

Picture. Plan. Play.

A Vision and Implementation Plan for
Eugene's Parks and Recreation System



July 2018

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The quotes used throughout this document were gathered from community members, recorded in their own voice, at pop-up events across Eugene.

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A close-up photograph of tree bark, showing a rough, textured surface with various shades of brown and tan. The bark is cracked and peeling in some areas, creating a complex, organic pattern. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture and depth of the bark.

The vision
for parks and
recreation in Eugene
is a system of
beautiful, inspiring
places that foster
personal, community
and environmental
health.



Executive Summary

Imagine what Eugene would be like without the Riverfront parks and bike path? Without Spencer Butte anchoring the Ridgeline trail? Without Amazon Pool or Petersen Barn? Without Delta Ponds or the West Eugene Wetlands?

We have previous generations to thank for these places.

What are the places that future generations will thank us for?

For the past three years, Eugene residents have offered their perspective on both this question of long-term legacy and prioritizing limited resources in the short-term. With over 12,000 individuals contributing their voice to this effort, a greenprint for the future is clear.

“We **love**
the Eugene
Parks and
Rec.”

“Really enjoying it rain or shine.”



The vision for parks and recreation in Eugene is a system of beautiful, inspiring places that foster personal, community and environmental health while upholding these four core principles:

- Care for and make the most of what we have
- Serve the entire community
- Create more connections
- Build better partnerships

These guiding principles respond to current challenges and look forward in anticipation of a growing population whose reliance on parks and recreation will become even more central to preserving Eugene’s exceptional quality of life.

Picture. Plan. Play. A Vision and Implementation Plan for Eugene’s Parks and Recreation System documents the relationship between the residents of Eugene and their parks and recreation system and offers detailed recommendations for a healthier future for all.

“Early
morning
joyful
experience.

It’s free. It’s
amazing.”



1 THE BACKGROUND: INTRODUCTION

An overview of Eugene's Parks and Recreation system - the benefits it provides, its historic roots, and the partnerships on which it relies.



2 THE NEED: SYSTEM FINDINGS

A summary of the 2016 Needs Assessment that identifies strengths, challenges and trends that influence parks and recreation in Eugene.



3 THE PLAN: 30-YEAR VISION

Sixteen goals comprise the long-term vision and correlate to the guiding principles.

These goals are further defined by detailed recommendations for the following facilities:

- Recreation Facilities (Community Centers, Pools and Other Recreation Facilities)
- Natural Areas (Habitat, Trails and River Access)
- Developed Parks (Playgrounds and Spray Play, Sports Fields, Courts, Specialty Recreation, and Fundamentals)
- Connections (Paths, Neighborhood Greenways and Green Streets)





System-wide Goals

Care for and make the most of what we have:

1. Secure sustainable funding to maintain existing parks and allow for future growth of the parks and recreation system.
2. Secure sustainable funding to improve security and reduce illicit activities such as encampments and dumping, vandalism and graffiti.
3. Renovate and expand existing community centers and pools to meet Eugene's growing population and recreational programming trends, while consolidating facilities, partnering with other agencies, and improving energy efficiency where possible.
4. Reinvest in existing parks throughout the city that are in need of enhancement, restoration, or repair.
5. Re-energize downtown open spaces and enhance our connection to the arts, to our local economy and to each other.

Serve the entire community:

6. Build new multi-purpose community centers and pools in areas of town that are currently unserved (Santa Clara and Southwest Eugene), partnering with other agencies when feasible.
7. Acquire and develop neighborhood and community parks and amenities in areas that are underserved.
8. Build facilities that welcome all Eugeneans such as inclusive play areas, fitness stations and multi-cultural amenities.

Create more connections:

9. Connect Eugeneans to the water with improved access to the Willamette River for wading, fishing, paddling and nature viewing. Enhance paddling opportunities in the Alton Baker Park Canoe Canal and along lower Amazon Creek.
10. Fill in the gaps to form an interconnected open space system, including pivotal acquisitions along the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers, the Ridgeline Trail, a northern "farm belt" path, and regional connections to Mt. Pisgah and Fern Ridge Reservoir.
11. Make every doorstep a trailhead by providing safe and pleasant walking and cycling experiences on paths and city streets throughout Eugene (Neighborhood Greenways).
12. Further the parks and recreation system's capacity to serve as critical infrastructure for clean air, clean water, flood control, carbon sequestration, and climate resilience.



Build better partnerships:

1. Work towards a community-school model that brings multiple agencies and service providers together to ensure kids and families have what they need to be successful in school and in life.
2. Leverage private and public partnerships to build a sports field complex that will accommodate growing local demands, while also hosting regional tournaments that increase community economic prosperity.
3. Leverage public dollars with private dollars through sponsorships, endowments, and new revenue-generating facilities.
4. Partner with non-profits, neighborhoods and service groups to enhance the value of parks and recreation assets, programs and services while building community.



4 THE STEPS: 10-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Two priorities are the focus of plan implementation in the short-term:

- Identify ongoing, sustainable operational and maintenance funding to adequately care for existing parks and to allow for development of new parks in neighborhoods that are underserved.
- Identify capital funding to make repairs and improvements to community centers, pools and parks in need, to protect system assets and enhance functionality.



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The following detailed information is included in the appendix:

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- Inventory of Parks and Recreation Facilities



1

THE BACKGROUND: INTRODUCTION



1

THE BACKGROUND: INTRODUCTION

Statement of Purpose

The Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation System at a Glance

System Context

A Brief History

Partner Agencies

Rivers to Ridges Regional Parks and Open Space Vision

THE BACKGROUND: INTRODUCTION

Statement of Purpose

Our community is uniquely situated within a bounty of natural beauty and recreational opportunities. The Willamette River flows through the heart of our city. We are surrounded by forested hills and buttes that offer trails and scenic vistas overlooking large swaths of natural areas, developed parks, and the buzz of urban life. From Delta Ponds to the West Eugene Wetlands, habitat is protected and wildlife thrives in and around the urban area. We are an active community that enjoy a wide range of recreation opportunities and know we have something distinctly special here. It's why many of us chose Eugene as our place to live, work and play.

The Parks and Recreation System Plan is a *greenprint* for how we care for the system we currently have and how we improve and expand it for a growing population with evolving priorities and needs. It is based on extensive public outreach; over 12,000 voices contributed to its development. Among the many things learned, we heard that 90 percent of residents surveyed consider parks and recreation important to their quality of life.

Included in this plan is both a 30-year vision, and a 10-year implementation plan. Both are grounded in four guiding principles that reflect the needs and values of the community:



Care for and make the most of what we have: Provide safe, clean and fun parks and recreation facilities, and enhance their value for the community to enjoy.



Serve the entire community: Provide equitable and welcoming access to parks and recreation facilities, regardless of neighborhood, race, ability or income.



Create more connections: Build on Eugene's strong foundation of connected open spaces and trail networks by completing and making new connections at the regional, city and neighborhood levels.



Build better partnerships: Forge new relationships and reinvent or strengthen old partnerships that maximize resources and enhance services.





“There are
so many
favorite
places for
me to play in
Eugene.”

The Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Eugene’s parks and recreation system provides numerous benefits to our community’s wellness and prosperity, and to the health of the environment in which we live.

Health and wellness

Exercising in parks, experiencing nature and participating in recreation programs can improve health and overall quality of life. It can reduce obesity, relieve stress, improve mental health and cognitive function, and create a sense of belonging and social connectedness.

Personal growth

Recreation programming and parks create opportunities that promote lifelong learning, including learning and practicing new skills, exploring new interests, building collaboration and teamwork, and making friends.

Economic prosperity

Parks and Recreation make Eugene a desirable place to live, work and play for new and existing residents. Eugene’s parks also provide ongoing economic benefits in the form of improved water and air quality, flood protection, increased property values, and enhanced outdoor recreation.

Building community

Parks and Recreation provide meaningful opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to volunteer and contribute skills, connect socially (through festivals, events, classes, and programs) and create a safe and engaged community.

Environmental health

More than 3,800 acres of natural areas and hundreds of thousands of trees clean our air and water, reduce summer temperatures, sequester carbon and provide wildlife habitat. Outdoor and environmental education participants and volunteers are exposed to the responsibility and value of being stewards of our natural environment.

Livability, community identity and sense of place

The Willamette River, Skinner and Spencer Buttes, the West Eugene Wetlands, our neighborhood parks and our tree-lined streets — all provide the physical underpinning to Eugene’s unique identity.



Parks and Recreation

4,800

acres of park
that encom

3,900

acres of natural areas

575

acres of developed parks

32

acres of future

- **Six** community centers
- **Three** pools
- **Seven** buildings that are leased to partner organizations (i.e. Boys and Girls Club) or available for rentals or programming (i.e. Lamb Cottage)

78

miles of paved paths
and unpaved trails

52

sports fields

6,000

classes, events and trips
programmed annually

n System at a Glance

This plan refers to the diverse collection of parks and recreation facilities and amenities as a system, because it is an interrelated group of elements that is greater than the sum of its parts.

kland
passes:



20
-developed parks



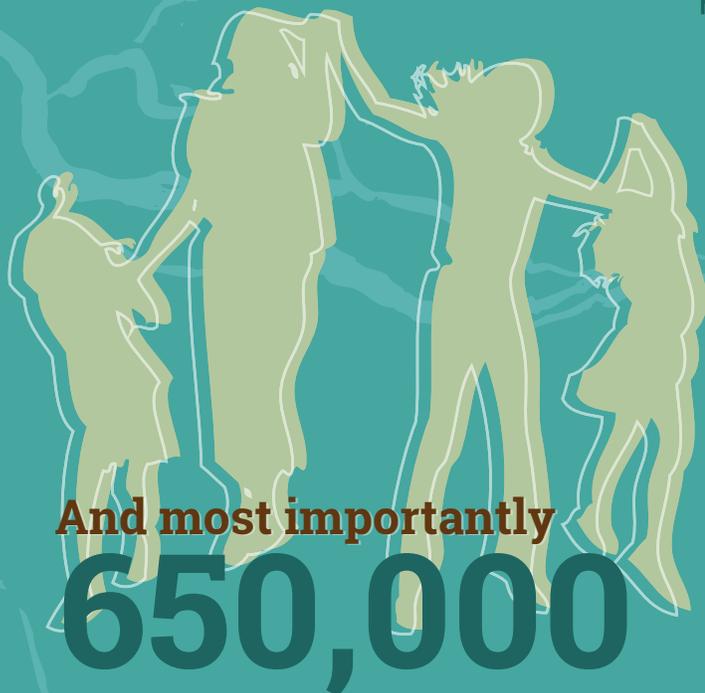
31
miles of rivers and streams



Hundreds of thousands
of trees

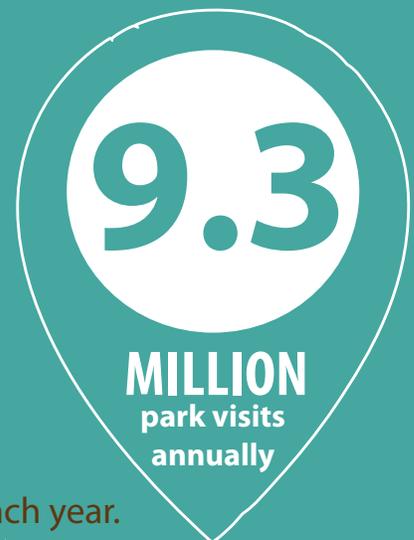
- Approximately **150** agencies and service providers who partner with us to deliver better services

- **Hundreds of volunteers** who contribute thousands of hours of work each year

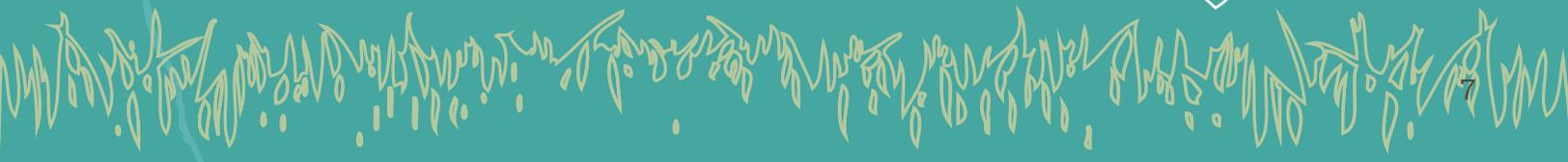


And most importantly
650,000

recreation participants in classes, camps, and programs each year.



9.3
MILLION
park visits
annually





SYSTEM CONTEXT

A Brief History

Eugene has a rich history of parks and recreation. Since its earliest days, Eugeneans have consistently acted in both small and heroic ways to make possible the parks and recreation system we now enjoy. It all began in 1906 with a land donation from the Hendricks family and continued with the bond-funded purchase of Skinner Butte in 1914. This spirit was never better epitomized than in 1937 with the “buy a piece of the Butte” campaign. At the time, proposed logging threatened 240 acres of land beyond the outskirts of town on the most prominent butte in a series of ridges. Despite the severely depressed economy, more than 1,000 Eugeneans pitched in \$.05–\$5 per family and together with a few larger donations, they saved Spencer Butte for future generations. Today Eugene’s park system has grown to over 4,780 acres.

The roots of recreation programming first took hold in 1927, when the voters of Eugene approved a Public Recreation and Playground Fund. This levy established a Playground Commission to administer funds and create summer youth programming. Washington Park was home to the first community center built in 1947. But it was the 1960s and ‘70s that marked the heyday of community center and pool development in Eugene. Once again, in 1966, the residents of Eugene showed their support for parks and recreation and passed a bond measure for \$1.75 million. As a result, three new community centers and two pools were built, creating the foundation of Eugene’s Recreation Services.

More recently, Eugene voters passed two bond measures (1998 and 2006) totaling a \$52.8 million dollar investment, addressing the needs of an expanding population and furthering the legacy to include:

- 14 new neighborhood and community parks
- 12 renovated neighborhood and community parks
- 2000 acres of land acquired for natural areas and future parks (to date)
- a renovated and expanded Amazon Pool
- 11 new turf sports fields in partnership with 4J and Bethel School Districts

Eugeneans have consistently acted in both small and heroic ways to make possible the parks and recreation system we now enjoy.

Timeline of Milestones in Park and Recreation History

1900



The Hendricks family donates land to form the beginning of **Hendricks Park**, becoming Eugene's first public park.

1906



1937
The "**Buy a Piece of the Butte**" campaign succeeds in protecting 280 acres known as Spencer Butte for future generations.



Eugene's **first pool opens**. After a brief year in 1974 with a dysfunctional protective winter bubble, Jefferson Pool closes in 1982 after the bubble collapses.

1948



The **Amazon Park Swimming Pool** opens to an enthusiastic crowd.

1959

1920

A **\$10,000 Park Bond** is approved to improve City parks and in 1927 the newly formed Playground Committee helps pass a \$300,000 tax levy. Three-sided shelters, the origin of Lamb Cottage, are set up along the Willamette River at Skinner Butte Park to accommodate riverside car camping and picnicking for outdoor recreation seekers.



1947

Eugene's **first community center** opens at Washington Park.

1951

Voters approve a \$1 million dollar levy for park acquisition and development. George Owen donates the land later to be the site of the Owen Rose Garden.



1962

Originally established by a group of senior citizens, **Campbell Senior Center**, one of the very first of its kind on the west coast, opens its doors.



1960

\$1.75 million facility
the 60
facility
• West
• Shel
• Cent
• Laure
• acqui
• Distri
• Echo
• Amaz

5
 million dollar bond passes, making
 's **the decade of Recreation**
 growth:
 moreland Center ('67)
 lon Community
 er and Pool ('68)
 elwood Golf Course
 ired from 4j School
 ct ('68)
 Hollow Pool ('69)
 zon Community Center ('73)



1976
 A \$5 million dollar levy passes to fund park improvements and acquisitions. **Petersen Barn**, a former Dairy Barn built in 1932, is donated and remodeled as a community center to serve the growing Bethel area.



1998
 \$25 million dollar bond measure allows the City to acquire land for **future parks and natural areas**, build 10 new parks, make improvements to existing parks and sports fields, add four synthetic turf fields, and enhance natural areas.

Construction on the **Riverbank Bike Path** begins. After four-decades, the 12-mile looping path including five pedestrian bridges over the Willamette River was completed in 2003.

The groundbreaking Hilyard Community Center is built, providing a state-of-the-art facility for **adaptive recreation services**.

2006
 Voters pass \$27.5 million bond **expanding the park system by 1,220 acres**, smashing the original acquisition goal by a ratio of 7:1. In partnership with both school districts, seven new sports turf fields are built and four replaced.

Eugene Parks and Recreation wins the national **Gold Medal Award** for excellence.

2000

1969 **1973**

1972
 Eugene residents pass a bond to acquire the **riverfront park system** that later links Skinner Butte Park and Owen Rose Garden. The River House Community Center is acquired, to provide a base for growing outdoor recreation programs.

1979
 Formerly a sand and gravel pit, the first portion of Delta Ponds is purchased, launching decades of acquisition and **restoration projects**. By 2012, grants and partnerships have brought an additional \$7.5 million to restore salmon habitat in the ponds.

2014
 \$325,000 of private dollars from partners helps build the **Nation's largest covered and lit public skatepark** at Washington Jefferson Park, completing Eugene's network of seven skateparks.

1978
 Eugene's **first community garden** is established at Amazon Park.

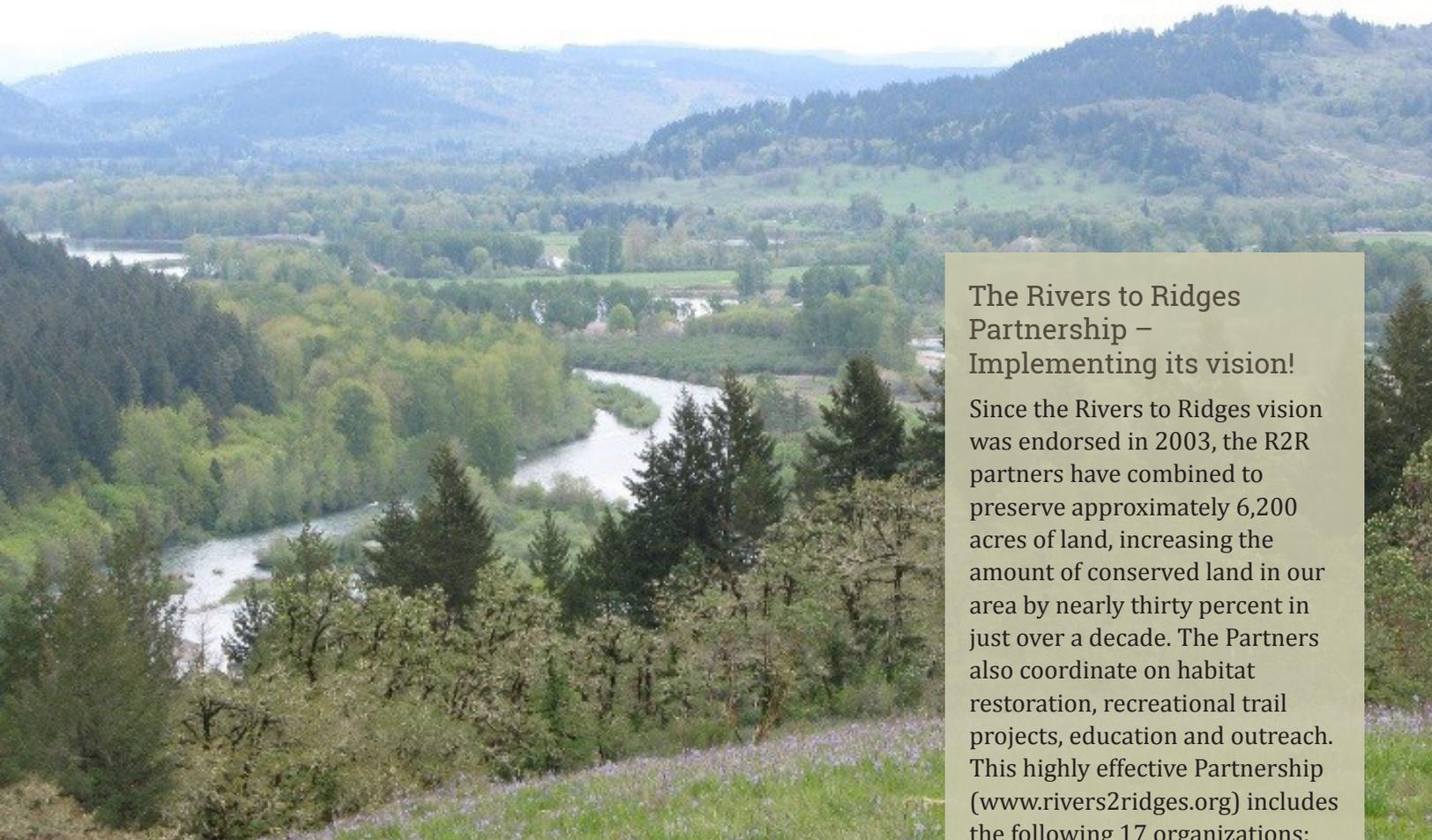




PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Eugene's system sits within a larger context of public and non-profit agencies, recreation providers and conservation land owners. This web of agencies and service providers is critical to meeting the needs of the community and region. We depend on each other's strengths and assets to complement what the City of Eugene Parks and Recreation has to offer. Some of these partner service-providers include:

- Lane County Parks
- River Road Parks and Recreation District
- Willamalane Parks and Recreation District
- 4J School District
- Bethel School District
- The University of Oregon
- Boys & Girls Club of Emerald Valley
- Kidsports
- Eugene Family YMCA
- 150 + additional non-profits and agencies



The Rivers to Ridges Partnership – Implementing its vision!

Since the Rivers to Ridges vision was endorsed in 2003, the R2R partners have combined to preserve approximately 6,200 acres of land, increasing the amount of conserved land in our area by nearly thirty percent in just over a decade. The Partners also coordinate on habitat restoration, recreational trail projects, education and outreach. This highly effective Partnership (www.rivers2ridges.org) includes the following 17 organizations:

Rivers to Ridges Regional Parks and Open Space Vision

The Rivers to Ridges vision serves as a broad framework for park, open space, and recreational planning in our region. The plan was derived through an extensive outreach process which involved hundreds of interested citizens, input from numerous interest groups, and collaboration by local parks and open space partners which included local, state, and federal government organizations and non-profits. The vision that came out of this process was ultimately endorsed in 2003, through a unanimous vote of local elected officials including the Eugene and Springfield City Councils, the Lane County Board of Commissioners, and the Willamalane Park and Recreation District Board.

Today, this voluntary partnership of 17 organizations, including the City of Eugene, is working to implement the Rivers to Ridges vision. These partnership organizations collaborate on conservation of critical lands, habitat restoration and trail connectivity. The Rivers to Ridges partners currently manage over 24,000 acres of land in and around the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area, bringing opportunities to the community for recreation, experiencing nature and environmental education.



