

# City of Oakridge Parks Master Plan



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## Chapter 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The City of Oakridge is an outdoor recreational paradise due to its location in the foothills of the Western Cascade Mountains, on the Middle Fork of the Willamette River and Salmon Creek. The City is surrounded by the Willamette National Forest, a natural area that features hundreds of miles of trails and dozens of lakes and waterways, and is close to Willamette Pass, where skiers, snowboarders and other winter sports enthusiasts recreate. In addition to these natural features, Oakridge provides its residents with various recreational opportunities in the City's five established parks and on several miles of trails connecting the City to National Forest Service land and to the town of Westfir.

A one-time timber town, the City of Oakridge is currently experiencing a resurgence of interest in its natural resources. Unlike the logging that once grew and sustained the community, this new interest relies on the preservation and enhanced access to the City's natural amenities. Visitors equipped with fishing poles, hiking boots, and mountain bikes are discovering the natural beauty and unique landscapes that make Oakridge a premier destination for outdoor enthusiasts. National organizations such as the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) have recognized the potential in Oakridge and are investing in the community. Local interest in trails has rallied citizens to find funding for planning and building an interconnected trail system. Local businesses are benefiting from the visiting outdoor enthusiasts and fledgling economic development strategies are being executed, principally due to Oakridge's unique setting.

While visitors and new-comers are welcome to enjoy local recreational areas, City parks were originally developed for the citizens of Oakridge. Local residents both enjoy and help fund the City's parks and recreation facilities. Oakridge's park and recreational facilities provide both passive and active areas for citizens to recreate and gather. As gathering areas they are a critical component of the social fabric of the community. The scenic beauty afforded by the natural and open spaces that are part of the parks system, or that can be accessed and enjoyed through the City park facilities, is an integral part of the Oakridge's identity.

### 1.2 Purpose of the Plan

The City of Oakridge is at a pivotal time in its history, poised to take advantage of an uptick in interest in the community and to capitalize on the visitors attracted to the outdoor recreational opportunities in the area. At the same time, the City must invest wisely in the parks system, in ways that enhance existing facilities and amenities to the benefit of the visitor and resident alike. To reach this objective, the City of Oakridge Parks Master Plan is a long-term vision and plan of action for the City's park system. The Parks Master Plan is intended to guide development of the municipal parks system for the 20-year period between 2010 and 2030. This plan encapsulates the community's aspirations for the park system through a series of goals and objectives and identifies strategies and techniques for operation and development of parks and funding. By using this plan, the City of Oakridge intends to improve the quality of its parks to meet the needs of current and future residents and as a tool to enhance economic

development. The Parks Master Plan provides information intended to guide the design of future parks and park improvements, but it does not contain site planning in individual parks.

This Plan:

- Provides an inventory of existing parks and an analysis of appropriate park classifications and standards;
- Identifies current and future park needs using input from the community as well as technical data;
- Creates a strategy for prioritizing and implementing park improvements;
- Provides a capital improvement program (CIP) that enables the City to achieve its goals; and
- Identifies potential funding techniques and sources to implement the CIP.

## 1.2 History of Park Planning in Oakridge

Historically, park facilities planning in Oakridge has been an organic and somewhat reactive process. In the past, volunteer boards have provided some planning oversight, and past City Councils have made decisions regarding park improvements in response to citizen's needs without a structure for decision-making or an adopted framework for determining whether or not a particular investment is appropriate for the system as a whole. That is changing with the development of the City's first Park System Master Plan.



*View of Willamette River, Osprey Park*

Dedication of park land throughout the City historically evolved from citizens' need for access to water resources. The primary example is Salmon Creek Park, which has been in City ownership since incorporation as a well-field that provides water to the community. The land that is now Osprey Park historically provided access to the Willamette River for residents of Willamette City, a community that was formally incorporated into Oakridge in November of 1972. Greenwaters Park has been a community gathering area and popular fishing spot since before incorporation. More recent park land and open space

acquisition has occurred through dedication as part of residential development (Diamond View Park) or industrial land development (Oakridge Industrial Park's Mill Pond).

