, as well as to add to these pools; covered Amazon. Enough facilities so all people are served.
- More space- additional pools. More/better partnerships with private aquatic organizations. Higher priority within city budget. Increased professional staff.
- New pool and community center at Churchill. Rebuild/ renovate Echo Hollow Pool- water slide. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade swim lessons for all of 4j and Bethel students. Spray play at Amazon pool instead of sand area- clogging machinery.
- Establish a seasonally covered Amazon pool to immediately double Eugene's water available while constructing another pool in an underserved part of the city- Whiteaker, North Eugene- to serve underserved populations (disabled, aged, kids).
- Cover Amazon pool. Build 2 new pools.

#### Potential Partnerships:

- Tim Boyle, Columbia Sportswear
- Phil Knight
- Health Insurance Companies
- Medical Community (see Sioux Falls, SD for medical community partnership)
- Therapy Centers: VA Hospital, Slocum
- Swim Teams, diving team, water polo, special needs organizations, kayak clubs, senior organizations, 4J, Bethel 52, Hospitals, Triathlon Clubs
- YMCA

## PARKS and RECreate: Picture, Plan, Play

Listening Session Summary: **Advocates/ Friends-of Groups**

September 21, 2015, 6-8pm, Bascom/Tykeson Room, Eugene Public Library

### Participants:

Janet Brown, WJ Skatepark/ Eugene Parks Foundation

Charlie Quinn, Friends of Lafferty Park

Glen Brigham, Friends of Lafferty Park

Erik Fisher, Friends of Hendricks Park

Kathleen Griffin, Whiteaker Neighbors/ Sladden

Connie Morehouse, Park Advocate

Brandi Ferguson, Friends of Awbrey Park

Carlos Barrera, Friendly Area Neighbors

Jan VanderTuin, Skinner City Farm

Jan Spencer, Filbert Grove

Roger Durant, Nobel Peace Laureate Project

Ian Whitelaw, Eugene Petanque Club

### Staff:

Carolyn Burke, Carrie Peterson, Sandy Shaffer, Craig Carnagey, Carrie Karl, Scott Milovich

### Considerations: Group One

- Adequate funding for maintenance needs to be identified as part of the complete picture. Don't fight for dollars to maintain after the fact.
- Counter Point- purchasing property that we don't have the \$\$ to develop. It feels good to know their (underserved residents) island has been purchased and set aside for their future park especially in places that are underserved
- Find a strong support base to bring consistent funding, get city council to see it as a bigger issue (the lack of funding).
  - Note that park advocates are generally quieter (not as squeaky of a wheel.)
  - Usage for parks is so huge (diverse) it's hard to find people who support it all
  - tap into specific interests
  - tap into specific non-profits and they'll get their people there
  - Target specific organizations who advocate for parks (youth sports, people who are users who don't think of themselves as parkers (collateral users)
  - Invest in youth to get backing for parks (funding is easier to find when associated with youth and activity)

- Finish the picture for the general public and users who don't know- show the gap in funding. Friends groups know the gap others don't seem to see it. Use these folks to get the word out once they know the gap. General public does not see the gap
- There needs to be consistency on standards for maintenance, donor recognition and recognition for volunteer groups. There is a distrust from the Philanthropic community when donating to parks. For dollars for endowment- ear mark them for particular use. Donors want to make sure their dollars are going to what they donated them for. When there is a change in recognition policy mid fund-raising effort, it can lead to distrust- when they donate money to the system especially if they don't get what they thought.
- Environment is a priority- changing climate
  - low maintenance planting/drought tolerant
  - educate the community at large about this issue
  - parks should use their waterwise actions to educate the public
  - Choose plants that are native/low maintenance when converting/renovating old beds
- Park Caring Day (Portland has a version called Parke Diem). Have a show of use- it would get noticed. Connect to Sunday Streets to bring awareness (project, booth etc)