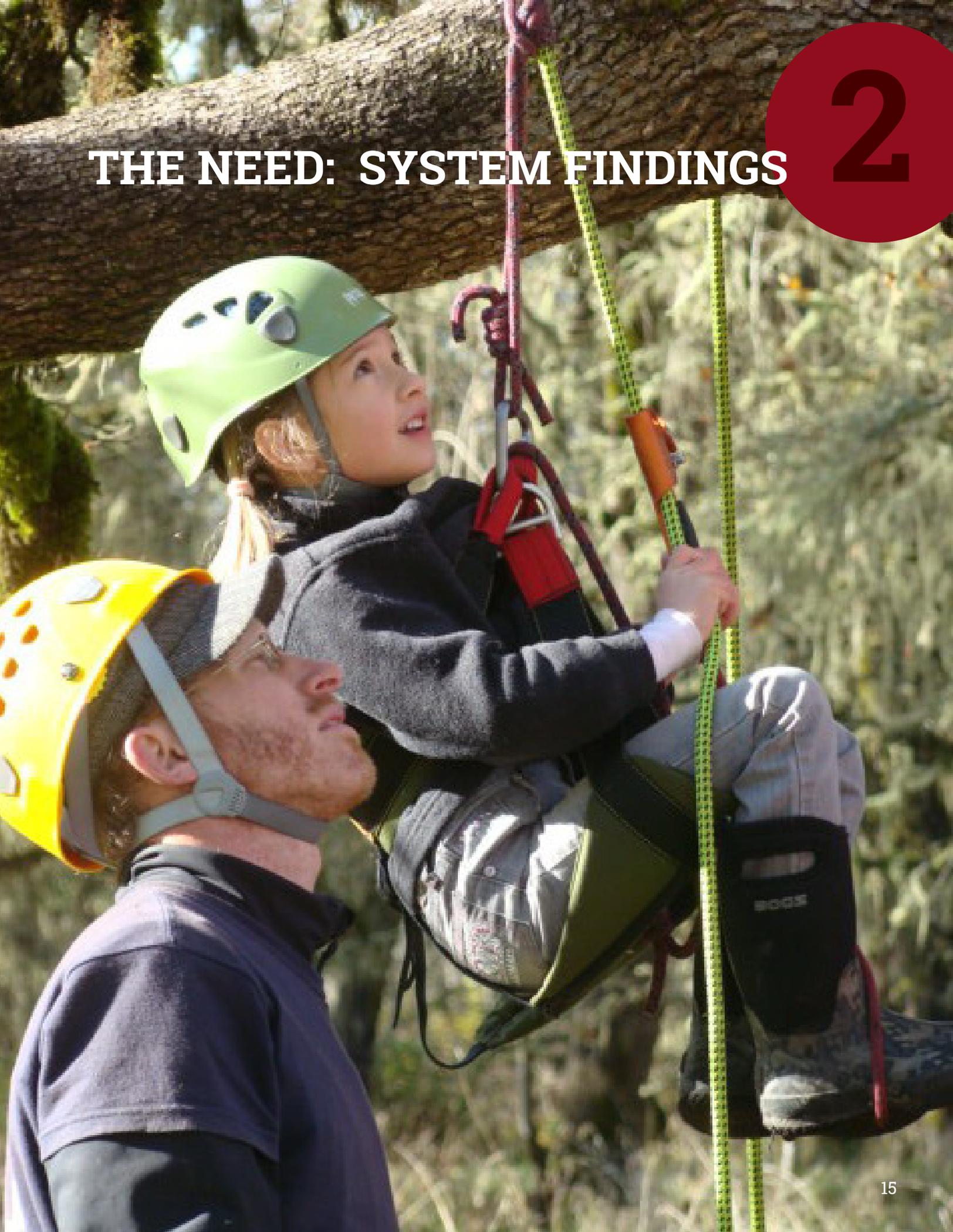
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- City of Eugene
- Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council
- Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah
- Lane County Parks
- Long Tom Watershed Council
- McKenzie River Trust
- McKenzie River Watershed Council
- Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Willamalane Parks and Recreation District
- Willamette Resources and Education Network



“So many
opportunities for
me to **spend time**
with my child.”

THE NEED: SYSTEM FINDINGS

2





2

THE NEED: SYSTEM FINDINGS

- Planning Process Overview
- System Findings
- Strengths
- Challenges
- Future Trends



THE NEED: SYSTEM FINDINGS

Planning Process Overview

“PARKS and REcreate: Picture. Plan. Play.” was the name of a three-year long community conversation to help identify needs and priorities for Parks and Recreation in Eugene. A combination of community input and technical analysis formed the foundation of a needs assessment, the findings of which are summarized in this chapter.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To ensure the System Plan reflects the needs and values of the community, a combination of traditional outreach tools and innovative approaches were utilized to reach out to more individuals than ever before-- over 12,000 people participated and all Eugene residents received two newsletters mailed to their homes. Complete Community Engagement Reports can be found in the Needs Assessment Appendix.

- Pop-up Events – 50 mobile events popped up where people were already gathered. Feedback was captured in various forms including one-on-one conversations, recorded stories about parks and recreation experiences, drawings, and Instagram photos. 5,700 individuals participated.
- Latino/a Community Outreach – This targeted outreach involved a partnership with the City’s Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement, University of Oregon Professor,

Gerardo Sandoval, and his students, and public engagement specialist, James Rojas. This outreach was accomplished through informal, bilingual conversations, creative play exercises, and going to places where people were already gathered. 410 Eugene and Springfield residents participated.

- Community Advisory Group- This fifteen-member advisory group was made up of individuals representing all geographic areas of the city and a diversity of perspectives. They acted as a sounding board for City staff and helped to inform recommendations.
- Online and Paper Surveys – These surveys covered general topics such as overall system usage, service satisfaction, concerns, and priorities for the future. 4,100 surveys were completed.



Efforts to reach Latino Community Wins Esteemed State Award

The State of Oregon’s Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee selected the City of Eugene as recipient of the 2017 Achievement in Community Engagement (ACE) Award. The ACE Award was given in recognition of the Latino/a focused outreach efforts in the development of the Parks and Recreation System Plan which resulted in recommendations that will help break down barriers local Latino/a communities encounter when using parks and recreation facilities, as well as creating more culturally inclusive and welcoming environments.



- Statistically Valid Surveys- Administered by phone to randomly identified Eugene residents, three separate surveys provided a statistically valid data set that included questions on project priorities and willingness to provide additional funding. 1,100 Eugene residents were surveyed.
- Stakeholder Listening Sessions – Informal, open-ended meetings with individuals of all ages who partner or regularly interact with Parks and Recreation Services were held. 130 individuals participated.
- Community Presentations - A variety of presentations were made to neighborhood associations, boards and commissions, and community groups, such as City Club, that reached well over 500 individuals.
- Staff Listening Sessions – Informal, open-ended meetings were held with staff who work in the City’s Parks and Open Space Division and Recreation Division. 105 City employees participated.
- Website, Facebook, Twitter, e-newsletter – Online tools including social media were utilized to share information about the project and opportunities for involvement. For example, an online “Project Idea Form” allowed individuals to submit ideas for consideration and 850 interested parties received regular e-newsletters.





Little Red and the Pop-up Tour Recognized as a “Bright Idea”

Harvard University’s Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation designated Eugene’s pop-up mobile public forum a Bright Idea and showcased the unique campaign as inspiration for other communities. But Little Red, isn’t headed to storage with the system plan complete. The nostalgic red trailer will continue to pop-up around town to gather and share information about Eugene’s park and recreation for many summers to come. See the video: <https://vimeo.com/192714996>.



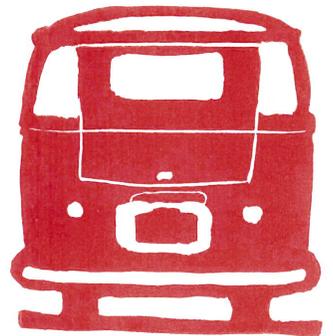
www.EUGparksandrec.org



www.EUGparksandrec.org



www.EUGparksandrec.org



POP-UP TOUR!





“It gave me
a lot more
confidence.”

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

A variety of technical analyses were utilized to better understand the system of today and opportunities for the future. Full reports of each of the following can be found in the Needs Assessment Appendix.

A. Equity Mapping –Equity maps were made for community centers, pools and parks and are an important tool for understanding current geographical access to parks and recreation facilities across the community. Parks have a service mile radius of .5 mile walking distance while community centers and pools have a service radius of 2 miles driving distance. The exception is Amazon Pool with a service mile radius of 3 miles due to its unique outdoor recreation elements.

B. Benchmarking – The Trust for Public Land helped to evaluate Eugene’s parks and recreation system against other comparable communities. Communities for this comparison were chosen based on size, median income, location and cultural similarities. They include: Springfield OR, Salem OR, Spokane WA, Boise ID, and Fort Collins CO.

Technical analyses were utilized to better understand the system of today and opportunities for the future.

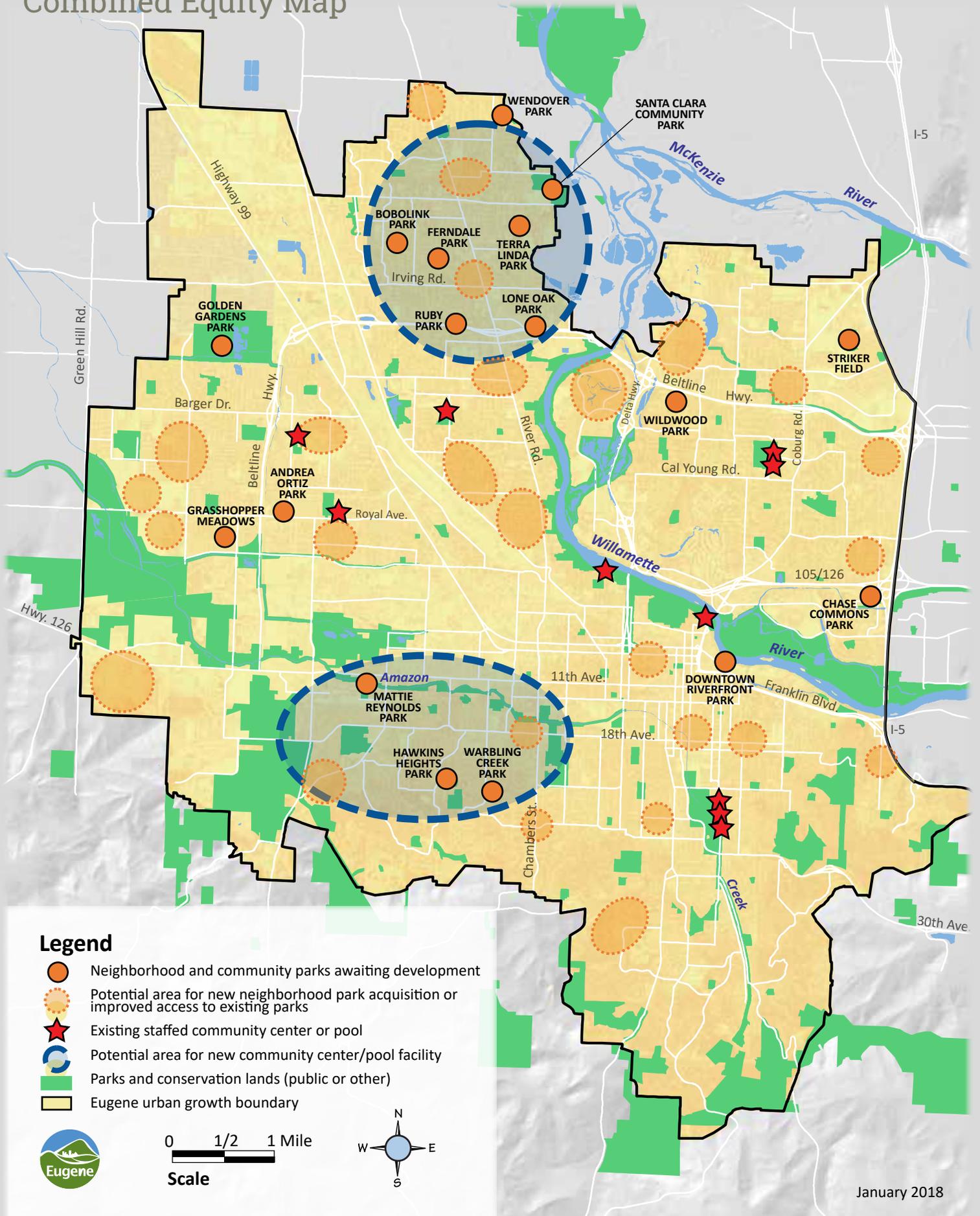
How we Compare - Benchmarking

	Eugene, OR	Boise, ID	Fort Collins, CO	Salem, OR	Spokane, WA	Springfield, OR	Comparison
Population (2013)	159,190	214,237	152,061	160,614	210,721	60,177	
Parkland per 1,000 Residents (acres)	26	26	9	17	19	34	Eugene is tied for having the 2nd highest amount of parkland per 1,000 residents
Number of Recreation Facilities (Community Centers) per 20,000 Residents	0.75	0.37	0.66	0.25	0	1.66	Eugene has the 2nd highest number of Recreation Facilities per 20,000 residents
Combined Square Footage of all Recreation Facilities	51,350	15,000	245,000	10,000	N/A	230,000	
Average Age of Recreation Facilities (years)	35	40+	20	5	N/A	25	Eugene has the 2nd oldest Recreation Facilities
Number of Pools per 100,000 Residents	1.88	3.27	2.63	N/A	2.85	3.32	Eugene has the least number of pools per 100,000 residents
Average Age of Pools (years)	37	39	26	N/A	5	32	Eugene has the 2nd oldest Pools
Number of Ball Diamonds per 10,000 Residents	1.82	2.15	2.5	0.62	4.6	1.16	
Number of Multi-Purpose Fields per 10,000 Residents	2.2	2.24	3.22	0.75	2.14	0.66	
Number of Playgrounds per 10,000 Residents	3.27	3.69	2.89	3.05	2.89	4.82	
Community Garden Plots per 10,000 Residents	21.74	1.45	3.42	12.45	0.14	13.29	Eugene has the most community garden plots per 10,000 residents
Miles of Paved Paths per 10,000 Residents	2.89	1.17	2.37	0.75	1.19	1	Eugene has the most miles of paved paths per 10,000 residents
Miles of Unpaved Trails per 10,000 Residents	2.58	7	N/A	0.68	0.24	3.82	

C. Trends Research – A compilation of sources was used to identify trends related to local demographics, health and wellness, safety, climate change, programming, and park and recreation facilities. This research also identified innovations from other communities that may be relevant or informative to Eugene’s needs and challenges. Many of these findings are described in the *Recommendations by Facility Type* section.

D. Park and Recreation Facility Assessments- The condition of Eugene’s parks are periodically evaluated by staff to assess the overall state of the system and to prioritize rehabilitation projects. Similarly, the physical condition of Eugene’s primary community centers and pools is regularly assessed by Eugene’s Facility Management Division. A qualitative assessment of how well each facility functions in its purpose of recreation programming and services was also developed based on recreation user surveys and staff input.

Combined Equity Map





“I like Amazon Pool because there’s like a ton of slides.”

Recreation Facility Rating Summary

	Programing Rating	Condition Rating	Overall Rating
Amazon Pool - Seasonal	B	A	Excellent
Sheldon Pool	C	C	Fair
Echo Hollow Pool	C	D	Fair
Amazon Community Center	C	D	Fair
Sheldon Community Center	C	D	Fair
Petersen Barn Community Center	D	C	Fair
Campbell Senior Center	C	D	Fair
Hilyard Adaptive Center	A	B	Excellent
The River House	D	A	Good

E. Feasibility Study for a Potential New Multi-Use Sports and Recreation Complex- This study was funded in partnership with Travel Lane County and Willamalane and compiled by Convention Sports and Leisure in 2017. The study identifies a market for a proposed complex that would provide a resource for local residents, enhance the ability to drive additional revenue for City recreational sports and generate new community economic impact.

F. Aquatics Business Operations Audit- Performed in 2015 by Ballard*King, the audit reviewed Eugene aquatics facilities and operational structure in comparison to industry standards.

Park Service Areas

It has long been a local goal to have a park within 10-minutes safe walking distance of all Eugene residents. This is a goal that is shared by many other communities across the country to ensure equitable distribution of public parks. Eugene’s analysis pertains specifically to parks that have a playground and can be safely accessed without crossing large busy roads. Schools with playgrounds are included in the mix, because those school yards can and often do fill the same function as a neighborhood park. Analysis shows that despite a focus on acquisition in recent years there are still neighborhoods throughout Eugene that are underserved.

The Trust for Public Land, assisted Eugene by cross-referencing Eugene’s underserved areas with demographic information (population density, density of children age 19 and younger, and density of individuals with income less than \$35,000). The resulting map (see appendix B) is utilized to prioritize areas of greatest need.



“Be free and be yourself.”

System Findings

This chapter summarizes system-wide findings that are more extensively described in the 2015 Needs Assessment. Recommendations for the future are in large part based on these findings of the system’s strengths, challenges and future trends

SYSTEM STRENGTHS

Eugeneans value parks and recreation.

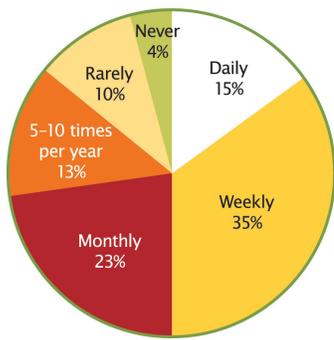
- Eugene’s parks and recreation system is beloved across the community and is considered an essential component to the community’s quality of life. Ninety percent of residents surveyed said they consider parks and recreation important to their quality of life and approximately 50% visit a recreation facility, park or natural area weekly while 75% visit monthly.

Volunteers make parks and recreation better.

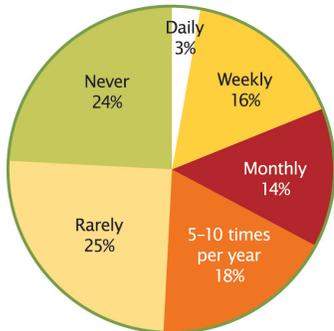
- In 2017, Recreation’s volunteer coordinator and program staff worked alongside volunteers for 40,215 hours of donated time. Some examples of volunteer opportunities include staffing the front desks at various centers, helping staff lead recreation programs for seniors and people with disabilities, role modeling for youth in classes and camps, and maintaining and repairing equipment for outdoor programs.

Eugene’s parks and recreation system is beloved across the community and is considered an essential component to the community’s quality of life.

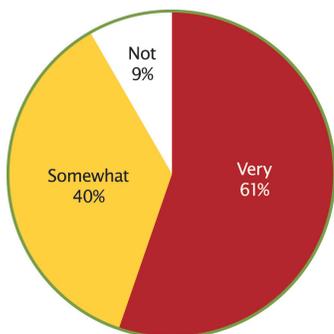
Park Visitor Usage



Recreation Facility Usage



Importance to Quality of Life



- In 2017, Eugene’s three park volunteer coordinators supported 843 volunteer events, drawing a total of 24,723 volunteer hours on projects throughout Eugene’s park system, from the ridgeline to the river, in both developed parks and natural areas.

Our park system is large, diverse and connected.

- Of the park system’s 4,780 acres, more than 3,890 acres, or 81% are natural area parks. This relatively large proportion of natural area parks is reflective of the community’s values of conservation and appreciation of the natural beauty of Oregon.
- 71 neighborhood and community parks provide close to home access for most Eugene neighborhoods.
- Three large landscape features, (the Ridgeline, the Willamette River, and Amazon Creek and associated wetlands) create connections of land and water through the community that are further enhanced with an extensive network of paths, trails and bike lanes.
- People experience Eugene’s urban forest right out their front door, with over 100,000 trees lining City streets.

Eugene Parks are Salmon-Safe!

In the summer of 2016, Salmon-Safe, an independent non-profit organization, awarded Eugene Parks and Open Space Salmon-Safe certification. The Salmon-Safe team recognized in Eugene Parks and Open Space an enthusiasm and motivation to balance the ecological needs of its park system with public use, while working within the constraints of limited budgets and the pressures of climate change.



“The best experience I had all summer.”



Recreation programs build healthy individuals and connect our community.

Recreation creates transformative experiences that build social connections and enhance the health, happiness and livability of our community. Recreation programming spans all ages and abilities, with five areas of service: Adaptive, Aquatics, Athletics, Seniors, and Youth and Family. Eugene’s Recreation Division is the predominant provider of recreational programs in the city and extends services throughout the community by partnering with more than 150 other agencies and service providers.

Survey Says!

The results are in from the October 2016 online survey of 766 residents.



87%

of you visited a park at least monthly

45%

of you frequent a community center or pool at least monthly

4 in 10 believe we should first renovate existing community centers, pools and parks.

More than **9 in 10** of you said that addressing insufficient maintenance funding for parks was important, followed closely by safety concerns.



Almost half of you believe a **new community center/pool** in Churchi

The **TOP** uses for parks are:

1. Enjoying Nature

2. Walking

3. Running

4. Hiking

5. Biking



Highest support shown for these park projects:
Increasing **walking** and **biking connections**
enhancing local waterways for recreation,
and **improving access** to the Willamette River.



ill or Santa Clara is important.

POP-UP TOUR!





SYSTEM CHALLENGES

The challenges faced by Eugene’s Parks and Recreation system are generally not new, but the magnitude of each of these issues has grown, as has the need to find solutions.

Current funding is insufficient to care for existing parks, trails, and amenities.

Two successful bond measures in 1998 and 2006 have allowed the doubling of the parks system in the last 18 years, protecting lands for public use. This additional open space is critically important as the city and population grow. While the parkland inventory has grown, maintenance funds have not kept pace to care for these additional lands.

Existing community centers and pools are outdated and too small for current and future recreation needs.

All but one of Eugene’s community centers and pools were built in the 1960s and ‘70s, when Eugene’s population was half of what it is today. Amazon Pool was built in 1957 and successfully renovated in 2001, providing a clear example of how the community benefits when an aging facility is upgraded to meet growing needs.



Parks, pools, and community centers are not equally distributed throughout the city.

The acquisition and development of parks, community centers and pools has not always kept pace with urban growth and development in newer areas of the city, including the north, west and southwest parts of Eugene. While progress has been made to acquire park land in these areas, much of it remains undeveloped due

to a lack of funding. Both the north and southwest areas lack community centers and pools.

There are safety concerns in some parks due to illegal activity and vandalism.

Illegal activities, such as camping and drug use, often deter residents from accessing the Willamette River or visiting specific parks, particularly near the urban core.



FUTURE TRENDS

Demographic, social, and environmental trends have implications on parks and recreation that should be considered when planning for the future. Eugene is changing in the following ways:

We are growing.

