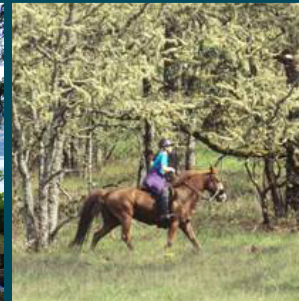




SEA TO SUMMIT:
CREATING THE FUTURE OF
LANE COUNTY PARKS

PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



*Lane County parks are safe, respectful and inclusive
places free of hate and discrimination.
All park visitors are welcome.*



Sea to Summit: Creating the Future of Lane County Parks

Parks and Open Space Master Plan

Final Plan

November 2018

Prepared by:



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Foreword

Lane County is a special place – abounding with natural beauty and countless opportunities to connect with the wonder of the outdoors. We are fortunate to live and play in a county with an incredible variety of landscapes stretching from the beaches of the Oregon Coast, through the prairies of the Willamette Valley, to the forests of the Cascades. Exploring these landscapes through our Lane County parks is essential to the rich quality of life we enjoy.

The Parks Master Plan is a 20-year vision for the future of our parks. It was created through extensive public involvement and represents diverse, countywide values from residents for recreation, tourism, natural resource protection, economic development, and historical and cultural resource preservation. We are extraordinarily thankful for the countless hours of dedicated work that our volunteer advisors, staff and consultants have invested to create this robust and aspirational plan for sustaining and improving our parks.

Our parks and natural areas are essential for our health, our environment and our continued economic vitality. With the adoption of the Parks Master Plan, we recognize the challenges inherent in implementing this vision and the collaborative investments that will be necessary for success. We also recognize the vital importance of Lane County Parks and declare our commitment to protecting and enhancing outdoor opportunities for future generations. In preserving, protecting and enhancing our parks system, we will secure our Lane County vision – to be the best county in which to live, work and play.



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County Administrator



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Acknowledgements

Thank you to Lane County's current and former community members, County staff, Board of County Commissioners, Advisory Committee, Task Force, and Project Management Team members who have given their time, energy, ideas, and guidance to this Master Plan. * *Participants previously involved in the 2018 Master Plan.*

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Executive Summary



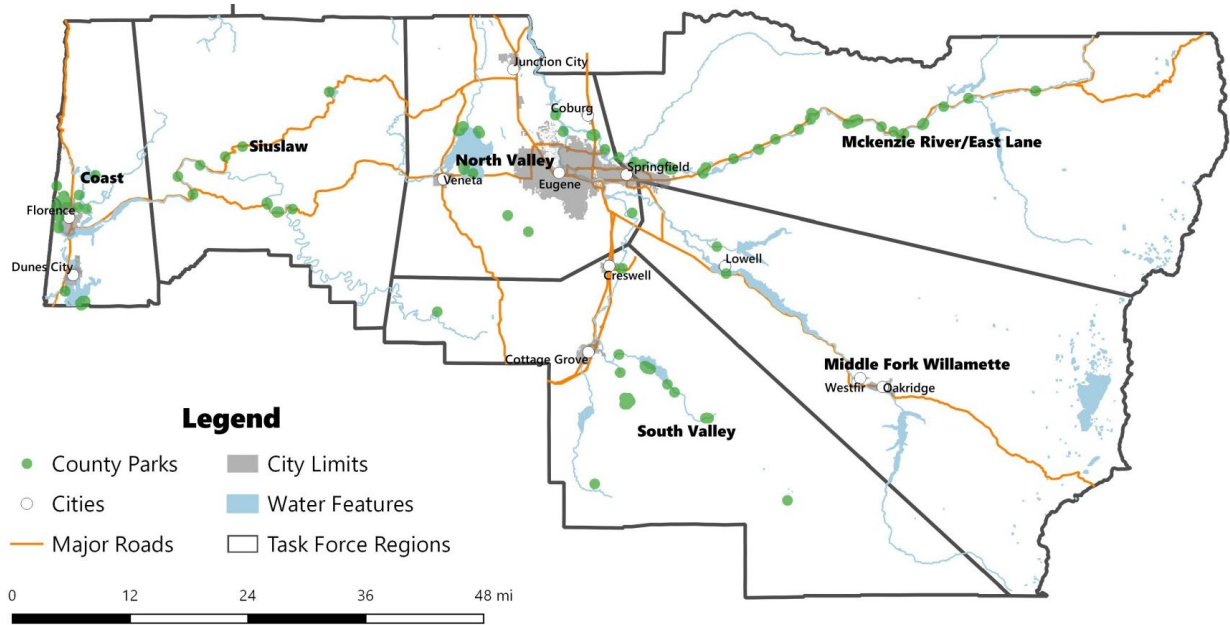
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Executive Summary

Lane County’s parks include 4,364 acres of rich natural, recreational and cultural assets at 68 sites spread across the County’s 4,800 square miles. The County’s parks and open spaces encompass important ecosystems that support wildlife habitat, biodiversity and clean air and water. These parks also provide access to fishable, swimmable and navigable rivers, lakes and ocean beaches; historic covered bridges; and facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas, and mountain trails. Because of the richness and diversity of assets, many people--from park neighbors to out-of-state tourists--appreciate and benefit from County parks and open space.

Much of this park system was built in the middle of the 20th century. Historically high timber sales from Federal lands provided funding for high-quality public services, including roads, schools, and parks. This allowed Lane County’s tax rates to remain low. Now, timber harvest revenues are severely limited, property tax increases are restricted, and General Funds are constrained. The County manages parks distributed from the coast to the mountains in six different regions (Figure i). It stewards this widespread and incredibly diverse park system with extremely limited resources. A greater investment in Lane County’s parks and open space is needed.

FIGURE i: LANE COUNTY PARKS BY REGION



Source: 2016 Lane County GIS data.

Plan Purpose

The Lane County Parks & Open Space Master Plan (the Master Plan) provides realistic guidance for managing existing assets and providing well-maintained parks and open spaces. It identifies where strategic improvements, community collaborations and partnerships will help position County Parks to more strongly support outdoor recreation and a vibrant local economy. Grounded in the community’s vision and priorities, it presents an investment strategy for enhancing parks and open space for the next 20 years.

Planning Process

A community-supported parks master plan is a priority for the County. For over a decade, County staff made gradual progress in collecting information to update the 1980 Parks and Open Space Master Plan. In 2016, the County Administrator renewed efforts to create a more relevant and actionable Parks Master Plan. The County initiated a 23-member Task Force--representing different interests and areas in Lane County--to review technical documents, guide community input and help identify the Master Plan vision, mission, goals and strategies. From Summer 2016 to Fall 2018, the Task Force worked collaboratively with the Project Management Team (PMT), Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) and Board of Commissioners to consolidate best practices and insights from park staff, stakeholders, and community members. The planning process included three phases (Figure ii) to distill, refine and compile key findings into this new Master Plan.

Community Engagement (2016-2018)

Activities

- Online questionnaire
- Series of community workshops
- Interactive activities at the County Fair

Promotion

- Dedicated webpage
- Social media
- Video
- Emails
- Newsletters
- Digital billboard
- Radio PSAs

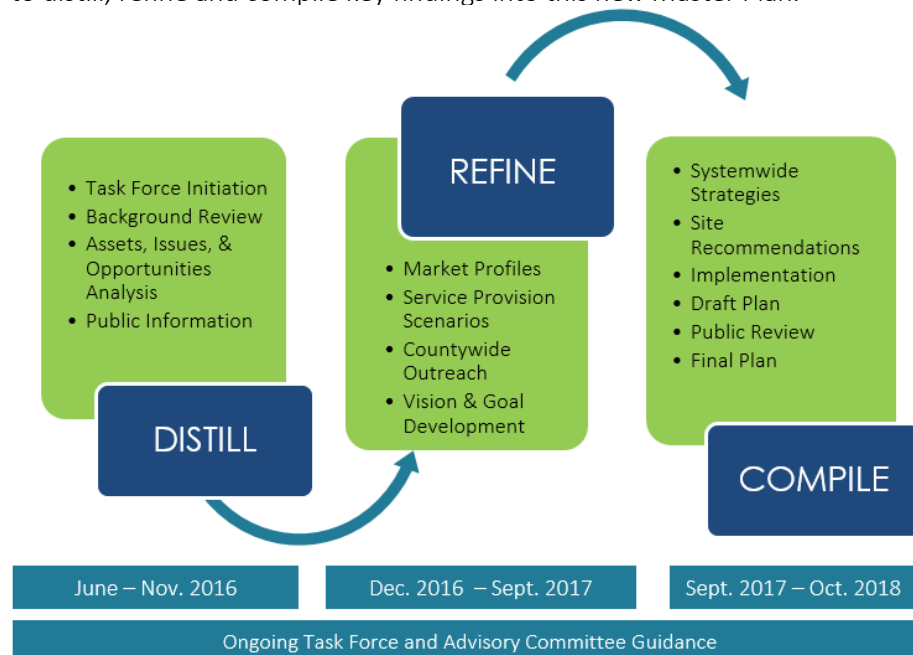


FIGURE ii: THE PLANNING PROCESS

Community Priorities

Past and recent community input and a technical analysis revealed three priority areas—access to water, nature and trails—where focused investments will leverage County Park assets to enhance recreation in Lane County. These needs and priorities are described in detail in Chapter 3.

An Accessible Water-Based System

Rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries, reservoirs and coastlines are major public resources and a key part of Lane County’s identity. Residents noted that Lane County parks should continue to emphasize water access and water-based recreation opportunities.



Nature-Based Recreation

Lane County parks provide an incredibly diverse range of natural resources. Community priorities for natural areas within County parks include habitat protection and restoration, as well as adding access, where appropriate, with campgrounds, cabins, nature play areas and picnic areas.



Connected Trail-Based Recreation

County parks include more than 28 miles of land trails, largely concentrated in just a few sites. Residents would like to have a greater variety of trail opportunities, and if possible, an interconnected system of County parks, parks provided by other entities, and nearby community destinations.



Community Vision, Mission and Goals

The aspirations for Lane County parks are the guiding forces for the Parks & Open Space Master Plan. These aspirations are summarized in the following vision, mission and goals, which are introduced in Chapter 4. The goals will guide Master Plan implementation.

Vision

Our thriving parks and natural areas connect us to our rivers, reservoirs and natural features, showcase our heritage and natural diversity, and protect resources for future generations.

Mission

We responsibly manage, sustain and enhance our parks and natural resources through partnership, stewardship and quality customer service.

Goals

1. **Collaborate.** Engage residents, volunteers, interest groups, educational providers, businesses and local, state, and federal agencies as partners in the coordinated effort to expand, enhance, interpret, provide, and protect parks, natural areas, trails and recreation opportunities across Lane County.
2. **Connect.** Attract people to nature, the outdoors and County parks by providing a variety of experiences, improving park and facility access, increasing stewardship, supporting environmental education/nature interpretation, and improving communication.
3. **Create vibrancy.** Re-invigorate and revitalize key parks as thriving, family-friendly outdoor activity hubs through redesign, renovation and programming to help position Lane County as the best county for outdoor recreation and play.
4. **Generate economic vitality.** Create a strategic and holistic park management approach that balances local needs with opportunities to create economic benefits in surrounding communities and/or to generate revenue to re-invest in parks.
5. **Protect resources.** Sustain and protect unique County assets, cultural and natural resources as our legacy for future generations.
6. **Reflect our values.** Emphasize our diverse, natural character and make high impact, low-cost moves to maintain sites, sustain infrastructure and improve the quality, safety and attractiveness of park amenities, landscaping and recreation facilities.

Achieving the Goals

The Master Plan goals will be achieved by implementing strategies that provide systemwide direction for all County parks and open spaces. These strategies are contained in Chapter 4, organized by the six goals. This strategic guidance is incorporated into the site-specific recommendations found in Chapter 5, including high-level “site treatments” that describe the types of future investment and development appropriate for each site, based on the current function of the park and its desired future use. Several sites also include more detailed recommendations. The following pages present selected recommendations for three sites drawn from Chapter 5 to illustrate how potential projects are tied to community priorities (noted in Chapter 3), as well as Master Plan goals and strategies (noted in Chapter 4).

Harbor Vista

Recommendations for Harbor Vista support the following Master Plan elements:



Community Priority

Accessible water-based system

Goals

Goal 1: Collaborate

Goal 2: Connect

Goal 4: Generate Economic Vitality

Strategies

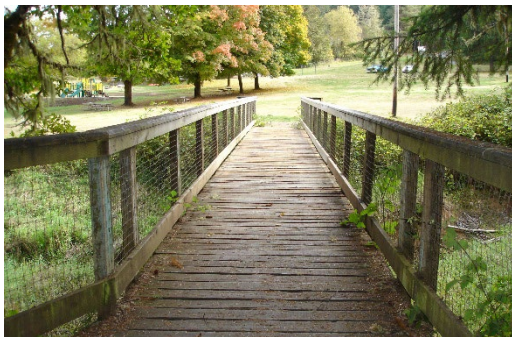
- Engage partners and community members to provide enhanced nature programming.
- Communicate needs and opportunities to community partners.
- Collaborate with partners to build projects.
- Improve connectivity and access.
- Enhance amenities.

Selected Recommendations

- Collaborate with local partners to support educational/interpretive opportunities and camp programming.
- Expand partnerships and collaboration between the Park caretaker, friends group, schools, City of Florence and state and federal agencies.
- Explore joint use agreement for amphitheater use.
- Continue to support day use for local residents, providing access to the river and beach and support amenities such as restrooms.
- Reinvest in campground facilities, targeting this to be an RV-oriented campground catering to attracting out-of-town visitors to the Oregon Coast. Add yurts/cabins.

Baker Bay

Recommendations for Baker Bay support the following Master Plan elements:



Community Priority

Connected trail-based recreation and accessible water-based system.

Goals

Goal 2: Connect

Goal 3: Create Vibrancy

Goal 4: Generate Economic Vitality

Strategies

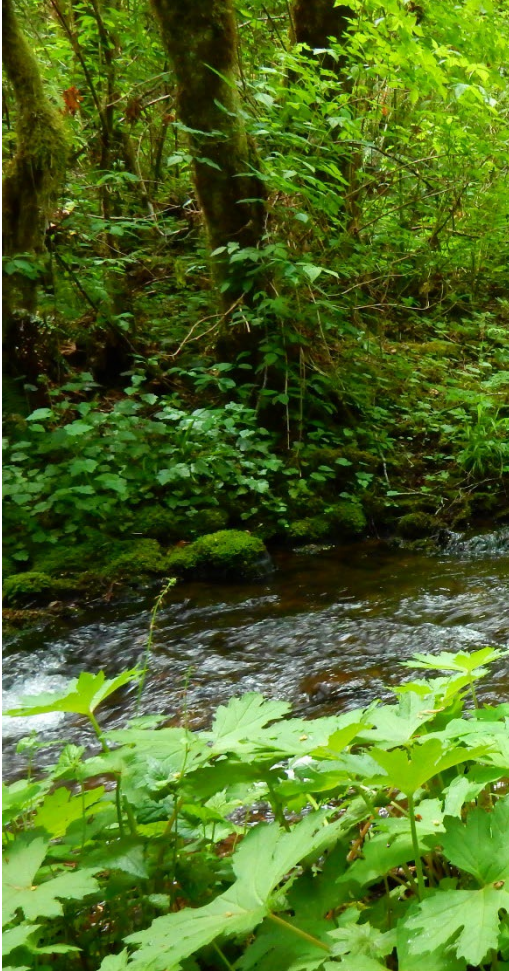
- Enhance function as community outdoor recreation destination.
- Identify potential partnerships and joint projects.
- Embrace ‘nature play’ approach for play areas.
- Provide different sizes of group picnic areas.
- Strengthen existing policies and procedures guiding events of different scales.
- Recruit program providers or host regular activities, events and programs.

Selected Recommendations

- Master plan and phase in site improvements.
- Explore opportunities to create regional trails hub.
- Retain and reinvest in lakefront facilities, including improving the beach area.
- Partner with the concessionaire to renovate the building and enhance its function.
- Add at least one covered picnic area near the lakefront.
- Remove the manufactured play structure at the end of its lifecycle and replace it with nature play elements.

Old McKenzie Hatchery

Recommendations for Old McKenzie Hatchery support the following Master Plan elements:



Community Priority

Nature-based recreation and accessible water-based system.

