

## CITY CENTRAL PARKS AND RECREATION

Eugene's Parks and Recreation system is categorized into six neighborhood planning sub-areas. This report addresses parks and recreation facilities and needs in the downtown/city center area. Geographically based planning allows us to look at the unique characteristics and opportunities of each area and how facilities and services are distributed throughout the Eugene community.

### Existing Resources and Facilities-

City Central currently has 364 acres of parks, recreation and open space (including partner-owned lands), with 203 of those acres owned by the City of Eugene. City Central has the following distinct features:

#### RECREATION SERVICES

- Campbell Senior Center provides recreational services and programming that include:
  - Senior Services programming
  - Special events
  - Woodworking shop
  - Large outdoor patio and garden rental facility
- The River House Outdoor Center provides city wide outdoor recreation and environmental education programming:
  - Adult outdoor programming
  - Youth summer camps and yearlong classes
  - Collaboration with schools for environmental education programs
  - Wilderness First Responder certification (in-depth first aid for wilderness trip leaders)
  - Safe Routes to Schools – bicycle and pedestrian safety education classes
  - Spencer Butte Challenge Course
- Lamb Cottage is a City facility that provides additional programming space and is available to the public for rent.
- Kaufman House is a City facility that is leased to the OSU Extension Services and supports all the programs they offer.
- Shelton McMurphy-Johnson House is a City facility supported by the Historical Society that provides educational tours and social events at the facility.
- McNail Riley House is a City facility that can be rented for community meetings.
- The University of Oregon Student Recreation Center provides excellent facilities including pools and tennis courts for student and faculty use (and for the public for a fee). Memberships to the UO Outdoor Program are available to the public for rental equipment and sponsored trips. The campus itself provides significant open space and is accessible by the public.
- The Lane County Events Center provides facilities for recreation ranging from an ice rink, to space for youth volleyball and basketball, to large events and gatherings such as the Lane County Fair.
- The downtown Eugene Public Library offers an array of programming and special events each year.

#### PARKS

- Three metropolitan parks, an urban plaza, and seven neighborhood parks serve the area.

- The three existing Metropolitan Parks that serve as community destinations are Skinner Butte Park, Maurie Jacobs Park, and Washington Jefferson Park.
- The seven existing neighborhood parks are: Charnel Mulligan Park, Fairmount Park, Lincoln School Park, Monroe Park, Scobert Gardens, Sladden Park, West University Park
- The downtown Park Blocks are an urban plaza that is a downtown destination, particularly for visitors to the Saturday and Farmer’s Markets.
- EWEB Riverfront Park is a proposed future park site that is not currently in city ownership.
- Specialty facilities include:
  - Skinner City Farm Community Garden
  - River House Community Garden
  - Whiteaker Community Garden
  - Owen Rose Garden
  - Washington/Jefferson skate park and urban plaza
  - Washington/Jefferson horseshoe pits
  - Riverplay Adventure Playground and spray play at Skinner Butte Park
  - Skinner Butte Climbing Columns
  - Facilities for large picnics and gatherings at Skinner Butte and Maurie Jacobs Parks
  - Spray play at Fairmount Park
- In addition to playgrounds at parks, school playgrounds are accessible at Cesar Chavez Elementary and the former Condon School on the UofO campus.

#### *SPORTS FACILITIES*

- Multi-use sports fields are available at Maurie Jacobs Park and Cesar Chavez Elementary.
- One tennis court is available at Sladden Park.
- Outdoor covered basketball courts are available at Washington/Jefferson Park. These courts are also used for inline “street” hockey and bike polo.

#### *NATURAL AREAS*

- Natural areas are associated with the riparian areas along the banks of the Willamette River and Amazon Creek.
- The South Bank, Skinner Butte Park, and Maurie Jacobs Park provide good plant and wildlife habitat connectivity, as well as transportation and recreation opportunities.

#### **Issues and Needs-**

- Campbell Senior Center is outdated and undersized, limiting the capacity and programming available to community members.
- The River House Outdoor Center is also undersized, with limited classroom space and limited equipment availability due to lack of storage.
- A targeted look at downtown open spaces is needed to understand the capacity of current open spaces to meet the needs of residents, visitors and businesses.
- Availability of parks in some parts of City Central is limited:
  - There are six parks in need of major renovation; and
  - Access improvements for walking and biking are needed to some parks.