In 2015, Eugene's population within the Urban Growth Boundary was 185,000. Over the next 20 years, it is estimated to grow to approximately 219,000. According to the City's comprehensive planning effort, Envision Eugene, this growth will primarily occur within the existing urban area, increasing the development density of the city. As Eugene becomes a more densely populated city, parks and recreation facilities will become even more vital to the urban fabric and livability of the city.

We are becoming proportionately older.

The number of people 60 years and older is expected to increase by approximately 25 percent in the 20-year span from 2010 to 2030. There will be an increased demand for facilities, programming and activities for seniors and those with age-related disabilities. The most popular activities for Oregonians between the ages of 42 and 80 include walking and picnicking.

We are becoming more culturally diverse.

Eugene's Latino population is the fastest growing ethnic group, increasing by 260 percent between 1990 and 2007. This trend is expected to continue. Park and recreation amenities, management, programming and services will increasingly need to reflect this evolving demographic diversity to provide effective and accessible services to the entire community.

Inactivity poses health consequences.

There is a vast amount of research concerning negative health and wellness trends both across the country and locally. In Lane County, obesity is the second highest cause of preventable death (behind tobacco use). Also in Lane County, 26 percent of 8th graders and 25 percent of 11th graders are overweight or obese. Studies show that easy access to parks is associated with increased exercise levels. All community centers and pools provide extensive programs directed at health and wellness.



“Go outside and just play. Find a stick. Or a rock. And, hit another rock. Or, hit a rock with a stick.”

Economic challenges face many families.

In 2016, 22 percent of Eugene households were below the federal poverty rate. In the 2016-2017 school year, 58 percent of students in the Bethel School District and 40 percent of students in the 4J School District qualified for the free or reduced lunch program while the number of homeless students has grown for four consecutive years. In 2017, the annual count of homeless people in Lane County found 1,529 individuals, and the Egan Warming Centers in Eugene served over 1,600 individuals during 24 nights in the winter season. Accessible services to homeless, low-income and at-risk youth and families will continue to be a need in the community.

The effects of climate change will have impacts on the community.

Climate scientists project that Eugene’s climate will become hotter and drier in the summer and for

longer periods of time. Parks and trees will play key roles in creating an urban environment that is able to withstand these environmental changes, particularly as mitigation for urban heat islands. Reduced snow pack in the Cascade Mountains is expected to reduce Eugene’s available water in the summer, while more intense downpours will highlight the need for the flood control benefits of Eugene’s natural areas and waterways including Delta Ponds and Amazon Creek and its associated forests and wetlands. Storm intensity is also expected to increase, as seen in the ice storm of December 2016 and the resulting damage to Eugene’s urban forest. Another possibility for consideration is higher than expected population growth due to an influx of “climate refugees” from geographic areas that are less resilient to the effects of climate change.



THE PLAN: 30-YEAR VISION

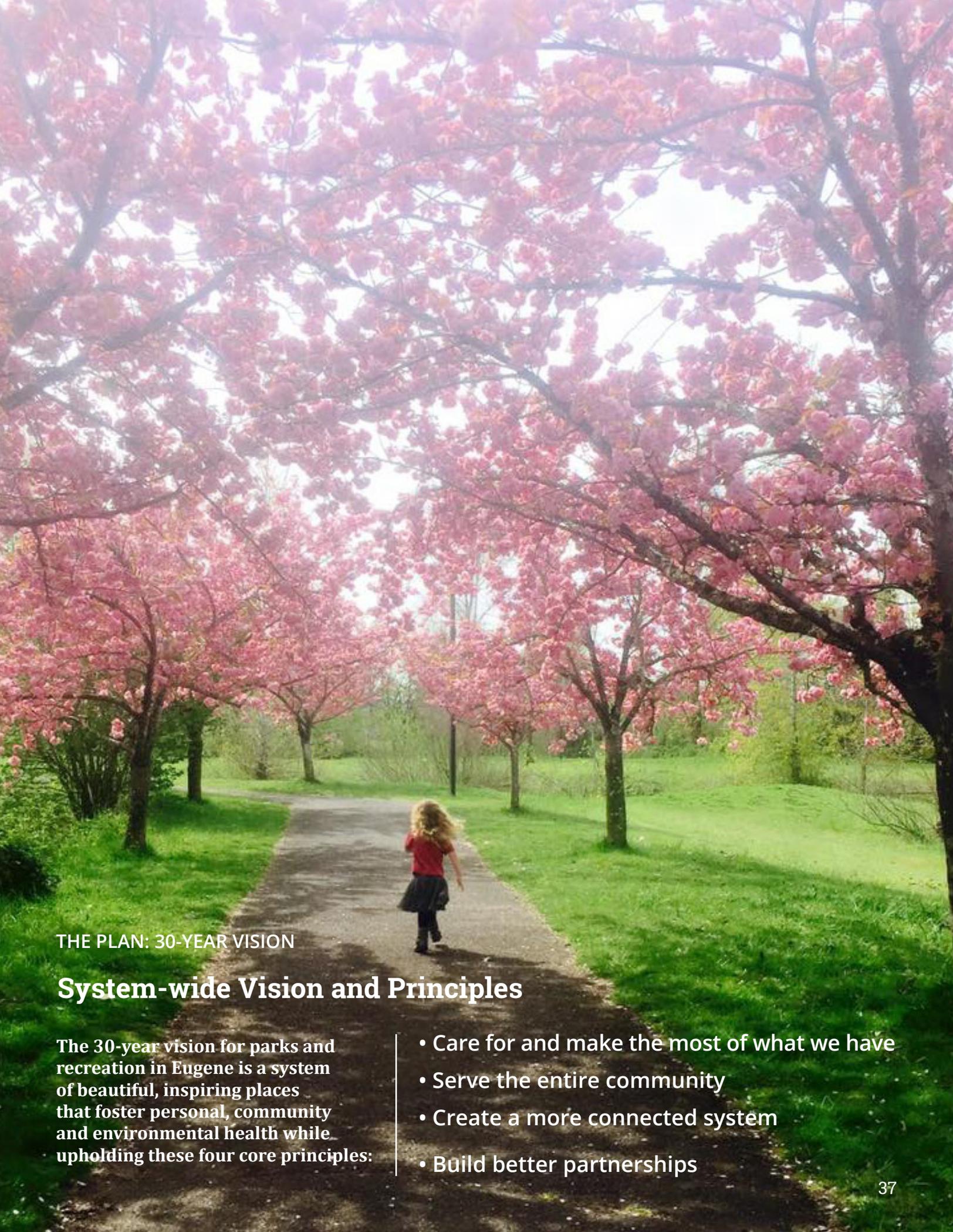


3

THE PLAN: 30-YEAR VISION

- System-wide Vision & Principles
- System-wide Goals
- Recommendations by Facility Type

- Recreation Facilities
 - Community Centers
 - Pools
 - Other Recreation Facilities
- Natural Areas
 - Habitat
 - Trails
 - River Recreation
- Developed Parks
 - Playgrounds and Spray play
 - Sports Fields
 - Courts
 - Specialty Recreation Facilities (ornamental and community gardens, dog parks, golf, disc-golf, skateparks, bicycle facilities, climbing)
 - Fundamentals (restrooms, furnishings, paved areas, lighting, trees, lawns, public art)
- Connections
 - Paths and Neighborhood Greenways
 - Green streets (street trees, landscape medians and stormwater swales)



THE PLAN: 30-YEAR VISION

System-wide Vision and Principles

The 30-year vision for parks and recreation in Eugene is a system of beautiful, inspiring places that foster personal, community and environmental health while upholding these four core principles:

- Care for and make the most of what we have
- Serve the entire community
- Create a more connected system
- Build better partnerships



System-wide Goals

Each of the principles is accompanied by goals that further define the vision.



Care for and make the most of what we have

1.

Secure sustainable funding to maintain existing parks and allow for future growth of the parks and recreation system.

2.

Secure sustainable funding to improve security and reduce illicit activities such as encampments and dumping, vandalism and graffiti.

3.

Renovate and expand existing community centers and pools to meet Eugene's growing population and recreational programming trends, while consolidating facilities, partnering with other agencies, and improving energy efficiency where possible.

4.

Reinvest in existing parks throughout the city that are in need of enhancement, restoration, or repair.

5.

Re-energize downtown open spaces and enhance our connection to the arts, to our local economy and to each other.



Project spotlight: Echo Hollow Pool

With roots that are based on a historic partnership with Bethel School District, the future renovation of Echo Hollow Pool will create a facility that increases its versatility of service and overall value to west Eugene residents and the entire Bethel community. Renovations could include the addition of outdoor recreation amenities, such as a water slide, zero-depth pool, spray play features and a lazy river. Pool renovations would also include redesigning the broken bulkhead that separates the two main tanks, reestablishing the flexible programming for lap swimmers and use by competitive swim teams while also increasing capacity for fitness classes and water polo. Equally important renovation components include addressing all condition deficiencies such as boilers, plumbing, electrical, all of which will improve energy efficiency. Finally, upgrades to the entry lobby, locker rooms and dry land fitness areas will make this facility a true gem in serving youth and families in the hub of Bethel, between Willamette High School and Cascade Middle School.



Project spotlight: Alton Baker Park

In the heart of Eugene-Springfield along the north bank of the Willamette River lies 402 acre Alton Baker Park. Despite its outdated infrastructure and facilities, Alton Baker is one of Eugene's busiest parks where people gather together for citywide festivals, concerts, events and races. The park is comprised of both large developed and natural areas, has a long, interesting history, and is due for a major overhaul to address the ever increasing demands upon it. A public process and update of the 1996 master plan will be the first step towards substantial new investments that take advantage of its riverfront location and proximity to downtown, to create a metropolitan park worthy of our community.



Serve the entire community:

6.

Build new multi-purpose community centers and pools in areas of town that are currently unserved (Santa Clara and Southwest Eugene), partnering with other agencies when feasible.

7.

Acquire and develop neighborhood and community parks and amenities in areas that are underserved.

8.

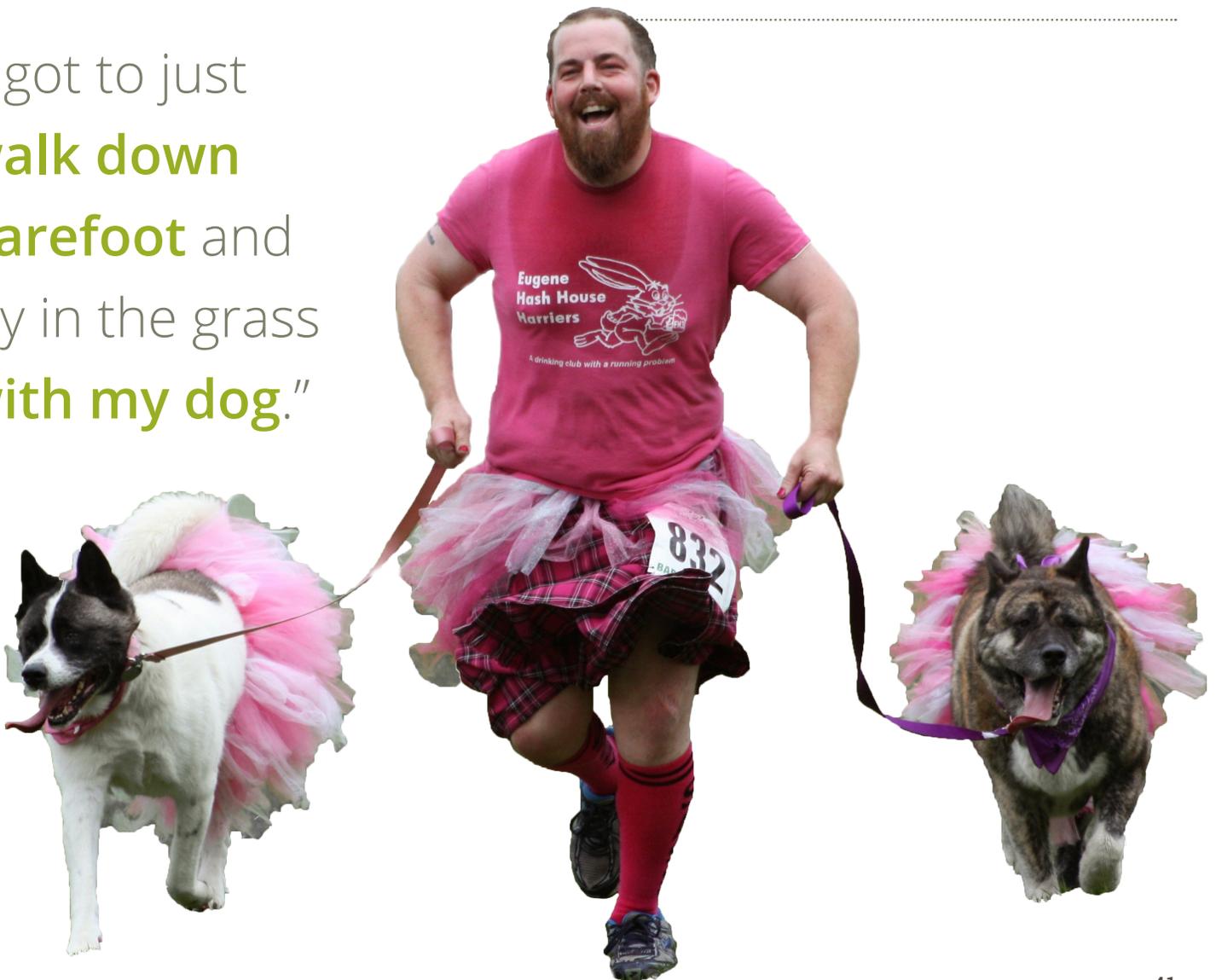
Build facilities that welcome all Eugeneans such as inclusive play areas, fitness stations and multi-cultural amenities.



Project spotlight: New Multi-Purpose Community Center and Pool

Multi-Purpose facilities are designed to increase the level of activity that is traditionally found in community centers. Such facilities provide programming for all ages and include a variety of spaces for classes, meetings, special events, and youth camps. They also include an aquatics component that complements dry land fitness spaces, and even incorporate a branch library. The greatest effectiveness occurs when a multi-purpose recreation facility is located next to a school and is part of a community-school partnership that is designed to share resources and elevate the neighborhood hub of activities.

“I got to just
**walk down
barefoot** and
lay in the grass
with my dog.”





“I get to see lots
of happy hikers.”

Create more connections:

- 9.** Connect Eugeneans to the water with improved access to the Willamette River for wading, fishing, paddling and nature viewing. Enhance paddling opportunities in the Alton Baker Park Canoe Canal and along lower Amazon Creek.
- 10.** Fill in the gaps to form an interconnected open space system, including pivotal acquisitions along the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers, the Ridgeline Trail, a northern “farm belt” path, and regional connections to Mt. Pisgah and Fern Ridge Reservoir.
- 11.** Make every doorstep a trailhead by providing safe and pleasant walking and cycling experiences on paths and city streets throughout Eugene (Neighborhood Greenways).
- 12.** Further the parks and recreation system’s capacity to serve as critical infrastructure for clean air, clean water, flood control, carbon sequestration, and climate resilience.



Project spotlight: Willamette River Access

Public surveys show people are excited about accessing the Willamette River. Envision a suite of places to access the Willamette for a wide range of activities including wading, wildlife watching, boating, fishing, or just relaxing by the river with friends and family. These places will provide experiences for users of different abilities and interests while prioritizing the beauty and nature of the Willamette.



Project spotlight: Ridgeline Trail

The existing Ridgeline Trail System provides the community access to some of Eugene’s natural and recreational treasures. The ultimate vision for the Ridgeline is a connected system of trails stretching from Fern Ridge Reservoir to Howard Buford Recreation Area. The trail includes pedestrian only and shared bike-pedestrian trails. The trail passes through wetlands and upland prairie, oak woodlands, and Douglas-fir forests. Along the way, visitors cross small, headwater streams and catch glimpses of the Coast Range, Coburg Hills, the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette, and the Cascade foothills.



“The City of Eugene is an essential component of our BEST Afterschool Program in School District 4J by providing high quality staff and enrichment activities for our lowest income schools. When students stay in school, do well and continue onto a path to success, everyone in Eugene benefits.”

– Molly LaJoie, Eugene 4J School District



Build better partnerships:

- 13. Work towards a community-school model that brings multiple agencies and service providers together to ensure kids and families have what they need to be successful in school and in life.
- 14. Leverage private and public partnerships to build a sports field complex that will accommodate growing local demands, while also hosting regional tournaments that increase community economic prosperity.
- 15. Leverage public dollars with private dollars through sponsorships, endowments, and new revenue-generating facilities.
- 16. Partner with non-profits, neighborhoods and service groups to enhance the value of parks and recreation assets, programs and services while building community.

Approximately 300 individual projects of various types and scales are recommended to help us achieve our system-wide vision and goals over the next 30 years. Projects include new or renovated recreation facilities, trail and path construction, park development, habitat restoration, infrastructure projects, and land acquisition for future parks. A full listing of the individual proposed projects, including priorities and cost estimates, is included in Appendix A.



Project spotlight: Multi-Use Sports Complex

Fortunately, when considering the health of youth, participation in organized sports continues to grow. Unfortunately, Eugene is struggling to build enough facilities to meet those growing needs. Also growing is the time and expense for local teams to travel around the state to play in regional tournaments. The most effective solution for the community is to build a multi-use sports complex that will not only meet local need for field space, it will allow Eugene to host youth and adult tournaments, increasing the economic prosperity of the community. The sports complex is proposed to be built in phases, eventually providing 10-12 diamond fields and 4-6 rectangle fields, all with multiple use design features.



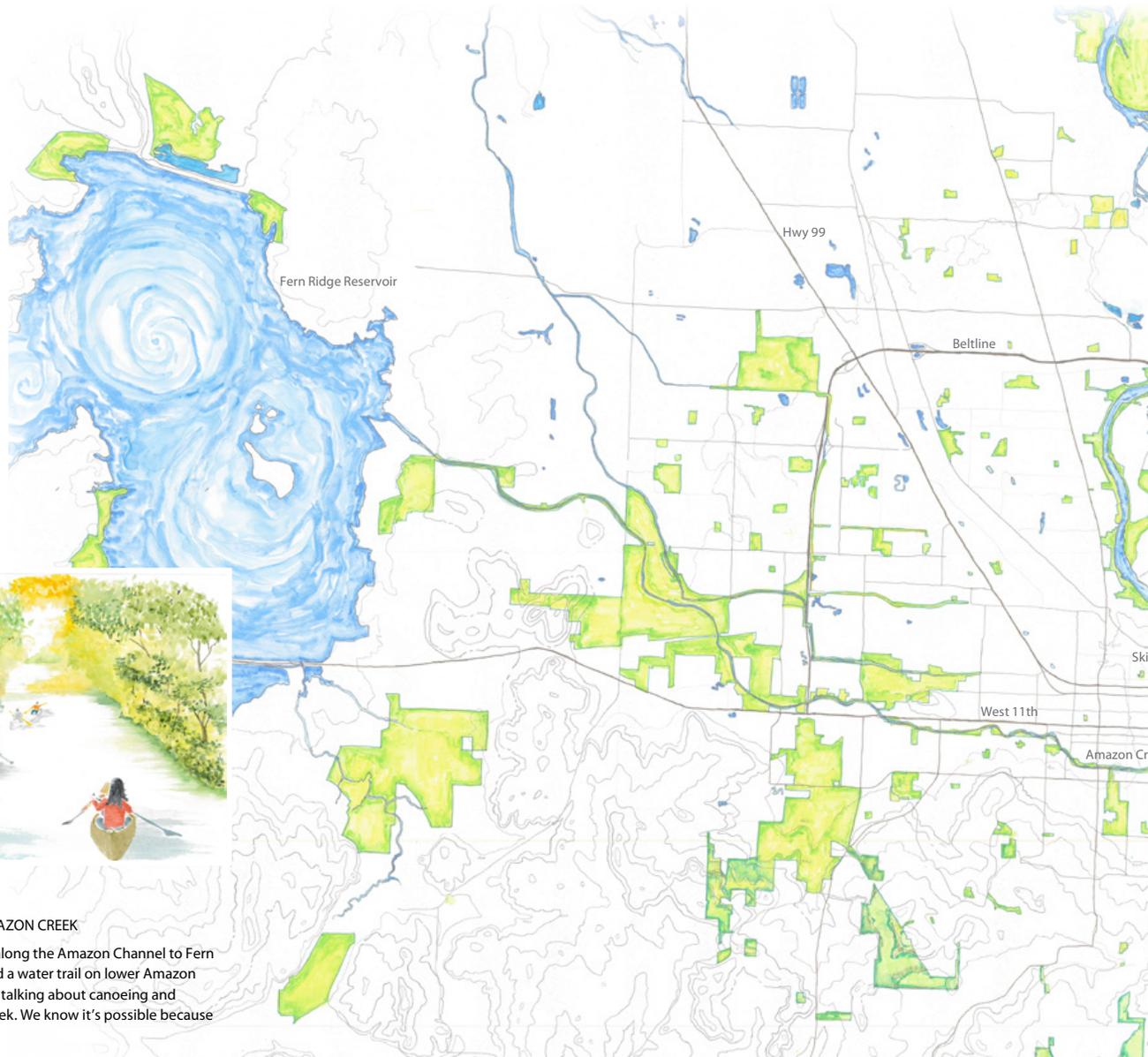
Project spotlight: The Eugene Parks Foundation

Established in 2005, the Eugene Parks Foundation has been a critical partner for the City's Parks and Open Space capital program and recreation programming. With a passion for our community's green spaces as well as the health and wellness of our community, the Foundation has helped to raise over half a million dollars in the last 12 years to fund large capital projects, recreation scholarships, and ongoing repairs and renovations throughout Eugene's park and trail systems. Projects they've worked on include the wayfinding along the marquee Ruth Bascom Riverbank Path, the WJ Skatepark, Washington Park Spray Play, and most recently, the renovation of Amazon Park Playground. Recreation scholarships have been essential to help with programming in many of these parks, particularly the WJ Skatepark over the last several years.

Creating a Vision

 
BUILD AN EPIC SPORTS FIELD COMPLEX

Eugene lacks a facility with multiple fields that can accommodate both daily play and local and regional tournaments. A sports complex, potentially located at Golden Gardens, would also provide needed revenue and support tourism. A market study is underway in collaboration with Travel Lane County and Willamalane.



 
PEDAL AND PADDLE AMAZON CREEK

Extend Fern Ridge Path along the Amazon Channel to Fern Ridge Reservoir and build a water trail on lower Amazon Creek. That's right, we're talking about canoeing and kayaking on Amazon Creek. We know it's possible because we've done it!



 
ADVENTURES AWAIT AT SUZANNE ARLIE PARK

Our largest park with over 500 acres offers a unique opportunity for nature-based recreation. Possibilities include: mountain biking, hiking, a canopy walk, outdoor education, group camping and more. A community engagement process is currently underway.



