



**PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE  
PROJECT AND PRIORITY PLAN**

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## PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PROJECT and PRIORITY PLAN

### A. Report Organization

The City of Eugene's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Project and Priority Plan identifies, prioritizes, and estimates costs of proposed actions for parks, open space and recreation facilities, programs, and services.

The PROS Project and Priority Plan is organized into the following sections:

- *Priorities:* Includes tables listing proposed capital and non-capital project priorities for parks, open space, and recreation facilities, programs, and services. Capital projects are organized by geographic planning area. Non-capital projects are organized by program area.
- *Costs:* Includes estimates for cost of capital and non-capital projects. Also includes operations and maintenance costs for priority 1 projects and growth allocation percentages for priority 1 thru 4 projects. Capital projects are organized in two ways; by geographic planning area, and by improvement type. Non-capital projects are organized by program area.
- *Maps:* Includes maps of existing and proposed parks and open space resources, organized by geographic planning area. A map of park and school service areas is also included.



### B. Planning Process

The projects identified in this document are a result of over 3 years of planning and public input in association with the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan.

Public involvement was a major component of the planning process with over 3,000 area residents participating. They represented every neighborhood in the city and many different community groups, sectors, interests, and initiatives. A Mayor's Advisory Committee, made up of eleven community members, provided guidance and direction throughout the entire process.

Initial outreach to community members was conducted to identify their key issues, priorities, and perceived needs. A Community Needs Assessment incorporated the findings from the various public involvement activities and a technical analysis of current services. *The Community Needs Assessment, December 2004, is available through the Parks and Open Space Division.*

A city-wide public forum was then held to collect citizen input which resulted in identification of potential projects and priorities. Following an additional series of six public workshops, the projects and priorities were further refined.



## C. Priorities

The projects identified in the following tables are one of the means by which the strategies identified in the PROS Comprehensive Plan can be implemented.

The projects were initially ranked by members of the Mayor's Advisory Committee and staff as a way to identify the order in which projects should be implemented. These priorities were revised to be consistent with the February 13, 2006 Council direction to pursue a \$20 million dollar General Obligation bond on the November 2006 ballot, primarily limited to acquisition of park lands.

Further analysis refined the priorities to identify projects that should be implemented in the next 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years, and more than 20 years. Table 1 lists capital project priorities. Table 2 lists non-capital project priorities.

The Project and Priority Plan is intended to be a living document, and as such, individual projects may be delayed if funding cannot be identified within the shown timeline. Likewise, individual projects may be moved forward if funding is identified earlier than shown in the timeline. As challenges and opportunities arise in the future, City Council can amend the Project and Priority Plan by Council Resolution. This process may be initiated by a direct Council action, as part of the annual budget process, or in association with periodic System Development Charge methodology updates.

*Priority 1:* This includes high priority projects that should be completed in the next 5 years. Property acquisition is the major emphasis to secure parks and open space for the future.

*Priority 2:* This includes high priority projects that should be completed in the next 10 years in order to meet the needs of underserved neighborhoods and populations, and to implement high-priority programs and services.

*Priority 3:* This includes high priority projects that should be completed in the next 15 years to protect existing assets and to implement high-priority programs and services.

*Priority 4:* This includes medium priority projects that should be completed in the next 20 years to keep up with growth and to meet identified community needs for parks, open space, recreation programs, and services.

*Priority 5:* This includes projects that realize the community's long range vision for parks, open space, recreation programs, and services but are not anticipated to be completed within the next 20 years.



## **Proposed Projects and Priorities for Parks, Open Space, and Facilities (capital improvements)**

Table 1 lists proposed projects for parks, open space, and recreation facilities. The projects relate to strategies for developing new parks, open space, and recreation facilities, as well as for improving existing facilities and access. Reference numbers in parenthesis (such as B3) for new neighborhood parks are located on Maps 1 through 7. These reference numbers indicate where new neighborhood parks will be located to meet the needs of previously under-served areas.

Table 1 is organized by geographic planning areas:

Bethel/Danebo;

City Central;

River Road/Santa Clara;

South Eugene;

Willakenzie;

Willow Creek; and

General/Citywide.

## **Proposed Projects and Priorities for Programs, Services, and Projects (non-capital improvements)**

Table 2 lists proposed actions for programs, services, and projects. These actions relate to new programs and non-capital projects that cannot be completed using existing staff and resources. Existing programs and projects are not included.