- City Central does not have some types of specialty facilities found in other areas of Eugene, including a dog park and a running trail.
- Sports fields and gym space are in high demand across the community. In particular is a need for a multi-field facility that can accommodate local use and tournaments.
- As a result of illicit camping, behaviors and activities, there are safety related concerns along the riverfront, in Washington Jefferson Park, in the downtown Park Blocks, and in some of the more urban neighborhood parks such as Monroe, Scobert Gardens and Charnel Mulligan.

## Vision Ideas-

The following ideas were identified as a result of community input and the needs assessment analysis. These are not formal proposals at this time, but ideas intended to promote additional community engagement and a discussion of priorities. Are we on the right track? What have we missed? These ideas are grouped under headings that represent the four key themes that came out of the needs assessment.

*Care for and make the most of what we have:*

- Fund long term maintenance and management of parks, trails and high priority habitats. This is needed both to take care of current facilities and parks, and also to allow expanding the system in the future to accommodate population growth.
- Renovate and expand Campbell Senior Center. Renovation to add capacity and increase programming with:
  - New fitness center
  - Improved lobby and reception area
  - Increased space for multipurpose room, dance and social events
  - Increased storage space
- Renovate and expand River House Outdoor Center for outdoor and environmental education and expanded outdoor programming. Renovate to add capacity and increase programming with:
  - Large Indoor-Outdoor learning/classroom space for outdoor and environmental education
  - Expanded equipment storage space
- Renovate and rehabilitate parks and specialty facilities (see chart).
- Revitalize downtown open spaces through renovation and programming and improve connections to the river. Identify and add amenities as needed to facilitate a vibrant, family friendly neighborhood and destination, such as a children’s play area.
- Improve safe access to the Willamette River for swimming, fishing, paddling and nature viewing, while maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Improve safety along the Willamette River corridor and in other identified problem areas by providing additional lighting and vegetation management. Consider additional security measures such as park ambassadors, hosts or rangers.
- Restore and provide recreation access (as appropriate) to natural areas (see chart).

*Serve the entire community:*

- Build one new park on land identified for parks (Riverfront Park at former EWEB site).
- Locate a dog park in City Central.

*Create more connections:*

- Establish *Neighborhood Greenways*, making street crossing and route improvements to expand walking and biking access to neighborhood parks and other destinations.
- Improve walking and bicycling connections on, across and near Franklin Boulevard, totaling approximately 1.5 miles. For locations see, the [Eugene Transportation System Plan](#), Bicycling Projects Map.
  - Build “Rivers to Ridges” path connection from the Ridgeline Trail to the Willamette River by completing the segment from 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Ruth Bascom Path.
- Build new soft-surface trails, totaling approximately 3 miles. For locations see, [Eugene Trails Plan](#):
  - A running trail that runs parallel to South Bank Path
  - Additional pedestrian trails on Skinner Butte

*Build better partnerships:*

- Collaborate with the University of Oregon to make public access, recreational and safety improvements to the South Bank of the Willamette River, east of the EWEB property.
- Work with School District 4J to update school playgrounds as needed.
- Continue to facilitate volunteer efforts in area parks, natural areas and recreation facilities.
- Continue the Rivers to Ridges Partnership to protect and enhance the region’s land and water resources.

*System-wide Recommendations:*

- Update and implement the Eugene Urban Forest Management Plan.
- Develop and implement a system-wide natural areas assessment and plan.
- Develop and implement a city-wide restroom system master plan.
- Develop and implement a city-wide irrigation system water management plan.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive approach to locating spray play, nature play, inclusive play, and multi-generational playgrounds/exercise equipment.
- Improve accessibility for all ages and abilities.
- Implement comprehensive signage improvements.

## City Central Community Centers

See definitions of “major renovation,” “rehabilitate” and “maintain” below. “x” in a column indicates what type of project is needed; a,b,c,etc. in a column denotes the type of project and indicates a note below.

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Develop new</b>	<b>Major renovation</b>	<b>Rehabilitate</b>	<b>Maintain</b>
<i>Campbell Senior Center</i>		a		
<i>Lamb Cottage</i>			X	
<i>River House Outdoor Center</i>		b		
<i>McNail-Riley House</i>				X
<i>SMJ House (leased)</i>			X	
<i>Trude Kaufman Center (leased)</i>			X	