Goals

Goal 1: Collaborate

Goal 4: Generate Economic Vitality

Goal 5: Protect Resources

Strategies

- Support environmental education, nature interpretation and stewardship.
- Strengthen efforts to identify, designate, interpret and protect cultural resources and ensure that they are made available for public understanding and interpretation.
- Prepare site-specific resource management plans for protecting and enhancing natural areas while providing compatible public access for recreation.
- Provide sustainably-designed facilities and introduce resource conservation measures.



Selected Recommendations

- Develop a formal agreement with Friends of Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery that allows them to proceed with their goal to develop and operate an interpretive center and museum at the site.
- Ensure the site is managed for natural resource and habitat value.
- Preserve public access to the river.

Realizing the Vision

This Master Plan envisions a collaborative approach to improving and enhancing Lane County's parks and natural areas. Chapter 6 features three implementation tools designed to help Lane County staff and the PAC determine what projects are well-suited to advance the Master Plan's vision and goals.

- **Prioritizing Strategies.** Parks staff can use these evaluation criteria and matrix to create and annually update short-term (two year) Action Plans. The criteria help staff consider the feasibility, necessary resources and costs associated with capital projects and ongoing maintenance.
- **Process and Worksheet for Evaluating Community Proposals.** This worksheet will help County staff and PAC members review and evaluate projects proposed by residents, stakeholders, partners and others for Lane County's parks and natural areas. It will help identify what types of projects are a good fit and which ones are not.
- **Capital Projects Prioritization.** These criteria will help staff prioritize funding and sequence capital improvements.

The Master Plan's guidance and tools will support Lane County Parks in ushering in a new age. Working together, County staff, partners, stakeholders, other agencies, cities and volunteers can maximize the benefits of Lane County parks from sea to summit and preserve these resources for future generations.



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CHAPTER 1

Introduction



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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

From sea to summit, Lane County covers almost 4,800 square miles of diverse Oregon landscape. Stretching from the Pacific Ocean through the Coastal Range, the Willamette Valley to the Cascade Mountains, Lane County is home to approximately 366,000 people. The county's communities are as varied as its landscape, including agricultural, rural, suburban, and a few urban areas. Many of these communities grew around Oregon's thriving logging industry in the first half of the 20th century. Historically high timber sales from Federal lands provided income to local and regional governments and funding for high quality public services, including roads, schools, and parks. Low tax rates were standard in communities with healthy timber sales, and Lane County was no exception.

In this context, Lane County Parks acquired 4,364 acres of rich natural, recreational and cultural assets. County parks and open space today provide a variety of outdoor recreation experiences and important ecosystems that support wildlife habitat, biodiversity and clean air and water. The parks also provide residents and visitors access to fishable rivers, navigable and swimmable lakes, ocean beaches, historic covered bridges, old growth forests, and mountain trails.



However, nowadays, timber harvest revenues are at historic lows. When Statewide Ballot Measure 50 made the low tax rates permanent in 1997, and limited the annual growth of assessed values, Lane County lost much of its funding base for services. Federal and local revenues have not been replaced, and the County cannot provide desired service levels. Local revenues are also constrained, with nearly 90 percent of property taxes in Lane County going to fund services provided by schools, cities and other municipal services--not County services.

Although the County has started rebuilding its economy and balancing its budget, Lane County's per capita tax revenue is the third lowest in the State of Oregon (Figure 1). A greater investment in its parks and open space is needed, but General Fund dollars are not currently available to support County parks. Still, the resources and assets owned by Lane County are vast.

Opportunities exist to re-invest in County parks in a way that contributes to the local economy and protects the community's heritage. This re-investment requires a new vision and a new management strategy for Lane County parks. It also requires the collaboration of staff, stakeholders, partners and other agencies who must work together to leverage the resources needed to support parks and open space.

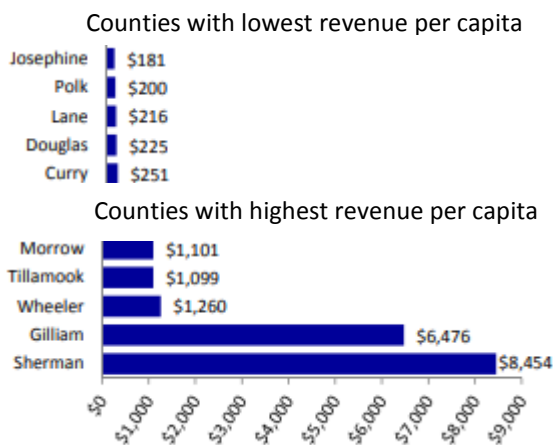
Purpose of the Master Plan

The Lane County Parks & Open Space Master Plan (the Master Plan) will guide the County in navigating its funding challenges to provide well-maintained parks and open spaces. With strategic investments and collaborations with community members and partners County Parks is better positioned to support outdoor recreation and contribute to a sustainable and vibrant local economy. This Master Plan provides strategic and high-level guidance the County park system. For future park-specific capital investments or operational changes, community members will be engaged in a project-specific planning process.

Planning Process

Lane County last completed a Parks and Open Space Master Plan in 1980. To provide direction for park system management and development, Lane County Parks initiated a Master Plan update in the early 2000's. This internal effort proceeded as staff had

FIGURE 1: LOCAL TAX REVENUE PER CAPITA
5-YEAR AVERAGE, FY 2011-2015



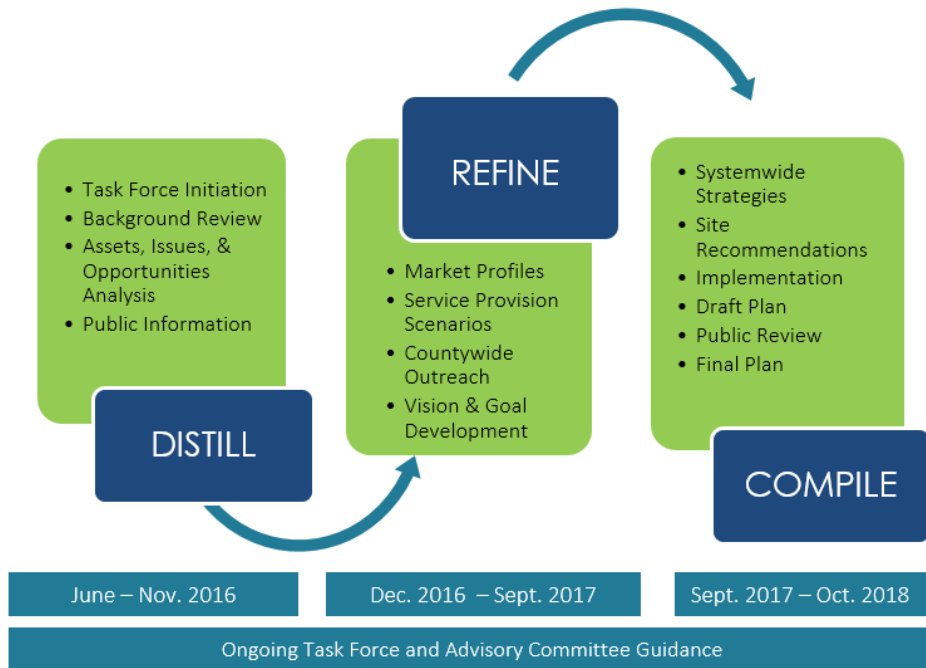
Secretary of State Audit Report, Oregon's
Counties: 2016 Financial Condition Review

availability, continuing off and on for over a decade as staff faced the same budget and resource constraints that they also encountered in providing other park services.

In 2014, County staff pulled together years of past work to create a 2015 Preliminary Draft Master Plan. The Preliminary Draft was posted online and taken out to public meetings. County residents noted that the Preliminary Draft Master Plan, although detailed and technical, lacked overarching strategic guidance for park system management consistent with current funding realities. It also included some assumptions about future park development that were inconsistent with community preferences.

In 2016, the County Administrator committed to relaunching the planning effort, building on the foundation of information collected in past planning efforts. Bringing together Park staff, members of the Lane County’s Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) and added consultant support, the Project Management Team (PMT) created a new Task Force to guide the Master Plan process and ensure it reflected community priorities and the County’s fiscal realities. Figure 2 illustrates this renewed planning process.

FIGURE 2: PLANNING PROCESS



Ongoing Master Plan Task Force and PAC Guidance

The planning process was guided by a Task Force of 23-members who were selected through an application process. The Task Force was structured to ensure that diverse geographies and interests were represented. Two Task Force members were selected from each of the County’s six regions including: Coast (Florence), Siuslaw (Mapleton),

North Valley (Eugene, Springfield, Fern Ridge, Veneta), McKenzie River/East Lane (Vida) and South Valley (Cottage Grove). Other Task Force members were added to represent County-wide interests. Members included City representatives, directors or board members of relevant nonprofits, community groups and broad-based recreation groups, as well as other representatives with recreation and natural resource knowledge. Members attended multiple meetings and reviewed technical documents and community input to develop the Master Plan vision, mission, goals and strategies. The PAC was also actively involved in the Master Plan process, participating in joint meetings with the Task Force and reviewing key documents.

Three-Phased Planning Process

The Task Force, supported by the PAC, provided overarching guidance through three project phases. In Phase 1, the Task Force, PAC and PMT reviewed and distilled previous planning data and collaborated to identify issues, assets, and opportunities within the County's parks and open space system. In Phase 2, the assets and opportunities were refined into three service provision scenarios. Members of the public considered the scenarios and provided input on their priorities through an online questionnaire, at a series of community workshops held across Lane County, and during interactive activities at the 2017 County Fair. The Task Force and Project Team incorporated these priorities into the Master Plan vision and goals. In Phase 3, this information was refined further into a series of strategies to enhance the park and open space system.

Guiding Plans

Several relevant plans were consulted during Master Plan development. The Master Plan reflects the direction provided by the 2014-2017 Lane County Strategic Plan, which was updated in 2018 (see Figure 3). The Strategic Plan called on the County to focus on:

- Providing services that positively impact health, safety and quality of life;
- Stewarding Lane County's environmental and cultural resources and building; and
- Maintaining smart and resilient infrastructure for today and future generations.

The Master Plan also supports the County in fulfilling Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 8: To satisfy the recreational needs of the citizens of the state and visitors and, where appropriate, to provide for the siting of necessary recreational facilities.

FIGURE 3: LANE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



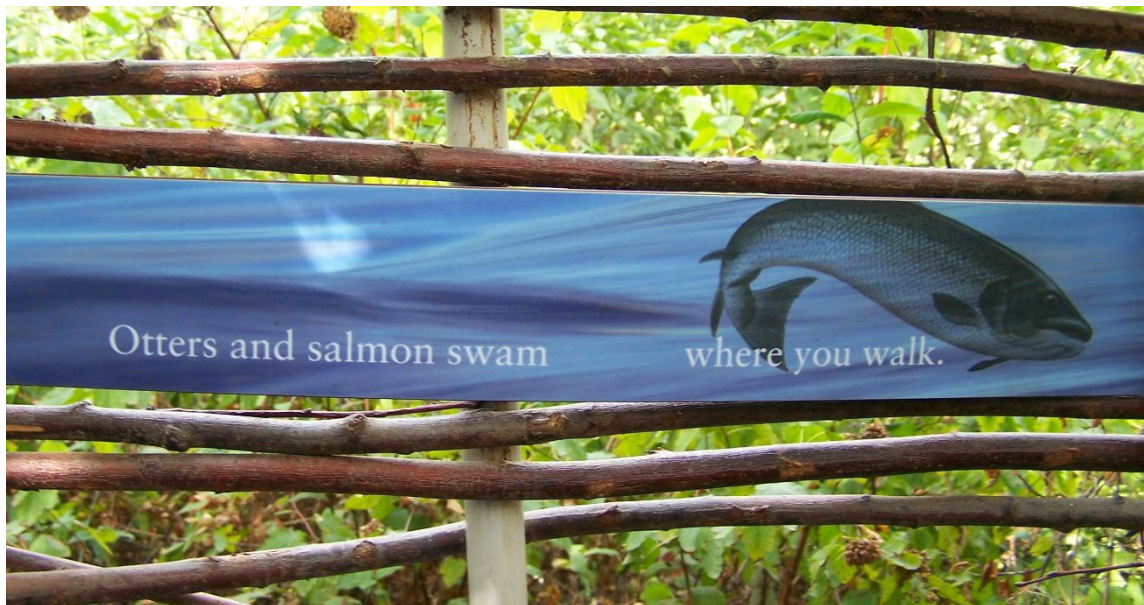
Other local and statewide plans and projects that were reviewed include, but are not limited to, the 2015 Findings and Recommendations of the Lane County Large Events Task Force, Oregon’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013-2017 (SCORP), park master plans and strategic plans for the City of Eugene and Willamalane Park and Recreation District, the 2003 Rivers to Ridges Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Study, Travel Oregon’s tourism data and bicycle tourism initiative.

Looking Forward

Now, almost 40 years after the County’s first adopted parks plan, this Master Plan sets forth a new path toward the future of Lane County parks. The Master Plan addresses the needs of the County’s evolving communities, the realities of the current local economy, the County’s current fiscal challenges, and the opportunities available to enhance the County’s park system.

This Master Plan describes County park assets, issues and opportunities in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 summarizes the community’s priorities and needs for parks and open space. These priorities inform strategic directions for the future parks system, as presented in Chapter 4, and for specific park sites, as noted in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 provides a plan for implementing the Master Plan goals and strategies.

Change is inevitable, and this Master Plan is well positioned to usher in a new age for Lane County parks, with greater financial support and alignment with the varied needs of residents across the County. However, it will take a collaborative effort—involving County staff, partners, stakeholders, other agencies, cities and communities—to maximize the benefits of Lane County parks and preserve these resources for future generations.



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CHAPTER 2

Assets, Issues & Opportunities



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CHAPTER 2

Assets, Issues & Opportunities

Lane County is located on the central-west coast of Oregon and southern end of Willamette Valley. The western part of the county includes ocean beaches and the Siuslaw National Forest. The eastern portion of the county encompasses the Cascade Mountain range, including parts of the Willamette National Forest, Umpqua National Forest and several significant Wilderness Areas. With population of approximately 366,000 people, Lane County encompasses about four times as much land as the State of Rhode Island, yet has about one-third as many people.

Given the expanse and diversity of Lane County, Lane County parks and community park needs also differ from one end of the county to the other. This creates some unique opportunities and challenges for park management. This chapter describes Lane County's unique park assets, along with the identified issues and challenges addressed in this Master Plan.