The City has a history of working collaboratively with other organizations to fulfill the recreational needs of the community. In the 1980's, the City joined with Lane County and School District No. 76 to remodel Willamette City School into the Willamette Activity Center to provide a space for a wide range of human services, county criminal justice services, recreation programs and other activities. The City has a



memorandum of understanding with the Oakridge School District and the Upper Willamette Youth Activity agency for use of ball fields behind the Activity Center for youth athletic programs (see Section 3.4 Recreational Programs and Services).

In the early 90s the City worked with ODOT to locate a rest area off of Highway 58 on City-owned land adjacent to Greenwaters Park and continues to maintain this facility. Built in 2005, the Siuslaw Bank Amphitheater in Greenwaters Park is the most recent built amenity in the City’s park system. Coordinated by the City and funded largely through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and local business donations, the amphitheater was completed in 2005. The City also collaborates with the Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards (GOATS) and IMBA to upgrade trails facilities and bring off-road biking events to the area (see Section 3.4 Recreational Programs and Services).

Park planning at the turn of this century continued with the City compiling descriptions for the four developed City parks (Salmon Creek, Greenwaters, Osprey, and Diamond View) and developing the 2008 – 2009 Park Survey. The Park Survey was seen as the first step to developing a comprehensive, long range plan for developing, managing, and maintaining parks and open space. The Park Survey was distributed via City water bills and the City received 112 completed surveys (see Appendix A). The survey provided an indication of what were the most popular activities, which parks were most frequented, and what additional activities and programs respondents would like to see offered.

The City of Oakridge established the Park, Tree and Trail Board in September 2008 by Oakridge City Ordinance. The Park, Tree and Trail Board meets regularly to discuss issues related to park and trail facilities and makes recommendations to the City Council. One of their first duties has been to advise the council on the preparation of a master plan for City parks. In the summer of 2009 the City applied for and received a Local Government Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to fund the development of the Parks Master Plan. The Parks Master Plan provides the City information about the desired future for the park system, but does not include development or site plans for individual parks.

Future steps in the City’s park planning process will involve decisions on how to improve specific park properties and implement the master plan. In contrast to the past, however, the City now has a “road map” for investing in the park system and a rationale for those investments.

### **1.3 Planning Process**

The development of this Parks Master Plan began in January 2010 with the contracting of a consultant to manage the project and develop the plan. The Parks Board met in February 2010 to provide input on the project objectives and approach. The University of Oregon Landscape Architecture Department assisted the City in the initial, visioning phase of the project. Students from this program developed conceptual designs for four parks - Greenwaters, Osprey, Salmon Creek, and Diamond View – as part of a studio design class. At a June 2010 Open House members of the public were invited to review and discuss these designs and the various amenities explored for each park (see Section 4.3 Studio Design Process). In addition to writing down comments about each park design, Open House attendees were asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding proposed policy statements and potential funding tools

related to park and recreation planning. Responses gathered at the Open House, along with community response to the earlier, 2008 Parks Survey, informed the Parks Needs Assessment (Chapter 4).

Conclusions from the Parks Needs Assessment and proposed recommendations for the parks system (Chapter 5) were vetted with the City's Community Service Department and the Parks Board at an early 2010 meeting. A City review draft of the Parks Master Plan was then reviewed and discussed at a joint Planning Commission/City Council meeting in September 2010. Commissioners, Councilors, and members of the public were invited to ask questions of the consultants and proposed amendments to the draft plan. Public adoption hearings were held in February and March 2011 and the plan was adopted in March 2011.

### **1.4 Parks Master Plan Organization**

The Parks Master Plan provides an overview of the planning context for park planning, including the physical characteristics that makes Oakridge uniquely suited for outdoor recreation and the needs of residents for locally focused recreational opportunities. The Parks Master Plan highlights existing facilities, key community needs, goals and actions, and park improvement priorities and funding strategies. The information in the Parks Master Plan provides a policy framework, sets the direction the community would like to pursue, and outlines the funding mechanisms that can be relied on to ensure the viability of existing recreation facilities and realize the future expansion of the parks system in the City of Oakridge.

