



CITY OF West Linn

Memorandum

Date: April 11, 2018
To: Planning Commissioners
From: Jennifer Arnold, Associate Planner
Subject: Parks Master Plan Update

At this April 18, 2018 meeting, the Planning Commission will hold a work session to receive information and discuss the West Linn Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan update. This update results in minor changes in the Comprehensive Plan text (goals 2, 5, and 8) and Community Development Code (chapters 2 and 56). Attached you will find the draft changes to both the Comprehensive Plan and the Community Development Code.

The legislative process to adopt the Draft Plan and associated amendments to the CDC and Comp Plan is scheduled for May 16, 2018. This all depends on the Planning Commission's workload and comfort with the proposed amendments.

Please feel free to contact me at jarnold@westlinnoregon.gov or 503-742-6057 with any questions regarding the materials or process.

The City of West Linn
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update

West Linn Comprehensive Plan Changes

Proposed Comp Plan and CDC Amendments

The following text amendments are proposed for the City of West Linn Comprehensive Plan and development code. Additions are shown with underlined and **bolded** text while deletions are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ text.

Goal 2: Land Use Planning

Comprehensive Plan Exhibit: Figure 2-1 does not show the most up to date park land parcels and needs to be replaced with an updated version.

Goal 5: Intergovernmental Coordination

Comprehensive Plan Exhibit; Figure 5-3 does not show the most up to date park land parcels and needs to be replaced with an updated version.

Goal 8: Parks and Recreation

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS

A variety of recreational opportunities exist in the City of West Linn. Over time, the Willamette and Tualatin Rivers have created bluffs that provide many spectacular view-points; water flowing from higher elevations to these rivers has, in turn, created scenic view corridors. There are over nine miles of shoreline in West Linn along the Willamette and Tualatin Rivers. There are eight public access points to the water, some of which have beaches and boat ramps. Some of the best sports fishing on the Willamette are found near the Willamette's confluence with the Clackamas River.

West Linn contains a hierarchy of parks, each type offering a specific mix of recreational opportunities. The park system includes neighborhood, community, regional, and linear parks, mini-parks, and special use facilities, landscaped areas, and natural and open space areas. The City owns and /or manages ~~approximately 373~~ **over 500** acres of parks and natural open spaces ~~the state and the Nature Conservancy own an additional 168.6 acres~~ within the City limits (Figure 8-1). ~~The state-owned Mary S. Young Park consists of 128 acres.~~

~~Results from a survey conducted for the 1998 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan noted that walking, jogging, nature walks, and hiking participation were rated higher among West Linn residents than the average in the Pacific Northwest. Currently, the City has trail systems within five major parks, but no pedestrian linkages between them. The 2013 West Linn Trails Plan: A 50 Year Vision for the Future identifies gaps in the City's existing trails network and recommends solutions to eliminate these gaps.~~

The City's natural beauty and parks system afford residents access to a rich variety of recreation resources, including boating, athletics, hiking, biking, and ample opportunities for naturalists and photographers. Despite West Linn's increased urban development in recent years, wooded hillsides and the preservation of natural areas continue to give City neighborhoods a park-like setting.

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POLICIES

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4. Provide a range of active/passive and structured/non-structured recreation experiences.
5. Provide for specialized recreation needs such as soccer fields, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, swimming pools, senior centers, and other facilities that have City-wide demand, based on the 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and the 2013-West Linn Trails Plan.
6. Design City parks to encourage best use consistent with their natural features and carrying capacity.
7. Reduce noxious weeds and vegetation, as appropriate, on City-owned land.
8. Require land divisions and major developments to set aside or dedicate land based on standards that provide for:
 - a. An area composed of developable lands that may provide active recreational space;
 - b. An adequate passive open space area to protect natural resources at the site and protect development from hazard areas; and,
 - c. A link between existing public-owned parks or open space areas and/or public rights-of-way.
3. Plan for park usage of a quiet, contemplative nature as well as for more active uses such as athletics.

RECOMMENDED ACTION MEASURES

1. Continue an aggressive program for acquisition and development of a park and open space system to provide an adequate supply of usable open space and recreational facilities, directly related to the specific needs of the local residents, based on the park classification system and standards in the 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and the 2013 West Linn Trails Plan.
2. Continue cooperation between the West Linn-Wilsonville School District and the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

3. Update the City's Community Development Code to ensure implantation of the 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and the 2013 West Linn Trails Plan, consistent with industry best standards.

4. Integrate those trail recommendations from the 2013 West Linn Trails Plan that occur within the public right-of-way or that serve primarily a transportation function, into the analysis and evaluation of pedestrian, bicycle, transit and other non-motor vehicle alternatives in the City's Transportation System Plan.

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Comprehensive Plan Exhibit: Figure 8-1 does not show the most up to date park land parcels and needs to be replaced with an updated version.