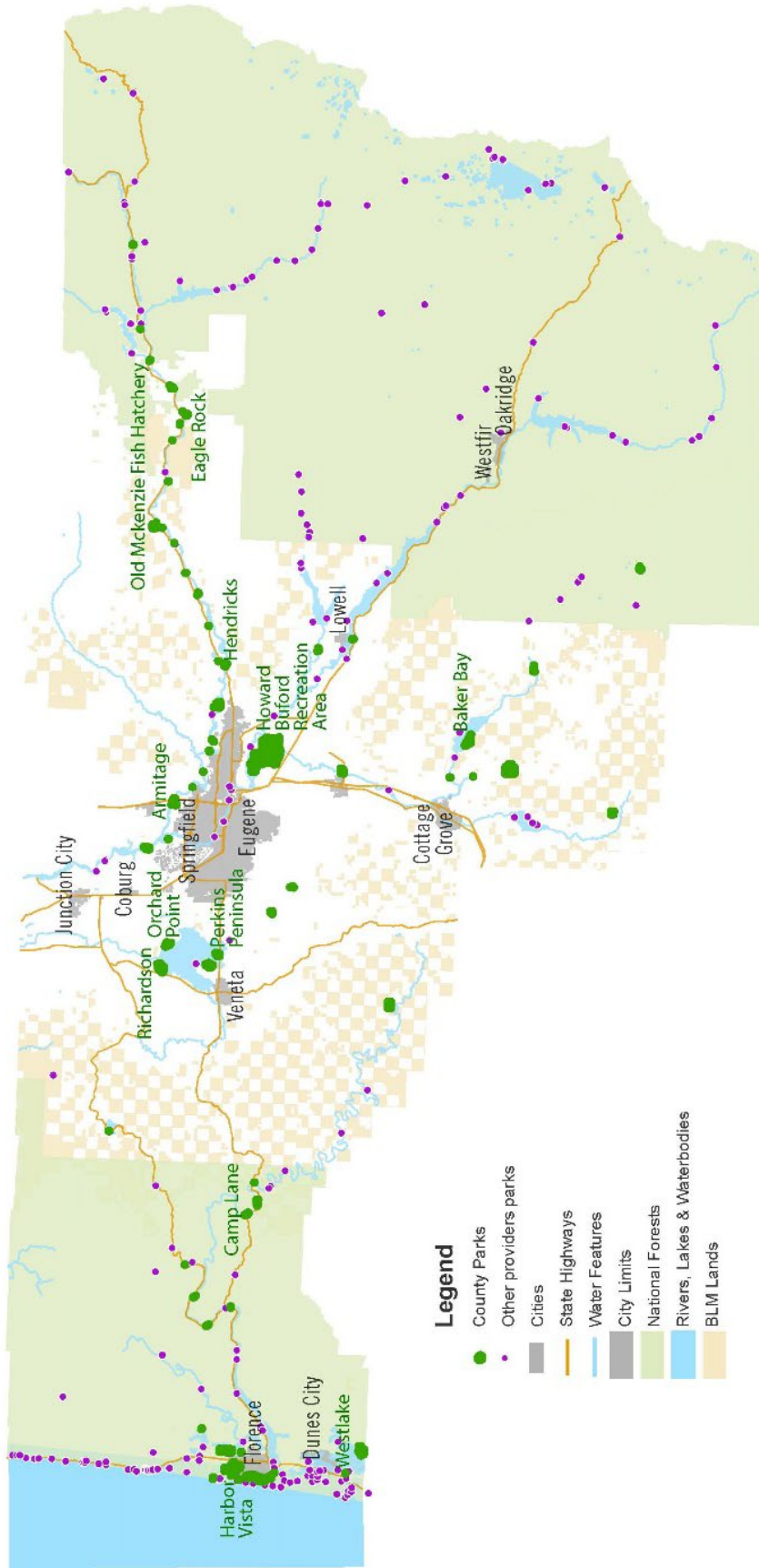
County Park Assets

Lane County provides 4,364 acres of parks and open space at 68 sites across the county (Figure 5). County Parks are interspersed among parks provided by a variety of other jurisdictions, including towns, cities, park districts, and state and federal agencies. Many of the County's parks are clustered near water bodies, including the Pacific Ocean, rivers and reservoirs. Some of these sites are adjacent to public lands managed by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). National Forests and BLM lands also support open space and recreation opportunities.

FIGURE 4: LANE COUNTY, OREGON



FIGURE 5: LANE COUNTY PARKS IN CONTEXT



Note: Specific locations and boundaries for all local parks are designated in Lane County Parks & Waysides: Site & Directional Maps (2009) and in Lane County GIS data consulted for this plan

Source: 2016 Lane County GIS data.

Management Issues and Opportunities

County parks and open space are managed by the Lane County Parks program (County Parks), part of the Parks Division (the Division), within the Public Works Department.

Managing a system of this size provides many opportunities and challenges, including:

- The variety of parks and facilities that the County manages, and the different roles and functions of sites across the system
- The need to balance recreation and natural resource protection
- Limited staffing and funding for resource management and maintenance
- The size of the County, its diverse communities and need to balance local and countywide needs
- Balancing visitor use, tourism, and other park needs

Each of these opportunities and challenges are described below.

Park Variety and Function




The County's park and open space sites range greatly and are developed, maintained and used by the public to varying degrees. Some of the County's most valuable parks feature high quality natural resources and unique features such as waterfalls, sand dunes, rivers, trails, lake docks, forests and historic covered bridges. County parks range from large sites that attract tourists and visitors from Lane County and beyond to smaller isolated sites with short trails beloved by local residents. Many County park sites offer camping, hiking, and boating, among other experiences; yet, other County sites have limited recreational value, and some do not support public access at all. While most are County owned, some are not. A few parks are owned by other providers that contract with Lane County staff for long-term site maintenance.

The County's previous Parks Master Plan inventoried all sites alphabetically, making it difficult to understand and manage such a complex system of sites. Without a classification system that groups sites with similar functions and services, there was no at-a-glance reference that differentiated between developed and undeveloped, open and closed, high-use and no-use sites.

This Master Plan establishes a new classification scheme to support management decisions for park sites. Park classifications support County staff in implementing Master Plan policies by providing parameters for design and development standards, park and natural resource maintenance and operating levels, and guidelines for future funding and acquisition opportunities. The classifications are derived from Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Park Plan (SCORP) classifications but customized for Lane County according to industry standards and best practices.


The nine classifications are introduced in Figure 6. Appendix A classifies all park land by these categories.


FIGURE 6: PARK CLASSIFICATIONS


Regional Park	
7 Regional Parks	2,628 Acres
<p>Large park with specialized facilities and unique natural, cultural, historic, scenic or recreational features that attract visitors from the region, County or beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracts visitors from an hour away or more • Includes a variety of recreation opportunities • Typically includes natural areas (for protection and/or outdoor recreation) • May support frequent visitation, high impact uses or overnight uses (where appropriate) • May be suitable for large group events 	
Examples: Armitage, Baker Bay, HBRA, Orchard Point, Perkins Peninsula, Richardson	
Recreation Resource Area	
2 Recreation Resource Areas	288 Acres
<p>Minimally-developed open space area managed primarily for outdoor recreation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site may be large and include a mix of developed uses, along with high and low-value natural resources; the majority of the site is undeveloped/natural • May include passive recreation and high-impact outdoor recreation activities, such as mountain biking, temporary camps/jamborees, etc. 	
Recreation Resource Areas: Blue Mountain Park, Hileman Park	
Water Access Park	
29 Water Access Parks	324 Acres
<p>Single-purpose site developed to provide water access (coastal, river or reservoir).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily supports recreation activities such as boating, paddleboarding, swimming, fishing, clamming, wave-watching, etc. • May include minor supporting uses, such as picnic tables, paths, viewpoints • Typically a small, single-purpose site • May include natural areas at larger sites 	
Examples: Ada Park, Heceta Beach, Konnie Memorial, Linslaw, Wildwood Falls	

Special Use	
11 Special Use Parks	111 Acres
<p>Other single-purpose sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a specialized facility or provides access to a specific cultural or natural resource (e.g., campground, wayside, covered bridge or interpretive viewpoint) • May be highly developed to support intended use 	
<p>Examples: Bohemia Saddle, Camp Lane, Dorena Covered Bridge, Old McKenzie Hatchery</p>	

Local Park	
3 Local Parks	36 Acres
<p>Small- or medium-sized park designed to support local access and meet recreation needs for nearby neighbors and the surrounding community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracts local residents from 10-20 minutes away • Supports variety of small scale active and passive recreation activities • May support small group events (25-200 people) • Includes community/town parks; may include larger neighborhood parks • Typically provided in rural areas 	
<p>Local Parks: Deerhorn Landing, Hendricks Bridge, Unity Park</p>	

Natural Area	
7 Natural Areas	844 Acres
<p>Natural resource/open space area intended for resource protection. The site may or may not have developed public access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes high- or medium-value natural resource areas • Primary purpose is protection of natural resources • Secondarily may be used for low-impact recreation that does not damage natural resources 	
<p>Examples: Big River, Clear Lake Dunes, Kinney Park, Siuslaw Falls, South Beach, Three Mile Prairie</p>	

Undeveloped/Closed Park	
2 Undeveloped/Closed Parks	10 Acres
<p>Land intended but not currently managed or maintained for park use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated open space, but not currently functioning or managed as park or natural area • May or may not currently provide public access • Includes sites with no development and minimally-developed parks that are currently closed • Intended to be re-classified and developed as a park in the future (if access can be provided) 	
<p>Example: Oakhurst Community Recreation Area</p>	

Land Bank	
2 Land Bank Sites	24 Acres
<p>Land held for resource management, temporary holding or future uses yet to be determined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May include resource/timber harvest areas with no recreation access or recreation access as a secondary use • May include tax-foreclosed properties and other lands held by Parks Division to sell for proceeds or to transfer to partners • May include sites currently in County ownership that are not suitable for management as park land or natural areas • May include sites in County ownership suited for transfer to other governmental or non-profit conservation organizations 	
<p>Land Bank Sites: Blue Mountain Land Bank, Myers Tract</p>	

Other Properties: Maintained Parks (Contractual)	
5 Maintained Parks	97.5 Acres
<p>Parks maintained by Lane County staff through a contracted maintenance agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracted by an entity such as OPRD or EWEB to provide maintenance services • County is not responsible for site management, development or improvements • No parking fee charged at these sites 	
<p>Examples: Goodpasture Boat Landing, Hayden Bridge, Lloyd Knox</p>	

Recreation/Natural Resource Protection

As noted in Appendix A, Lane County parks include many recreation amenities and facilities that provide access to water, nature, outdoor recreation, overnight camping, and resource interpretation (Table 1).

TABLE 1: HIGHLIGHTS OF RECREATION FACILITIES AND FEATURES IN LANE COUNTY PARKS

Facility Type	# of Park Sites Where Present
Water Access	
Marina	3
Dock/ Pier	7
Boat Ramp	35
Swimming Area	20
Nature Access Facilities	
Soft-Surfaced Trail	17
Hard-Surfaced Trail	5
Nature Viewpoint	13
Interpretive Feature	9
Other Outdoor Facilities	
Picnic Shelters	7
Picnic Area	32
Play Equipment	5
Sports/ Game Court	8
Overnight Facilities	
Cabins/ Yurts/ Treehouse	1
Campgrounds	5 (and Camp Lane)
Other Buildings/ Features	
Covered Bridge	4
Historic/ Cultural Feature	8
Interpretive Center	2

Note: See Appendix A for additional amenities and facilities.

Despite the numbers of recreation features, not all parkland is developed for recreation uses. The County's park system encompasses a variety of important natural resources ranging from river and creeks to forests and prairies. Substantial acreage is either undeveloped or protected as natural resources areas.

To better understand the value of natural resources in Lane County parks, thirty-three of the County's parks that include large amounts of land or otherwise appear to support significant habitat values were evaluated using criteria that address these broad categories: Habitat Values, Water Quality and Floodplain Function, and Public Use and Enjoyment. (See Appendix A, Natural Resource Evaluation Matrix.) These parks were scored on a scale of 1-100, which indicate a park's natural resource value. Scores for individual County Parks ranged from a low of 28.5 points to a maximum of 89 points. The median score was 44.5 points. Scores were further subdivided into high, medium and low ranges.

The natural resources scores were added to the park land and facility inventory to note sites requiring more extensive natural resource stewardship. The challenge the County faces is finding enough funding to maintain and steward its recreation assets and natural resources. Despite limited resources, the Parks Division has funded a Natural Areas Coordinator staff position. Additionally, volunteers support the stewardship of natural resources and environmental education at several of the County's sites including Howard Buford Recreation Area and Harbor Vista.

Parks with High Natural Resource Values

- Howard Buford Recreation Area
- Hileman
- Vickery
- Konnie Memorial
- South Beach
- Blue Mountain
- Eagle Rock
- Siuslaw Falls
- Ben and Kay Dorris
- Big River
- Old McKenzie Hatchery
- Three Mile Prairie



Funding and Staffing

The County must use a variety of approaches and areas of expertise in managing its diverse and expansive parks system. The County faces two significant hurdles in delivering the desired level of maintenance and service: a shortage of staff resources and funding.

Staff Resources

The Parks Division is allocated only 15.8 Full Time Equivalent employees (FTE's) for total staffing (FY 2017-18). These positions include 6 FTE's for full-time park maintenance staff, who also serve as compliance/enforcement officers, and 5 FTE's for temporary park maintenance staff. That equates to nearly 400 acres per maintenance staff position, which is clearly insufficient to manage 4,363 acres of parks and open space areas. To use staffing and funding resources most efficiently, Lane County contracts out some of its maintenance services. The County also devotes staff to maintaining non County-owned park land. Staff and contractor efforts are also supplemented in some parks by the efforts of partners and volunteers. Without staff to manage partnerships and volunteer projects, the County cannot fully leverage these resources.

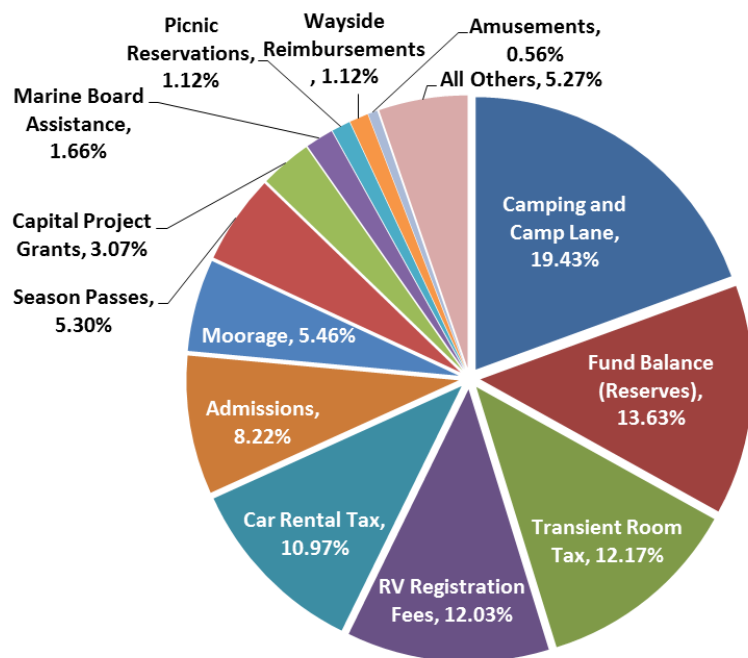
Funding

Lane County Parks Division operates on an annual budget of approximately \$3.42 million (FY 2017-18). Historically, the Parks Division has been funded through a variety of sources. For examples, the distribution of funding sources in 2015-2016 are illustrated in the pie chart in Figure 7. Of this, direct park expenses (maintenance and materials) account for \$2.65 million.

The division does not receive any General Fund (property tax) support. The Parks & Open Space program operates on revenues collected from parking fees, moorage, and picnic reservation fees, camping and Camp Lane reservation fees, transient room tax, recreational vehicle fees, car rental tax, the Oregon State Marine Board, and fees from hosting large events.

Capital projects accounted for another \$148,000 in expenditures last year. In comparison, Parks continues to manage a deferred maintenance

FIGURE 7: FY 2015/16 Funding Sources



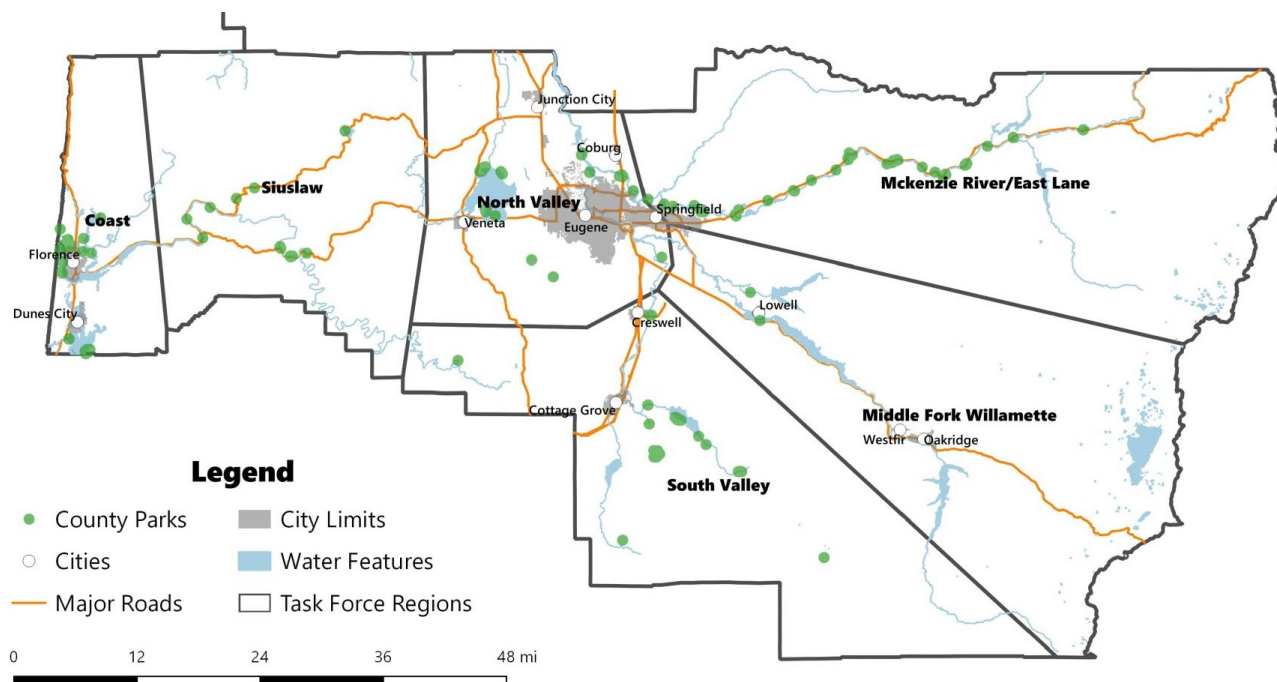
backlog of \$17 million¹ throughout the park system. As infrastructure continues to age, repairs are not sufficient and more expensive replacements are needed. Currently, some parks remain closed, undeveloped or lacking in amenities due to a lack of available funds.