#### Considerations: Group Two

- Parks and Recreation should support and provide the tools and resources to empower its citizens. Social infrastructure empowers the community. The city should focus on this. Increase civic culture.
  - More people need to understand how city government works and how they can get involved. Robin Hostick changed my view of government when I started working with him on Skinner City Farm. Things I thought were "stupid" maybe aren't so stupid after all. More city staff and community need to engage in philosophical conversations around envisioning the possibilities.
- Food production on public land is CRITICAL. Low cost. Good for emergency preparedness, building civic engagement and self-reliance. "Urban Agricultural Reserve." Re-designate urban public spaces for growing food. Need to promote and increase awareness in the community. Community Gardens grow food and a stronger community.
- Value of neighborhood parks – small scale, more intimate, closer ties to immediate neighbors. Builds bonds. Parks are hubs for gathering and getting to know your neighbors
- Increase awareness of Petanque. Low cost sport, cross generational. Versatile playing fields can be used for multiple purposes. More reasons to get people out and active in parks the better.

- Both the school districts and parks and recreation need to plan ahead for density. Create resilient parks that can accommodate dense use.
- Partner to develop parks, including volunteers, neighborhood associations and schools. Stretch and leverage city budgets.
  - Leverage use of school facilities outside of school hours. Schools already function as parks outdoors, we need better cooperation for the use of indoor spaces.
  - Parks can be negatively impacted by concerns and liability. For example, union conflict with volunteer labor. ADA requirements. Safety standards. Rethink the limits.
- Safe and fully connected bike infrastructure is invaluable. Safe bike commuting. Bridge crossings over busy streets. Bike path along the river is a gem.
  - More focus on being pedestrian friendly. Dedicated walking/biking paths between urban hubs.
- Nature in wild places. Wildlife in the city. Work to keep Eugene's value – access to nature. Keep our natural resources vibrant. Preserve these places.
  - Re-wild sections of the Amazon Canal.
  - Green future – prioritize beyond just economic drivers. Repair damage already done. Make wise decisions.
  - We have great resources. Just don't blow it!
  - Implement the R2R vision. Focus on trail connectivity.
- Parks should stay diverse in textures and materials. Why remove all the sand from playgrounds?

Best Outcomes:

- POS will find partners and volunteers to carry out and expand their mission in spite of funding shortfalls.
- First level: Natural water features, plant life that supports birds, insects and ecosystem. **Connectedness of parks spaces and easy foot and bike access. All ages feel safe at all times and able to access.** Second level: Acquire adjacent spaces. Hubs for kids to meet and enjoy outdoors-future stakeholders.
- South Eugene Meadow Park trail to tie into Ridgeline trail
- Increase community gardens proportional to population growth. Infrastructure to interact with community and park/ city staff. Not be afraid to look around the world and incorporate ideas.
- Facilities that allow for a broad range of uses. Not to lose the unique character of Eugene. Green and friendly and diverse. Safe, convenient alternate transportation to resources and facilities. Preserve the existing urban natural areas.
- Focus on Eugene being green and resilient. Urban food production. Opportunities for kids and residents to experience nature. Enhance bike and pedestrian infrastructure. City budget doesn't mean over worked city park and recreation staff. City empowers citizen initiative.

- Extend the bike path system, including good lighting. Existing parks filled with positive activity- summer youth programs- youth and adult teams competing. Existing parks adequately maintained. New park acquisitions developed and maintained.
- Open Spaces: well-funded for maintenance, bond and levy together. Programs: More programs for youth and low income households.
- **Low maintenance enviro-friendly parks with neighborhood volunteers of all generations caring for their open spaces** to help mitigate for the gap.
- Neighborhood Associations adopt individual parks with help with maintenance/ construction. Well-maintained parks that facilitate and attract users, user input funnels to funding source.
- Sufficient funding and staffing to maintain parks and operate to a community-wise standard
- **We have created and maintained a vibrant, well-used, well-appreciated network of parks, open spaces, paths, community centers and sports facilities. Structures and spaces are efficiently used in a way that maximizes value and minimizes conflict, allowing for many types of recreation and use.** An endowment to provide funds for on-going maintenance.