 
PROVIDE POOLS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS FOR ALL EUGENEANS

Invest in new community center and pool facilities in southwest Eugene and Santa Clara to the north. Explore locations and potential partnerships with other community organizations to leverage resources and limit capital and operational costs as much as possible.

  
BRING COMMUNITY CENTERS AND POOLS INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Reinvest in existing community centers and pools to meet Eugene's growing population; consolidate facilities for operational efficiencies and add energy efficiencies.

  
FIX WHAT'S BROKEN

Reinvest in existing neighborhood and community parks and natural areas throughout the city that are in need of repair; renovate specialty facilities, such as community gardens, tennis courts and sports fields.



GROW RIVERFRONT PARK SYSTEM IN NORTH EUGENE

Continue to work toward a long-range goal of acquiring property on the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers, north of Beltline. Much of this property is currently in active sand and gravel mining operations that are expected to continue for many years into the future, but one day, could be reclaimed to improve fish and wildlife habitat and increase recreation opportunities and access to nature for residents in north Eugene.



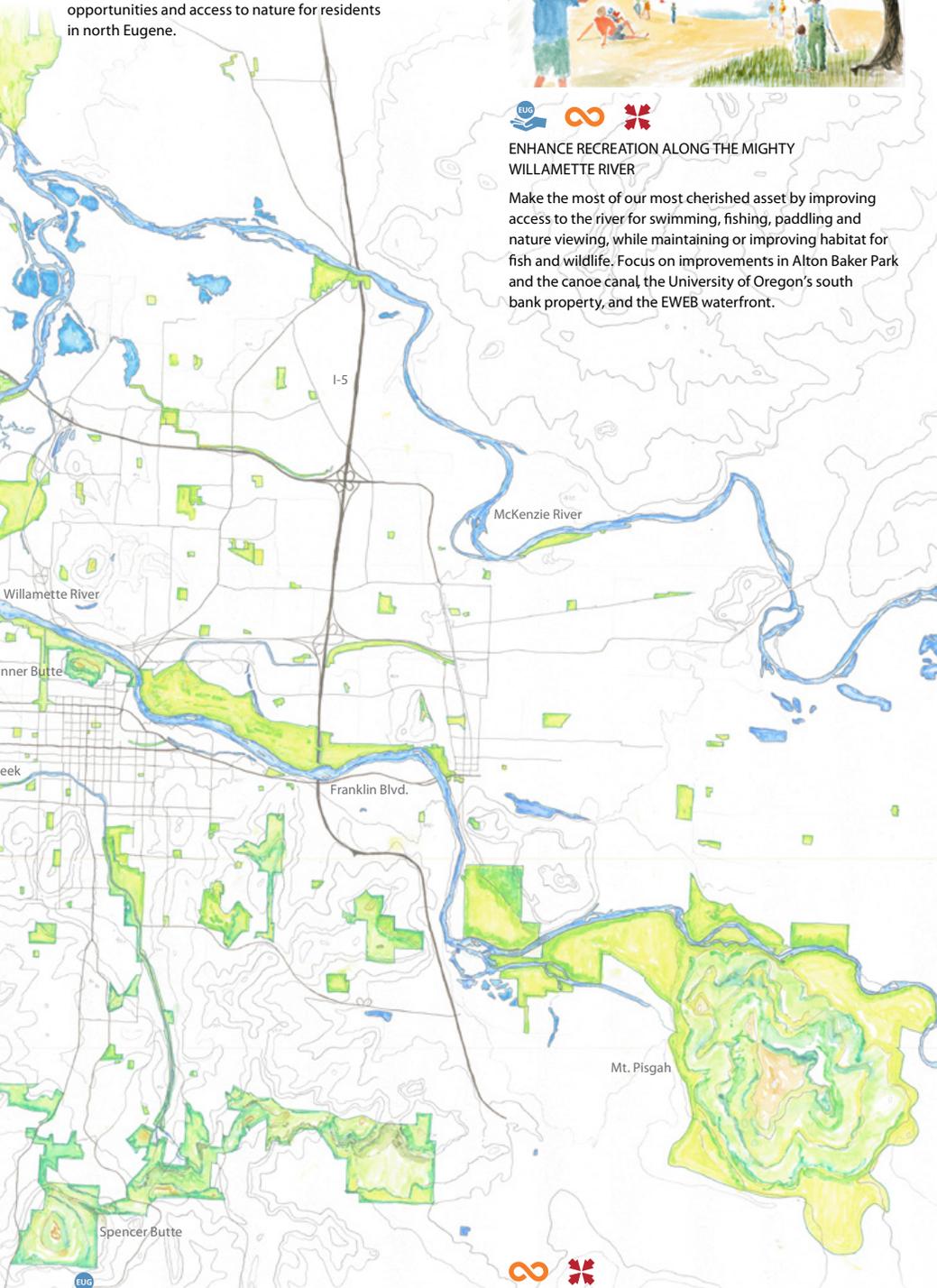
ENHANCE RECREATION ALONG THE MIGHTY WILLAMETTE RIVER

Make the most of our most cherished asset by improving access to the river for swimming, fishing, paddling and nature viewing, while maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife. Focus on improvements in Alton Baker Park and the canoe canal, the University of Oregon's south bank property, and the EWEW waterfront.



TURN VACANT PARK SITES INTO VIBRANT PLACES THROUGHOUT EUGENE

Invest in new neighborhood and community parks on land already owned in underserved neighborhoods throughout the city, and add specialty facilities, such as community gardens, spray play and dog parks, where appropriate. Continue neighborhood park acquisition efforts in underserved areas.



MAKE EVERY DOORSTEP A TRAILHEAD

Increase access to nature and improve opportunities for healthy recreation in all corners of the community by expanding the current path system along the Willamette River, the Ridgeline and Amazon Creek, and make regional connections to Springfield and beyond. Provide a safer and more enjoyable walking and biking experience on low-volume residential streets with enhanced street crossings, traffic calming, signage, street trees, stormwater swales and seating and make connections to area paths, trails, parks, schools and other destinations.



RE-ENERGIZE DOWNTOWN OPEN SPACES

Enhance our connection to the arts, to our local economy and to each other with vibrant and active downtown open spaces. Urban parks and recreation can bring more beauty and nature to our downtown, making it a livable, family-friendly neighborhood and an inviting destination for the entire community.

SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON PARK SAFETY

Take a multi-pronged approach to improving safety by increasing security through park hosts, ambassadors or rangers; provide more programming and activation; add lighting; and selectively remove vegetation to improve visibility.



ROLL OUT THE WELCOME MAT

Ensure that all parks and recreation facilities are welcoming for all Eugeneans. Considerations, such as bi-lingual signage, fully accessible play areas, fitness stations and amenities become the norm.



COMPLETE THE RIVERS TO RIDGES VISION

Acquire the remaining pivotal pieces to connect Fern Ridge Reservoir to Mt. Pisgah. Build trails and trailheads and enhance the habitat value of acquired lands.



STRETCH THE PUBLIC DOLLAR

Pursuing multiple approaches to address the Parks and Recreation system funding needs is essential, as is more robust financial partnerships. Potential options include: partnering with businesses to sponsor facilities, programs or events; endowments for ongoing maintenance; and new revenue-generating facilities.



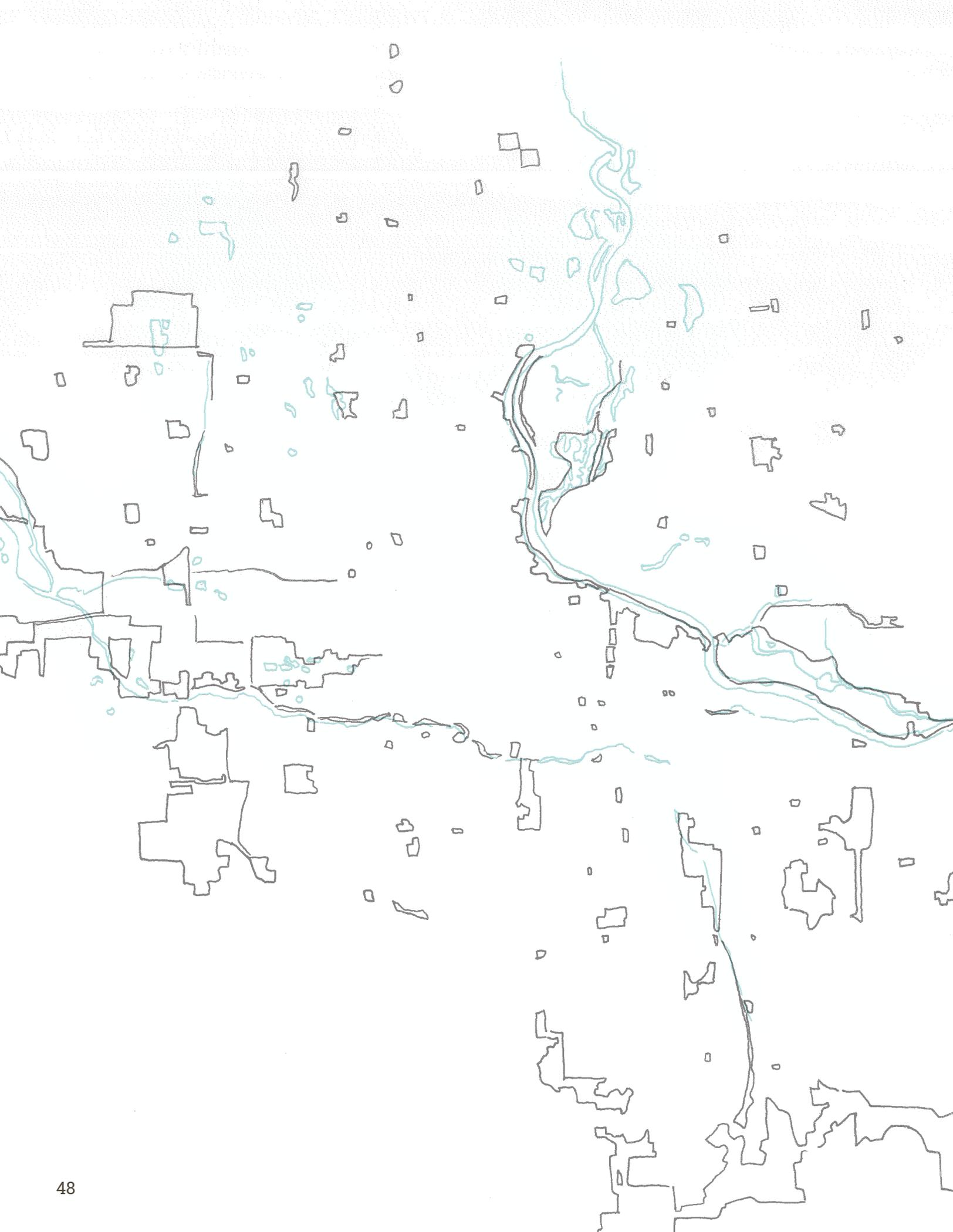
CREATE NEIGHBORHOOD HUBS FOR KIDS

Work with other agencies and service providers to develop a Community School model of service delivery. Community Schools are full-service neighborhood hubs that bring multiple agencies and service providers together under one roof to ensure kids and families have what they need to be successful in school and in life.



SOLVE DECADES-LONG DILEMMA OF MAINTENANCE FUNDING

Identify and secure a sustainable funding source to maintain existing parks and the 17+ park sites that currently sit vacant.



Recommendations by Facility Type

This section takes a more detailed look at the current and proposed facilities, including a description of existing conditions, trends and research, and recommended actions in the following categories:



Recreation Facilities

- Community Centers
- Pools
- Other Recreation Facilities



Natural Areas

- Habitat
- Trails
- River Access



Developed Parks

- Playgrounds and Spray Play
- Sports Fields
- Courts
- Specialty Recreation Facilities (ornamental and community gardens, dog parks, golf, disc-golf, skateparks, bicycle facilities, climbing)
- Fundamentals (restrooms, furnishings, paved areas, lighting, trees, lawns, public art)



Connections

- Paths and Neighborhood Greenways
- Green Streets (street trees, landscape medians and stormwater swales)



Recreation Facilities

Eugene’s inventory of community centers and pools consists of a unique collection of facilities that were created through community initiatives, partnership opportunities, and the good will of residents. Facilities range from those that were donated such as Campbell Center, Petersen Barn and the River House, to those that were built from the 1966 bond measure such as the Sheldon complex, Echo Hollow pool, and Amazon center. Throughout the years of providing service to all members of the community, these recreation facilities have become a reflection of the people they serve. Some of the aging recreation facilities are no longer staffed and programed as community centers, but have continued to be a valuable resource in serving partnership organizations that continue to enrich Eugene’s diverse community.

The recreation programming that exists specifically within each recreation facility is dynamic and cannot be comprehensively defined in a 10 to 30 year plan, thus they are not identified in this Plan. Trends in recreation programming and specific strategies will continue to be identified in the ongoing *Recreation Strategic Guide and Service Profiles* of the five Recreation Service Areas.

Eugene’s community centers and pools consist of a unique collection of facilities that were created through community initiatives, partnership opportunities, and the good will of residents.



COMMUNITY CENTERS

Eugene currently offers six staffed community centers and seven other unique facilities that are either leased to organizations or available for rental or events. Community centers host recreation programs, community events and meetings, and function as hubs for all recreation programming and services throughout the city.

Most of Eugene’s community centers are over 50 years old, and as a result, are in need of rehabilitation, are costly to maintain, and do not have the capacity or the flexibility to meet the evolving recreational needs of the community.

In comparison to other communities in our benchmarking study, Eugene’s community centers are much smaller and older.

Trends and Research

Nationally, recent constructed multi-use centers include three primary components: A) a pool area usually with both competitive and leisure amenities, B) a multipurpose gymnasium space and C) a weight/ cardiovascular equipment area. In addition, most centers also have group exercise rooms, drop-in childcare, and multiple classrooms and/or community spaces. These trends reflect a recognized need for classes, meeting rooms and space that is more adaptive and flexible to people’s busy schedules.

Indoor gyms in Eugene are almost exclusively provided by the 4J and Bethel School Districts. While the Lane County Fairgrounds also provides space for youth volleyball and basketball, middle school and high school gymnasiums are the primary facilities. These spaces are in high demand for high school teams, youth club teams, and youth and adult community leagues. Kidsport’s



proposal to construct a field house at the Civic Stadium site is in response to this need. Other gym space in the region is provided by the YMCA, the University of Oregon Student Recreation Center, River Road Parks and Recreation District, and the Willamalane Center for Sports and Recreation.

Recommended Actions

- Incorporate new and expanded gymnasium space into community centers.
- Incorporate branch library services into community centers to create operational efficiencies and enhance the community connection to a wider variety of services, increasing educational, social and creative programming.

Petersen Barn Community Center



Petersen Barn Community Center

Petersen Barn Community Center is a converted dairy barn situated in Petersen Park in Bethel neighborhood in west Eugene. Constructed in 1933 and renovated twice, The Barn was donated to the City by the Petersen family in 1976. This community center serves all ages with activities for preschoolers through seniors. Bethel residents enjoy the history and charm of this facility and see it as the neighborhood hub for special events, multicultural activities, classes and community gatherings. It also is home to the Teen Court program and Fun For All programs. Given the design and age of this small facility, there are significant limitations to adequately serve this growing community.

Recommended Actions: Expand and Remodel

- Add 4,300 square foot of classrooms, support space, storage, and renovated kitchen
- Add 5,000 square foot branch Library
- Add parking
- Address existing condition issues:
 - Replace exterior systems including siding, doors, windows
 - Improve structure
 - Renew interior finishes
- Replace plumbing and electrical systems, equipment, and fixed furnishings



Sheldon Community Center & Pool



Sheldon Community Center

Sheldon Community Center was built in 1967 and is physically connected to Sheldon Pool, serving the Cal Young and Willakenzie neighborhoods. The center is adjacent to Sheldon Park and Sheldon High School, creating a dynamic community hub of activity. The scope of programming offers a broad range of services for ages 2 ½ through older adults and includes before and after school child-care, preschool, summer camps, art classes and fitness classes for adults and seniors. This is the only community center in the recreation system with a small gym (non-regulation size) that is used for activities such as drop-in basketball, archery and fitness classes. Program participants request more space for diverse activities and note that the building's appearance is dated. Significant renovation that includes equipment replacement, upgrading structural inadequacies, and connecting the entry lobby with the pool will create a more functional and efficient multipurpose center.

Recommended Actions: Expand, Remodel and Consolidate with Sheldon Pool

- Add 5,000 square foot branch library
- Add 11,000 square foot of classroom support, reception space, storage and renovated kitchen
- Expand existing gym by 7,000 square feet
- Address existing condition issues
 - Renew interior finishes including ceilings
 - Replace original domestic water and sanitary lines, plumbing fixtures, HVAC, electrical systems, roof, equipment and fixed furnishings



Campbell Community Center

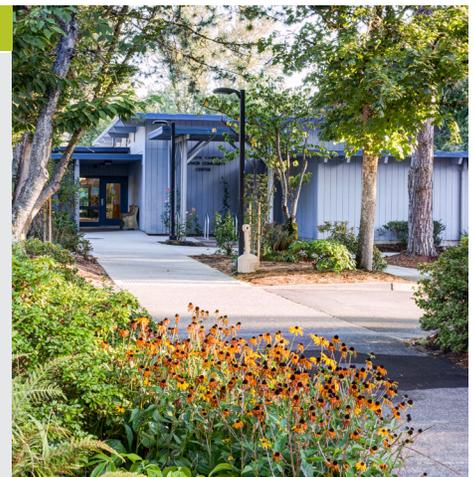


Campbell Community Center

When it was built in 1962, the Celeste Campbell Senior Center was one of the first senior centers on the west coast. This bustling center has become the primary provider of senior and older adult programming and services for the City of Eugene. Programming space is in high demand and often crowded. The facility counts a full sized woodshop, a computer lab, an art studio, and a recently renovated commercial grade kitchen as several of the unique amenities to the center. Situated on the banks of the Willamette River, the patio and garden areas are popular locations for weddings and special events.

Recommended Actions: Expand and Remodel

- Add 8,000 square foot fitness center and movement space
- Renovate and add 2,100-square foot lobby and reception area and programming space.
- Address existing condition issues
 - Renew interior finishes and systems, including ceilings and doors
 - Replace plumbing, electrical and fire protection systems, heating equipment, exterior siding exterior finishes, equipment and fixed furnishings



River House Outdoor Center



River House Outdoor Program

The River House Outdoor Center is located in the Whiteaker neighborhood along the Ruth Bascom Riverbank Path and the Willamette River. The main building is a 1920 two-story house that operates as the community center and includes staff offices, one small classroom, kitchen, equipment storage and lobby. The secondary structure is the canoe barn built in 1970 to store a large assortment of outdoor program equipment. This program area serves school age youth, teens, adults and seniors throughout the broader Eugene-Springfield community. The center focuses on environmental education, skill building and outdoor experiences in rafting, kayaking, sailing, bicycling, climbing, paddle boarding, surfing and more. Staff also manage the unique Spencer Butte Challenge Course. Given the growing demand for outdoor recreation services, this facility does not provide adequate space for instructional classrooms, equipment storage or parking.

Recommended Actions: Expand and Remodel

- Add 7,200 square feet, including classroom and kitchen space, gear storage, community rooms, and outdoor program space
- Expand parking
- Address existing condition issues
 - Renew interior finishes
 - Replace doors and windows of canoe storage





Hilyard Community Center

Home to Eugene’s internationally recognized Adaptive Recreation Services, this award winning facility is fully ADA accessible and was state of the art when it was built in 1990. The innovative barrier free design includes no curb cuts, assisted listening systems, a disability friendly kitchen, and art and amenities designed by and for people with disabilities. This center hosts a full complement of therapeutic recreation programs for patrons and a diverse assortment of community partner groups, including indoor and outdoor spaces and adapted equipment rentals. It has also become a prime choice for public rentals and town hall meetings.

Recommended Actions: Address Existing Condition Issues

- Replace ceiling
- Renew interior finishes, including fixed furniture and equipment
- Renew or upgrade security and communications systems



Amazon Community Center

Built in 1973, Amazon Community Center is located in Amazon Park and is part of a larger complex of recreation facilities in south Eugene. The facility has three separate buildings, connected by a covered walkway. Each building offers a full range of activities and spaces for classes, meetings and community gatherings. Programming is geared for people of all ages and includes activities such as trips for older adults, summer camps, preschool, ceramics studio, movement classes, teen leadership, and multicultural activities. Patrons enjoy the neighborhood feel and diversity of programs offered but are limited by the age of the equipment and size of the rooms.

Recommended Actions: Expand and Remodel

Alternative A:

- Add 10,000 square feet of classrooms, ceramics lab, storage, reception & support spaces
- Add 6,000 square foot new gym
 - Renovate kitchen
 - Address existing condition issues
 - Repair foundation issues
 - Renew all interior finishes and systems
 - Replace or renew all exterior systems, including roofs, doors, windows
 - Replace plumbing, HVAC and electrical systems, equipment and fixed furnishings

Alternative B:

- Demolish Amazon Community Center and Expand and Remodel Hilyard Community Center
- Add 19,000 square feet of classrooms, lobby, offices, multi-purpose room, bathrooms, fitness room, and gymnasium to existing Hilyard Community Center footprint.

Future Multi-purpose Community Center & Pool



New Multi-purpose Recreation Facilities

The two areas of Eugene that continue to be unserved by community centers or pools are in southwest and northwest Eugene. In looking ahead, there is significant opportunity to collaborate with 4j School District and build new multi-purpose facilities located near pre-existing schools in both of these areas, creating service hubs that greatly benefit the surrounding neighborhoods.

Recommended Actions

Build New Multi-Purpose Facility in Santa Clara next to Madison Middle School

- Build new 33,000 square foot community center with multiple classrooms, meeting rooms, large fitness spaces and a branch library.
- Build new 21,000 square foot indoor pool with 25 meter lap pool, fitness space and recreational amenities.
- Build new 38,000 square foot parking lot

Build New Multi-Purpose Facility in Churchill Region near Churchill High School and Kennedy Middle School

- Build new 33,000 square foot community center with multiple classrooms, meeting rooms, large fitness spaces and a branch library.
- Build new 44,000 square foot indoor pool with 50 meter, 8 lane competitive pool, fitness space and recreational amenities.
- Build new 38,000 square foot parking lot



Why Our Parks and Recreation Matter...

"I completed my 14th year as a volunteer ski instructor with the program, which was also the 14th year as a participant for one of my sons and the 12th for another son. Both have cerebral palsy. The Morgan family is intensely appreciative of all the program means to us, and so thankful for all it brings to a large group of disabled people who get to participate in the magic of skiing."