Local and Countywide Needs

The size of the park system, mix of natural resources and recreation assets, and limited funding and staffing resources introduces another challenge: the need to distribute resources to serve residents and across the county. To evaluate the provision of park services, Lane County parks were divided into six regions to better understand local needs. The regions are defined by landscape features such as watersheds and park clusters (Figure 8). Regions include:

- Coast
- Siuslaw
- North Valley
- McKenzie River/East Lane
- Middle Fork Willamette
- South Valley

FIGURE 8: LANE COUNTY PARKS BY REGION



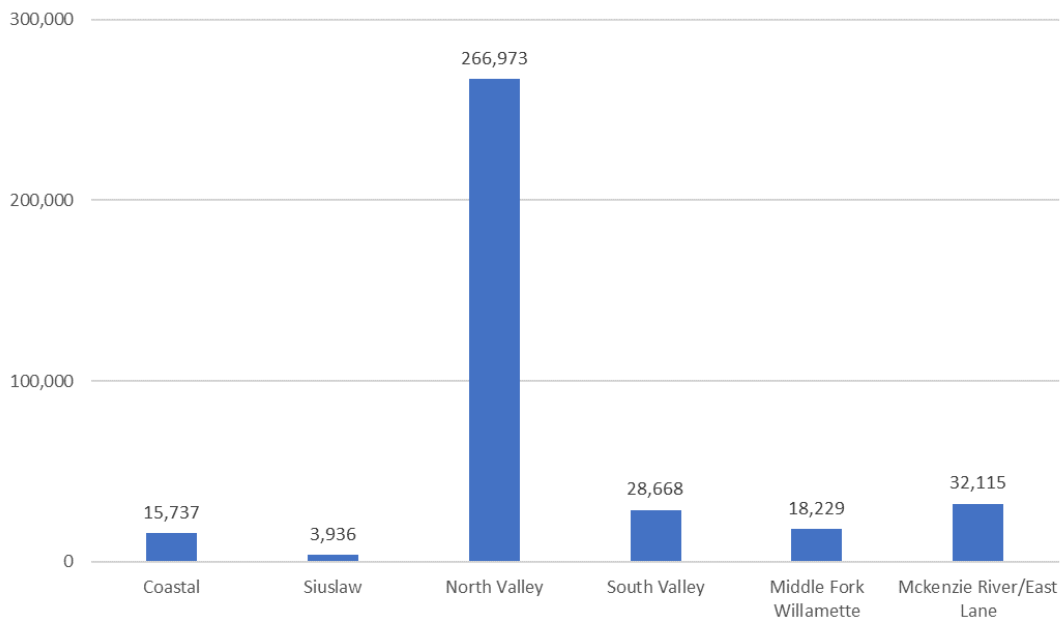
Source: 2016 Lane County GIS data.

¹ Lane County 2017-18 Adopted Budget

As shown in Figure 8, parks are not equally distributed within the six different regions. Reasons include:

- Maintenance & Management Agreements:** Lane County Parks and Oregon State Parks negotiated an agreement to increase maintenance efficiencies and park management. Lane County took over the maintenance of additional sites along the McKenzie River. It turned over site maintenance and management of several parks in the Middle Fork Willamette region. While both regions have many parks (compare Figure 5), Lane County has fewer managed sites in the Middle Fork Willamette region.
- Population Distribution:** The numbers of residents living in the six regions are not evenly distributed (Figure 9). Demands for park services are greatest in the North Valley, where most of the County’s population resides. Similarly, population within in each region is clustered as well. For example, most residents living in the Coast region are from Florence, where most of that region’s County parks are located.
- Assets and Opportunities:** Most of Lane County’s parks are situated to provide access to cultural or natural features or bodies of water. Parks are clustered along river corridors, near reservoirs, near the beach, adjacent to roadways (where they provide waysides), etc.

FIGURE 9: POPULATION BY REGION



Source: Lane County Parks Demographic Analysis. (See Appendix B)

When the Master Plan Task Force discussed the equitable provision of services, they recognized that the goal was not the equal distribution of parks, facilities and open space. Instead of evenly serving residents living in 12 incorporated communities and more than 80 unincorporated communities, more important was ensuring that local and regional needs were considered in park improvements and stewardship. The needs, preferences and resources across Lane County communities widely vary.

The demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of residents in each region of the County, as well as out-of-County visitors, were analyzed to understand recreation preferences and needs (Appendix B). Resident and tourist profiles are described below. ESRI's "tapestry segments" described customers' lifestyle choices, purchase options, and recreation preferences based on demographic and socioeconomic characteristics². These characteristics were defined for each region (Figure 10).

FIGURE 10: DOMINANT MARKET IN THE SIUSLAW, SOUTH VALLEY, & MIDDLE FORK WILLAMETTE REGIONS



MARKET PROFILE (Consumer preferences are estimated from data by GfK MR)

- Satellite dishes and riding lawn mowers are familiar sights in these rural settings, along with multiple vehicles; four-wheel drive trucks are popular, too.
- Residents are members of AARP and veterans' clubs and support various civic causes.
- Technology is not central in their lives: light use of Internet connectivity for shopping and entertainment.
- Most households have pets—dogs or cats.
- Television channels such as CMT, History, and Fox News are popular.
- They enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, hunting, fishing, and boating.

Source: Lane County Parks Demographic Analysis. (See Appendix B for the market analysis of other regions.)

² Esri supplies geographic information system (GIS) software.

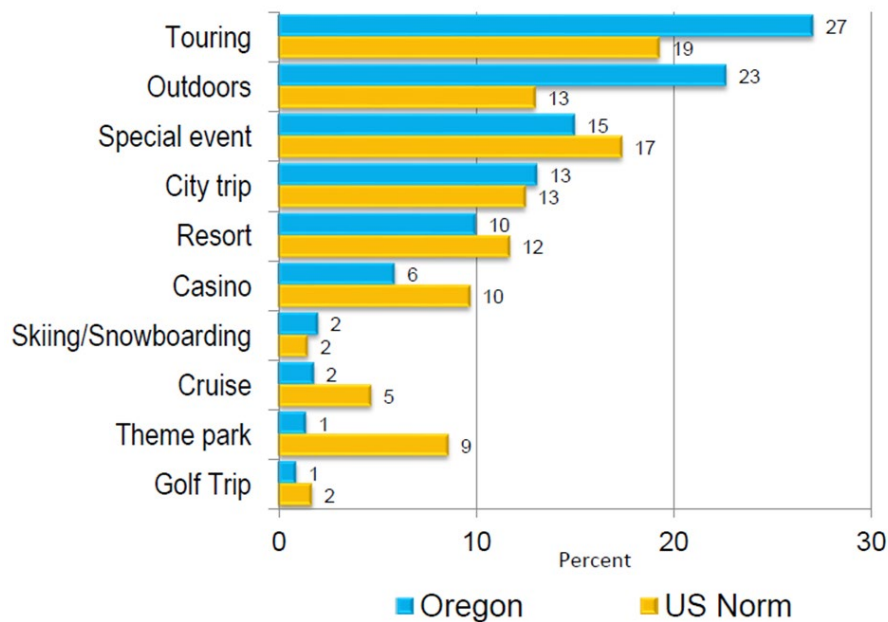
An analysis of natural and recreation assets coupled with the market segments pointed to the types of parks and recreation experiences that the County could consider in each region to better meet community needs (Appendix C). This strengthened the recommendations provided in this Master Plan.

Visitor Use and Tourism

In addition to County residents, tourists are important Lane County Park users. Visitors contribute to the vibrancy of rural Lane County communities by spending money on lodging, food and other services. Travel Lane County promotes Lane County as an “adventure-driven destination,” highlighting outdoor recreation experiences ranging from biking to fly fishing. The agency integrates local culture and food with recreation experiences. Many of the natural features and activities promoted are available in County parks.

A snapshot of Travel Oregon’s 2015 Visitors Report describes the state’s thriving tourism industry. There is great potential for Lane County to attract more visitors to its parks and recreation facilities. In 2015, 13.4 million adults took overnight trips to Oregon and 25 million took day trips. Touring and outdoors are the most common purpose for both overnight and day trips to Oregon (Figure 11). Special events ranked third. Visitors to Oregon are more likely to go to national or state parks, visit historic sites, and hike or backpack than the average visitor to other U.S. destinations.

FIGURE 11: PURPOSE OF TRIPS IN OREGON & UNITED STATES



Source: Lane County Parks Demographic Analysis. (See Appendix B)

Recreation tourism offers many benefits to Lane County. Not only do vacationers and visitors pay to use County parks and facilities, but they also provide larger economic impacts to Lane County businesses. Also, approximately fifteen percent of the Division's budget comes from the transient room tax, meaning County parks benefit directly from people staying in local hotels, motels, and lodging.

However, the challenge for Lane County is finding the right balance between meeting visitor and local needs. Many County parks are not intended to be recreation destinations or large event venues. Site characteristics, the need to protect natural and cultural resources, and the needs of nearby neighbors must be respected in decisions about site management, development and use.

Advantages of Better Data

The Master Planning process uncovered both unique opportunities and challenges for Lane County's park and open space system. However, it also provided new data to be able to better respond to those challenges through enhanced management and strategic site improvements. The new park classification, regional designations, park and habitat inventories, County demographic information, and market and tourism analysis together provided important information that allowed County staff, the Task Force, and PAC members to make key decisions about system management. This technical analysis, coupled with outreach findings presented in the next chapter, helped define a new vision, mission and goals for Lane County parks.



CHAPTER 3

Needs & Priorities



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CHAPTER 3

Needs & Priorities

The County's diverse and expansive parks and open space system serves a variety of users ranging from park neighbors to out-of-state tourists. County Parks must balance community and regional needs and priorities (ranging from stewarding natural resources to managing highly developed recreation facilities) and meet the needs and preferences of nearby neighbors and stakeholders. This requires County Parks staff to understand the unique needs of specific sites while also addressing the comprehensive needs of the entire parks and open spaces system with limited staff and funding.

This chapter summarizes the County's early outreach efforts, the service provision scenarios, and findings from recent community input.



Background

For over 10 years, the County has used a variety of engagement techniques to receive input about the community's needs and priorities and to guide decisions about the provision of parks and recreation opportunities. The County used this decade of community input to support the recommendations proposed in the 2015 Preliminary Draft Master Plan.

When the Master Planning effort resumed in 2016, earlier community outreach findings were evaluated to see if older needs reflected current community and park system priorities. To test whether the previously identified community needs remained relevant, the PMT developed service provision scenarios based on early outreach findings and technical analysis. In the most recent round of community engagement, the community reviewed the scenarios to identify their priorities for investments in the County's parks and open spaces system.

Early Community Engagement Findings and Needs

Early Outreach Efforts

From 2000 – 2016, leading up and in response to the 2015 Preliminary Draft Master Plan, the County conducted several surveys, online and in-person questionnaires, meetings, and comment forums to understand community needs and priorities (see sidebar).

Early Outreach Results

Community members identified the following recreation facilities as areas of high demand or where County Parks should expand or enhance their facilities.

- Campgrounds
- Trails
- Picnic and day use facilities
- Boating facilities (motorized and non-motorized)
- Swimming areas
- Fishing areas
- Interpretive facilities

In the development of the 2015 Preliminary Draft Master Plan, staff noted additional needs such as more extensive site development, site improvements and revenue-generating opportunities at sites where feasible. As a result, preliminary recommendations overemphasized site development to support recreation uses, which was not consistent with funding realities or the character of many Lane County Parks. Public comments on the Preliminary Draft Master Plan highlighted the need for a stronger investment strategy addressing several specific concerns, including:

- **Increased accessibility for people of all abilities:** Respondents noted the need to address the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in developed parks. People with disabilities comprise nearly 20% of the population¹ and the population includes more Baby Boomers (a large and aging segment of the population) than other Oregon counties. It will become increasingly important that ADA access and universal accessibility are integrated into Lane County's parks system. All renovated facilities will need to meet current standards.
- **Focus on high priority facilities (trails, picnic and day use facilities and interpretive facilities, etc.):** As community members reviewed the 2015 Preliminary Draft Plan,

Community Engagement 2005-2016

- 5 online questionnaires and surveys (2004-2015)
- 1 community telephone survey (2010)
- 22 focus groups (2004-2005)
- Public comments on the 2015 Preliminary Draft Master Plan
- 1 staff visioning retreat (2004)

¹ 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

they highlighted community priorities that needed more attention and development.

- **Large events:** Respondents expressed a concern about the impacts that large events—with 1,000 attendees or more—would have on nearby neighbors, natural resources, park access for non-event goers, and County Park resources.
- **Maintenance of Existing Parks and Facilities:** Community members would like to see improved maintenance of parks and facilities. They noted the need for improved maintenance of existing assets should be addressed before acquiring new parklands and developing new facilities.
- **Natural Resource Protection:** Conservation and preservation issues were high priorities for park management. Respondents wanted park recommendations to address the needs of wildlife, tree and plant health, and biodiversity through park resources.
- **Human Health Benefits:** Members of the public called attention to the mental, emotional and spiritual benefits provided by parks. Community members underscored the need to preserve and protect nature and opportunities for solitude—rather than emphasizing park development at all sites.

Service Provision Scenarios

The planning team used themes and findings from past public outreach as well as outreach findings from 2011 SCORP survey findings for the Lane County region (see sidebar) to inform a technical analysis of Lane County’s park system to test areas that are most suitable for Lane County park services. The analysis identified which sites were best positioned to support the desired recreation services using different investment scenarios.

Recognizing that funding is insufficient to address all competing demands and needs, there are three different service provision scenarios that could be emphasized through investment in County parks: 1) water access, 2) nature access and/or 3) trail connectivity.

SCORP Data Echoes Outreach Findings

- SCORP data notes the top three priorities for park and recreation investments in Lane County: soft surface trails and paths, public access sites to waterways and nature and wildlife viewing areas.
- Walking, hiking, beach activities and picnicking were among the top 10 most popular activities for recreation participation in Lane County.

An Accessible Water-Based System

Rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries, reservoirs and coastline are all major public resources and a key part of Lane County's identity. About 54% of County parks provide water access facilities while 90% of parks and open spaces are adjacent to a body of water where there may be opportunities for access.



Nature-Based Recreation

Lane County parks support an incredibly diverse range of natural resources. While protecting and stewarding natural resources, opportunities exist to enhance access to nature and nature-based recreation activities, such as wildlife viewing, nature play, hiking, camping, and environmental education. About 13% of County parks are undeveloped parks or natural areas. Some of these sites are not currently open or accessible to public, but access could be supported through appropriate and resource-sensitive improvements that support recreation and create opportunities to enhance or restore natural resources on site. Similar opportunities exist at other sites that currently intermix natural areas with other developed uses.



Connected Trail-Based Recreation

County parks include at least 28 miles of land trails, largely concentrated in just a few parks. Trails and pathways support a variety of recreation uses (e.g., hiking, biking, horseback riding) and facilities support water trail use (e.g., kayaking and canoeing) could be added to several parks. In addition, approximately 30% of the County’s parks could be connected by new land or water trails to create a more cohesive, interconnected system of County parks, parks provided by other providers, and nearby community destinations.