#### Potential Partnerships:

- Rivers to Ridges (non-profits and other government agencies)
- Friends of groups
- Neighborhood associations
- City Transportation Planners and Development Planners
- Volunteers
- Emergency preparedness
- City Council and citizens
- Business, both directly (bike shops) and indirectly related
- 4J /Bethel schools
- City leadership
- City Council
- Bill Gates
- Conservation groups
- Local Business
- Local news/ Register Guard
- Eugene Parks Foundation
- Citizens Academy- what opportunities are available to nurture citizenship? Actual events. Local media PSA. Public events to bring people together- Sunday Streets with more “agenda”
- Naturalist education organizations
- Wise choices- just because money is available, doesn’t make it a wise choice.
- Partnerships like Skinner City Farm. Transparency in process and economics. Educational systems. The “community” in community gardens leverage existing partnerships
- Working together in cooperation: Community residents, government and non-profits, schools, parks and recreation, business, LTD transit, sustaining employers (UO and Riverbend)
- Horticulture Clubs

- Heavy equipment business
- General population of potential volunteers

## PARKS and RECreate: Picture, Plan, Play

Listening Session Summary: **Sports Groups, Natural Areas and Trails, Recreation Partners**

October 5, 2015, 5-7pm, Bascom/Tykeson Room, Eugene Public Library

### Participants:

Susan Sygall, Mobility International USA

Andrea Kofoed, National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Ryan Wheeler, Boys and Girls Club (Recreation Partners Group)

Karen Roth, Food for Lane County (Recreation Partners Group)

Dawn Helwig, Lane Independent Living Alliance (Recreation Partners Group)

Sheila Thomas, Lane Independent Living Alliance (Recreation Partners Group)

Gaylene Carpenter, Eugene Parks Foundation (Recreation Partners Group)

Terry Smith, Eugene Parks Foundation (Recreation Partners Group)

Kevin Shanley, Friends of Buford Park (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Colleen McCaffrey, Whilamut Citizen Planning Committee (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

David Sonnichsen, Whilamut Citizen Planning Committee (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Ann Salminen, Eugene Parks Foundation (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Kathy Wiltz (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Art Farley, Eugene Parks Foundation (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Greg Hyde, Friends of Buford Park (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Ian Dobson, Tracktown USA/ Team Run Eugene (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Mark Murphy, Cascade Kayak Club (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Bob Keefer, Willamalane Parks & Recreation District (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Gary Wallace, Eugene Community Gardens (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Fraser MacDonald, Willamalane Parks and Recreation District (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

Bill Brigmon, Oregon Track Club (Sports Group)

Scott Sanders, Eugene Parks Foundation (Sports Group)

Janis Ross, Sports Commission/ Travel Lane County (Sports Group)

Don Ritchie, Emerald Valley Pickleball (Sports Group)

Roger Schaljo, Emerald Valley Pickleball (Sports Group)

Mike Olsen, Oregon Track Club/ Pre's Trail (Sports Group)

Jennifer Ensminger, Eugene Parks Foundation (Sports Group)

Debby King, Laurelwood Golf Course (Sports Group)

Nancy Woode, Laurelwood Golf Course (Sports Group)

Joey Garah, Pelada Football Academy (Sports Group)

Linda Wheatley, Eugene Parks Foundation (Sports Group)

Jeremy Conant, Eugene Parks Foundation (Sports Group)

Bev Smith, Kidsports (Sports Group)

Staff: Andy Fernandez (Rec Partners Group), Philip Richardson (Rec Partners Group), Sandy Shaffer (Natural Areas and Trails), Eric Wold (Natural Areas and Trails), Reed Dunbar (Natural Areas and Trails Group), Dave Battaglia (Sports Group), Craig Smith (Sports Group), Carolyn Burke (Sports Group)