## Chapter 2 Planning Context

### 2.1 Regional Context

Oakridge is located in Lane County in the South Willamette Valley, just 35 miles southeast of Eugene, nestled in the foothills of the Western Cascade Mountains. Oakridge sits on the northern bank of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River which flows through the City on its way down to the Willamette Valley floor. The City of Westfir, a former mill town of 276 people, lies four miles to the northwest.

The area is surrounded by the Willamette National Forest, which features campgrounds, picnic areas, and over 500 miles of hiking and biking trails. Willamette Pass Ski Resort is approximately 27 miles from Oakridge and offers downhill and nordic skiing in the winter and hiking, biking, and disc golf in the summer. The Oregon Skyway Gondola at the Willamette Pass Ski Area carries sightseers to the top of Eagle Peak in the summer and, in the winter, switches to a lift to take skiers to the top of the ski runs. The Middle Fork of the Willamette River and its tributaries provides ample opportunities for fishing, as do the High Lakes, located near Willamette Pass. Due to its unique natural setting, Oakridge and its surrounding environs is known for outdoor sports, including fishing, mountain biking, hiking, camping, boating, and birding and wildlife viewing.

In particular, the City of Oakridge and its partners have been successful at attracting recreationalists to the area by capitalizing on the growing popularity of mountain biking and other forms of non-motorized outdoor recreation. The National Forests surrounding Oakridge offer a multitude of diverse trails and the area has developed a reputation as a regional destination among outdoor enthusiasts. Event organizers working in cooperation with the Willamette National Forest have been successful at attracting visitors from the region and across the nation to participate in both competitive events and non-competitive festivals.<sup>1</sup>

The City's unique location and natural attractions have been key to economic development as visitors to the area have had a beneficial impact to the local economy. Several new businesses have opened in Oakridge that cater directly to visiting outdoor enthusiasts, including a bed and breakfast, hostel, bike rental shop, and brew pub.

### 2.2 Planning Area

The City of Oakridge has planning authority over 1,204 acres within its City limits. The Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is slightly larger, including an additional 330 acres available for future urban expansion.<sup>2</sup> The Parks Master Plan is the principal planning document for City recreational facilities within the City of Oakridge City limits.