– John Morgan



"I believe we can all make a difference in our environment. Through gathering at our neighborhood park and working together, we can lessen the impact of toxins on our kids, this piece of the earth and ourselves. And, we can build a stronger, more connected community while we are at it."

- Jarrell Moore, Eugene Outdoors
Volunteer at Milton Park

"Thanks to the scholarship program, my daughter has been able to do the dance classes that she looks forward to each week, and we've kept her in swim so that way she still gets to connect with those friends she's made, and keep her skills up. It's such an amazing program, and it's made ALL the difference for our family."

- Cat Tomlin



"We like to really have our kids be motivated to be involved in activities so they can be a part of the community and benefit from that."

- Juan and Dulce Ortega,
Petersen Barn
Latino Family Fun Night



POOLS

There are currently three city-owned pools: Amazon (outdoor), Sheldon (indoor), and Echo Hollow (outdoor and indoor). Amazon Pool was remodeled in 2001 and for six months of the year is the most popular swimming pool in the region. Sheldon and Echo Hollow Pools were built in 1967 and 1968 respectively. These pools are also well used and fully programmed.

Repairs, replacements and upgrades have been made to these pools over several years that enhanced energy efficiency such as installation of automated pool blankets, installation of upgraded windows and doors and improved HVAC systems. However, many essential systems such as plumbing, electrical, pool shell, equipment and furnishings are beyond their expected useful lifespan and in need of replacement. Both Echo Hollow and Sheldon Pools have no current amenities similar to those at the highly attended Amazon Pool.

Trends and Research

The recreation consulting firm, Ballard*King and Associates of Highlands Ranch, Colorado was hired to provide a business and operation audit of Eugene's aquatic facilities. As delineated in this report the biggest aquatic facility trend in the country is incorporating recreational elements such as slides, current channels ("lazy rivers"), fountains, zero depth entry, and other special water features into pool designs. By attracting larger crowds, it is estimated conservatively that recreational pool elements can

generate up to 20 to 25 percent more revenue than a comparable conventional pool without them.

Another trend is to move away from stand-alone pool facilities that only have aquatic features to more of a full-service recreation center that has fitness, sports and community based amenities in addition to a pool. This change has allowed for a better rate of cost recovery and stronger rates of use of the aquatic portion of the facility as well as the other "dry side" amenities.

Eugene's three
pools are well
used and fully
programmed.



Amazon Pool

Open seasonally for six months a year, this outdoor pool facility is the true gem of the City's Aquatic facilities. Located in the south side of town in Amazon Park, this facility provides a variety of aquatic programming and is the most popular pool in the region. Its unique features include amenities such as water slides, high diving platform and diving boards, a hot tub spa, water polo tank, and a zero depth entry multi-purpose pool with spray play features which attracts a broad segment of the community. Its large pool configuration not only hosts the often teeming seasonal recreation swims but also is the home to several swim teams in the summer and virtually the entire community of high school and club water polo teams for practices and matches in the fall.



Amazon Pool

was redesigned and expanded in 2001. In the first year after the remodel, attendance increased 77 percent — from 113,000 to nearly 200,000 pool visits. The community's interest in the pool hasn't waned since the remodel, and attendance figures continue to hold strong today.

Recommended Actions: Address Existing Condition Issues

- Convert sand play to spray play
- Replace interior finishes

Sheldon Pool



Sheldon Pool

Located next to Sheldon High School and Sheldon Community Center, this year-around indoor pool has a two pool design that features a deep diving well and lap pool which allows for both deep and shallow water fitness programming. Sheldon has been long recognized as the community's center for water fitness programs. Sheldon Pool also provides a variety of aquatic programming such as swim lessons, a fitness center, recreation swims, lap swims, and summer camps.

Recommended Actions: Expand, Remodel and Consolidate with Sheldon Community Center

- Add 8,500 square feet of expanded indoor pool, new therapy pool, spa and recreational amenities
- Renovate locker rooms
- Expand fitness center
- Expand parking
- Address existing condition issues
 - Renew all interior finishes, ceilings, and systems
 - Replace HVAC, electrical systems, pool equipment, and roof



Echo Hollow Pool & Fitness Center



Echo Hollow Pool

This uniquely designed year-round indoor/outdoor pool is situated between Willamette High School and Cascade Middle School on the west side of town. Echo Hollow provides two lap pools, a hot tub, spa, a fitness center, a meeting room and a variety of aquatic programming. Echo Hollow pool hosts seven high school and club swim teams annually. The indoor/outdoor pool configuration allows for a variety of concurrent programs.

NEW POOLS

See recommendations for new multi-purpose recreation facilities on page 59.

Recommended Actions: Expand and Remodel

- Add 20,000 square feet of outdoor recreational aquatic elements
- Add 12,000 square feet of new entrance area, classroom, and support space on upper level
- Repair/replace deck and bulkhead
- Renovate locker rooms
- Expand fitness center
- Address existing condition issues
 - Renew interior finishes
 - Replace pool water system, pool shell, pool equipment
 - Replace HVAC, electrical and fire protection systems, and fixed furnishings





OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES

The complete inventory of recreation facilities includes structures that provide critical operating space for community partners and serve Eugene in a variety of unique and purposeful ways. Some of these facilities have historic community significance. These facilities will be maintained and upgraded to continue that service:

Dr. Edwin L. Coleman Jr. Community Center (formerly Westmoreland)

Built as part of the 1966 bond measure, this small facility has operated as the home of the Emerald Valley Boys and Girls Club since a partnership agreement in 1999. This facility was renamed from Westmoreland Community Center to Dr. Edwin L. Coleman Jr. Community Center in April of 2018.

Recommended Actions: Consider expansion of the facility to increase space in the gymnasium, classrooms, multi-purpose room, lobby, reception area, and kitchen. Address existing condition deficiencies.

Wayne Morse House and Family Farm

Donated to the City of Eugene in 1976, this preserved historic home of Senator Wayne Morse offers a glimpse into the family life of Senator Morse. It also provides an opportunity for community rentals, while the large grounds and shelter serve as a location for youth summer camps.

Recommended Actions: Renew historic finishes interior and exterior. Address existing condition deficiencies.

Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House

This classic Victorian house built in 1888, is a historic landmark in Eugene. The facility is home to the Shelton-McMurphey Johnson associates as a historic site, providing cultural enrichment through unique events, tours and rental opportunities.

Recommended Actions: Renew historic finishes interior and exterior. Address existing condition deficiencies, including HVAC. Acquire additional land to preserve views of the house from downtown.

Trude Kaufman House

Built in 1908, and donated to the City of Eugene by Trude Kaufman in 1972 for use as a senior center, this historic building is currently the home to OSU Extension Services. The community program offerings include 4H, farming, gardening, nutritional education and forestry.

Recommended Actions: Address existing condition deficiencies and increase storage space.

Washington Park Neighborhood Center

Built in 1948, Eugene's very first community center is utilized by adaptive programming and summer camps, while also being available as a rental facility.

Recommended Actions: Address existing condition deficiencies including interior and exterior finishing's, HVAC, and security system.



Fred Lamb Cottage

Built in the 1920's as one of the original 3-sided camping shelters along the Willamette River this facility is now used for community rentals and some specialized classes.

Recommended Actions: Address existing condition deficiencies, including interior and exterior finishing's, HVAC, and security system.

Laurelwood Golf Course Club House and supporting buildings

Laurelwood Golf Course, which opened in 1928 as an 18-hole course, was the first golf course built in Eugene. It currently supports a 9-hole golf course and a natural area with trails known as the "back 9".

All buildings associated with Laurelwood have significant deficiencies including the club house, maintenance building, driving range, and storage areas. Investment in the club house in particular could increase revenue generation and reduce overall costs of managing the course.

Recommended Actions: Replace maintenance building and golf cart shop. Renew all interior and exterior finishing's of club house and restaurant, upgrade to commercial grade kitchen, add a south facing deck on the upper level.

New Recreation Facilities

Two new recreation facilities have been identified as a compliment to the existing parks and recreation system.

- Eugene does not have a nature education center or a rental facility capable of accommodating large social gatherings in a natural setting. A large covered pavilion with kitchen and restroom amenities and indoor/outdoor amenities could accommodate community event rentals and nature education programming. While a location has not been finalized, consideration should be given to Suzanne Arlie Park.
- Access to Eugene's many recreational offerings could be enhanced with an equipment rental facility. While all residents have free access to Eugene's paths, trails, rivers and natural areas, access to equipment needed to enjoy these areas may not be available. A community rental facility can provide affordable, safe and convenient access to outdoor equipment such as bicycles, kayaks, rafts, and inner tubes as well as safety equipment such as helmets and personal flotation devices.

New Facility Recommended Actions

Nature Education Center/Rental Facility
(Location to be determined)

- New 3,000 square foot rental pavilion with restrooms, kitchen, and 5,000 square foot outdoor patio
- 25,000 square foot parking lot

Equipment Rental Facility
(Location to be Determined)

- New 5,600 square foot equipment rental facility with reception/check out, restrooms, classroom and equipment storage
- 5,000 square foot parking lot



Natural Areas

The natural beauty of Oregon plays a significant role in the community's appreciation for Eugene's park and recreation system. Of the park system's 4,780 acres, more than 3,890 acres are considered natural areas. This relatively large proportion of natural areas is reflective of the community's values of conservation, appreciation of natural beauty and its vision for a large connected trail system. Natural areas also play a crucial role in the environmental health of our community by improving water and air quality, mitigating flooding and providing pollinator services. More equitable distribution of Eugene's natural areas is a key proposal for the future that envisions riverfront acquisitions in north Eugene as well as other key regional open space connections.

The natural beauty of our area plays a significant role in the community's appreciation for Eugene's park and recreation system.

HABITAT

Natural areas are important for people and for the many types of wildlife species that call natural areas home - from salmon to turtles, from bumblebees to butterflies, from eagles, heron and elk to cougar and bear.

Connected systems of natural areas have a particularly high ecological value and help to conserve regionally rare plants and animals. A variety of habitat types present in Eugene's park system benefit the plants, animals and people of Eugene:

- Streams, rivers and waterways (such as the Willamette River, Delta Ponds, Amazon Creek, Alton Baker Canoe Canal, Golden Gardens, and multiple smaller waterways)
- Forests and woodlands (such as a majority of the Ridgeline system Skinner Butte and Morse Family Farm)
- Wetlands (such as the West Eugene Wetland system and wetland mitigation bank sites)

- Savannas, prairies and rocky outcrops (such as large areas of the Ridgeline system, Gillespie Butte and Spencer Butte)

In addition to the areas typically identified as natural areas (such as the Ridgeline, Delta Ponds and the West Eugene Wetlands), many of Eugene's developed parks are also home to diverse and extensive habitat across all of Eugene's neighborhoods. These areas are known as Neighborhood Natural Areas and are managed for both habitat and recreation values. The 447 acres of Neighborhood Natural Areas bring nature closer to home for all Eugeneans.

Eugene Parks and Open Space prioritizes its acquisition and restoration work in natural areas using a variety of local, state, and regional conservation and recreation plans, including the *Oregon Conservation Strategy*, the *Rivers to Ridges Vision and Action Plan* and the *Recovery Plan for Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwest Washington*.



Native Plant Materials Program

The West Eugene Wetlands Native Plant Materials Program is a decades-long partnership between the City of Eugene, the Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy, which originally relied on seed collection from surrounding prairie remnants but rapidly progressed to a nursery based seed-increase program. It now provides seed of 70 to 85 wetland and upland prairie species annually for restoration on hundreds of wildland acres.

The City of Eugene also operates a Native Plant Nursery located in Alton Baker Park. The goals of the nursery are to produce native seed and other plant materials to enhance or restore native plant communities across the park system and offer the community an opportunity to learn about and contribute to the value of native plants through volunteer activities.

Recommended Actions

Existing natural areas

- Improve basic safety and maintenance at undeveloped sites by performing site stabilization: marking property boundaries, wildfire mitigation, maintenance access, fencing and invasive species management.
- Enhance management of illicit activities that occur in natural areas such as illegal camping, dumping and property encroachment.
- Given Eugene's extensive inventory of a variety of different habitat types, perform a comprehensive natural area assessment to help identify and prioritize management needs between sites.
- Perform habitat restoration and renovation activities in natural areas. See the Project List in Appendix A for specific habitat renovation recommendations.

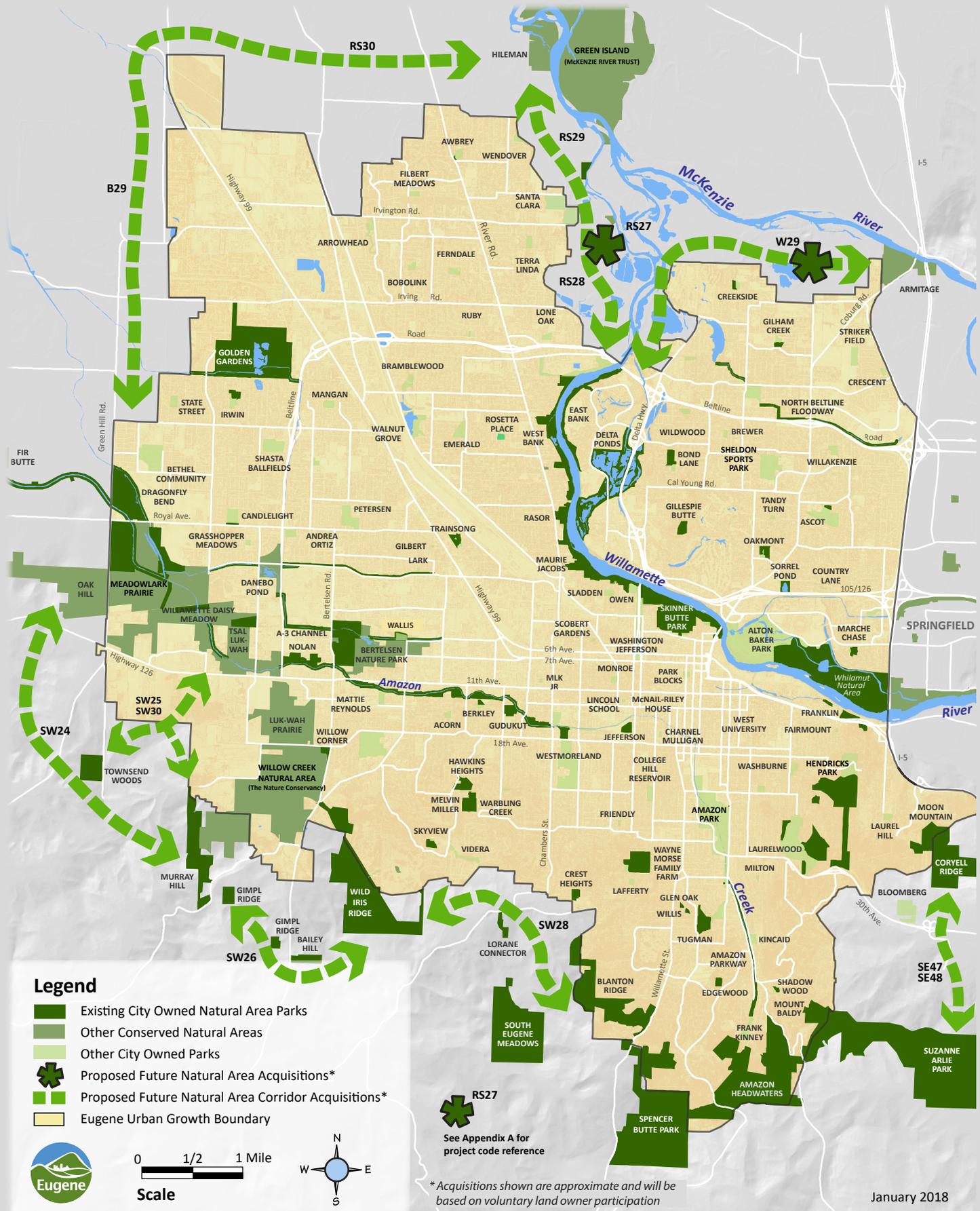
New natural areas

- It has been a long-held vision in the community to extend the Riverfront Park system north of Beltline Highway along both the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers. In addition to preserving this important river confluence for public recreation and natural resource protection, it provides neighborhoods in North Eugene with equitable access to natural areas and a network of paths and trails. Much of this land is currently used by sand and gravel mining operations that are an

important economic driver in the community. However, planning ahead for a time when those operations are complete is important to the long-term vision and aspirations of Eugene's quality of life. Both the Rivers to Ridges Vision and Action Plan and the Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan identify additional riverfront acquisitions as a long-term goal.

- Through the Rivers to Ridges partnership, a coordinated open space vision for the region exists and is being actively implemented. This partnership leverages the various partner resources for acquisition and management of natural areas throughout the region. A key component of this vision is the completion of the Ridgeline trail and park system through additional keystone acquisitions.
- The City of Eugene has owned and operated a wetland mitigation bank in west Eugene since 1995. Recognized as a leader in successful wetland restoration work by state and federal regulators, Eugene's wetland mitigation bank creates large-scale functional wetland systems that facilitate the development of smaller, less valuable wetland sites within the south Willamette Valley. This unique public/private partnership is financially self-sustaining and is planned to grow with an expansion of the bank to support *Envision Eugene*, Eugene's 20-year growth management plan.

Existing and Proposed Natural Areas Map



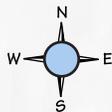
Legend

- Existing City Owned Natural Area Parks
- Other Conserved Natural Areas
- Other City Owned Parks
- Proposed Future Natural Area Acquisitions*
- Proposed Future Natural Area Corridor Acquisitions*
- Eugene Urban Growth Boundary



0 1/2 1 Mile

Scale



RS27
See Appendix A for project code reference

* Acquisitions shown are approximate and will be based on voluntary land owner participation

January 2018



TRAILS

The collective quantity and location of Eugene's off-street paved and soft-surface trails are regionally outstanding and often cited as a reason people have moved to Eugene or enjoyed their visit here. 44 miles of unpaved trails ranks Eugene third per capita when compared to similar communities. Trails are soft-surfaced and primarily used for recreation. There are a wide-variety of different types of trails, including pedestrian trails, shared-use bicycle and pedestrian trails, running trails and water trails. The 2018 Eugene Trails Plan will guide future development of all trail types, proposing 68 additional miles of unpaved trails. The trails plan is available here: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/trails>.

Eugene's paths and trails have always been popular, but more issues are cropping up such as over-crowding, user conflicts (cyclists/hikers/runners/dogs), full parking lots at trailheads, and an increase in scheduled events that periodically load trails and paths even further. The Eugene Trails Plan not only identifies an expansion of the path and trail network, but also

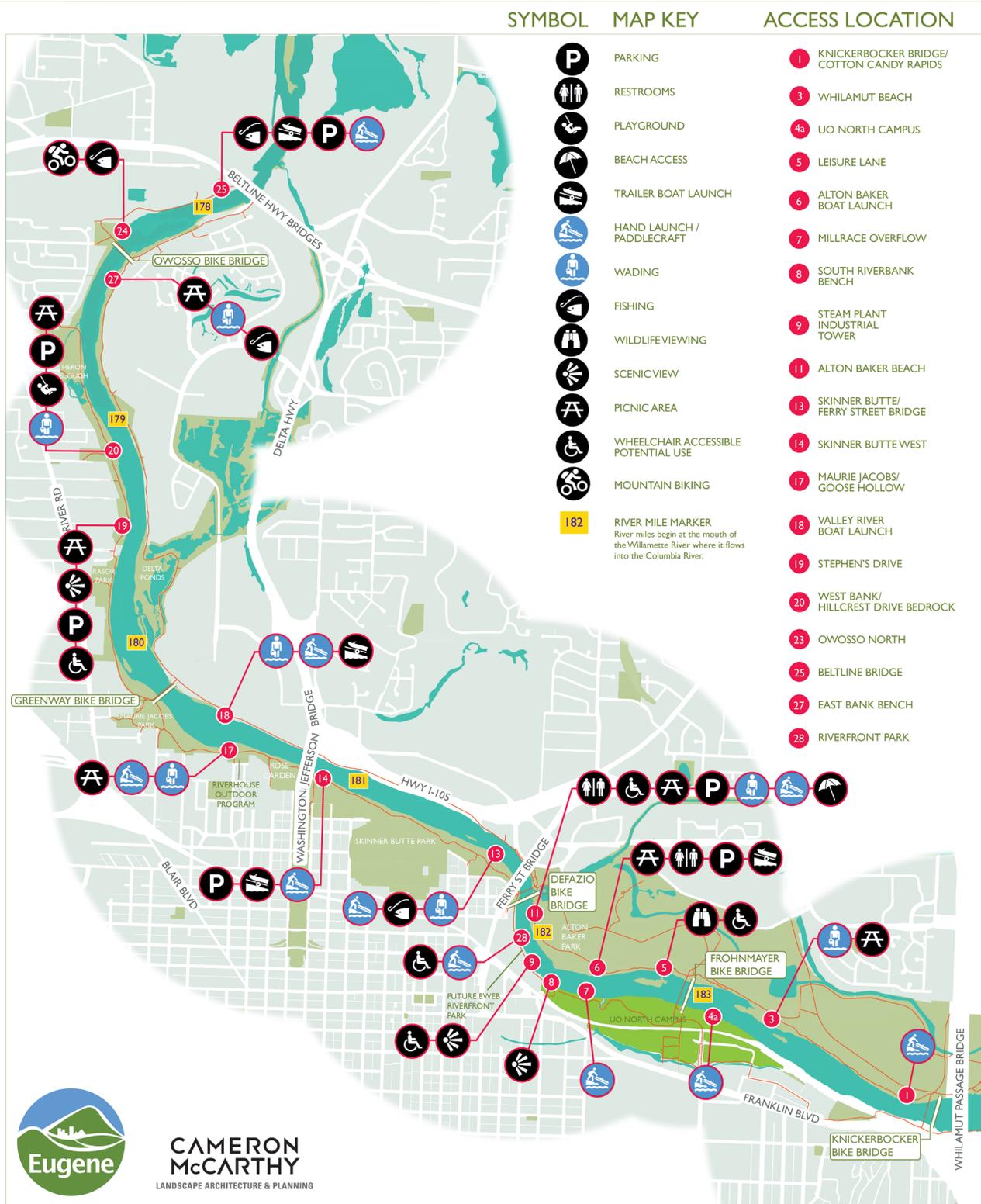
"We got dirty on the way up and then watched the sunset."

Recommended Actions

Implement the recently completed 2018 Eugene Trails Plan. This plan guides future development of unpaved trails for hiking, mountain biking, and running throughout the community, proposing 68 additional miles of soft-surface trails and providing connections. Priority trail projects include:

- Constructing a bridge to complete a barrier free loop at Delta Ponds
- Acquiring keystone acquisitions along the Ridgeline Park and Trail system to complete the connected vision.
- Extending the Ridgeline Trail through Suzanne Arlie Park for shared bicycle and pedestrian use
- Creating additional opportunities for mountain biking throughout the Ridgeline Park system.
- Replacing lights and rebuilding the heavily used running trail in Amazon Park

See the Project List in Appendix A or the Eugene Trails Plan for specific trail recommendations.