## **1. What would you like us to consider as we plan for the next 10 years of Parks & Recreation in Eugene?**

### Considerations (Recreation Partners Group)

- More parks in unserved areas
  - Santa Clara
  - River Road
  - North Eugene
- More rec programs for kids
  - Low cost and free programs
- More amenities at the parks
  - Bathrooms
  - Water fountains
- Safe place
- More programs for care/working families
- Accessibilities for everyone
- Careful, thoughtful adaptations for ADA
  - Playgrounds and pathway too!
- Add rec staff in centers and parks
- Spelled out partnerships (facilities, mowing, etc.)
- Out of school hours and programs
- 'Improve facilities for partner organizations: example: Staff bathrooms at Westmoreland
- Programming for kids, hunger, poverty
  - Be specific about demographics
- Bring LTD to partnerships
- Staff training along with 'Partner' staff
- Hire college grads who are trained to work with youth
- Work together on wage scales with non-profits
- Concerned Eugene has lost is vision of P&R
  - Can we describe it?
- Need major structural change. We don't work together.
- Element of local government that drives vision
- Financial change/tools
- Possibility to turn resources into revenue?
- Right now recreation is almost entirely fee driven
  - 'That' effects access and affordability for some.
- Appreciate what we have; can do better; find value.
- Transportation is a huge issue for low income
- Financial aid for low income

- Important to identify individual needs.
- 'Improve' Access and equity for kids with disabilities/parents. More Training.
- Address transient population, camping, drugs
- Citizen patrols for police, private security
- Hours back to community, parks; drive down costs.
- Something to communicate the "stories" about P&R so to understand our work
- Better communications with the public
  - Public awareness
- Vision needs to be "right sized"
  - What can or cannot have
- Geographic equity needs to be addressed.
- Fix financials or close down, might be the consequences.
- 'Improve' Public trust
- 'Bring in' in 4J 'as' partners
  - Example: Churchill

#### Considerations (Natural Areas and Trails):

- Continued focus on natural and undeveloped areas. Maintain access, safety and care.
- Continue relationship and interconnection with County, LCC to Fern Ridge system.
- Improve lighting along trails and paths in high use areas. Safety and security, access to restrooms is important.
- Fill gaps – connect assets
- Connect with Buford Park to Pisgah
- Continue habitat restoration and access
- Waterways lead to tourism opportunities (economic prosperity)
  - Water safety education op
  - Best waterway system is in town
  - Support to watersports
  - Remove manmade artifacts in the waterway system – interagency agreements to get the work done
- Create off leash dog opportunities on paths & trail system. Certain days and times people can use the trails.
- Sustain the current level of resources dedicated to support the system
- Improve the lighting and mountain biking access within the city
- Implement the rivers to ridges plan
- Every park should have a natural habitat with an open area
- Natural areas need continued funding and resources to deal with trash issue
- Provide and support Natural Resource Education
- The impacts lighting has on natural areas (conflicting objectives – light is good for safety/bad for wildlife & stargazing)
- Ridge Line needs benches and sitting areas, no smoking signs – too many cig butts everywhere on the trail
- Emergency phone box along trails

- Continue support to bike paths - multimodal transportation.
- Prioritize and upgrade current assets to good standards – take care of existing and improve (Lane County).
- Create a space that represents all the needs
- People will pay (through a levy) if they know their money will go there. Voters will fund specific park projects.
- Maximize the 2021 World Track & Field event. Good springboard/foundation for economic boost
- Create a neighborhood engagement process to express needs
- Build something exceptional (BIG idea).
- Park District as a governing structure
- Usher in another golden age of recreation (upgrade & build more facilities)
- Grow food in parks – Community gardens need more support
- Dogs off leash in the trail areas are a nuisance.
- Create options, other than parks, for the homeless. (other than kicking them out)
- Incentivize ways for the homeless to pick up trash (food vouchers).
- What is the future of River Rd PD?
- Partner with schools to get kids involved – creating a value for them to get involved and become stewards of the land (parks)

#### Considerations (Sports Group):

- Strong collaboration with pickleball participants. Need indoor and outdoor courts. All ages, especially seniors. More courts are need soon because membership is growing fast. Convert courts in short run, build new in complex long term
- Strategically plan for larger facilities to hold more sports tournaments- multiple sports/multiple fields
- Difficulties in maintaining Pre's and Amazon running trails with no help from City. Take care of what we have before building anything new. Major improvements are needed to prepare for 2016 trials and 2021 Worlds. Pre's Trail is a huge draw when people come to Eugene for these events.
- Partnerships are needed to prevent splintering of interests. Larger coalition is needed to address the big issues that challenge Parks and Rec.
- Eugene teams go to Springfield for youth soccer. Pelada is growing fast and will run out of fields in three years. More collaboration is needed.
- Skateboarding is flush right now.
- Need more collaboration to address maintenance of park system, whatever the mechanism
- More restrooms needed
- More pickleball- convert old wading pools or tennis courts. Clusters of courts also needed.
- Improve maintenance of Parks and trails.
- Need equity in the location of new facilities. Look regionally.
- Laurelwood needs to continue to evolve, more youth and women golfers than in past, but still want to see more. Partnership with Kidsports in past. Making golf affordable for families. Golf course is almost entirely organic and has never looked better.