The Composite Model: Sites Addressing all Three Scenarios

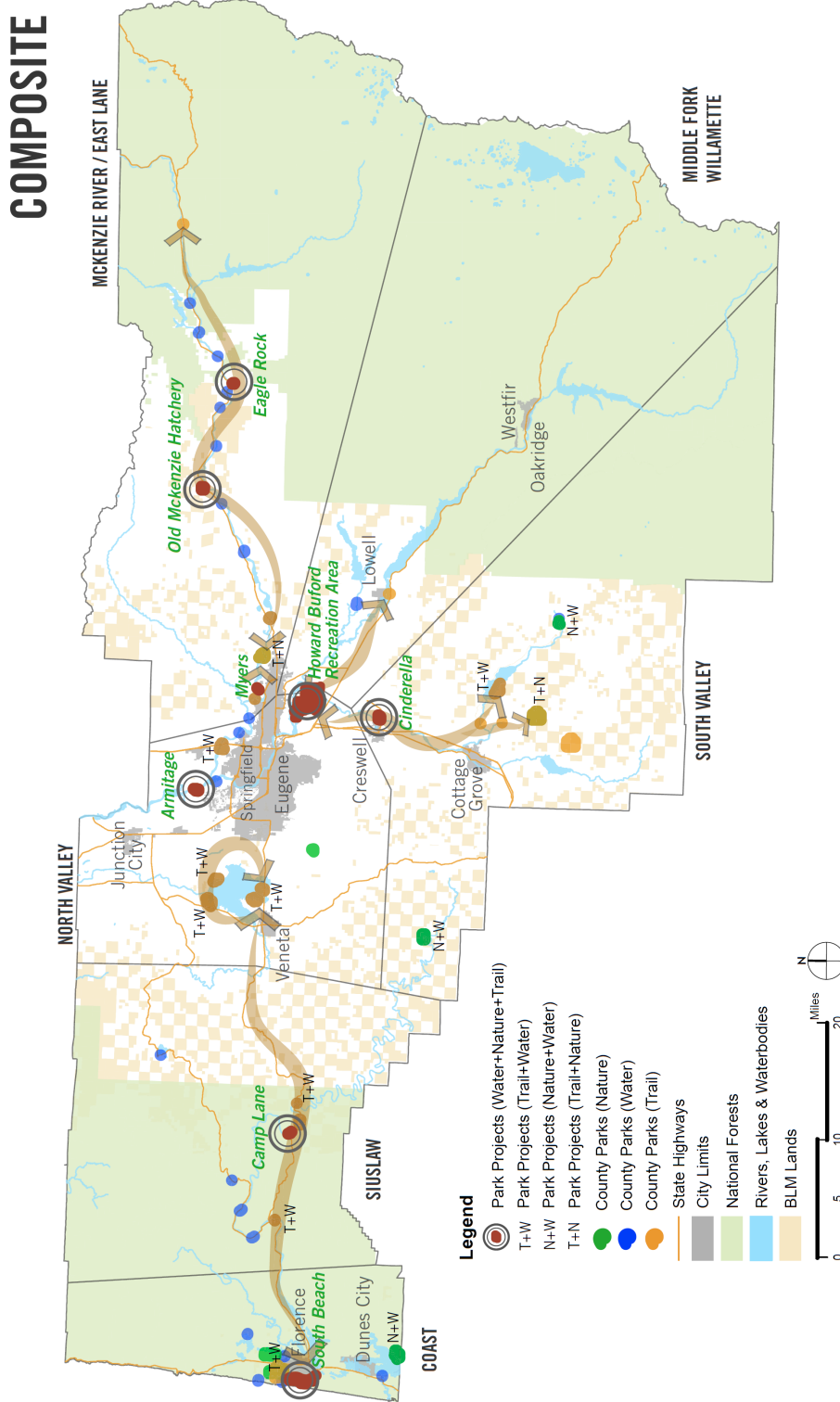
The analysis also showed locations with characteristics that could easily support water, nature and trail experiences together at one site, adding greater variety and opportunity to the primary focus of a park site. These experiences include: picnicking, camping, recreating with pets, and taking advantage of concessions and interpretative elements.

Instead of investing in one scenario, the County could selectively invest in parks that advance the three types of recreation opportunities most desired. Instead of smaller investments across many sites to support water access, this model suggested investing more heavily in fewer key sites in each region to create activity hubs. These activity hubs could be used for trails, water-based and nature-based recreation experiences, while park staff or volunteers actively steward the natural and cultural assets at these sites.

Figure 12 (the Service Provision Scenario Composite Map) is a conceptual model that helped illustrate which sites best support each of the different service provision scenarios.



FIGURE 12: SERVICE PROVISION SCENARIOS COMPOSITE MAP



Note: This map is a conceptual illustration and does not reflect Plan recommendations. It assisted in making decisions about system development and management.

Community Needs and Priorities

Task Force and PAC members, as well as stakeholders and community members evaluated the service provision scenarios. Based on their evaluation, participants prioritized recreation opportunities and elaborated on needs across the parks system.

Recent Outreach Efforts

The Project Team conducted three types of community engagement activities in 2016-2017, including an online questionnaire, a series of community workshops, and interactive activities at the County Fair. The online questionnaire was administered from April 14 through June 4, 2017, with 463 respondents providing feedback. Community workshops held across the county in Eugene, Mapleton, Leaburg, Cottage Grove, Florence, Oakridge and Springfield involved 106 participants. Interactive activities at the 2017 Lane County Fair solicited 80 responses. Details are noted in Appendix D.

To ensure that residents were aware of the planning process and opportunities to be involved, the County promoted engagement opportunities through many different platforms. Promotion included a dedicated webpage on the County website, video, emails, newsletters, social media ads, posts and videos, digital billboard and through radio PSAs.



Recent Outreach Results

The current outreach results revealed themes related to community needs and priorities. Outreach results are provided in more detail in Appendix D. Although this input was provided by a relatively small number of community members, many of the themes are supported by the 2011 SCORP survey (see sidebar on page 23). Community engagement themes are summarized below.

- **Invest in a water, nature and trail-based recreation system:** Community input indicated that Lane County parks are best known for their water access, trail and

nature experiences, and residents look to County parks to support each of these. This suggested the need to further consider the composite model of the three service provisions scenarios.

- **Protect natural areas:** Top community priorities for natural area/habitat improvements included habitat protection and restoration areas, as well as adding campgrounds and cabins, nature play areas and picnic areas to support access in appropriate places. They also noted a need to balance open space and habitat protection in parks with little or no public access, with natural area stewardship in parks with extensive public use. These findings, along with the recently completed park habitat inventory, helped identify sites that could remain undeveloped or largely protected open space areas, plus underscore the need to support natural area maintenance in a stronger way.
- **Improve maintenance and stewardship:** Community members re-iterated that improving the maintenance and condition of existing facilities and infrastructure should be the top priority for County investments. While new acquisitions could be considered if the right opportunity emerged, and funding was available, respondents wanted existing parks improved and maintained and maintenance funding or resources identified before new acquisitions are pursued.
- **Add and enhance water-based facilities:** Access to the County's rivers, creeks, reservoirs and coast continued to be a top priority. Desired investment to enhance water access included providing more designated swimming areas and non-motorized boat launches (e.g., canoe, kayak, driftboat).
- **Invest significantly in targeted parks:** In the community workshop, where participants had an opportunity to design their ideal County park, it became clear that residents hoped to see a much higher investment at selected County parks. It was also clear that this level of investment would not be feasible at all sites. Feedback included guidance to select targeted sites by taking into account the distribution and equity of recreation options, respecting the unique character and assets at specific sites, and building on sites with existing access, infrastructure and opportunities to improve recreation experiences.
- **Increase the awareness of County parks and facilities:** Despite the County's effort to conduct a robust and extensive engagement effort reaching out to residents, stakeholders and partners, fewer people responded to the questionnaire than Task Force members expected. Also, many people who did respond were unaware of the significant funding challenges faced by Lane County parks. One of the takeaways from this outreach effort was the need for improved information and communication channels between the County and community members to

educate people about the need for greater resident, partner, volunteer and funding support to meet community expectations.

Together, with the early community input and the technical analysis, the recent community findings suggested clear strategic directions for County Parks. The Task Force evaluated the community needs and community priorities and parks system assets and developed a vision and goals for Lane County Parks. The vision and goals serve as the framework that guides the strategies and recommendations described in the following chapters.



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CHAPTER 4

Goals & Systemwide Strategies



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CHAPTER 4

Vision, Mission, Goals & Systemwide Strategies

The aspirations for Lane County parks are the guiding forces for the Parks & Open Space Master Plan. These aspirations are summarized in the following vision, mission and goals, which were developed and refined based on insights from the community, Task Force, Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) and County Board of Commissioners. This document also presents strategies that will provide guidance for staff and the community to work together to achieve Master Plan goals.

Master Plan Elements

Vision

The vision reflects the aspirations for parks and open space in the future. It paints a picture of the desired park and open space system County residents want to achieve.

Our thriving parks and natural areas connect us to our rivers, reservoirs and natural features, showcase our heritage and natural diversity, and protect resources for future generations.

Mission

The mission statement describes the business or approach that County staff will take in providing parks, recreation facilities, trails and open space.

We responsibly manage, sustain and enhance our parks and natural resources through partnership, stewardship and quality customer service.

Goals

Goals are the desired outcomes to be achieved by implementing the Parks & Open Space Master Plan. Goals can be used to identify plan strategies, policies or recommendations to guide future decisions and ensure consistent long-term direction for service provision.

Six goals are proposed:

1. **Collaborate.** Engage residents, volunteers, interest groups, educational providers, businesses and local, state, and federal agencies as partners in the coordinated effort to expand, enhance, interpret, provide, and protect parks, natural areas, trails and recreation opportunities across Lane County.
2. **Connect.** Attract people to nature, the outdoors and County parks by providing a variety of experiences, improving park and facility access, increasing stewardship, supporting environmental education/nature interpretation, and improving communication.
3. **Create vibrancy.** Re-invigorate and revitalize key parks as thriving, family-friendly outdoor activity hubs through redesign, renovation and programming to help position Lane County as the best county for outdoor recreation and play.
4. **Generate economic vitality.** Create a strategic and holistic park management approach that balances local needs with opportunities to create economic benefits in surrounding communities and/or to generate revenue to re-invest in parks.
5. **Protect resources.** Sustain and protect unique County assets, cultural and natural resources as our legacy for future generations.
6. **Reflect our values.** Emphasize our diverse, natural character and make high impact, low-cost moves to maintain sites, sustain infrastructure and improve the quality, safety and attractiveness of park amenities, landscaping and recreation facilities.



Strategies

Strategies are specific activities and initiatives that will achieve the stated goals. These strategies provide system-wide direction for all County parks and open spaces. They are organized by the goals that they support.

Goal 1: Collaborate

Engage residents, volunteers, interest groups, educational providers, businesses and local, state, and federal agencies as partners in the coordinated effort to expand, enhance, interpret, provide, and protect parks, natural areas, trails and recreation opportunities across Lane County.

- 1.1 Create a volunteer, partnership and program coordinator position, whose responsibilities include:
 - Volunteer and partner recruitment
 - Contact list management
 - Friends group formation, operations and support
 - Recognition programs
 - Volunteer and partner contribution tracking
 - Intern recruitment and management
 - Program provider recruitment (see 3.6)
- 1.2 Develop and implement an engagement and communication plan focused on recruiting and retaining individuals, partners and non-profits to help implement the strategies in Goals 2-6. For example, recruit volunteers to offer nature walks and interpretive programs at specific parks.
- 1.3 Engage local businesses and outdoor recreation companies by organizing annual volunteer drives and investment opportunities (sponsorships, donations) to support park needs.
- 1.4 Designate a staff liaison/contact person from Lane County Parks to facilitate local agency collaboration (e.g., City of Eugene Parks, Willamalane PRD, City of Cottage Grove) and increase coordination with public and private entities that have an ownership stake in various County park sites. Make participation in local agency planning efforts part of the job description for this person.
- 1.5 Convene a regular cross-agency forum with other public landholders/land managers (Federal, state, non-profit) with the initial goal of developing a comprehensive countywide parks and open space vision. Explore options to build on the Rivers to Ridges partnership.

- 1.6 Involve an independent 501(c)(3) parks advocacy non-profit organization (see 4.2) as an umbrella group for non-profit for friends of parks groups, to support site specific advocacy and fundraising.
- 1.7 Identify and keep current a list of projects (both capital and stewardship) that can be completed or supported by volunteer groups, businesses, non-profit groups, interns, students and others.
- 1.8 Define and implement a review process for community-built and operated projects proposed at Lane County parks, with criteria to evaluate proposals when they are made. Proposed projects should:
 - Meet the goals and intent of this Master Plan
 - Be consistent with Lane County’s design and programming guidance for the park’s classification
 - Demonstrate feasibility for implementation, including addressing support amenities and infrastructure
 - Provide a maintenance plan to ensure funding and staffing are sufficient for its intended lifespan
 - Go through a staff evaluation process (including Director approval) and PAC review of staff’s recommendation
- 1.9 Develop a fillable intake form for vendors, concessionaires, and private/non-profit recreation providers to "Propose a class, event, meeting or activity in a Lane County Park" to guide the intake, evaluation, and tracking of activities hosted by others at County sites.
 - Identify the review and approval process, including applicable fees, clearly on the form (see 3.6)
 - Coordinate the approval process with current Special Use Permitting and Large Events Task Force (LETF) standards and processes (see 3.6)
 - Ensure the proposed use meets the goals and intent of this Master Plan
 - Ensure proposed locations are consistent with Lane County’s design and programming guidance for the park’s classification
 - Develop a fee structure for different scales/types of activities
 - Identify any use restrictions for sites for small and large group activities and events (see 3.6)
- 1.10 Develop conditions, criteria and procedures for in-kind sponsorships, where Lane County is recognized as a sponsor or formal partner for classes, events, meetings and programmed activities in Lane County parks or facilities.
 - Identify requirements for activities where fees may be waived or reduced
 - Ensure partner activities advance the goals and intent of the Master Plan
- 1.11 Leverage the PAC’s role as advisor to the Board of County Commissioners on parks needs and as a community liaison group. Also:

- Assign a Committee member to serve as the Lane County liaison to the 501(c)(3) parks advocacy non-profit organization
 - Encourage Committee members to serve as Lane County liaisons to other parks-related non-profits and planning efforts
 - As stated in the bylaws, review and make recommendations to the Board on matters related to land the transfers, acquisition and disposal of park lands and other policy decisions
 - Track and report progress on Master Plan implementation
 - Advise when ad hoc citizen advisory groups or task forces are needed to address specific issues
- 1.12 Develop formalized agreements with partners who manage or operate facilities on Lane County park lands, with entities that support site stewardship and with public and private entities that have an ownership stake in various County park sites.
- 1.13 Develop internship policies and procedures to guide the recruitment and management of interns.