## City Central Parks

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Develop new</b>	<b>Major renovation</b>	<b>Rehabilitate</b>	<b>Maintain</b>
<i>Charnel Mulligan Park</i>		c		X
<i>Riverfront Park at former EWEB site</i>	X			
<i>Fairmount Park</i>			X	
<i>Lincoln School Park</i>		X		
<i>Maurie Jacobs Park</i>			d	
<i>Monroe Park</i>			X	
<i>Park Blocks</i>		X		
<i>Scobert Gardens</i>		X		
<i>Skinner Butte Park</i>			e	
<i>Sladden Park</i>		X		
<i>Washington/Jefferson Park</i>		f		
<i>West University Park</i>				X
<i>Acquisition 1</i>	X			

## City Central Specialty & Sports Facilities

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Develop new</b>	<b>Major renovation</b>	<b>Rehabilitate</b>	<b>Maintain</b>
<i>Riverplay Spray Play</i>			X	
<i>City Central Dog Park</i>	X			
<i>WJ Skate Park</i>				X
<i>Skinner City Farm</i>			X	
<i>Spencer Butte Climbing Columns</i>				X
<i>River House Community Garden</i>			X	
<i>Whiteaker Community Garden</i>			X	
<i>Sladden Park Tennis Courts</i>			X	
<i>Washington/Jefferson Basketball Courts</i>			X	
<i>Owen Rose Garden</i>			g	
<i>Ida Patterson Fields</i>				X
<i>Maurie Jacobs Field</i>			X	

Develop new

Build new park or facility. Master plans are needed before development.

Major renovation

Developed parks in overall poor condition and in need of major renovation within a 10 year timeframe.

Rehabilitate

Developed parks with one or two basic features in poor condition and in need of rehabilitation (major repairs, but not a complete rebuild) within a 10 year timeframe.

Maintain

Developed parks in good condition requiring only basic maintenance and minor repairs.

Notes:

- Add space for increased programming at Campbell Center, per master plan
- Add space for increased programming at River House Outdoor Center, per master plan
- Charnel Mulligan Park renovation will be complete in late 2016
- Improve access to the river

- e. Implement Skinner Butte Park master plan and improve access to the river
- f. Develop master plan for Washington/Jefferson Park
- g. Develop ornamental garden management plan

## City Central Natural Areas

Natural Area Name	Trails and Trailheads		Habitat and Ecological Function	
	Develop New	Renovate/ Maintain	Restore	Maintain
<i>Willamette River</i>				
Franklin Park				X
South Bank	X			X
<i>Other</i>				
Amazon Creek				X
Jefferson Park				X
Mill Race				X
<i>Neighborhood Natural Areas</i>				
Riverfront Park	X		X	
Maurie Jacobs Park				X
Skinner Butte Park	a		a	

- Develop new            Build trails, trailheads and other recreation amenities to facilitate public access. Management Plans are needed before development.
- Renovate/ Maintain    Renovate existing trails, trailheads and other recreation amenities within a 10 year timeframe or perform basic general maintenance as needed. (R= renovate, M= maintain).
- Restore                 Poor condition for habitat that requires extensive restoration within a 10 year timeframe.
- Maintain                Requires only basic habitat enhancement or general maintenance.
- Notes                    a. Implement Skinner Butte Park master plan

## CENTRAL CITY SUB-AREA INVENTORY

Name	Property Owner	Agency Responsible for Maintenance	Total Acres	City Owned
Amazon Corridor	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	3.8	3.8
Amazon Corridor	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	3.2	3.2
Amazon Corridor	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	0.3	0.3
Broadway Plaza	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	0.2	0.2
Campbell Senior Center	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	2.3	2.3
Charnel Mulligan Park	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	1.2	1.2
Fairmount Park	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	0.7	0.7
Franklin Park	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	5.7	5.7
Jefferson Park	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	4.0	4.0
Lane Events Center	Lane County	Lane County	50.5	
Lincoln School Park	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	0.8	0.8
Maurie Jacobs Park	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	37.5	37.5
McNail-Riley House	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	0.2	0.2
Monroe Park	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	3.1	3.1
Owen Rose Garden	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	6.9	6.9
Park Blocks	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	1.5	1.5
River House	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	0.3	0.3
Scobert Gardens	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	1.2	1.2
Shelton McMurphey Johnson House	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	1.1	1.1
Skinner Butte Park	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	99.9	99.9
Sladden Park	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	4.1	4.1
University of Oregon Campus (south of river)	University of Oregon	University of Oregon	110.3	
Washington/Jefferson Park	Oregon Dept. of Transportation	City of Eugene	24.6	24.6
West University Park	City of Eugene	City of Eugene	0.4	0.4
			<b>363.6</b>	<b>202.9</b>