- Need to develop better criteria for how field use is allocated. Need schools at the table. Kids need access- it all comes down to money. 4j user guidelines create class 1 user for Kidsports. Several criteria associated but need more fields and indoor space. Need more refined partnerships and criteria for use.
- Aging system- added 11 turf fields with schools which is great, but spread out across town. This makes scheduling tournaments out of question. Need multi-sport/multi-field complex, west Eugene site could accommodate all.
- Q: Why can't East Alton Baker Park be location of sports complex? A: Plan only allows passive, not active recreation.

## **2. What are the best possible results for the future of Parks and Recreation in Eugene?**

### Best Possible Results (Recreation Partners Group):

- Shared vision with clear action plan and a commitment to serve those who need it most
- Equity and access for all
- Parks in all areas
- Positive solutions with no punitive answers. It's not just a dream – inclusion is a good investment.
- Accessible parks for all!
- Opportunities for everyone to enjoy the facilities and programs
- Training in disability issues and how to answer questions for park staff and volunteers
- Public access to recreation
- Program opportunities in safe and well-maintained parks and facilities
- Safe places, places to play, places to learn, places to relax - for all.
- New Vision that drives us
- New governing structures inside/outside government
- New Financial Resources
- That hard choices be made if there is no new revenue.

### Best Possible Results (Natural Areas and Trails Group)

- A park-connected city linking bike, waterway, and trail systems together enabling access for all (multi-modal use).
- Commitment to providing parks, trails, recreation facilities, and natural areas that are safe, clean, and easily connected throughout the city.
- Rivers to Ridges Vision is implemented including connected trail system from Fern Ridge to Howard Buford Park to Thurston Hills.
- Plenty of accessible natural areas.
- Stable source of funding.
- Bike paths and hiking trails that connect “close-in” as well “farther out” parks and natural areas.

- Opportunities for people to participate in educational and recreational programs that are affordable and accessible to all ages and abilities.
- Well-distributed pools and playing fields and community centers.
- Dedicated long-term funding.
- Very high park usage, appropriate for park facility type (e.g. ,trails, sports, natural areas)
- Eugene has regional and national reputation for its trails and park system, both in physical assets and in innovative programming.
- Naming rights for all parks.
- Dedicated money (e.g., pot sales tax) to fund park operations.
- SDC fees that stay within neighborhoods.
- My best hope for a future Eugene-Springfield parks system lies in an educated public, a citizenry that understands and respects its connection to past, present, and future, and the natural realm which supports it. These citizens, in turn, would support fiscally the parks system management.
- Sustained, adequate funding for parks and recreation (operations and maintenance).
- Rehabilitation of existing facilities.
- New facilities in underserved areas.
- New government structure with accountable, independent funding.
- Community gardens and orchards that provide work and food for community and homeless.
- Increased private property values.
- Parks and enjoyed and appreciated by every age group and they feel safe.
- Efforts to reduce funding for parks results in public outcry.
- All recreation needs can be accommodated inside Eugene city limits.
- Eugene is recognized for its exceptional park system.
- Parks has all the resources it requires.
- A diversity, variety, and fair/just dispersal of parks, open space, and recreational facilities that address the wants and needs of citizens for health, well-being, and enjoyment.
- Activities for all ages and interests, even something you may not be interested in.
- Beautiful, safe, clean, and fun.
- Neighborhood parks within safe and convenient walking distance of every home.
- Well-maintained system of parks and natural areas, well-connected by paths and trails.
- Ample, affordable, or free recreation programs and activities for people of all abilities.
- Good coordination with and connections to, regional trail systems and open spaces.
- A coalition of parks-interested groups and citizens that can effectively educate other citizens and lobby government to make it happen.
- Increase public participation through City outreach improvements.
- Interactive programs to foster investment of residents in the continued success of parks.
- Benefits given to residents from park programs: food, flowers, other orchards and gardens.
- A pool of money for operations that is indexed to inflation and growth.
- A comprehensive trails system from river to mountain that allows for separate bike paths, mountain biking, walking, and running.