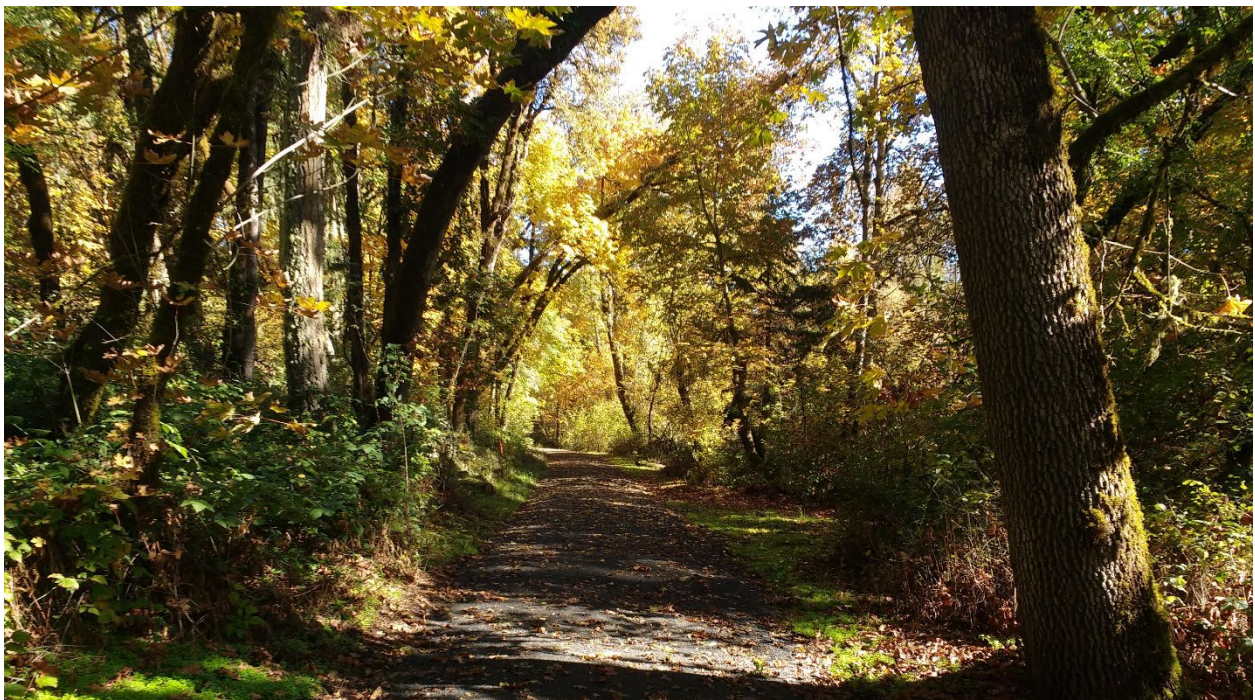
Goal 2: Connect

Attract people to nature, the outdoors and County parks by providing a variety of experiences, improving park and facility access, increasing stewardship, supporting environmental education/nature interpretation, and improving communication.

- 2.1 Develop a wayfinding program that identifies countywide trails and Lane County parks and major facilities. It should respect local brands and identities and be usable in conjunction with other signage.
- 2.2 Improve access to Lane County parks by clearly identifying access points, providing safe and well-marked park entries for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles, and enhancing connections to parks via bike routes and trails.
- 2.3 Coordinate and collaborate with other departments (e.g., Lane County Transportation) and agencies (e.g., the coalition of Rivers to Ridges agencies) to connect Lane County parks to the countywide network of on-street and off-street trails, including physical connections as well as wayfinding. This includes advocating for and helping advance planned State, regional and city trails and on-street bike routes that expand the network, even if they do not directly connect to a Lane County park.
- 2.4 Make Lane County parks more welcoming for people with disabilities (in addition to ADA compliance, which is required by law) by providing more information online about accessible facilities and challenge levels, reviewing and ensuring policies and procedures support inclusion, and reaching out to communities of people with disabilities and advocates for constructive feedback.
- 2.5 Improve connectivity and access within Lane County parks, by improving roads, paths and trails to key destinations and providing looped trails of different challenge levels, as well as better on-site wayfinding.
- 2.6 Enhance existing trailheads at designated parks throughout the system by developing amenities, such as permanent restrooms, adequate parking, potable water, wayfinding signage and accessibility accommodations. Consider support elements such as seating, shade, bike repair stations and racks, interpretive and directional signage, mileage markers from key destinations, etc.
- 2.7 Develop and actively maintain a user-friendly Lane County Parks webpage providing clear information on parks and park amenities, park passes, reservations and event planning, and volunteer opportunities, ongoing and planned projects. Refine and simplify existing online information if feasible to highlight the following on separate pages:

- Open parks and facilities (overview, map with ability to zoom in to each site, facility information)
 - Provide an email contact link on the Lane County Parks website (in addition to the address and phone number).
 - Parks Pass info
 - Water Access opportunities, including river, lake, and ocean access and information on boat ramps, marinas and moorage
 - Camping options, with descriptions of sites/special amenities and a link to reservations
 - Trails, distinguishing sites with trails suitable for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding
 - Covered Bridges in Lane County
 - Planning an Event, including Camp Lane, reservable picnic and day use areas, large events policies, insurance requirements
 - “How to get involved,” with information on volunteering, friends groups, donations and partnerships
 - Parks Advisory Committee
 - A Parks Planning page (capital Improvements information, information about specific planning efforts and task forces, library of adopted plans and documents)
 - Links to Lane County Tourism and local parks providers
 - Highlights of events occurring in Lane County parks (or a calendar if feasible)
 - Highlight native habitats found in Lane County parks and provide information on where to see them
- 2.8 Update Google Maps with information about each Lane County park site, so that all sites have information and photographs. See Richardson Park for an example of a Lane County park with a complete profile.
- 2.9 Develop and implement a social media campaign to raise awareness about parks, water access, activities in parks, and the contributions of volunteers and partners to Lane County Parks, using the Lane County Gov platform and a set of parks-specific hashtags.
- 2.10 Create and make available online self-guided activities in Lane County parks to increase awareness and community connections, such as:
- A parks “passport” where people take pictures of key park feature at different sites or photos at a specific number of parks to potentially receive a prize (free parks pass for the next year, a free camping night, parks swag)
 - Self-guided bike tours
 - Self-guided hikes and walks
 - Downloadable river access map

- Nature guides for key parks
- 2.11 Attend a selection of outdoor recreation and nature focused community events and activities hosted by other entities to provide Lane County parks information.
 - 2.12 Collaborate with other Lane County departments and divisions on activities in or related to parks.
 - 2.13 Implement a consistent public involvement protocol for parks capital improvements.
 - 2.14 Continue to empower rangers and maintenance crew members to act as ambassadors for Lane County Parks. Provide tools to help them make and report on visitor contacts.
 - 2.15 Support water trails¹ by managing parks with water access for appropriate public use of Lane County's rivers and lakes by collaborating with partners on water trail development, promotion and improvement efforts.



¹ Water trails are routes on navigable waterway such as rivers, lakes, canals and coastlines for recreational use. They allow access to waterways for non-motorized boats and sometimes motorized vessels, innertubes, and other craft

Goal 3: Create Vibrancy

Re-energize and revitalize targeted parks as thriving, family-friendly outdoor activity hubs through redesign, renovation and programming to help position Lane County as the best county for outdoor recreation and play.

- 3.1 Follow Master Plan recommendations to invest in targeted parks to enhance their function as community outdoor recreation destinations. Priorities for investment include parks with the following characteristics:
 - Includes a cultural or natural feature that provides identity
 - Provides a suitable location for educational, social or cultural events and activities
 - Attracts or has the potential to attract visitors for 2+ hours
 - Has permanent restrooms
 - Is located so it can draw people from throughout the planning region and potentially beyond
 - Is designed for universal access, including accessible trails
 - Has existing or potential partners, an active stewardship or friends group, or an interested person who can help incubate a park volunteer program
- 3.2 Re-envision and create master plans for targeted park sites with community and volunteer participation. Identify potential partnerships and joint projects to enhance these sites. Develop phasing plans with modest incremental implementation of planned projects, contributing to a more comprehensive site renovation over time.
- 3.3 Embrace 'nature play' as the preferred approach for play areas at Lane County Parks sites, providing a range of play experiences that reflect the local ecosystem and landscape and are tailored to the scale of the park.
- 3.4 Provide different sizes of group picnic areas in regional parks and other targeted sites to accommodate a variety of uses. Consider the character and type of picnic experience (e.g., sheltered and unsheltered, secluded and active settings), as well as opportunities to use or reserve these sites as group gatherings, activities and programs.
- 3.5 Recruit volunteers to provide education, interpretation and activities at key park sites.
- 3.6 Strengthen existing policies and procedures to host or facilitate events at different scales.
 - Revisit and apply the policies and procedures established by the Large Events Task Force (LETF) to identify sites with an existing capacity to host large events, as defined in Appendix E. Similar to the analysis conducted at HBRA, incorporate new habitat inventory data, park classifications,

newer information on existing park access and infrastructure, land use and site use restrictions, as well as development recommendations to further vet sites previously identified as “potentially suitable.” As part of this vetting, identify sites that may be better suited for smaller events based on access restrictions and infrastructure

- Continue to apply the large events evaluation process, policies and standards to sites listed as “potentially suitable for large events”. This will also be applied to all proposals for large and small high-impact events, as per the Large Events Task Force report (see Appendix E)
- Establish a new intake and approval process for all events (see 1.9)
- Identify any use restrictions for sites for small and large group activities and events (see 1.9)

- 3.7 Recruit program providers or host regular activities, events and programs at targeted sites throughout Lane County’s park system, striving to provide:
- An annual celebration day at a site within each planning region that takes inspiration from the site’s identifying features. For example, Richardson Park could include an event focusing on Fern Ridge reservoir with activities such as a bike ride around the reservoir, water-based activities (e.g., a regatta, a float, a milk carton derby) with food, exhibits and performance on the open lawn
 - An annually-occurring covered bridge festival that celebrates Lane County’s covered bridge history
 - Activities that reflect a variety of recreation interests, such as outdoor exercise, guided hikes, paddle tour, markets, concerts, environmental stewardship
 - Options for different times of the day and week
 - A variety of group sizes and activity formats to meet community needs
 - Options in every planning region
 - Activities at different parks to introduce people to a variety of sites and experiences
- 3.8 Encourage events organized by community groups, nonprofits and/or businesses that support physical activity, family-friendly social interactions, enjoying the outdoors and connecting to nature.
- 3.9 Maintain or strengthen connections with niche recreation enthusiasts and advocacy groups to determine how and where to best accommodate them in County parks.
- 3.10 Establish policies and identify permitted locations for recreation activities that make use of the physical environment but do not require permanent facilities. Examples include slack-lining, hang gliding, and rock climbing. Allow these activities where feasible and when minimal impact to habitat is likely.

Goal 4: Generate Economic Vitality

Create a strategic and holistic park management approach that balances local/site needs with opportunities to create economic benefits or to generate revenue to re-invest in parks.

- 4.1 Collaborate with Travel Lane County and other regional tourism initiatives (e.g., Oakridge’s focus on mountain bike tourism).
- 4.2 Establish a Lane County parks advocacy non-profit that is a 501(c)(3). This non-profit can advocate for parks funding, conduct campaigns, apply for grant funding and receive donations for Lane County parks.
- 4.3 Evaluate and improve cost accounting to support decision-making regarding park management and operations.
 - Track operations revenues and expenditures by site, not separating out campgrounds, marinas, reservable facilities and maintenance funds. That will create a clearer picture of which sites are profitable, which break even, and which are subsidized. Note: some categories of revenues (such as annual passes) and expenditures (administration) apply to entire system and should be included as such
 - Track revenues by category to inform the evaluation of existing fees and revenue sources. Consider these categories: day use/parking fees (including annual passes or day passes purchased online or from a vendor), moorage/marinas, campgrounds/Camp Lane, picnic shelter reservations, event fees, wayside reimbursements, Oregon State Marine Board, maintenance funds for contracted sites, and other sources such as the transient room tax, recreational vehicle fees, car rental tax, etc. Note funding sources for any parks funding deficits not addressed by traditional revenue sources
- 4.4 Create a resource development manager position or reassign an existing employee to this role to proactively increase funding and resources for Lane County Parks. (See 4.5)
- 4.5 Develop additional resources and funding for Lane County parks.
 - Cultivate and grow relationships with local businesses, hospitality industry and private sector recreation providers, including outdoor recreation manufacturers and retailers headquartered or with significant presence in Lane County
 - Explore corporate sponsorships as well as volunteerism
 - Evaluate the Parks fee structure on an annual basis and consider new fee types, especially those related to new programs, facilities or events (see 4.6)
 - Monitor and apply for grants and outside funding

- Explore new sources of stable long-term operational funding for Lane County parks, such as operating levies or utility fees
 - Consider capital funding measures in conjunction with other Lane County infrastructure improvements
 - Explore ecologically appropriate harvest of forest products to generate revenue to reinvest back into the same park
 - Discuss options for investing General Fund monies or increasing the percentage of funding received from the transient room tax, recreational vehicle fees, car rental tax or other funding sources
- 4.6 Re-evaluate and update fees and fee structures for all passes, programs, events and reservable facilities.
- Restructure and simplify the fee structures for marinas/moorage and picnic shelter reservations
 - Adjust camping fees for sites with hook-ups and other amenities (see 4.8)
 - Add a short-term pass aimed at visitors (3-day or 1-week pass).
 - Increase the cost of a one-day pass
 - Reposition and market the Annual Pass as a membership to Friends of Lane County Parks Advocacy group or non-profit advocacy group
 - Consider providing a discount for Lane County residents purchasing annual passes, by increasing prices for non-resident annual passes purchased online
 - Consider incorporating peak and off-peak pricing
 - Annually reassess and increase fees based on market pricing
- 4.7 Evaluate transitioning to an independent online reservation system, such as Reserve America, that is more easily searchable by visitors.
- 4.8 Enhance and expand camping options throughout the Lane County park system to provide a range of lodging alternatives and maximize revenue potential:
- Provide more hike-in/bike-in campsites with charging stations and bring at least half into the reservation system. The price point should be the same as for walk-in tent-only sites
 - Provide walk-in tent-only campsites/camping lawns with a lower price point than drive-in campsites and sites with hook-ups
 - Increase the prices for sites with electric and water hookups, to create a bigger differential from sites that have none
 - Explore adding roofed camping structures (cabins, yurts, tiny houses on wheels, vintage trailers) at some sites at a higher price point
 - Add more group camp sites with different capacities and vary the pricing based on capacity

- Provide/improve support amenities where warranted to enhance camping comfort and the camping experience (cooking shelters, showers, group fire rings and grills)
- 4.9 Expand rental options for Camp Lane, including day use, partial site and winter rentals, as well as potential additional lodging options. Revisit pricing and develop a focused marketing plan for this facility.
 - 4.10 Facilitate non-profits, outfitters and businesses providing services ranging from food and lodging to white water rafting adventures in selected parks to expand services and increase local economic vitality. These efforts should not create net operating costs for the County.
 - 4.11 Prepare a feasibility study and business plan for any proposed new major facility development or renovation/expansion (marina, boat ramp, campground) prior to determining whether to proceed, or require one for partner-proposed facilities that will be located on Lane County sites.
 - 4.12 Support local and citizen-led efforts to bring additional funding resources to parks in Lane County.



Goal 5: Protect Resources

Sustain and protect unique County assets, cultural and natural resources as our legacy for future generations.

- 5.1 Increase Lane County investment in park maintenance and natural resource stewardship to protect cultural and natural assets.
- 5.2 Conduct a countywide inventory of natural and cultural resources in the park system and identify significant resources.
- 5.3 Assess the condition and improvement needs and costs of significant natural and cultural resources noted on the countywide inventory.
- 5.4 Identify a deferred maintenance project list and facility lifecycle inventory. Prioritize projects for partnership investment and improvements when funds are available.
- 5.5 Conduct a trails inventory to track the locations, types, conditions and lengths of County trails.
- 5.6 Preserve and protect natural resources in parks and throughout the county to support wildlife, ecological functions and establish stronger connection to Lane County's natural environment, including:
 - Managing invasive species
 - Increasing riparian buffers
 - Replanting/seeding with native plants
 - Protecting nesting sites and rare plants
- 5.7 Strengthen efforts to identify, designate, interpret and protect cultural resources (such as cultural landscapes, public art, archeological resources and historic structures) and ensure that they are made available for public understanding and interpretation.
- 5.8 Prepare site-specific resource management plans for sites with significant natural or cultural resources. This should include a cultural resource management plan for Lane County's covered bridges.
- 5.9 Invest in protecting and enhancing Lane County's natural areas while providing compatible public access for recreation. Consider ecological, visual and noise impacts when evaluating compatibility.
- 5.10 Provide sustainably-designed facilities and introduce resource conservation measures in parks where feasible.
- 5.11 Adopt a planting palette, water conservation strategies and approach to landscaping in parks of all classifications that prioritizes native plants,

reduces turf grass area (where not supporting recreation uses) and considers long-term resiliency.