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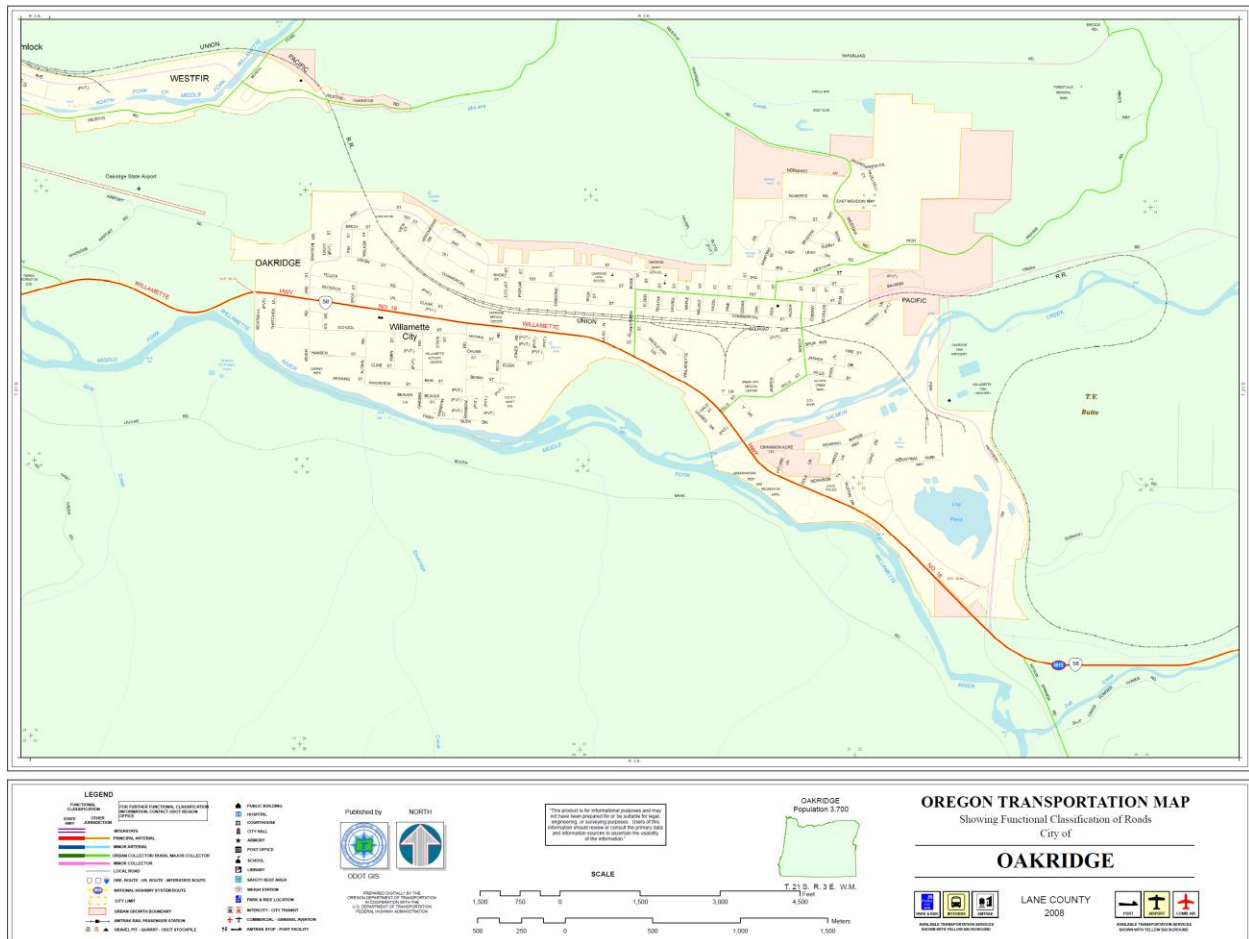
<sup>1</sup> P. 7, Oakridge-Westfir Community Trails Plan, 2008

<sup>2</sup> Figures are from 2000.

### 2.3 Physical Features

The Middle Fork of the Willamette River forms the southern boundary of Oakridge. In the west part of town, Highway 58 bisects the town north-south and then follows the river out of town to the east. The Union Pacific Railroad also divides the town north-south, separating the northern, historic downtown, from the commercial businesses on Highway 58. As the one elevated railroad crossing providing access between Old Town and the highway, Crestview Road can be viewed as a dividing line, east-west. There is a gain in elevation heading north up from the Willamette River, limiting the northern-most areas of the City, north of Westoak Road to the east and north of Second Street to the west, to low density residential development. T.V. Butte to the east is also a prominent feature in the area.