- More respect for natural areas.
- Natural areas that are light free for star gazing.

Best Possible Results (Sports Group):

- Create the experience and positive feeling surrounding the parks and programs. That will happen with community input, community involvement and community support.
- Taking care of existing parks (upkeep) and creating safety for participants.
- 10 years from now, they would be clean and sanitary, safe for all kids and adults to enjoy. They would all be organically maintained; you can train the earth to maintain itself. Everyone would play a part in their enjoyment of the outdoors.
- All people would keep their pets on a leash, and clean up after them so everyone may enjoy the parks.
- A multi-sport- indoor/outdoor- accessible, practical, functional community center that provides sport & recreational opportunities to stakeholders in the community and is operated and maintained by the City Parks and Rec, which takes direction from an urgent needs based assessment.
- Well-maintained parks system that includes a large multi-sports facility, running trails, community centers, pools and walking/biking trails. A coordinated volunteer effort will be necessary as well as a combined Parks and Rec Dept. that included a year round Park and Rec Commission that can assist in the prioritization of resources.
- Provide access to many types of recreation in various areas of our community- for all ages.
- The current golf course is maintained to provide access to golf at affordable rates.
- Centralized city sports complex.
- Maintained/impressive current trails/parks system. Signs/ clean/ restrooms.
- Pickle ball court at most existing and new parks- as common as a swing set or basketball court.
- Parks, trails and open spaces maintained and looking lovely.
- Major sports complex housing indoor and outdoor sports in Eugene and accessible to all.
- Parks developed in underserved areas.
- Newly formed parks commission.
- Pickleball for all!
- Parkapalooza annual event.
- A combination of accessible pickleball courts throughout the community. And a “central” facility with up to 16 courts that could be used for local, regional and national tournaments.
- Large multi-use sports complex offering ample opportunities for both local use and tournaments.
- Fully sustainable funding to maintain venues (both built and natural).
- Robust programming to address health and wellness for all residents.
- Facilities and programs located throughout the city, allowing easy access and diversity.
- Development of waterways for recreational and sports event use.
- Large archery complex.
- Maintain and improve quality of existing parks/trails and facilities before we build anything new. Once this has been done, move forward with new projects.

- City establishes a long-term solution to the issue of parks and rec maintenance. From there we move to the development of a widely diverse group of facilities distributed equitably throughout the city.
- Expanded and well maintained facilities built and maintained with the help of invested partners supplying volunteer hours, materials, expertise, etc. and available equally to all invested members.
- Equitable distribution of park resources.
- Sustainable funding mechanism that can grow with community and need.
- Transparency in parks financing/accounting.
- Centralized body that ensures the above-mentioned 3 (outside of City Council).
- I like a centralized sports center.
- Have enough money for maintenance.
- More communication between partners and users of parks and sports. Better and truthful communication between POS and OTC. City staff needs to understand Pre's Trail is "part of" larger track events buy-in.

### **3. What are the partnerships that are needed to achieve those results?**

#### Potential Partnerships (Recreation Partners Group):

- Partnerships will need to be selective and purposeful, coming from mutual strength – Parks and Rec will need to make choices about who to work with – they can't/shouldn't work with everyone or it may be too dilute or groups will work at cross purposes.
- Every service provider – the city, county, businesses and individuals who dream my (our) dream.
- Citizens & City, Non-profits & City, Public and Park Staff
- Identify then collaborate w/public, non-public, and other organizations/agencies that value recreation and park opportunities
- Schools, LTD, churches, rotary, service non-profits
- ALL Parks & Rec groups working together for common goals.
- Local governments working w/legislature to create new finance tools

#### Potential Partnership (Natural Areas and Trails Group):

- Inter-governmental partnerships.
- Three generations of family and extended family members passing along history and hopes for the land, as it was, is, and will be.
- Private-public partnerships for facilities.
- A coalition of park interest groups.
- Public-private efforts with wellness and health care industry to build sufficient programs and resource capacity and awareness.
- Expanded outreach to neighborhoods and interest groups to optimize available resources and capacity.
- Better integration with school districts and senior facilities for stage of life sustainability.