CAMERON McCARTHY
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

SYSTEM MAP

WILLAMETTE RIVERFRONT ACCESS STUDY





“There you are. Fishing.
Catching fish. On a
Thursday afternoon.”

RIVER ACCESS

With the Willamette River flowing through the middle of Eugene, touching multiple neighborhoods along the way, there is great opportunity both along its banks and in-water for increased recreation. The Ruth Bascom Riverbank Path System offers access along the river, but safe access points where one can actually touch the water and get wet are few and far between. In Eugene, there are four access points that are either formally or informally designed for launching boats. Although they are not great places for wading, fishing, or relaxing, those activities take place because there are few other options. Other river recreation spots are accessible only by the fit and the adventurous. Aside from the physical challenges, there are safety concerns associated with the large number of illicit camps concealed along the river’s edge and the hazardous materials that are often associated with them.

The Willamette River Access Study was recently undertaken to identify opportunities for in-water recreation such as wading, fishing, and paddling. Prospects along the river’s banks were also looked at for improved viewing, picnicking, and cycling. These additional recreational amenities, combined with invasive vegetation removal aimed at opening up visual access in targeted areas can have the effect of a safer and more active and vibrant riverfront. New development will balance recreational needs with conservation and enhancement of the natural riverfront.

Recommended Actions

- The Willamette River Access Study identifies recommended recreation enhancements along the Willamette River. Implement projects and recommendations identified in this plan following community engagement and additional project feasibility.
- A local, active kayaking and surfing community has long expressed an interest in establishing white water elements in Eugene. Coordinate with this group to explore technical and funding feasibility.
- Recreational paddling opportunities also occur in the Alton Baker Park Canoe Canal and lower Amazon Creek. Both these waterways should be further analyzed for potential amenities and enhancements.



DEVELOPED PARKS

Eugene’s developed parks system includes different categories of parks including Metropolitan parks, Community parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Urban Plazas. Each type of developed park fills a unique function within the larger system from hosting large community gatherings in metropolitan parks to fostering childhood social and physical development at neighborhood park playgrounds. Two primary goals are associated with developed parks: renovating existing parks that are in poor condition and developing new parks in neighborhoods that are currently unserved.

Each type of developed park fills a unique function within the larger system.

Recommended Actions

Existing Parks

- Perform enhancement and repairs of existing developed parks. See the Project List in Appendix A for specific park renovation recommendations. Within the timeframe of the 30-year plan, all parks and natural areas are expected to require some rehabilitation/renovation.
- Renovate the park blocks to bring more active uses to the downtown.
- Classify Striker Field as a community park (serving as a hybrid neighborhood/community park) without lighted ballfields and consider renaming through the park development process
- Recognize the “Nobel Peace Park” as a designated site within Alton Baker Park



“Sometimes a kid just wants to go to a park and eat an orange.”

Recommended Actions

New Parks

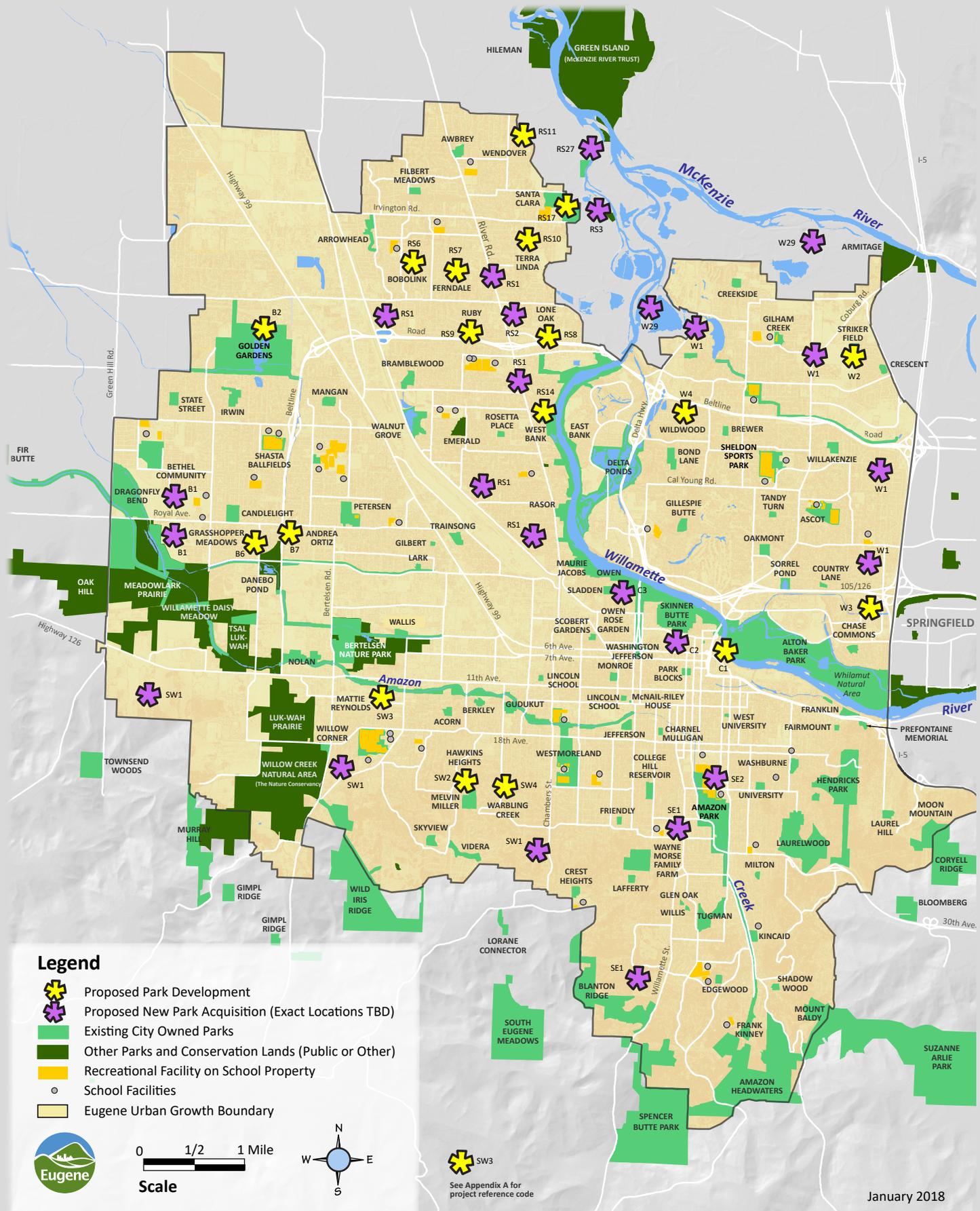
- Develop a high-quality waterfront park where downtown meets the Willamette River at the former EWEB site.
- Develop 17 sites throughout Eugene that have been acquired but not yet developed.

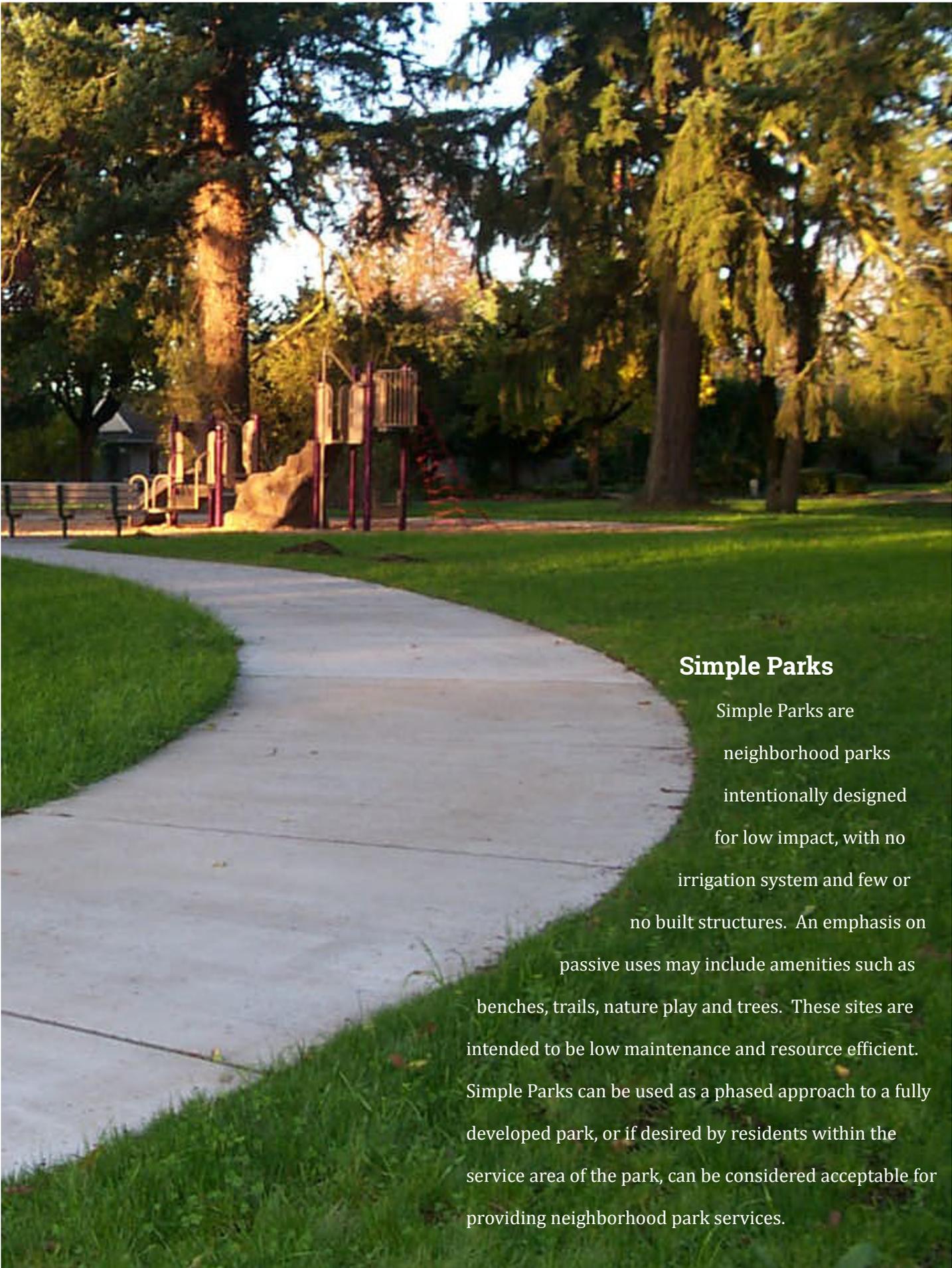
Golden Gardens	West Bank/Hillcrest Site
Grasshopper Meadows	Wendover
Andrea Ortiz	Hawkins Heights
Bobolink	Mattie Reynolds
Ferndale	Warbling Creek
Lone Oak	Chase Commons
Ruby	Striker Field
Santa Clara Community Park	Wildwood
Terra Linda	

- Acquire and develop up to 15 additional neighborhood park sites throughout Eugene. See the Project List in Appendix A for specific park acquisition recommendations.



Existing and Proposed Parks Map





Simple Parks

Simple Parks are neighborhood parks intentionally designed for low impact, with no irrigation system and few or no built structures. An emphasis on passive uses may include amenities such as benches, trails, nature play and trees. These sites are intended to be low maintenance and resource efficient. Simple Parks can be used as a phased approach to a fully developed park, or if desired by residents within the service area of the park, can be considered acceptable for providing neighborhood park services.



PLAYGROUNDS AND SPRAY PLAY

Playgrounds

Eugene currently has 52 playgrounds of a variety of scales and sizes that serve many of Eugene’s neighborhoods. Playgrounds are also provided by Bethel and 4J School District Elementary Schools and play an important role in extending the park service areas to many neighborhoods. Still, there are some neighborhoods that are not within an easy walk of a playground and many existing playgrounds that are in need of renovation.

Larger scale playgrounds are located at community parks such as Amazon and Bethel Community Parks. Eugene’s largest and most popular playground is RiverPlay in Skinner Butte Park. The Southwest, Willakenzie, and River Road/ Santa Clara planning districts do not have convenient access to a large scale playground.

In recent years, many of Eugene’s playgrounds with sand surfacing have been transitioned to woodchip or rubber surfacing. This transition is the result of changes in safety regulations (related to fall attenuation), accessibility requirements, and maintenance considerations. The popularity of sand, particularly for younger children has resulted in the incorporation of small sand play areas when funding allows.

Spray Play

Spray play is a zero-depth water feature without the safety and health concerns posed by wading pools. Accessibility is also a great benefit of barrier-free spray play features. Across the country, wading pools have been decommissioned and spray play, or spray parks, have become the new standard. Eugene currently has five spray play features at Washington, Oakmont, Fairmount, Skinner Butte, and Amazon Pool. The Southwest, Bethel, and River Road/ Santa Clara planning districts do not have convenient access to spray play.



Trends and Research

As the importance of play in child development has become better understood in recent years, the notion of playgrounds has evolved in many ways.

- Nature play is a movement that recognizes the importance of unstructured interaction with nature in child development. The goal of nature play is to create settings that encourage creative play and interaction with natural features.
- Inclusive play focuses on providing a variety of challenge levels to accommodate children of all abilities and developmental stages. Intergenerational participation is also enabled as all people of all abilities play in the same environment.
- Playgrounds are not just for kids anymore. A trend that started in Asia and Europe for building senior and multi-generational playgrounds is picking up momentum in the U.S. Aimed at keeping people of all ages healthy and active, there are also social benefits of playing with others in public settings.

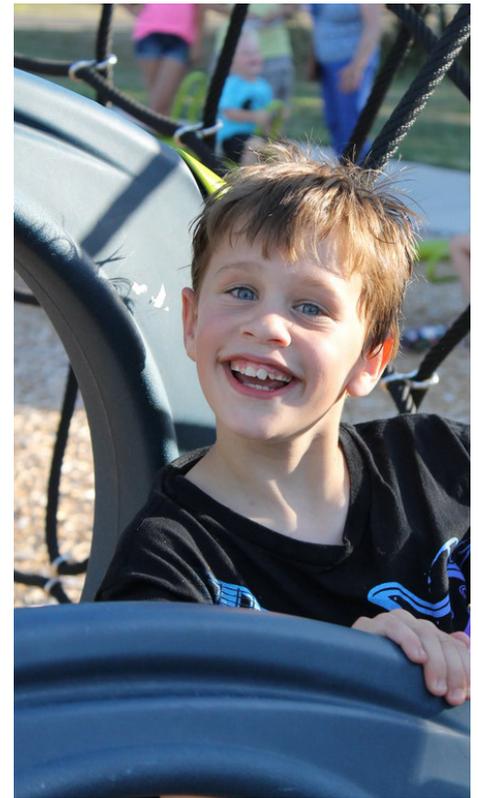
Amazon Playground is fully inclusive

The beloved playground at Amazon Park was overdue for renovation and rejuvenation after many years of heavy use and hard play. As a Community Park playground, it was decided that the renovation should go beyond the typical replacement of playground equipment and should embrace the history of the site as an ADA accessible playground. With the acquisition of a \$250,000 grant from the State of Oregon and National Parks, the City was able to bring the idea of an accessible playground into the future and create a fully inclusive playground with the installation of fully accessible surfacing. Additional inclusive features include ramps on and off the play structures and swings with back supports.



“We were park rats
dawn to dusk.”





Recommended Actions

Existing

- Update playground equipment and surfacing to current safety and accessibility standards when renovating existing parks. See the Project List in Appendix A for specific playground renovation recommendations.
- Update agreements with 4J and Bethel School Districts for public usage of school playgrounds and partner to provide renovations as needed.

New

- Build new playgrounds on each of the seventeen sites that are awaiting neighborhood and community park development.
- Build new playgrounds/ nature play on existing park sites to improve neighborhood access:
 - Echo Hollow Pool playground
 - West Bank Park playground
 - Wayne Morse Family Farm nature play
 - Hendricks Park nature play
 - Amazon Creek playground
 - Melvin Miller nature play
 - Ascot Park playground
 - East Bank Park playground
 - Gillespie Butte nature play

- Build large, community scale playgrounds in the three planning districts that currently do not have them:
 - Willakenzie (location TBD)
 - Southwest (location TBD)
 - Santa Clara Community Park
- Build spray play features in the three planning districts that currently do not have them:
 - Bethel Community Park
 - Southwest (location TBD)
 - Santa Clara Community Park
- Develop and implement a comprehensive approach to locating inclusive play, such as within community parks in each planning district.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive approach to locating multi-generational playgrounds/ fitness stations.
- Build a significant playground in the heart of downtown to encourage more families with children to live and play in the city's urban core.



SPORTS FIELDS

Serving outdoor team sports with sports fields in Eugene relies heavily on a partnership between the City and the 4J and Bethel school districts. Over the last 20 years, 11 artificial turf multi-use fields have been constructed on school property with funding from two Parks-related bond measures passed by Eugene voters, matching funding from the school districts.

Despite these improvements, the growing number of stakeholders that utilize sports fields – Kidsports, youth club sports, adult recreation leagues, and informal pick-up game participants – all have great difficulty finding adequate field space. This problem is exacerbated in the fall and spring when grass fields can become unplayable. These groups have interest in seeing more fields (multi-use, baseball and softball) added to the system, and more specifically to build a sports complex that has the additional benefit of hosting local and potentially regional tournaments. Willamalane Center has the closest multi-sport complex locally and serves many Eugene teams, but does not fully meet the metro region’s need for outdoor field space.

Trends and Research

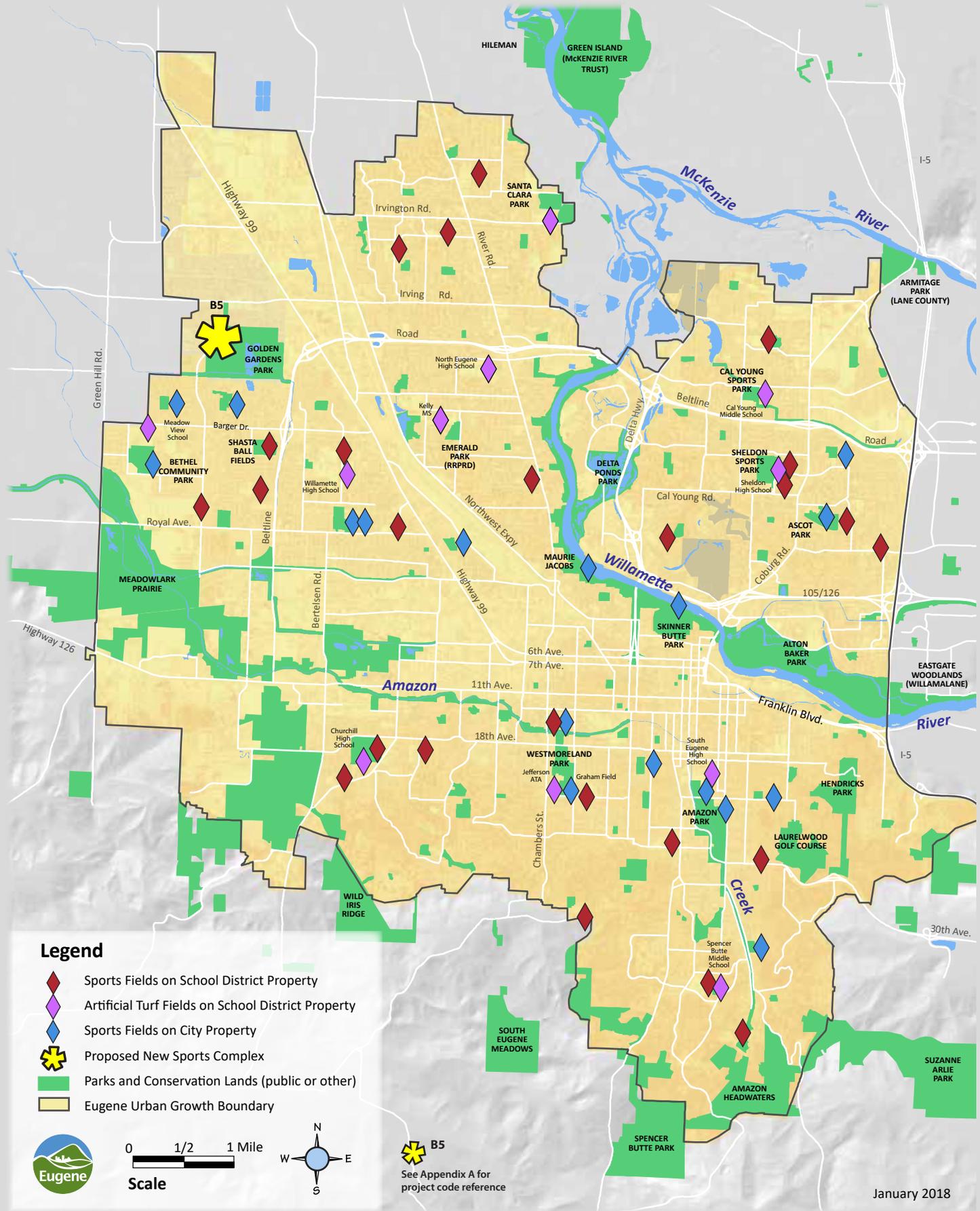
The 2017 *Feasibility Study for A Potential New Multi-Use Sports and Recreation Complex*, by Conventions, Sports, and Leisure (CSL), indicated the strong need for a sports complex in Eugene, and also identified the community benefits of such a complex. Many communities have developed multi-use sport complexes to enhance local recreation needs and to attract regional sports tournaments and tourism dollars.

Meeting the needs of local sports leagues is the primary goal, but Eugene sports teams would also spend less time and money traveling to out of town or out of state tournaments.

A complex of comparable size and design, as recommended by CSL, is located in southern Oregon. U.S. Cellular Community Park (USCCP) is a \$32 million,

Sports fields in Eugene
rely heavily on a
partnership between
the City and the 4J and
Bethel school districts.

Existing and Proposed Sports Fields Map



Eugene Sports Complex



132-acre sports complex owned and operated by the City of Medford. As identified in the 2016 Annual Report, “Since opening in May of 2008, USCCP has produced over \$79.5 million in economic impact. The estimated amount of visitor spending (\$34.6million)

has surpassed the park’s construction costs (\$32.5 million).” As identified by CSL, a component of that increased local revenue would be responsible for generating over 120 jobs.