Figure 2.1 – City of Oakridge Transportation Map



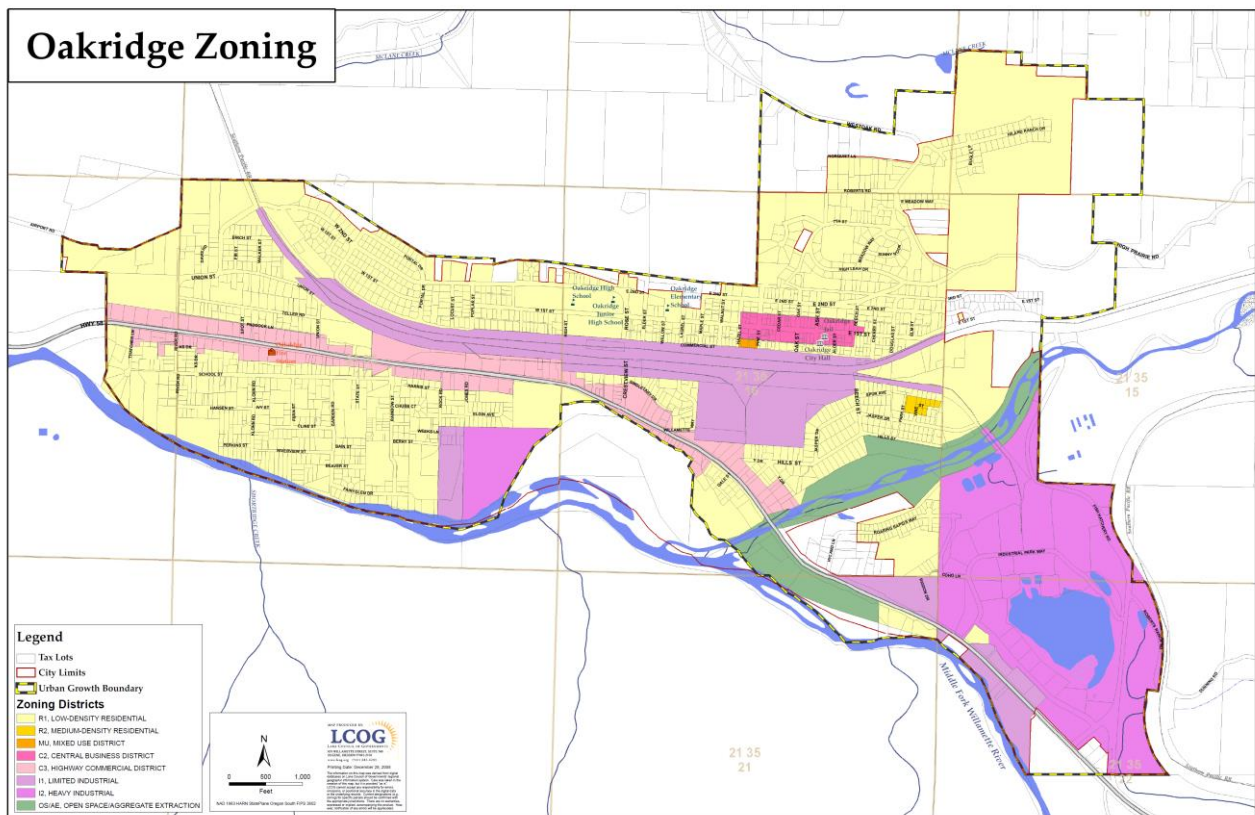
### 2.4 Land Use

Commercial areas are located along Highway 58 and within the City’s historic downtown. Industrial uses are near the water, in an area south of the highway in the western part of town, and between the Middle Fork of the Willamette River and Salmon Creek, on the site of the 250-acre former Pope and Talbot Mill Site, at the City’s eastern boundary. The City’s residential areas are split north-south by Highway 58 and the commercially zoned land and commercial uses along this roadway and the Union Pacific Railroad and adjacent industrial land use designations (see Figure 2.1). The rise in elevation north

of the highway and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks also create a barrier between residential neighborhoods.

The largest undeveloped areas within the City's UGB available for new residential growth lie to the north of the current UGB and in the northeast corner of the City, within the current UGB. North of the City limits some areas are constrained by steep slopes. Over 40 acres of land owned by the National Forest Service are also found in this area. The availability of this land for residential development is uncertain because of the current and long-standing forest use. The City has long supported the exchange of this land or its conversion to private holdings in order to provide land that is immediately available for urban development. Another area of potential residential growth is at the eastern edge of the City, north of the Salmon Creek.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 2.2 – Oakridge Zoning Map**



There are also existing residential uses on lots contiguous to the City, but outside the UGB and under Lane County's jurisdiction. Areas along Highway 58 to the east, and north of the highway in the west, near the airport and in the vicinity of Westfir, are areas of low density rural residential. Since 1970's and the adoption of the first Comprehensive Plan, the City has viewed the area near the Oakridge State Airport and to the south of Westfir as a desirable area for future residential growth. Coordination between the City and Lane County in these areas outside of the Oakridge UGB, areas that are considered

<sup>3</sup> Source: City of Oakridge Comprehensive Plan, 2005 update.

within the “Area of Interest” governed by the Joint Agreement for Planning Coordination, is discussed in Chapter V., Section H. (Urbanization) of the Comprehensive Plan.<sup>4</sup>

## 2.5 Population Projections

In 2010, the City of Oakridge had a population of 3,755.<sup>5</sup> The City conducted a Buildable Lands Inventory (BLI) in 2005 that established the City’s future residential lands needs. Lane County Coordinated Population Projections recorded Oakridge’s year 2000 population at 3,270 and forecast that the City population will be 4,000 in 2025. Assuming on an average household size of 2.28 and a 5% vacancy rate, Oakridge will need an estimated 1,846 housing units for its residents in 2025 (see Table 2.1).