- University of Oregon, LCC, and other higher education institutions.
- Elementary, middle, and high schools.
- Government entities (City, County, etc.)
- Friends of parks, other neighborhood groups.
- Non-profit organizations, civic groups with a stake in parks, recreation, and open space.
- Other city departments and City Council
- The public/tax payers
- Business community is a huge missing link (resources, fund raising, support/economic success).
- Transportation organizations (e.g., LTD)
- Within City of Eugene: POS/PW/Planning/City Council
- POS, park users, volunteers, sponsors
- POS, other park and recreation providers, other agencies
- POS, scientific community, academic community (e.g., for natural area management)
- Public-private
- Chamber of Commerce
- School Districts
- Advocacy by City to leverage funds and support from state, federal, and county sponsors
- User groups to shape and reduce costs as well as generate revenue and tourism funds.
- Trust for Public Land: case studies and strategic advice
- Schools and parks for structured activities, facilities, and food learning.
- Formal “friends” agreements, ranging from volunteers to full contractual agreements.
- University of Oregon: all programs
- Track Town USA for 2021 World Games
- Public safety
- Health care industry
- Business community
- Homeless advocacy groups
- Schools
- Elected officials
- Conservationists
- Business
- Non-profits
- Schools
- Lane County Parks
- Willamalane
- Citizens and neighborhood groups
- River Road Park District
- Travel Lane County
- Civic clubs
- City-citizens

- City-non profits
- City – University of Oregon
- City-schools
- Intra-government
- Public-private
- Education: schools, kids
- Friends of Parks
- Develop volunteer groups for each specific outreach project that will carry out the needed support activities to keep the project functioning on a long term basis, year after year.

#### Potential Partnerships (Sports Group):

- Parks and Rec, City Council, School Districts, Lane County, Springfield/Willamalane, sports commission/Travel Lane County, local business, service clubs, LCC, UO, NCU, Oregon Track Club, Kidsports, YMCA, conventions, neighborhood associations
- Coalition- only park users? Or a way to better attract businesses and their support- those who stand to benefit most from Eugene having a top-shelf parks system. Interest groups, volunteers, business, city and school districts.
- Partnership with City staff which will communicate timely. The creation of a commission. More communication with business partners, more volunteer involvement.
- City, school districts, business, various parks partners, one entity that facilitates the partnerships.
- City Parks and Rec, School Districts, Organizations clubs and interest groups, community members, local business.
- OTC membership, Friends of Pre's Trail, UofO Athletics, Track Town, NIKE, Volunteer labor, Cross Country teams, Pre's and Amazon should be a line item on city budget
- Clubs and enthusiasts contributing dollars, time and resources to compliment the investment of the city Parks and Rec Dept. Modest user fees. Have school systems introduce pickleball.
- City Council, school districts, PTO's, schools, Parks and Rec, businesses, non-profits with special interests, neighborhood groups, UO
- Eugene Parks Foundation, Springfield, UO, City Council, school districts, local businesses
- UO students, UO, rotary, schools, city, business, adopt a portion of trail/ park neighbors
- All sport/activity specific groups, school districts, neighborhood groups, senior clubs
- City Council, City Manager, Parks and Rec, school districts/ private schools, business community, medical community/ public health, government (state, federal), UO, parents, Travel Lane County
- Golf pros partnering to teach kids/girls golf. There are a lot of golf scholarships unused. Partnerships to learn and teach how to maintain organic open spaces. This will be experiment at first- t hey will get worse before they get better, but it does work. Even though brown is the new green, you can still make it beautiful.
- Collaborative fund raising and grant writing, City of Springfield and Eugene working together.
- Missing younger people at this meeting- UO, LCC, High school.