Recommended Actions

Existing fields

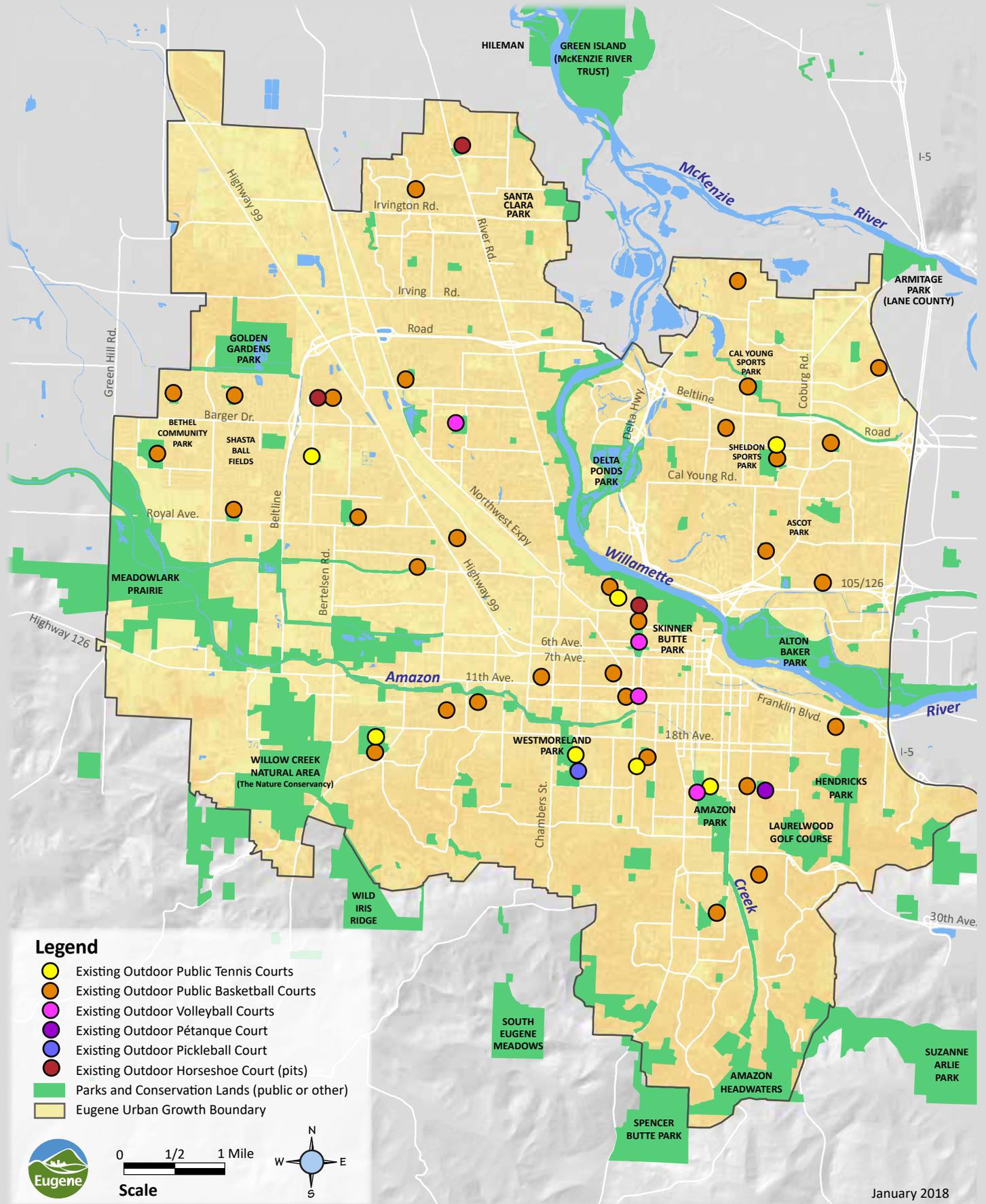
- The 11 artificial turf fields that the City and School Districts have partnered in constructing and managing pose less of a day to day maintenance responsibility than natural grass fields, but do require replacement of the carpet approximately every ten years. This is a shared expense with the school districts that requires significant renovation funds. See the Project List in Appendix A for specific turf field renovation recommendations.
- Additional sports fields throughout the system are in need of renovation, including:
 - Shasta Ballfields (managed in cooperation with Bethel School District)
 - Maurie Jacobs Field
 - Graham Fields
 - Ascot Park

- An important consideration in the scheduling of sports fields is to have “non-scheduled” times when fields are available for informal pick-up games. Soccer, in particular, is a sport that is central to Latino and other cultures world-wide. Local research has shown that costs associated with sports leagues and formalized scheduling of facilities are barriers to Latinos utilizing park and field facilities.

New fields

- The CSL feasibility study determined that there is a clear market for a sports field complex of 10-12 diamond fields and 4-6 rectangle fields in Eugene. Golden Gardens Community Park is a city-owned park site that has been identified as being able to accommodate such a use, pending additional public engagement.

Existing Courts Map





COURTS

Basketball Courts

Outdoor basketball courts, particularly half courts, are fairly common in the City’s community parks and neighborhood parks throughout Eugene. Many school properties also have outdoor basketball courts. Washington Jefferson Park has several full-sized courts that are covered and lighted. These courts serve multiple purposes and are regularly converted for street hockey and bike polo use.

Tennis Courts

Outdoor tennis courts are found in three Eugene parks; Westmoreland, Washington, and Sladden. Other courts that are open to the public are located on the grounds of these high schools: South Eugene, Churchill, Sheldon, Willamette, and North Eugene. Additional tennis courts are available at the University of Oregon and membership clubs such as the YMCA and Eugene Swim and Tennis Club.

Other Courts

Horseshoe, p’etanque and beach volleyball all have a small but strong user base that includes active volunteer efforts to keep the courts maintained. Existing horseshoe pits are located in Washington Jefferson Park and a P’etanque Court is located in University Park. Both user groups are interested in improving facilities in their current locations.

Trends and Research

Pickleball is a sport that is gaining popularity across the country and can be played on a tennis court, with minor modifications. To meet this growing need locally, two of the tennis courts at Westmoreland Park were recently converted into eight pickleball courts as a pilot project

to determine if this use is compatible at this location. At the end of this two-year trial, in 2019, a determination will be made to continue, discontinue, or expand use at this facility. Consideration will also be given to create Pickleball courts under cover at WJ Park as a shared design with the basketball courts.

Recommended Actions

Existing courts

- Existing courts that are in need of renovation include:
 - Washington/Jefferson Park Basketball Courts
 - Washington Park Tennis Courts
 - Churchill High School Tennis Courts (4J)
 - Sheldon High School Tennis Courts (4J)
 - Westmoreland Tennis Courts
 - P’etanque Court (renovate existing court in University Park)
 - Horseshoe Pits
 - Volleyball Courts

New courts

- Continue to build outdoor basketball courts for informal play in new community and neighborhood park development.
- Consider additional locations for P’etanque
- Consider additional locations for Pickleball



SPECIALTY RECREATION

Specialty recreation facilities are less common amenities but by no means less popular. In fact, these types of facilities (ornamental and community gardens, dog parks, golf/ disc golf courses, skate/bike parks, tree/rock climbing) have some of the most passionate and dedicated users.

Ornamental Gardens

There are four ornamental gardens in Eugene, including the Owen Rose Garden, the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden and Native Plant Garden, and the Hayes Memorial Tree Garden in Alton Baker Park. Ornamental gardens typically take approximately twice as much in resources per acre to maintain than other park areas. Significant efforts have been made in recent years to preserve the historic and ornamental significance of the gardens, while employing sustainable maintenance and management techniques to reduce resource need. Additionally, significant volunteer and community support helps to sustain all four gardens.

Community Gardens

Participants in Eugene's Community Garden program are passionate about the benefits it provides: low-cost access to food, healthy food options, food security



(particularly in the event of an emergency) and building civic engagement and self-reliance. There are currently seven community gardens totaling over 350 garden plots. Four of these gardens are located along the Willamette River corridor, taking advantage of the rich loamy soils there. Two are located along the Amazon Creek corridor and one is located at Lincoln School Park. Additionally, Food for Lane County manages a community garden in Southwest Eugene and Santa Clara residents manage a garden on private land in the north. Residents of the planning districts that do not currently have City-managed gardens (Bethel and River Road/ Santa Clara) have expressed a strong interest in them.



Recommended Actions

Existing gardens

- Develop a management plan for Owen Rose Garden and implement renovations and improvements.
- Develop a management plan for Hendricks Rhododendron and Native Plan Garden and implement renovations and improvements.
- Renovate five existing community gardens including fence repair and/or replacement, parking and tool shed improvements.
- Remove small River House Community Garden to realize program efficiencies and clear space for building expansion. Accommodate existing gardeners in nearby gardens.
- Foster and support partnerships with neighborhoods and community organizations to build, maintain and manage Eugene's ornamental and community gardens.

New gardens

Build community gardens in Eugene's two underserved planning districts:

- Petersen Park (Bethel)
- River Road/ Santa Clara (location TBD)



Dog Parks and Off-leash Areas

Eugene has four dog parks: Alton Baker, Amazon, Wayne Morse, and Candlelight. Lane County also manages a dog park at Armitage Park. Amazon Dog Park has a separate area that is for small dogs only. All of Eugene's dog parks are very popular and well used. Interest in additional dog parks in areas of the city without convenient access is strong.

Trends and Research

Portland takes a different approach to accommodating dog off-leash. Of 33 official off-leash areas, only 6 are fenced. For the remaining areas, instead of dedicating fenced-off areas for that single purpose, dog off-leash hours are programmed into certain areas of designated parks.

Other communities require various types of certification to be allowed into dog parks, such as confirmation of shots and behavioral training classes. There are various approaches to dogs in natural areas, ranging from no dogs allowed (Portland) to certain trails being designated for dog off-leash (Boise).

Recommended Actions

Build dog parks and/or off-leash areas in Eugene's three underserved planning districts:

City Central

(location TBD)

River Road/ Santa Clara

(location TBD)

Southwest (location TBD)

Foster and support partnerships with neighborhoods and community organizations to build, maintain and manage dog parks and/or off-leash areas, including a pilot program of unfenced off-leash areas in undeveloped parks that limit ongoing maintenance requirements.



Golf/Disc Golf

Eugene has one municipal golf course and two disc golf courses. Laurelwood is a nine-hole golf course in Southeast Eugene that is owned by the City and managed by a private contractor. There are three other golf courses within Eugene that are privately owned, all within the Willakenzie neighborhood.

Westmoreland Park has a free nine-hole disc golf course and Alton Baker Park's 18-hole course is a pay-to-play course managed by a private contractor. Sladden Park has three permanent disc golf baskets for practice or less-structured play. Another 18-hole course opened in 2015 at Stewart Pond/Bertelsen Nature Park on Bureau of Land Management property and is maintained by a volunteer group. The Alton Baker course was implemented as a temporary course, and may be phased out if planned future facilities in the affected area of the park are constructed. The back 9 of Laurelwood Golf Course has been the unofficial home of a disc golf course in years past, and could be considered again if the existing course is displaced from Alton Baker.

Recommended Actions

- Revisit the Laurelwood Golf Course master plan and undertake needed renovations (including the "back 9")
- Consider additional locations for disc golf to promote geographic dispersal and to meet local demand.

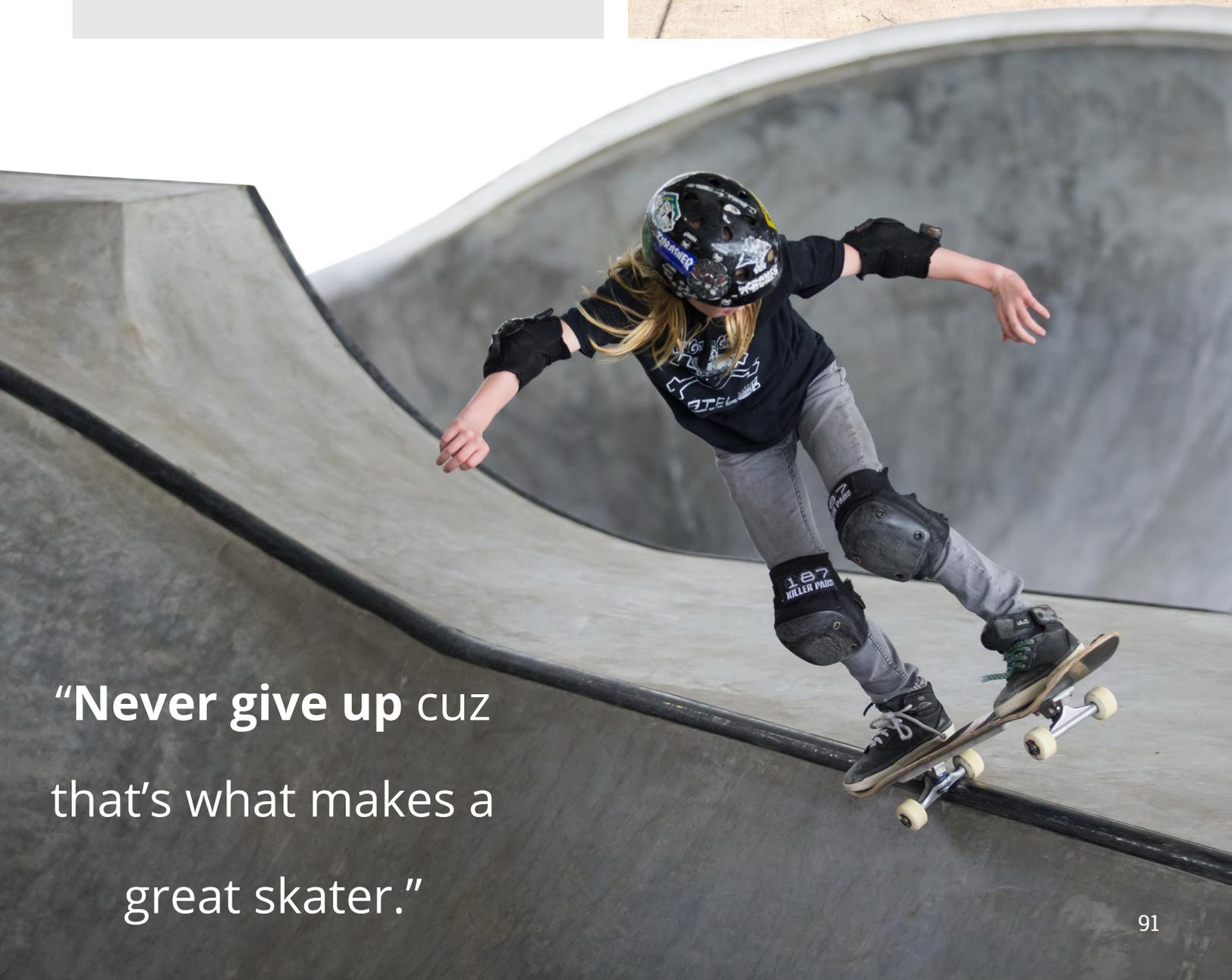
"The more we have in the parks for the children, ... and for young adults - the better our city will be."

Skate Parks

Eugene is home to seven skate parks: Bethel, Trainsong, Churchill, Cal Young, Amazon and Washington/Jefferson (WJ). Additionally, River Road Parks and Recreation District has a skate park at their Emerald Park facility. Eugene's skate parks have long been valued and heavily utilized by adults and youth alike. Completion of the landmark WJ Skate park in downtown Eugene in 2014 put Eugene on the map as home to the nation's largest covered and lighted skate park, with the additional cache of a world class design by an internationally renowned firm. It is the only skate park in Eugene to be designed for all wheeled users (scooters, rollerblades, bikes, and skateboards).

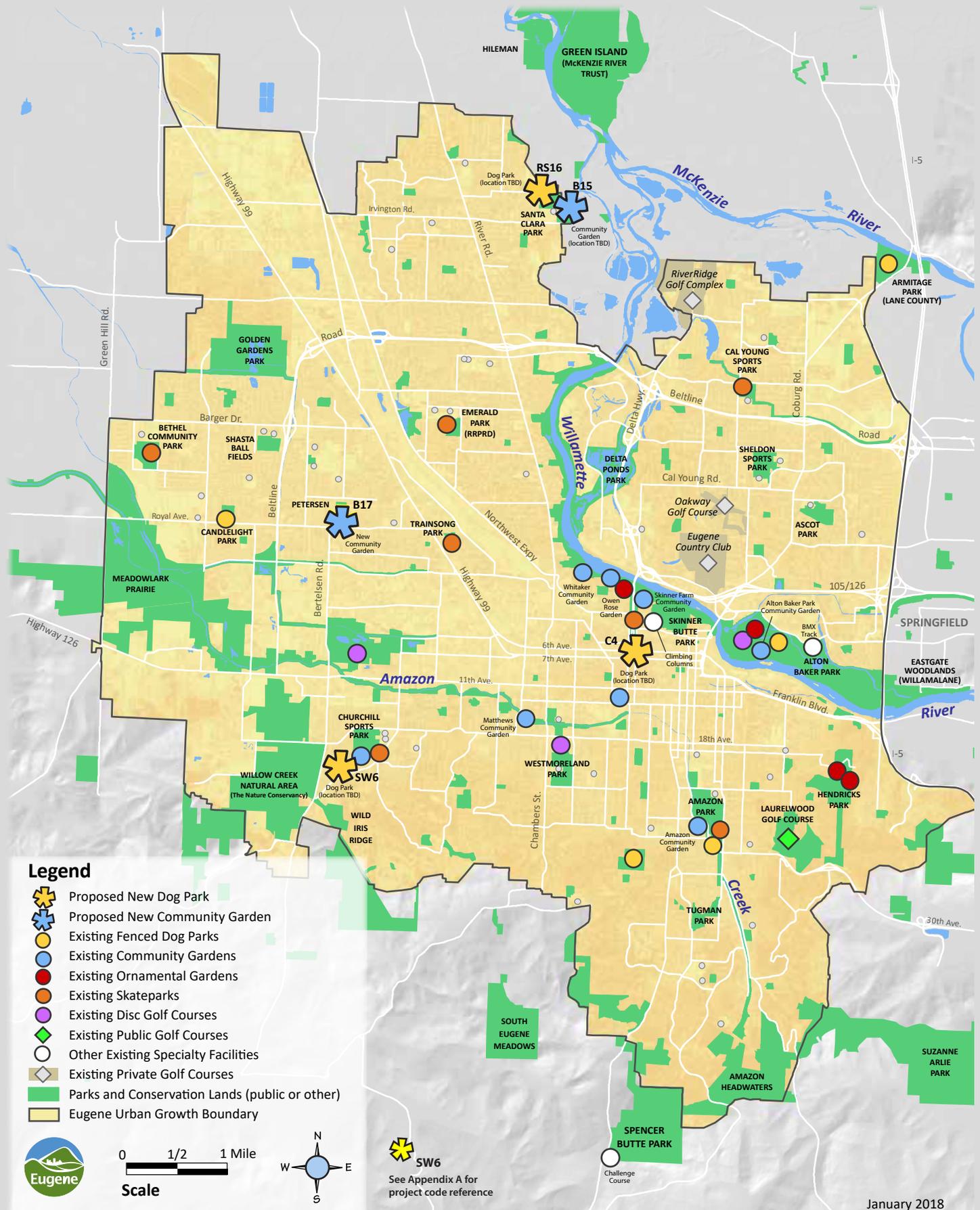
Recommended Actions

- Continue to maintain and renovate as needed Eugene's six skate parks.



**"Never give up cuz
that's what makes a
great skater."**

Existing and Proposed Specialty Recreation Map





**“I’m half bike,
half human.”**

Bicycle Related Facilities

An off-road bicycle race course (BMX) resides in a corner of Alton Baker Park, not far from Autzen Stadium. The site is leased to Emerald Valley BMX who has maintained, managed and programmed the course since 1983.

Mountain biking as a sport has become more and more popular. Apart from a desire for trails that are identified for shared or exclusive mountain bike use, there is also interest in additional bike related facilities such as a pump track and a mountain bike skills course that allows people of all ages to experience and practice skills in a safe and predictable environment. Another desired facility is a traffic garden. A traffic garden is a European concept that creates a setting for children to learn how to ride a bike safely in an urban environment.

Recommended Actions

- Explore partnership opportunities and potential locations for bicycle related facilities including a mountain bike skills park, pump track and educational traffic garden

Climbing Columns and Challenge Course

The basalt columns at the western toe of Skinner Butte provide an exceptional urban rock climbing experience and have been an iconic feature of Eugene for decades. In recent years, improvements at the base and surrounding the columns have improved functionality and safety for local climbers.



The Spencer Butte Challenge Course is another unique amenity that is located near the base of Eugene’s other emblematic butte. The Challenge Course is a ropes/skills course that is operated by the City Recreation Outdoors Program. It is available to groups and classes through reservation only.

Recommended Actions

- Continue to maintain and renovate as needed the Skinner Butte climbing columns and the Spencer Butte Challenge Course.



FUNDAMENTALS

Fundamentals are the basic amenities within parks that make them usable and enjoyable, such as restrooms, seating areas, paved areas, lighting, trees and lawns.

Restrooms

Restrooms are one of the most difficult maintenance challenges within the system, one of the most expensive park amenities to construct, and one of the most desired by park patrons. Twenty-three permanent restrooms are located throughout the system, primarily in community parks and also in seven of the larger neighborhood parks. Temporary portable toilets are brought into other parks during high park usage in the summer months.



Benches and Picnic Tables

Benches and picnic tables provide places for rest and social interaction. There are hundreds of them throughout the system, but community feedback suggests there are not nearly enough.

Paved Areas

Sidewalks and plazas can easily be overlooked and taken for granted. But the actuality is that they are crucial for providing access to and throughout parks for everyone and especially for individuals with disabilities. Investments in sidewalks, curb cuts and plazas have helped make Eugene a model for providing an accessible city and park system. These spaces are also important for community events and programming.

Lighting

Lighting is an important element that extends the hours of usability of parks and specific lighted facilities such as sportsfields and courts. Lighting is also a critical safety feature in parks, particularly those that are used for commuting along multi-use paths. Consideration is also given to impacts to habitat and selection of low-energy options.

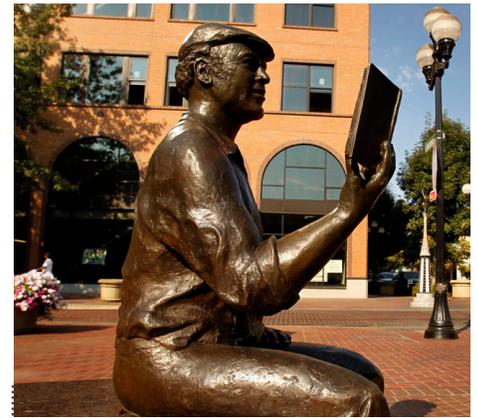
Trees

Trees are a unique physical asset in the system, in that their value actually increases with age. In order to have a healthy, mature urban forest and maximize that value, industry standards recommend a seven- to 10-year preventative pruning cycle. Due to limited funding, park trees rarely receive preventative maintenance. Efforts to increase the tree canopy in parks are underway to increase shade and promote clean air and water.