The BLI estimated the City’s future housing need by type and density to estimate the amount of land needed in the UGB for each housing type for the next 20 years. The conclusion of the BLI is that Oakridge has sufficient land designated for residential uses to accommodate expected growth to year 2025.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 2.1 – Housing Forecast**

<b>Projected Total Number of Households (2025)</b>	
Projected 2025 Population	4,000
Average Household Size	2.28
Number of 2025 Households	1,754
Assume 5% Vacancy Rate	92
Total 2025 Housing Units	1,846
Total 2002 Housing Units	1,778
<b>2002-2025 Future Housing Units</b>	<b>68</b>
<i>Source: Lane Council of Governments; Table from the City of Oakridge’s 2005 Buildable Lands Inventory.</i>	

The City’s stated economic development objective is to support a wide range of businesses that provide opportunities for family wage jobs; key to this strategy is to have a balance of housing types and residential areas that are both affordable and attractive to residents. According to the BLI Report, median household income in 2000 was \$26,622 and approximately 12% of families were living in

<sup>4</sup> Source: City of Oakridge Comprehensive Plan, 2005 update.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ci.oakridge.or.us/>

<sup>6</sup> The 2005 BLI also compiled demographic and other local information that provided insight into the type, density, and the location of housing that will meet the needs of future residents. Much of the background information included in the Housing section of the City of Oakridge Comprehensive Plan pertaining to housing and household characteristics within the City of Oakridge is summarized from the BLI. Source: City of Oakridge Comprehensive Plan, 2005 update.



poverty in 1999. These statistics suggest that not only more affordable housing options, but also affordable recreational opportunities to support residents, are needed in Oakridge.

The age of residents is also notable in Oakridge. In 2000, the median age was 43 and twenty percent of the population was over 65 years of age. Despite a lack of local medical services or assisted care facilities within the City, the area has been attractive to retired people. Anecdotal information from residents citing that young families were leaving the community to find work elsewhere could also explain the aging of Oakridge's population over the past decade. Residents in the 25-44 age group declined by 5% from 1990 to 2000 and the protracted economic slump that started in 2007 has not improved prospects for growth in this vital age sector. The City's past experience may not be the best indicator of its future prospects. The increase of recreation-related activity and businesses in the community may work to reverse the aging of the population as younger people who are attracted to the many outdoor opportunities in and around Oakridge move to the City to live, work and recreate.<sup>7</sup> This suggests that Oakridge will need to plan for a park and recreation system that provides amenities and activities that appeal and are accessible to a diverse population.

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<sup>7</sup> Source: City of Oakridge Comprehensive Plan, 2005 update.

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## Chapter 3 Existing Park System

### 3.1 Park System Overview

To a great extent, the City's dedicated park and recreation areas are the result of the natural features found in the area. Two of the City's parks – Osprey and Greenwaters – sit directly on the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. Osprey Park is located in the southwest corner of the City. It is a largely unimproved park, with a paved, multi-use path stretching approximately 500 feet along the river and north to River Road. Currently, the park is accessed from the west via Perkins Street and from the east via River Road, with limited dedicated parking only at the River Road entrance.

Located at the confluence of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River and Salmon Creek, Greenwaters Park also takes advantage of a natural area along the river. The park takes access from Highway 58, in the southeast corner of the City. Across from the park, on the other side of the Willamette River is the Willamette National Forest; to the north is Highway 58, and beyond that residential areas to the north and northeast. To the west of the park, on the other side of Salmon Creek, is a private sand and gravel pit occupying an old meander of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River.