- 5.12 Avoid siting infrastructure such as cell towers or water lines in environmentally or visually sensitive areas.
- 5.13 Reduce the footprint and impact of parking facilities over time by siting and scaling parking lots carefully, supporting multiple modes of transportation, and using pervious surface materials where possible.
- 5.14 Involve partners and/or coordinate with existing programs to improve resource stewardship and potentially incorporate outside expertise and best practices.
 - Explore opportunities to coordinate with EWEB's Pure Water Partners program
 - Explore options to coordinate with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality guidelines regarding Total Maximum Daily Load and Water Quality Management strategies for waterbodies in the Willamette Basin to improve water quality and stormwater management
- 5.15 Support environmental education, nature interpretation and stewardship in Lane County parks.
 - Develop and offer interpretive tours and guided hikes
 - Collaborate and partner with friends groups and other community organizations to further educational programs on the natural habitat and environment at County parks
 - Host annual park clean ups in collaboration with partners, friends groups and other community organizations
 - Continue to support recycling in Lane County and educate people about the impacts of illegal dumping in parks. Address global-scale challenges, such as addressing impacts of climate change, by acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions when replacing equipment, identifying maintenance strategies, etc.
 - Promote and support compatible self-directed wildlife-dependent recreation throughout the County's park system, including fishing, wildlife observation, photography, and interpretation

Goal 6: Nurture Our Values

Emphasize our diverse, natural character and make high impact, low-cost moves to maintain sites, sustain infrastructure and improve the quality, safety and attractiveness of park amenities, landscaping and recreation facilities.

- 6.1 Develop, define and promote an identity for Lane County Parks.
 - Work with Lane County’s Public Information Officer and staff to develop language, images and communication tools that promote the role of Lane County Parks in providing vibrant parks that support access to water, nature, trails, while stewarding the county’s natural and cultural resources
 - Update park design and development guidelines to define the characteristics and identity of Lane County Parks as well as required amenities to ensure a safe, welcoming and inclusive park experience. Ensure that new park development and park renovations adhere to these guidelines and the goals of the Master Plan
- 6.2 Focus on the outdoor recreation character of Lane County Parks when making capital improvements:
 - Re-invest in facilities at existing parks that support trail activities, camping, water access, boating/paddling, nature interpretation and outdoor recreation
 - Focus on visitor amenities and facilities that can support multiple activities and are flexible enough to accommodate evolving trends
 - Emphasize the local environment and character of the park in material selection, plant palettes and site furnishings
 - Add amenities at parks to make parks visitor-friendly and comfortable (benches, potable water, shade, restrooms, bike parking)
- 6.3 Develop long-term asset replacement plans for major revenue generating sites, including a schedule for regular investment and volunteer stewardship.
- 6.4 Track deferred maintenance needs by site; include desired habitat and vegetation management needs (as noted in 5.4).
- 6.5 Consider shrinking the developed footprint in some parks through efforts such as reducing mowed turf grass areas, reducing paved areas, or not replacing aging and worn features incompatible with Plan goals, site character, park design guidelines and desired site uses.
- 6.6 Explore options to optimize local management of selected Lane County sites by working with other public agencies to transition ownership (e.g., Cinderella Park) or management responsibility (e.g., HBRA) of sites or selected facilities.

- 6.7 Explore options to formalize arrangements with friends groups, service groups and volunteers to support specific parks or facilities on an ongoing basis, rather than project by project.
- 6.8 Coordinate with countywide and statewide planning guidance, such as the Willamette River Greenway.
- 6.9 Evaluate functionally closed, inaccessible and landbanked parks and open space areas to determine if these sites should be opened or managed to support the goals of the Master Plan. Identify a long-term management strategy for each of these sites. Ensure parks have sufficient maintenance and operational resources, as well as development funding, before opening or encouraging access to these sites.
- 6.10 Build the capacity of Lane County Parks staff and programs to monitor impacts, integrate climate change preparedness, and improve resiliency.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with facilities and operations
 - Protect coastal and inland buildings and infrastructure
 - Adapt landscaping plant palettes for resilience to climate change
 - Strengthen hazard response plans for fire and flooding in particular.
- 6.11 Consider long-term funding for maintenance and capital improvements prior to acquiring new sites if opportunities arise that are consistent with Master Plan goals or generate a profit that can be reinvested in that site and other County parks.



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CHAPTER 5

Site Recommendations



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CHAPTER 5

Site Recommendations

As the vision, goals and strategies from the previous chapter are implemented across the park and open space system, some parks will be improved and activated while others will be monitored as natural open space. In between, many sites will be maintained and stewarded to continue their existing level of use, and a few will be naturalized over the long term. This chapter summarizes recommendations for each Lane County park site, highlighting detailed recommendations for several parks.

Site Treatments

The Master Plan recommends ten different potential “treatments” for each Lane County park site. These treatments provide high-level guidance on the types of future investment and development that are appropriate for each site, based on the current function of the park and its desired future use. These treatments are applied to Lane County’s park inventory, including sites owned or leased by Lane County, as well as several sites maintained by Lane County under contract. The site treatments can be applied to potential new sites when applicable.¹

The potential site treatments are defined as follows:

- **Site Planning:** Prior to site renovation and new development, conduct public outreach, evaluate opportunities and identify ways to best meet local and regional needs and integrate best practices into site development. Develop site designs and/or master plans, along with business plans for any large revenue-generating facilities if proposed (e.g., nature center, programmed event space).
- **Park/Facility Investment (Renovation):** Increase the level of investment in this site by renovating existing assets and facilities and adding new facilities consistent with site master plans, the Parks & Open Space Master Plan, and County or partner financial resources. Consider site enhancements that expand use and activate the site.

¹ New sites may be acquired on an opportunity basis where these advance Master Plan goals and are consistent with Master Plan strategies. No specific new sites are recommended at this time.

- **Park/Facility Stewardship (Replacement):** Sustain the existing use of the site by repairing and replacing existing facilities at the end of their lifecycle. The level of investment should be consistent with the current facilities on site.
- **Native Planting/Turf Reduction:** Reduce mowed turf not serving a recreation purpose, replacing it with native plants or lawn alternatives.
- **Maintenance:** Maintain the site for public use. Provide routine and preventative maintenance as needed (e.g., clean restrooms, mow grass, empty trash, pick up litter, maintain parking lot, manage trees and vegetation, remove nuisance/unsafe elements).
- **Nuisance Monitoring:** Monitor sites that are not receiving regular maintenance for dumping, encampments, or hazard trees on a periodic basis. (Note: This treatment typically applies to sites with minimal or no improvements. Developed sites will need regular maintenance.)
- **Collaboration:** Recruit, coordinate and manage volunteers, friends' groups and/or interest groups for involvement in temporary or periodic site projects.
- **Formalized Partnership:** Develop a Memorandum of Understanding or other formalized agreement with site partners defining their roles and responsibilities in ongoing site management, maintenance and/or improvements.
- **Historic Resource Stewardship:** Manage, maintain and/or restore the historic resources on the site to meet resource preservation goals.
- **Natural Resource Stewardship:** Manage, maintain and/or restore the natural resources and habitat to meet stewardship goals. Remove invasives, improve habitat, address wildfire hazards and protect the tree canopy and ecological function of the park.

Table 2 on the following pages identifies each site and its recommended treatment. Facilities at sites that are not noted for capital investment/renovation or stewardship/replacement will be maintained until the end of their lifecycle and then removed; the site will eventually be naturalized as open space. Some sites, currently undeveloped, will receive nuisance monitoring until they are developed as per the recommended site treatment.

On the table, sites proposed for a greater level of investment are noted by dollar signs to indicate the comparative amount of investment.

Table 2: Recommended Site Treatments

Site	Site Planning	Park / Facility Investment (Renovation)	Park / Facility Stewardship (Replacement)	Native Plantings / Turf Reduction	Maintenance	Nuisance Monitoring	Collaboration	Formalized Partnership	Historic Resource Stewardship	Natural Resource Stewardship
Lane County Parks										
Regional Parks										
Armitage	x	\$\$\$		x	x		x			x
Baker Bay	x	\$\$\$		x	x			x		x
Howard Buford Recreation Area	x	\$\$\$			x		x	x	x	x
Orchard Point	x	\$\$\$			x					
Perkins Peninsula	x	\$\$\$		x	x				x	
Richardson	x	\$\$\$		x	x			x		
Zumwalt	x	\$\$		x	x		x	x	x	x
Recreation Resource Area										
Blue Mountain	x	\$\$			x		x	x		x
Hileman	x	\$\$			x		x			x
Konnie Memorial	x	\$\$			x		x			x
Water Access Park										
Ada	x	\$			x					x
Austa Boat Ramp			x		x					
Bellinger Landing		\$			x					
Bender Landing		\$			x		x			
Deadmonds Ferry Landing						x				
Deadwood Landing			x		x					
Eagle Rock			x		x					x
Farnham Landing		\$			x		x			
Forest Glen Landing		\$			x					
Greenwood Landing			x		x					
Hamlin			x		x					
Heceta Beach		\$			x		x			
Helfrich Landing			x		x					
Lasells Stewart		\$			x		x			x
Leaburg Dam Boat Slide			x		x					
Leaburg Landing			x		x					
Linslaw			x		x		x	x		x

Site	Site Planning	Park / Facility Investment (Renovation)	Park / Facility Stewardship (Replacement)	Native Plantings / Turf Reduction	Maintenance	Nuisance Monitoring	Collaboration	Formalized Partnership	Historic Resource Stewardship	Natural Resource Stewardship
Mapleton Landing		\$			x		x	x		
Mercer Lake Landing			x		x		x			
Munsel Lake Landing			x		x		x			
Rodakowski Landing		\$			x					
Schindler Landing			x		x		x	x		
Tide Wayside			x		x					x
Tiernan Boat Ramp		\$			x		x	x		
Triangle Lake		\$			x		x			
Westlake					x		x			
Whitely		\$			x					
Wildwood Falls			x		x		x			x
Special Use Park										
Archie Knowles			x		x		x		x	x
Bohemia Saddle						x	x	x	x	x
Camp Lane		\$\$\$		x	x				x	x
Currin Covered Bridge			x			x	x		x	
Dorena Covered Bridge			x		x		x		x	
Harbor Vista		\$\$\$			x		x			
Howard J. Morton						x				x
Lowell Covered Bridge			x		x		x		x	
Old McKenzie Hatchery		\$\$\$			x			x	x	x
Rock Dock			x		x			x		
Stewart Covered Bridge		\$\$				x	x		x	
Local Park										
Deerhorn Landing		\$		x	x		x			x
Hendricks Bridge		\$		x	x		x		x	x
Unity		\$			x		x	x		

Site	Site Planning	Park / Facility Investment (Renovation)	Park / Facility Stewardship (Replacement)	Native Plantings / Turf Reduction	Maintenance	Nuisance Monitoring	Collaboration	Formalized Partnership	Historic Resource Stewardship	Natural Resource Stewardship
Natural Area										
Big River		\$				x		x		x
Clear Lake Dunes						x	x			x
Kinney						x	x			x
Peaceful Valley				x		x	x			x
Siuslaw Falls		\$				x	x	x		x
South Beach						x	x			x
Three Mile Prarie		\$				x	x	x		x
Vickery						x	x			x
Undeveloped/Closed Park										
Oakhurst Comm. Recreation Area						x				
Land Bank										
Blue Mountain Property						x				x
Myers Tract						x				
Other Properties										
Maintained Parks (Contractual)										
Ben and Kay Dorris					x					x
Goodpasture Boat Landing					x					
Hayden Bridge					x					
Jennie B. Harris					x					
Lloyd Knox					x					

Note: Sites proposed for a higher level of investment are noted by dollar signs to indicate comparative investment levels.

Additional Site Recommendations

Within the overarching recommendations framework, the Master Plan provides additional guidance on regional parks, recreation resource areas, and park sites or categories of sites warranting special attention. These park sites are intended for additional investment in the future. Note: Any site targeted for capital projects and additional development will also need greater investment in maintenance and potentially operations in the future.

TABLE 3: ADDITIONAL SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

Regional Parks		
Site	Park Functions	Recommendations
Armitage	Campground (target market: visitors to Lane County) River access Trail access Community gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master plan site to enhance overnight and day uses, while protecting environmentally sensitive riparian corridor. • Expand campground facilities, targeting this to be an RV-oriented campground catering to out-of-town visitors. Its location on I-5 makes it desirable for those visitors looking for a place to stay near Eugene or Springfield. • Improve ADA access in the campground, picnic area, overlook, trails and dog park. • Retain and enhance McKenzie River access and develop site as a stop on the water trail. Continue collaboration with McKenzie River Trust, City of Coburg and Willamalane PRD. • Retain Crilly Nature Trail, seek partners and volunteers to assist in stewardship. • Manage to improve habitat value, especially along the river. • Over time, reduce turf grass where not providing recreation value; plant more trees and integrate nature play elements. • Explore suitability of this site for concessionaire (e.g., paddle equipment rental) or to market as a beginning/ending point for events (river events, runs, bike rides). • Explore potential acquisition of adjacent property if site revenues cover additional maintenance costs.

Regional Parks (continued)		
Baker Bay	<p>Campground (target market: families and bike tours)</p> <p>Lake access</p> <p>Community gathering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master plan and phase in site improvements. • Improve campground facilities and expand camping options to enhance the family-friendly vibe of this campground (e.g. bike-in campsites, tent only areas, yurts and cabins). • Explore opportunities to create regional trails hub, with connections and/or information about nearby USFS bike trails, other campgrounds, and scenic bikeway routes. • Retain and reinvest in lakefront facilities, including improving the beach area. Evaluate cost benefits of expanding fishing dock and marina slips; make ADA accessible. • Partner with the concessionaire to renovate the building and enhance its function. Consider an improved seating area/plaza adjacent to the concessions. • Add at least one covered picnic area near the lakefront. Remove the manufactured play structure at the end of its lifecycle and replace it with nature play elements. • Over time, reduce turf grass where not providing recreation value, and plant more trees to provide shade in developed areas of the park.
Howard Buford Recreation Area	<p>Natural resource stewardship and interpretation</p> <p>River access</p> <p>Trail access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the guidance of the adopted HBRA Master Plan and Habitat Plan, including “to provide varied opportunities for primarily low intensity outdoor recreation and education activities while protecting, conserving, enhancing, and maintaining the natural, scenic, historical, rural, and recreational qualities of this... park.” Ensure all uses and facilities are compatible with this statement. • Collaborate with Mt. Pisgah Arboretum and Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah on a comprehensive management approach for the public lands on and around Mt. Pisgah. Address management of the partner developed/operated facilities in the park. • Update master plan, in conjunction with site partners, to evaluate options to acquire Willamette Confluence Preserve, increase interpretive facilities and programs, and restore house/barn as nature center and rustic shelter.

Regional Parks (continued)		
<p>Fern Ridge Reservoir Park Complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchard Point • Perkins Peninsula • Richardson Park 	<p>Campground (target markets: Lane County residents, regional visitors)</p> <p>Boating</p> <p>Paddling</p> <p>Lake access</p> <p>Community gathering</p> <p>Bicycling</p> <p>Trail access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jointly master plan the three Fern Ridge Reservoir parks as a complex of parks, each one providing a different waterfront experience. Consider associated Zumwalt Park uses. • Coordinate/partner with the USACE in planning/implementing access improvements. • Develop a biking/pedestrian route around the reservoir that connects Richardson, Orchard Point and Perkins Peninsula. A connection to Zumwalt Park is desirable. • Provide biking amenities, including bike repair station, information and wayfinding to adjacent bike routes. • Reinvest in the campground at Richardson Park, sustaining quality sites and expanding camping options (e.g. bike in campsites, tent only areas, yurts or cabins). Improve the group camp areas and provide amenities to support group use. • Reinvest in existing marina and boating facilities. • Reinvest in the day use area of Richardson Park to serve as a trailhead for the reservoir loop trail or other road rides, and an outdoor event hub for activities such as triathlons, walks and paddling/water-oriented events. • Provide a variety of picnic facilities at all three sites, including various sizes and group capacities, sheltered and in the open, and different settings (forested, waterfront, sunny). Add a shelter to Perkins Peninsula. Consider adding at least one enclosed picnic shelter, likely at Richardson Park, to allow year-round gatherings. Improve the restroom at Richardson. • Improve swimming opportunities, especially a swimming beach at Perkins Peninsula or Orchard Point. • Over time, plant more trees, replace play structures with nature play areas and reduce turf grass where not providing recreation value, leaving space for lawn games such as croquet, badminton, and Frisbee. • Avoid additional sport field development; maintain existing sports field through collaboration with a partner group or phase out sports fields. • Consider recreation alternatives during low-water times. • Coordinate with park friends groups for collaborative projects.