Lawns

Whether it is a casual game of frisbee, kite flying, or sunbathing, open lawn areas are often where the action is. They provide flexible space for a multitude of activities as well as wide-open spaces that can be hard to come by in an increasingly dense city. But lawns are surprisingly resource intensive. Frequent watering and mowing, and occasional fertilizing are required to keep lawns soft and green. If hotter, drier climate trend continues, expectations around the condition of lawns will need to be reevaluated.



City of Eugene Public Art Vision and Principles

Our vision for a public art experience is to offer our city as both exhibit and studio. The public are as much the audience to public art as they are potential contributors. Our goal is to support public art that authentically expresses the time we live in, inspires wonder, and invokes dialogue.

Excellent public art...

- stimulates a response
- fosters connections
- contributes to a sense of place
- is contextual
- is accessible
- can be temporary or permanent
- can be risky or unexpected

Public Art

Eugene parks host public art of varying scales and mediums. In recent years, a focus has been on art that is integrated into park amenities such as murals at the WJ skatepark and handmade tiles embedded into concrete paths as play elements or donor recognition. Historically, larger sculptural pieces have been sighted in Eugene’s Parks and many still reside there today. As Eugene’s public art program evolves and expands, parks should continue to play an important role, both as exhibit and studio, as is called for in Eugene’s Public Art Plan.



Latino Engagement Findings

Focused outreach to members of Eugene’s Latino community has helped to identify amenities that can make Eugene’s parks feel more welcoming to all Eugene’s residents. Groupings of picnic tables that can accommodate inter-generational family picnics are desired, particularly in areas adjacent to playgrounds and fields for informal soccer games.



Food Carts

Food carts and parks are a natural match, at the intersection of where food meets fun. Whether it be a park event, along the riverbank path, or near playgrounds – Eugene park patrons enjoy grabbing a bite to eat, extending their stay and soaking in the view. As new parks are developed, vendor pads with access to power and water are important considerations to fully program these gathering places.

Recommended Actions

- Develop and implement a city-wide restroom system master plan that identifies renovation needs, new restroom locations and models that have the potential to reduce capital and ongoing maintenance costs.
- Improve areas for informal family gatherings consistent with the findings of Latino Community outreach.
- Install additional benches throughout system in both developed and natural areas that provide areas of rest and relaxation.
- Renovate park lighting throughout the system and increase lighting where appropriate for safety enhancements and to extend usage of specific facilities.
- Identify funding options to improve and increase preventative maintenance activities of park trees.
- Develop and implement a city-wide irrigation system water management plan that utilizes new water conservation technology.
- Implement comprehensive signage improvements to better inform users of park services, educational opportunities, and rules and expectation.
- Coordinate with Eugene’s Public Art Program to increase, enhance, and maintain public art in Eugene’s parks.
- Continue to support Eugene’s 1% for Art program for park and recreation facility development projects. Larger scale projects that have the potential to create signature pieces within Eugene’s public art inventory will be coordinated through the City of Eugene Public Art Manager.



Connections

With over 650 miles of public right-of-way, Eugene’s streets offer abundant opportunities for recreational and ecological connections throughout Eugene.

PATHS AND NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAYS

Forty-six miles of off-street paved paths ranks Eugene as having the highest mileage per capita in this category when compared with the other benchmark cities. However many parts of the community lack path connectivity and the health, recreation and transportation benefits paths provide. An enhanced system of walking and biking paths is proposed to provide connections to parks, natural areas and other destinations throughout Eugene. A system of off-street paths that encircle the city is envisioned to be complimented by a series of off and on-street paths that provide north-south and east-west connections. These connections will function at the neighborhood, city and regional scale and are enhanced by the green infrastructure elements that line Eugene’s streets and corridors.

Shared-use Paths

Shared-use paths are hard-surfaced and serve both a recreational and transportation function. Eugene’s shared-use paths are separated from the roadway network and are an important component to a connected parks and recreation system. While on-street bike lanes are typically used for transportation purposes, they can provide critical linkages in the network of shared-use trails for recreational use.

Neighborhood Greenways

Neighborhood Greenways are comprised of a network of low-volume, low-speed streets that provide pleasant connections and safe crossings to neighborhood and community destinations, including parks, recreation facilities and the broader path and trail network.





Research and Trends

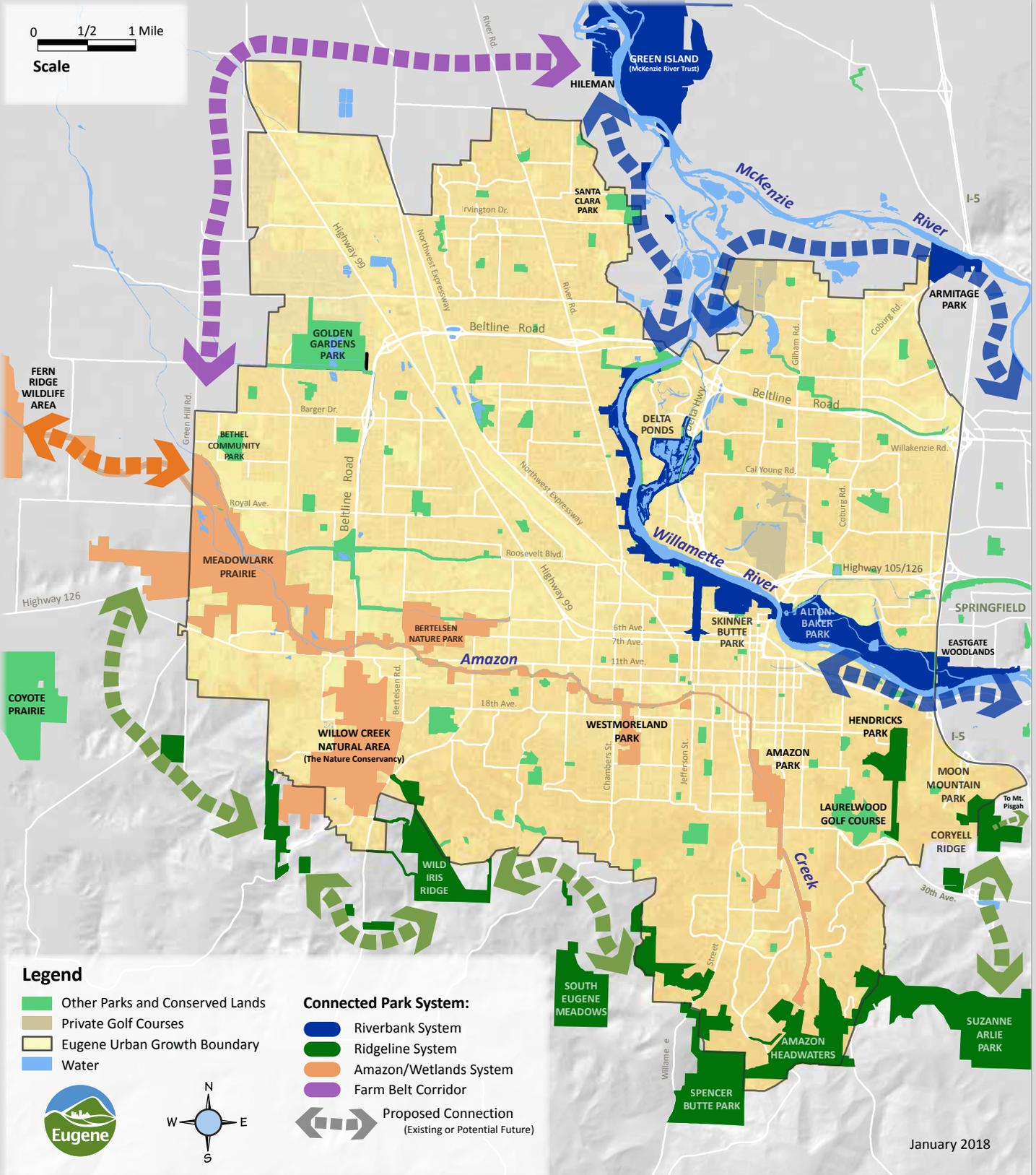
Communities across the country are building more paths and trails to meet recreational demand and to address desired health outcomes. Eugene is ahead of the curve in this area, but access is not distributed across the city. Other cities are addressing this problem of inequitable access to paths and trails with ambitious plans. For example, the Louisville Loop in Louisville Kentucky is a proposed 100-mile trail network that is expected to encircle the city, connecting neighborhoods to parks and recreation centers, with a goal of ensuring that all residents can easily access parks and open space in order to engage in active lifestyles.

“There’s a bike path
along the river and
it’s awesome.”

Recommended Actions

- Improve access to parks with transportation improvements such as access ways and crossing improvements. See the Project List in Appendix A for specific access recommendations.
- Coordinate with Springfield and other surrounding communities to leverage the resources of our communities to form a connected regional path and trail system.
- Extend the shared-use path system north of Beltline on the west side of the Willamette River, connecting to Hileman Landing, and on the east sides of the Willamette River and the south side of the McKenzie River, connecting to Armitage Park.
- Connect Hileman Landing to the West Eugene Wetlands via a “Farm Belt” shared-use path.
- Enhance the recreational value of Eugene’s off-street shared-use path network by identifying opportunities to create recreational loops and adding amenities to existing shared-use paths that currently have a transportation focus (i.e. paths along Beltline, I-5 and Roosevelt Channel).
- Work with Transportation Planning and neighborhoods to create Neighborhood Greenways, safe and pleasant walking and cycling routes at the neighborhood scale that connect to area parks, destinations, and the larger off-street path and trail network. Elements of a Neighborhood Greenway may include traffic calming and diverters, safe intersection crossings, directional signage, sidewalks, planter strips with tree canopy and landscaping, and site furnishings as appropriate.
- Implement The Eugene Transportation System Plan path improvement projects for additional off-street and on-street paths throughout the City. See the Project List in Appendix A or the Eugene Transportation System Plan for specific path recommendations.

Existing and Proposed Connections





GREEN STREETS

Street trees, planted medians and stormwater facilities increase livability and promote clean air and water for all Eugeneans. Eugene Parks and Open Space are stewards of these important resources.

Street Trees

With over 100,000 street trees, Eugene has an impressive amount of tree canopy cover city wide. Street trees can lower summer local temperatures by up to nine degrees Fahrenheit and are a critical element of Eugene's stormwater system, absorbing rainwater before it even hits the ground. Street trees also provide corridors for wildlife connecting to larger natural areas. Partner organization, Friends of Trees, works with volunteers to expand Eugene's tree canopy in neighborhoods throughout Eugene.

Landscape Medians

Landscape medians can provide a welcome respite in the middle of multiple lanes of pavement and flowing traffic. Often planted with trees and groundcover, these areas can be tricky to maintain given the close proximity to moving automobiles. But their value in the urban landscape is undeniable, contributing to the community's identity and sense of place.

Stormwater Swales and Rain Gardens

These features are a component of Eugene's stormwater system that work to filter out pollutants and slow the flow of runoff into local streams and rivers. While serving this very utilitarian function, stormwater swales also provide a softening effect on roadways, making intersections and sidewalks feel more pedestrian friendly.

Recommended Actions

- Continue to implement, manage and maintain Green Streets elements throughout Eugene for a healthier and more beautiful urban environment.
- Develop an urban forest management plan to identify current health and recommend actions to reduce wildfire risk and increase ecosystem and forest health with a comprehensive approach that includes street trees, park and natural area trees, and private trees.
- Work to integrate Green Streets elements into Neighborhood Greenways and other pedestrian and bicycle friendly streets to enhance the recreational aspects of Eugene's transportation system.

THE STEPS: 10-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

4





4

THE STEPS:
10-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- Funding Overview
- Community Priorities
- Implementation and Funding Strategy
- Implementation Policies



THE STEPS: 10-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Funding Overview

There are two distinct types of funds that support Eugene's Parks and Recreation System.

Maintenance and Operating Funds are used to maintain and operate the parks and recreation system. An annual budget allows us to provide recreation services and programming and care for six community centers, three pools and over 4,700 acres of developed parks and natural areas.

Capital Funds are used to repair or renovate existing or build new parks, recreation facilities and infrastructure. The two primary sources of capital funds are voter-approved bond measures and System Development Charges (SDC's). SDC's are fees paid in association with new residential and commercial development.

There are two distinct types of funds that support Eugene's Parks and Recreation System.

Revenue, Grants, Donations and Volunteers

Some Parks and Recreation operating and capital costs are offset by other important revenue sources. These include:

- Recreation Revenue- Approximately 30%, or \$3 million of Recreation’s general fund budget is recovered through programming and facility rentals.
- Grants- Capital projects and recreation services are often supported with outside funding from State and Federal government funding or public and private foundations. Based on past grant awards, approximately \$10 million has been secured over a 10-year period.
- Donations- Partnerships with organizations such as the Eugene Parks Foundation and Rotary have resulted in significant fund raising dollars in past years, over \$2 million secured over a 10-year period.
- Community volunteers- Individuals pitch in everyday by assisting with senior and adaptive programming, role modeling for youth in classes and camps and performing trail maintenance, planting, and weeding in parks and natural areas. Approximately 64,938 hours at a value of almost \$1,567,600 were contributed in 2017.



Operations and Maintenance Funding Shortfall

Maintenance funding for parks has not kept pace with the growth of the system (which has almost doubled in size over the last 20 years) or with the growth of operational challenges such as vandalism, graffiti and illegal camping. In 2012, the funding shortfall was estimated to be \$2 million annually. Since that time, through innovation, reduced service levels and increased efficiencies, the deficit has only grown to \$2.4 million annually. The following table identifies the 2018 parks operations and maintenance shortfall that if addressed, can improve the cleanliness, safety and general condition of Eugene’s parks.

Operations and Maintenance Funding

ISSUE	POTENTIAL SOLUTION	ACTIVITIES	ANNUAL COST
Park Safety	Park Safety and Security	Two dedicated EPD officers for Parks (includes bike patrols in parks) Two year-round Park Ambassadors	\$ 590,000
	Illicit Activity Response	Illegal camp clean-up Graffiti removal Vandalism	\$ 300,000
Park Maintenance	Developed Park Maintenance	Reopen restrooms Trash and litter pick-up Turf mowing Landscape bed care Infrastructure maintenance (irrigation, lighting, walkways, site furniture) Seasonal weekend/after-hours maintenance	\$ 700,000
	Natural Area Maintenance	Trail maintenance Trash and litter pick-up Invasive weed management Native tree and shrub planting Hazard tree abatement Wildfire risk abatement Infrastructure maintenance (access roads, fences, gates)	\$ 250,000
	Future Developed Park Maintenance*	Santa Clara Community Park (RR/SC) Ferndale Park (RR/SC) West Bank (RR/SC) Mattie Reynolds Park (SW) Striker Field (WK) Riverfront Park (CC)	\$ 550,000
TOTAL			\$ 2,390,000

*Future Developed Park Maintenance costs to be phased in as development occurs.

Community Priorities

The four guiding principles steered decision-making throughout the process, including the identification of priorities.

Care for and make the most of what we have

Serve the entire community

Create more connections

Build better partnerships

With these principles as a foundation, a set of criteria were developed to prioritize parks and recreation capital projects. The criteria were applied to each project and took into account current facility conditions, the unique needs and community desires of each planning area and triple bottom line considerations of social equity, environmental health and economic prosperity. The resulting prioritized project list for each Planning District can be found in Appendix A.

Polling of Eugene voters identified maintaining existing parks as the top priority. The specific operations and maintenance activities that ranked highest include:

1. Maintaining parks
2. Cleaning up homeless encampments
3. Protecting wildlife habitat
4. Maintaining hiking and biking trails
5. Repairing and improving park restrooms
6. Repairing non-working lighting and irrigation systems
7. Improving park safety and security

Implementation Scenarios

With a long-term 30-year vision that entails approximately 300 individual projects at an investment of over \$380 million, an important question to answer is how much of this vision to prioritize for implementation in the next 10 years. To that end, four scenarios were developed to illustrate what can be achieved with varying levels of investment. These scenarios were presented to the City Council, stakeholders, and the general community through extensive public outreach in 2017. The scenarios were not intended to represent the only options for moving forward, but to facilitate a conversation that results in the community's preferred scenario.



The Community's Vision for Parks and Rec Implementation Options

Great cities have great parks and recreation systems. A two-year community engagement process has resulted in a vision that builds on Eugene's rich legacy and promises a robust, exciting and equitable parks and recreation system for future generations. Fully baked, the complete vision amounts to 250 separate projects throughout Eugene and a roughly \$350 million investment that can be incrementally implemented over the next 30 years.

And now, we face a decision. Taking no action will result in a steady decline of parks and recreation assets that most Eugeneans believe are critical to their quality-of-life. It also means that parts of our community will continue to be underserved, and we will fail to keep pace with population growth and current and future needs.

FULL 30-YEAR VISION



100%
of the community's \$350 million vision

Put the maintenance and operations tools in place.

MAINTAIN IT



4% of the community's vision

We must first meet the current financial gap in park maintenance in order to address critical needs:

- Increase essential services (restrooms, trash removal, infrastructure repair, etc.)
- Respond to illegal activities (cleanup of homeless camps, graffiti and vandalism)

- Improve park safety and security
- Increase natural area maintenance

Increased funding for maintenance activities also allows us to unlock a small amount of existing capital funding to build 6 new parks in high need areas.

\$2.3 million

Operating Levy



\$3 per month

(about one small mocha for the average homeowner)

Decide what slice of the pie we focus on for the next 10 years.



13%
of the community's vision

FIX IT

In this slice, we primarily bite off the most urgent repair needs within the system. After bridging the maintenance gap as described above, we will also begin to address the inequity of access to parks and recreation throughout Eugene.

- Renovate and expand Echo Hollow Pool and Campbell Center to meet demand
- High priority habitat restoration projects
- Renovate 8 parks and 6 community gardens
- Repair school sports fields and playgrounds in partnership with school districts
- Repair defunct restrooms, lighting and irrigation systems
- Improve bike and walking access to parks

\$30 million

Capital Bond

\$3.1 million

Operating Levy

Matching Funds Unlocked - 38%



\$8 per month

(about two medium mochacos for the average homeowner)



22%
of the community's vision

FIX & ENHANCE IT

In this slice we take a big step toward the next level of potential for our parks and recreation system. In addition to the fixes proposed in the first slice, we also focus on high priority enhancements.

- Renovate and expand River House Outdoor Center, Sheldon Community Center/Pool, and Petersen Barn
- Major recreational improvements in Alton Baker Park begin
- Inclusive, multi-generational playgrounds, including one to promote a family-friendly downtown
- A new community garden, trails and increased recreational access to the Willamette River
- Picnic shelters, benches and amenities that promote gatherings in parks

\$55 million

Capital Bond

\$3.9 million

Operating Levy

Matching Funds Unlocked - 46%



\$12 per month

(Less than three medium mochacos for the average homeowner)



40%
of the community's vision

FIX, ENHANCE & BUILD IT

In this slice, we accomplish a majority of the highest priority projects identified. In addition to the fixes and enhancements included in the two previous slices, we see a dramatic increase in recreational benefit.

- A major investment in a multi-field sports complex at Golden Gardens Park
- Build a new community center and pool in a high need area (southwest or northwest Eugene)
- Recreation and habitat overhaul of the Alton Baker Park Canoe Canal
- Even more new parks, trails and playgrounds
- Greater scope of recreational improvements at Alton Baker Park and more recreation access to the Willamette river

\$100 million

Capital Bond

\$5.7 million

Operating Levy

Matching Funds Unlocked - 100%



\$20 per month

(about four medium mochacos for the average homeowner)

Tell us what you think. parksandrec@ci.eugene.or.us or www.EUGparksandrec.org





Implementation and Funding Strategy

The implementation scenarios were an important tool to arrive at a refined list of O&M activities and capital projects to prioritize for short-term implementation. Additional inputs that helped to inform an implementation strategy were in-depth City Council discussions that included a Council Subcommittee that explored options for funding parks and recreation security and maintenance and a statistically-valid survey of likely Eugene voters that explored the willingness of residents to support additional operations and capital funding for parks and recreation.

On May 15, 2018 Eugene voters overwhelmingly approved two funding measures to support Eugene Parks and Recreation:

- A \$3.15 million 5-year operating and maintenance levy
- A \$39.35 million capital bond

1. Operations and Maintenance Levy

The Operations and Maintenance Levy was passed with 65% of the vote to explicitly address the existing \$2.4 million shortfall and to fund maintenance and operation activities resulting from projects funded by the accompanying bond measure.

While not a long-term solution because of the 5-year funding limit, a levy can serve as a stop gap measure while a more sustainable solution is identified and implemented.

2. Capital Improvement Bond

The Parks and Recreation Capital Bond passed with 62% of the vote and identified specific projects within the following categories:

- Park Renovation Projects
- Trail and Habitat Restoration Projects
- Safety/Lighting Improvements
- Repairing and Improving Restrooms and Irrigation Systems
- Matching funds for School Districts Partnership
- Community Center, Pool and Field Renovations and Improvements
- New Park Development in Underserved Neighborhoods

When matched with System Development Charge (SDC) funds and partnership dollars, the capital investment resulting from this bond measure will total over \$63 million and accomplish approximately 17% of the 30-year long-term vision.



Implementation Policies

The following policy statements are necessary for responsible stewardship and management of Eugene’s Parks and Recreation system. Policy statements or actions specific to a facility type are incorporated into Recommended Actions in Chapter three.

- a) Build new or expanded park and recreation facilities only when it can be demonstrated that available funding for on-going maintenance and operations is adequate for both existing assets and the new or expanded facilities.
- b) Public and staff safety and security shall be a priority in the planning, design and maintenance of Eugene’s Parks and Recreation facilities.
- c) Park and recreation facilities shall be planned, constructed and maintained to meet the highest standards of accessibility, environmental outcomes and natural disaster resiliency as is practical. Utilize Salmon-Safe certification standards, the City’s Integrated Pest Management policy and the City’s Climate and Energy Action Plan among others as resources.
- d) When acquiring new parkland, identify funding for site stabilization activities such as property line demarcation, fencing, maintenance access, fuels reduction and invasive species control.

- e) Anticipate and respond to urban growth considerations and plans as defined by Envision Eugene, the Eugene Transportation System Plan, and Urban Reserves Planning.
- f) Parkland that is acquired for the purpose of providing developed park facilities to residents shall be considered for inclusion within Eugene’s Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Amenities associated with developed parks that may require inclusion within the UGB include restrooms (sanitary sewer connection), drainage (storm water connection), potable water, irrigation and lighting.
- g) A park or portion of a park may be identified as surplus and disposed of, by formal action of the Eugene City Council, if:
 - a. The area creates an unsafe situation due to poor configuration, visibility or circumstances beyond the City’s control.
 - b. Dedicating an area as public or private right of way will result in a better park configuration with improved access and visibility.
 - c. The area is determined to have extremely limited or no benefit to the public.
 - d. Additional factors as determined by the Eugene City Council.





Parks and Open Space
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