West Linn Community Development Code (CDC)

02.030 SPECIFIC WORDS AND TERMS

~~Passive-oriented recreation and parks. The focus is upon unstructured play, relaxation, environmental interpretation, family picnics and similar activities. Support facilities, such as covered picnic, play structures or playing fields, etc. are discouraged or limited. Restrooms, trails and interpretive facilities would be appropriate.~~ **Passive-oriented parks are more natural sites that provide trail-related recreation opportunities and passive outdoor activities such as wildlife watching, nature interpretation and picnicking. Several sites also provide river views or river access.**

56.015 CATEGORIES OF PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCE FACILITIES

There are eight categories of park and natural resource facilities as established in the Parks Master Plan. The categories are:

1. Active-oriented parks.
2. Passive-oriented parks.
- ~~3. Mini-parks.~~
4. **3. Special use areas parks.**
- ~~5. 4. Linear parks/open space.~~
- ~~6. 5. City beautification areas.~~
- ~~7. 6. Pathways and trails.~~
- ~~8. 7. Natural resource areas.~~
- 8. Multi-use parks.**

Active-oriented parks. An active-oriented parks are park's primary focus is providing playing fields and other facilities that can be used for team and individual sports and activities. An active-oriented park is intended to serve a large area. As a result, it will require more support facilities such as restrooms, playgrounds, shelters and parking. developed sites that support recreation opportunities including sports and play with facilities, often featuring restrooms, picnic shelters and tables.

Passive-oriented parks. Passive-oriented parks' focus is upon unstructured play, relaxation, family picnics and similar activities. These parks are often within walking or biking distance of most users; the activities they support often become a daily pastime for neighborhood children. Support facilities, such as covered picnic or play areas, etc. are discouraged unless the facilities of a more community-wide nature are included at the park. are more natural sites that provide trail-related recreation opportunities and passive outdoor activities such as wildlife watching, nature interpretation and picnicking. Several sites also provide river views or river access.

Special use parks areas. Special use parks areas are public recreation areas occupied by a single-purpose facility or containing activities that do not fall into the other categories. In West Linn, typical examples include the McLean House and the City's boat ramps. Another example might be an enclosed leash-free dog park. Design of these facilities should be specific to the needs of that facility and intended user group. These uses are not considered essential to the development of a basic parks inventory and should only be considered when full cost benefit analysis and understanding of operation and maintenance costs are understood and justified. are single-purpose developed sites that include specialized facilities such as a community center, boat ramp, or fishing dock or other unique use.

Linear parks/Open space. Linear parks are open space areas that often bring together patchworks of City-owned lands, stream corridors, and rights-of-way to create a linear facility whose primary goal is to provide a passive recreation experience.

Limited facilities such as benches and picnic tables may be provided, but these parks are primarily designed as corridors for trails, bike and pedestrian paths. The TPR is often well served by these bike and pedestrian paths. Linear parks also provide important visual relief from the built environment. Given their physical and visual accessibility, and the fact that they can extend long distances through the community and be used by many neighborhoods, linear parks can be one of the best investments that cities can make. Ideally, they will be at least 100 to 200 feet wide; however, critical linkages in the system can be as narrow as 10 to 20 feet if that is what it takes to make the connection. Trailheads at the termini of the park are helpful as are trailheads at regular intervals along the length of the linear park.

City beautification areas and public spaces. City beautification areas are intended to provide for the aesthetic needs of the residents. Rather than a physical experience, these areas provide a visual experience. They can take the form of landscaped entryways to the City, landscaped medians, or street corners. Expanding beyond that definition and the expectations of the Parks

Master Plan, this park category shall also include public spaces, such as plazas and squares, where the emphasis is on outdoor concerts, farmers' markets, street fairs, and socialization.

Pathways and trails. Pathways and trails may be incorporated into park facilities, but may also be stand-alone facilities in open space. Communities provide urban paths and trails for their recreational value as well as their value as part of a community's commitment to the TPR. Trails and paths should be developed to provide linkages between schools, parks, neighborhoods, and the community and even integrate with regional trail systems. An example would be the trails and paths that crisscross the Tanner Basin neighborhood of West Linn and make it possible for children to access school on foot or bicycle in relative safety. Rudimentary gravel foot trails can be three to six feet wide. Paths in high use areas should be in the four- to 10-foot width range and paved. In neighborhoods that are built up with limited space to accommodate the paths or trails, reduced widths and non-traditional designs are encouraged if the alternative is no trail or path at all. Emphasis on providing routes that follow the cognitive patterns of residents is important. Surveillance potential and defensible space are also important considerations.

Natural resource areas. The primary focus is on the long-term protection of natural areas. These natural areas can come in the form of natural drainageways, creeks, wetlands, river greenway areas, habitat protection areas, steep hillsides, significant tree clusters or plant materials, or where the preservation of an open space area provides a visual relief from the images of the built and urbanized environment.

Since the emphasis is upon the protection of the resource, the facilities should be limited. Typically, these facilities include interpretive centers, restrooms, trails, vehicular access, and parking lots. Active recreation facilities, such as organized playing fields, are discouraged. They should only be accommodated if the park is large enough and there is adequate separation between the activity area and the natural resource. At all times, the central philosophy is deference to the natural resource over human needs. (Ord. 1604 § 54, 2011)

Multi-use parks. Multi-use parks mix developed and natural areas and offer both active and passive recreation opportunities, ranging from active sports to quiet nature strolls. Several of these parks also have amenities and facilities to support large group gatherings and events.