Table 2 is organized in the following program areas:

Recreation Programs;

Parks;

Community Facilities;

Access and Connectivity;

Renovation/Restoration;

Resource Development; and

Management.



## **D. Costs**

### Capital Costs

Tables 3 and 4 provide cost estimates for the PROS facility improvements identified in Table 1. These include: capital costs for all projects, maintenance and operations costs for priority 1 projects, and growth allocation percentages for the purpose of calculating system development charges (sdc's) for priority 1 through 4 projects. Growth allocation percentages allow the City to determine how much of the individual project costs can be attributed to population growth. These figures are used to calculate system development charges. Table 3 is organized by improvement type and Table 4 is organized by geographic planning area. All costs are in 2004 dollars.

Based on an assumption of a \$20 million bond measure passing in 2006, and estimates of the amount of revenue available through parks sdc's, grants and donations, the funding estimated to be available for the first five years covered by the plan is \$31.7 million or approximately \$6.3 million per year. For purposes of projecting project timelines for the remaining 15 years covered by the plan, \$8 million per year is being assumed to be available for projects. This totals approximately \$152 million being available within the 20 year planning window for the plan. This funding analysis revealed that there are many more projects identified than can be implemented within the 20-year planning window. These projects are identified as Priority 5 projects. Cost estimates are not provided for Priority 5 projects.

Developing new capital projects will have a significant impact on the City's parks and open space maintenance budget and will also require budgeting for capital preservation and replacement costs in the longer term. It is important that the City allocate sufficient maintenance funding to protect, maintain and eventually replace new capital investments. In addition to the maintenance costs of new projects, this plan recommends that a minimum per unit maintenance budget be developed based on a detailed maintenance management plan for each park type. This analysis will likely show a need for additional maintenance funding for existing parks.

### Non-Capital Costs

Table 5 provides cost estimates for non-capital priority one programs and projects identified in Table 2.

Costs estimates include the following categories: staffing, materials, and other. A staffing FTE (full time equivalent) is indicated where appropriate. Of the costs listed, staffing estimates are annual costs, based on a yearly salary, plus benefits. Materials and other costs are typically one time costs. All costs are in 2004 dollars and do not factor in anticipated revenues.



## **E. Projects of Interest Outside of Eugene's Urban Growth Boundary**

Eugene is situated within a region of great beauty and diversity. Areas which lie just beyond the City's urban growth boundary are ripe with recreation potential. It is a goal of the City to develop strong partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to evaluate and realize this potential.

The services provided by Eugene's Parks and Open Space system can be greatly enhanced by connecting to lands on the urban fringe. This was recognized in the 2003 visioning document for regional Parks and Open Space, *Rivers to Ridges*. Many of the projects identified here are included in the *Rivers to Ridges* document and are also carried over from the 1989 Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan.

1. Explore with property owners and appropriate governing agencies the feasibility of acquiring and developing additional acreage surrounding Golden Gardens ponds for a community park with a significant natural area component and trails.
2. Explore with property owners and appropriate governing agencies the feasibility of acquiring farmland connections north of Eugene.
3. Explore with property owners and appropriate governing agencies the potential for acquisition of land along the Willamette River, the south side of the McKenzie River, and within the Willamette/McKenzie River confluence for natural area and recreational trails purposes.
4. Provide assistance to partner agencies in the development and implementation of a restoration plan for Green Island.
5. Explore with property owners and appropriate governing agencies the potential for acquisition of natural areas to connect the Ridgeline Trail system east to Mt. Pisgah and the Willamette River system; south to Spencer Creek; and west to Fern Ridge Reservoir and the West Eugene Wetlands.





## F. Maps

### Existing and Proposed Resources Maps

Map 1 illustrates existing and proposed park, recreation, and open space resources for the entire Eugene planning area. Reference numbers for new neighborhood park sites are labeled on each map and correspond to specific projects listed in Table 1. Resources for each planning area are highlighted in Maps 2 through 7:

Bethel/Danebo;

City Central;

River Road/Santa Clara;

South Eugene;

Willakenzie; and

Willow Creek.

### Park and School Service Area Map

This map illustrates the City of Eugene's park and school service areas. Residential areas not within a 1/2-mile safe walking distance of a playground are also identified and labeled. These labels correspond to reference numbers identified on the resource maps and to specific actions listed in Table 1.