## PARKS and RECreate: Picture, Plan, Play

Listening Session Summary: **Leaders in Training**

October 9, 2015 10:30-Noon, Amazon Community Center

### Participants:

High School Volunteers in the Leaders in Training Program

### Staff:

Peter Chavannes

### Scavenger hunt Themes:

**None of the participants were familiar with either Recreation or Parks and Open Spaces.**

- None of the youth had explored a recreation guide prior to listening session
- Youth were surprised at the diversity of Recreation program offerings
- Youth were not aware that the City maintained dog parks
- Youth were not aware that the City maintained Community Gardens
- Youth appreciated parks while struggling to conceptualize what “open spaces” meant

### Best Outcomes-Recreation Facilities

New Facility needs:

- Water park a-la Splash
- Performance space
- Teen center
- Learning Farm

Enhanced Facility needs:

- Dedicated space in community centers for:
  - Technology resources.
  - Life skills development activities (Budgeting, public speaking, job search/training.
  - Café/informal gathering space for youth within existing community centers
- Winter-time swimming at Amazon
- Cheaper food at Amazon pool
- Water amenities that appeal to older youth
- Better LTD access

### Best Outcomes—Parks and Open Spaces

- Adult (multigenerational) playgrounds
- Additional water fountains
- Additional/better restrooms (doors for the stalls)
- Return wading pools
- Better maintained courts (basketball, tennis)
- Homeless shelters
- Increased food cart presence

- More skate parks
- Designated graffiti areas
- Water/spray parks for older youth
- More benches
- Composting and recycling receptacles in parks
- Designated smoking areas

### Summary

Youth appreciated the diversity of programs offered by recreation, though felt more programming for HS youth would be of benefit, particularly related to life skills development. Regarding specific facility needs, 2 themes emerged rather strongly—A water park similar to (but “better”) than Splash and dedicated space within community centers for teens that could serve as informal hangout spaces and teen resource center. That being said, youth comments tended to focus on programming ideas, many of which are currently offered by Recreation, though not for their ages.

With respect to Parks and Open Spaces, youth were primarily interested in increased amenities—both traditional (bathrooms, benches, water fountains) as well as non-traditional (adult/multigenerational playgrounds). They thought POS should organize more community events in the park (clean-ups, food drives, nature identification walks)

Youth were grateful for being included in the process and have asked to be kept updated on the development of the system plan.

## PARKS and RECreate: Picture, Plan, Play

Listening Session Summary: **Teen Court**

October 8, 2015 5:30-7:30pm, Petersen Barn Community Center

### Participants:

High School Volunteers in the Teen Court Program

### Staff:

Peter Chavannes, Billy Hernandez, Oliver Redig

### Scavenger hunt Themes:

**None of the participants were familiar with either Recreation or Parks and Open Spaces.**

- None of the youth had explored a recreation guide prior to listening session
- Youth were only familiar with 1 recreation community center: Petersen Barn Community Center
- Youth were familiar with Amazon pool and Echo Hollow pool
- Youth were surprised at the diversity of Recreation program offerings
- Youth appreciated parks but did not have a concept of other “open spaces” the City maintained

### Best Outcomes-Recreation Facilities

New Facility needs:

- Drive in movie space
- Interactive Science Center
- Teen Center
- Paintball facility
- Water park a-la Splash
- Easily accessible Performance space

Enhanced Facility needs:

- Dedicated space in community centers for:
  - Technology resources.
  - Life skills development activities (Budgeting, public speaking, job search/training.
  - Café/informal gathering space for youth within existing community centers

### Best Outcomes—Parks and Open Spaces

- Adult (multigenerational) playgrounds
- Additional water fountains
- Additional restrooms
- Increased food cart presence
- Designated graffiti areas
- Water/spray parks for older youth

## Summary

Youth were not particularly connected to Recreation (outside of Teen Court). They were aware of Petersen Barn, but did not understand that it was part of COE Recreation. They were also aware of Echo Hollow Pool and Amazon Pool, but similarly were unaware that these were City of Eugene facilities. When asked about how they would like to see Recreation develop over the next 10 years, they primarily came up with programming ideas.

Youth were even less connected to Parks and Open Spaces, though many of them cited neighborhood parks as places they could go to “get away.” As noted above, their primary concerns regarding these “get away” spaces were amenities that would enable them to remain there for extended periods of time (bathrooms, water fountains and food)