Regional Parks (continued)		
Fern Ridge Reservoir Park Complex (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate in the provision of events and activities with water sports providers, the Chamber of Commerce, US Fish and Wildlife, and nearby schools and cities, including Veneta and Elmira.
Zumwalt Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master plan as a unique site connected to the Fern Ridge Reservoir Complex via trails. Plan for more of a regional park function serving local residents and walk-in/bike-in visitors. Expand for picnicking, swimming, birding, trail connectivity, and historic resource stewardship. Consider for bike-in camping. Consider opening some parking on a regular basis. Add permanent restroom. Protect oak trees. Consider acquisition opportunity if site revenues and/or partnership contributions can address maintenance needs.
Recreation Resource Areas		
Site	Park Functions	Recommendations
Blue Mountain	Trail access Outdoor recreation resource Community gathering place Environmental education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the long term, develop and manage as Recreation Resource Area. Master plan the site as a nature interpretation and trail hub for a variety of trail uses. Provide a variety of hard and soft-surfaced loop trails for hiking and biking. [Note: This may require a policy change to allow bikes on park trails.] Consider a trail bridge across Mosby Creek. Improve access road and park entry, as well as internal park circulation. Develop accessible day-use area consistent with activities, including parking, restrooms, picnic tables, picnic shelter, seating, interpretive kiosk, etc. Consider an outdoor classroom (shelter with storage, water, and support amenities) to support environmental education and nature interpretation, potentially in conjunction with fish habitat and forest management projects. Explore options to keep off-road vehicles away from and out of the creek and sensitive natural areas. Coordinate with the Coast Fork Watershed Council in fish habitat protection at Mosby Creek.

Recreation Resource Areas (continued)		
Blue Mountain (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with nearby neighbors options to provide a rustic group camp/day use area to support on-site trail and nature programs, events or small group/scout jamborees (either consistent with current zoning or by considering a zoning change). • Re-evaluate suitability for large group events in context of access challenges, zoning restrictions, habitat protection needs, development levels and intended small group use.
Hileman	Trail access Nature interpretation Natural resource protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and manage as Recreation Resource Area. • Work with partners in the Upper Willamette Stewardship Partnership (McKenzie River Trust, Long Tom Watershed Council, OPRD and Lane County) to develop site to support nature interpretation/education amenities emphasizing the Willamette River. • Add environmental education facilities, such as an outdoor classroom and interpretive elements. • Consider low-impact recreation opportunities, such as non-motorized boating. • Restore and enhance riparian and natural resources. • Explore collaboration with City of Eugene.
Konnie Memorial	Water access Nature/trail access Habitat, natural area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and manage as Recreation Resource Area. • Master plan site considering opportunities to add camping, improve road and swimming area and expand trail network. • Evaluate potential partnership for site to serve as a trailhead for adjacent US Forest Service lands.
Special Use Parks		
Site	Park Functions	Recommendations
Archie Knowles	Campground (target market: Lane County residents) River access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain, and periodically update site catering to Lane County residents.
Bohemia Saddle	Historic and cultural resource preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to Bohemia Mining Days, Bohemia Mine Owner's Association, City of Cottage Grove regarding the future use and management of this site.

Special Use Parks (continued)		
Camp Lane	<p>Campground (target markets: Lane County residents, regional visitors)</p> <p>Event venue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvest in campground and lodge facilities, improving and adding lodging options, refurbishing bathrooms and other amenities. • Add facility rental options that allow more than one group to rent the site. • Improve views and connections to the river. • Market as a wedding and event destination. • Consider connections to Konnie Memorial via Old Stagecoach Road.
Harbor Vista	<p>Campground (target market: visitors to Oregon Coast)</p> <p>River and beach access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvest in campground facilities, targeting this to be an RV-oriented campground catering to out-of-town visitors to the Oregon Coast. Add yurts/cabins and a hiker/biker camping area. • Collaborate with local partners to support educational/interpretive opportunities and camp programming. • Continue to support day use for local residents, providing access to the river and beach and support amenities such as restrooms. • Maintain Chicken Point access and view; coordinate with other entities on trail to ocean. • Expand partnerships and collaboration between the Park caretaker, friends group, schools, City of Florence and state and federal agencies in improvements and programming. Explore joint use agreement for amphitheater use.
Howard J. Morton	Picnic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add park identification signage. • In the long term, evaluate options to improve the entrance and picnic area and maximize water views, or to naturalize the site.
Old McKenzie Hatchery	<p>Historic and cultural resource preservation</p> <p>River access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a formal agreement with Friends of Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery that allows them to proceed with their goal to develop and operate an interpretive center and museum at the site. Within this agreement, ensure that the Friends are required to also manage the site for natural resource and habitat value.

Special Use Parks (continued)		
Covered Bridges	Historic and cultural resource preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek partners to help preserve and interpret Lane County’s covered bridges. • Develop a covered bridge preservation plan that addresses all covered bridges under the County’s ownership or management. Identify bridges to be included in an asset preservation program that includes capital improvement costs.

Other Parks		
Site	Park Functions	Recommendations
Ada	Local day use Water access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve as local day use area for local residents. Reinvest in picnic area, boat ramp, nature viewpoints. • Steward natural resources. • Re-evaluate suitability for large group events in context of access challenges, natural area protection needs, development levels and intended small group use.
Natural Areas	Habitat, natural area Potential trail partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue cooperative habitat restoration projects • Evaluate Big River, Siuslaw Falls, and Three Mile Prairie and others if applicable for potential partnerships with BLM, USFS, or nearby city for potential trails/trailheads connecting to adjacent lands.
Maintained Parks (Contractual)	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue or renegotiate maintenance contracts to ensure the contract fully supports the needed maintenance staffing and activities.

CHAPTER 6

Implementation Strategies



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CHAPTER 6

Implementation Strategies

As noted in Chapter 2, Lane County's funding resources are constrained and staffing for parks is lean. This Master Plan envisions collaboration to improve and enhance Lane County's parks and natural areas. Lane County Parks needs an implementation approach that helps it focus efforts on moving toward the vision, yet is flexible enough to allow the County to take advantage of opportunities that arise in future years.

This chapter presents a set of tools designed to help Lane County staff and the PAC implement the Master Plan vision and goals.

- **Prioritizing Strategies.** Parks staff can use this evaluation criteria and matrix to create and annually update short-term (two year) action plans.
- **Process and Worksheet for Evaluating Community Proposals.** Lane County staff and the PAC can use this worksheet to review and evaluate projects proposed by residents, stakeholders and partners for Lane County's parks and natural areas.
- **Capital Projects Prioritization.** These criteria will help staff prioritize capital improvements.

Prioritizing Strategies

Each year, Lane County Parks staff will develop an action plan that provides a two year work plan to carry out Master Plan strategies. The action plan will establish priorities for applying available staff and funding resources to capital projects, as well as ongoing systemwide maintenance and administration. The action plan will prioritize efforts and define a lead staff member for each item. It can also serve as a basis for reporting progress on the Master Plan.

Evaluation Criteria

In implementing the Master Plan, Lane County Parks should strive to make measurable progress on all six Master Plan goals, giving attention to the different regions of the County, and maximizing limited staffing and funding where possible. To develop the action plan, Lane County staff should answer the following questions:

- 1. Does the project or action increase collaboration and partnerships?**
 - Y: Yes
 - N: No
- 2. How much staff time is required?**
 - H: High (Requires multiple individuals or cross-department or agency team, major focus for project lead)
 - M: Medium (More than one person, about > ¼ of project lead's time)
 - L: Low (Limited hours, a single individual)
- 3. Is it a recurring or one-time cost?**
 - O: One-time cost. This means that only one investment of budget or staff time is required.
 - R: Recurring. This means that implementation requires ongoing investment of dollars or staff time.
- 4. Is there a capital improvement cost for Lane County?**
 - H: More than \$500K
 - M: \$50K-\$500K
 - L: >\$50K
- 5. Is it a necessary first step (or preliminary action)?**
 - Y: Some longer-term projects have one or more steps that need to be accomplished before the project can be started, such as completion of a feasibility study or development of a Memorandum of Understanding.
 - N: No, this effort does not affect subsequent steps.
- 6. Can it be accomplished quickly?**
 - Y: Limited time opportunity, can be completed in under two years, relatively low cost/risk relative to impact
 - N: Longer term effort
- 7. Does it bring in new resources (funding or volunteers) or reduce Lane County costs (operating or staff time)?**
 - Y: Yes/Maybe
 - N: No/No Effect

The level of staffing and funding will directly impact how much Lane County Parks can include in each Action Plan. Table 4 presents an Action Plan matrix with an example action plan for the first year of Master Plan implementation. This is a sample format for a one-year action plan. As an example of a realistic and achievable plan, it includes a balance of project types: projects that require collaboration, a mix of CIP and non-CIP funded projects, and mix of reoccurring and one-time costs and a mix of staffing.

TABLE 4: ACTION PLAN MATRIX EXAMPLE

Ref #	Strategy	Collaboration	Staff Time Required	Recurring vs. One-	CIP Cost	First Step	Quick Win	Resources	Staff Lead
1.1	Create a volunteer, partnership and program coordinator position	Y	H	R	N	Y	N	Y	TBD
1.5	Convene a regular cross-agency forum with other public landholders/land managers	Y	M	R	N	Y	Y	Y	TBD
2.4	Coordinate with other departments and agencies to connect parks to the countywide trail network	Y	L	R	N	Y	N	N	TBD
2.10	Update Google Maps with information about each Lane County park site	N	M	O	N	Y	Y	N	TBD
3.2	Re-envision and create master plans for targeted park sites (prioritize one site)	Y	H	O	Y	Y	N	Y	TBD
3.3	Embrace “nature play” as the preferred approach for play areas at Lane County parks	N	L	R	Y	N	N	Y	TBD
4.2	Establish a Lane County parks advocacy non-profit that is a 501(c)(3)	Y	M	O	N	Y	Y	Y	TBD
4.5	Re-evaluate and update fees and fee structure for all passes, programs, events and reservable facilities	N	H	O	N	Y	N	Y	TBD
5.7	Prepare site-specific resource management plans for sites with significant resources (one site)	Y	H	O	Y	Y	N	N	TBD
6.3	Develop long-term asset replacement plans for major revenue generating sites	N	H	O	N	Y	N	N	TBD

Evaluating Community Proposals

The Master Plan calls for partnerships and collaboration to enhance Lane County's parks and natural areas and leverage the County's limited resources. The County should encourage local organizations, interest groups and volunteers to make proposals to help carry out projects or initiatives in Lane County Parks in the coming years. However, not all proposals should be accepted. It is important to determine which ones are consistent with Master Plan recommendations and feasible for implementation.

The tool presented below provides an evaluation process for staff and the PAC to consider proposals and projects. Proposals or projects should be evaluated against the evaluation criteria, using the evaluation worksheet. All proposals should be evaluated against Step 1 criteria. Only those proposals that meet the Step 1 requirements should move to Step 2.

Step 1: Screen Potential Projects and Proposals

Step 1 is a screen to make sure the proposal or project is consistent with the Master Plan vision, mission and goals.

- **Does it help achieve the Master Plan vision?**
Describe in one sentence how the proposal or project will move forward the vision.
- **Is it consistent with the Lane County Parks mission?**
Does it help Lane County manage, sustain or enhance parks and natural resources? Is it a partnership or will it result in stewardship or quality customer service?
- **Is it consistent with one or more of the six Master Plan goals?**
Is the proposal consistent with at least one of the goals?

Step 2: Further Evaluate Proposal and Project

The Step 2 screen occurs for those proposals or projects found to be consistent with the vision, mission and goals through the Step 1 screen.

- **Is the proposal or project water, nature or trail-focused or one of the project types called out in the Master Plan?**
Community input indicated that Lane County parks are best known for their water, trail and nature experiences. Projects and proposals should relate to these areas or be called out in the Master Plan (e.g., group picnic areas, niche recreation groups).
- **Does it make efficient and effective use of existing resources?**
Existing resources include Lane County's existing parks and natural areas, staffing levels, and financial resources. Proposals or projects should not increase Lane

Vision

Our thriving parks and natural areas connect us to our rivers, reservoirs and natural features, showcase our heritage and natural diversity, and protect resources for future generations.

Mission

We responsibly manage, sustain and enhance our parks and natural resources through partnership, stewardship and quality customer service.

County's staffing needs or negatively impact its financial picture. In addition, logistics and timing should be considered.

- **Does Lane County Parks retain flexibility and adaptability?**

This question considers whether a proposal or project would limit Lane County Parks' ability to respond to changing circumstances. If the situation changed in the future, would the proposal or project be detrimental to Lane County's parks and natural areas? For example, what would happen if the proposer was no longer able to operate the proposed facility or feature?

- **Does it increase the County's long term financial stability?**

The proposal or project should improve maintenance and operation efficiencies, include identified funding or partnerships and/or reduce or recover costs.

- **Does it bring new resources into the park system?**

Resources can be in a variety of forms: dollars, in-kind contributions, volunteers, programs and services, a reduction in costs for Lane County, and grants.

- **Is there synergy with local efforts?**

Lane County's parks and natural areas can support local economic vitality efforts. Is the proposal or project aligned with the direction or efforts of the local city or local community-based organizations?

TABLE 5: COMMUNITY PROPOSAL/PROJECT REVIEW WORKSHEET

Proposal/Project		
Step 1	Evaluation ¹	Comments
Helps achieve Master Plan vision		
Consistent with mission		
Consistent with one or more goals. If yes, specify which.		
<i>Move to Step 2?</i>	Y N	
Step 2	Evaluation	Comments
Water, nature or trail-focused proposal or project, or a project type called out in Master Plan		
Efficient use of existing resources		
Retains flexibility and adaptability for Lane County Parks		
Increases long-term financial stability		
New resources		
Synergy with local efforts		

¹ Evaluations: Y (Yes), (P) Potentially, or (N) No

Capital Projects Prioritization

Lane County has a capital improvement plan that includes parks projects. The criteria in this section are intended to help staff prioritize Lane County's limited capital improvement funding to best align with the Master Plan.

Criteria

- **Master Plan Consistency.** Is it consistent with the Master Plan? Is it water, trails or nature-related or a project type called out in the Master Plan? Examples: Camp Lane Master Plan, replacement of playground with nature play feature.
- **Reduce Lifecycle Costs.** Will the project reduce operating costs or lifecycle costs for Lane County over the long term?
- **Revenue Generating Assets.** Does it preserve or expand on revenue-generating capacity of existing recreation resources? Alternatively, does it create a new revenue generating resource?
- **Operational Impact.** What is the operational impact, once the improvement, initiative or project is in place? Is it likely to require additional operating funding (staff time or direct costs)? Does the County have the necessary funding and staffing available for maintenance and operations once the project is implemented?
- **Leverage.** Are there other funders or partners to advance this project, either internal to Lane County or external? This includes in-kind donations of labor or materials as well and outside funding.

Measuring Progress

Each year, staff and the PAC will evaluate progress on achieving the Master Plan vision and goals. This evaluation should be completed in conjunction with the annual update to the Action Plan and should include:

- Report on Action Plan progress from the previous year;
- Review of progress on the six goals; and
- Key performance metrics that can be tracked from year to year such as number of passes sold, number of visitors or campground reservations, etc.

This progress report should be used to help staff and the PAC in making decisions on the Action Plan update. It should also be in a brief and digestible format suitable for sharing with the public.

Afterword

This Master Plan is the culmination of years of work by Lane County staff, the PAC, the Task Force and many other volunteers. It comes almost 40 years after the County's first and only parks plan was developed. Much has changed since then and County Parks, more than ever, needs a guiding document to support the prioritization of investments in its parks and open space areas. Over the course of eighteen months, this planning process brought together Lane County residents, the Task Force, PAC, staff and stakeholders. Together they defined a shared vision and common goals to address the needs of the County's evolving communities, the realities of the local economy, the County's current fiscal challenges, and the opportunities available to enhance the County's park system.

This Master Plan provides the guidance and tools to usher in a new age for Lane County parks. Working together, County staff, partners, stakeholders, other agencies, cities and volunteers can maximize the benefits of Lane County parks from sea to summit and preserve these resources for future generations.