North of Greenwaters Park, Salmon Creek Park also sits near water, providing views and access to Salmon Creek above where it enters the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. Salmon Creek Park is accessed on its north side, from Hills Street, where there is a small parking lot. There is also a possibility of future access from Y Drive. Osprey and Salmon Creek parks lie in close proximity to residential neighborhoods; Greenwaters Park is more isolated, cut off from residential areas by Highway 58.



*Play structure at Salmon Creek Park*

Willamette Activity Center and Diamond View Park do not have an association with a particular natural feature, but rather are located in residential areas. Willamette Activity Center is on flat land and man-made features include the community building, ball fields, and an area for a skate park. The community center is easily accessed from School Street or Garden Road. Diamond View Park is located north of Highway 58 on property that overlooks the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and occupies the highest elevation of any of the parks within City limits. It is situated at the end of Commercial Street, has some unpaved off street parking. The park currently has a paved basketball court and a Pump Track for BMX bikes.

Other City-owned land that has the potential to become part of the City's recreational facilities includes a former log pond in the Oakridge Industrial Park and land north of the industrial park that straddles a tributary to Salmon Creek. Surrounded by industrial uses and pad sites, the Mill Pond has the most

potential for passive recreation, providing open space and pathways for a portion of the City’s employment base. The City also owns land in the southeast part of town that straddles a tributary to Salmon Creek that could be developed as a Disk Golf course. Other potential recreation opportunities may come from partnering with International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA); the organization has expressed interest in developing as a bike skills course for “Free Riding” somewhere in the area of Oakridge.<sup>8</sup>

The City also has a plan for a system of recreational pathways and trails through town, connecting to US Forest Department maintained trails outside of the City (see Section 3.3 and Figure 3.1). Existing trails include the Salmon Creek Levee Trail that goes from Highway 58 to the Warrior Fitness Trail (trailhead at the intersection of Fish Hatchery Road and Salmon Creek Road).<sup>9</sup> Many of the “in-town” trails, as defined by the 2008 Oakridge-Westfir Community Trails Plan (see Table 3.2), are located within existing public right-of-way, on paved streets or sidewalks, and provide connections for walkers or cyclists to parks and other recreational opportunities. The Trails Plan identifies needed improvements to existing trails, as well as new trails that would complete a comprehensive trails system for the Oakridge-Westfir area.<sup>10</sup>



*Amphitheater at Greenwaters Park*

### 3.2 Existing Park Facilities

The existing park facilities in Oakridge offer a wide variety of recreational and leisure time activities. This section describes the character of each park; a summary of amenities in each park is summarized in Table 3.1.

The “emerald jewel” of the Oakridge park system is *Greenwaters Park*. The park is located directly off of Highway 58, on the east end of town, on the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. This City-owned park land includes an Oregon Department of Transportation’s rest area, restrooms, picnic

facilities, and parking. There are restrooms and a pet area associated with the rest area. A portion of

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<sup>8</sup> Free Riding incorporates a downhill riding style with built features, such as big drops and berms. The bicycles for this type of course tend to be bigger and heavier, with more suspensions, than cross country bikes. The GOATS and IMBA are interested in developing property in the vicinity of TV Butte for a Free Ride course as part of the IMBA Ride Center partnership (see Section 3.4 Recreational Programs and Services).

<sup>9</sup> The Salmon Creek Levee Trail System will be extended to Greenwaters Park through a federal transportation grant received by the Greater Oakridge Area IMBA Ride Center in 2010.

<sup>10</sup> See Appendix C. Resource Inventory and Notes, Oakridge-Westfir Community Trails Plan, 2008.

the grounds within Greenwaters Park is tended by the local garden club. The historic, one-room Hills Family Cabin is also located on the grounds. A trail to the Larison Rock trailhead<sup>11</sup> is found at the site, and the Salmon Creek Levee Trail, an extension of which was made possible through a grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, begins at Greenwaters. Unique to the park is the amphitheater that is used for outdoor performances and community gatherings. There is also a community building and a picnic shelter at Greenwaters Park that is available for public use at minimal cost.

Salmon Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork of the Willamette River, runs the entire length of *Salmon Creek Park*. Two miles of Corps of Engineers constructed levees control seasonal flooding of Salmon Creek within the park. The City-maintained levees provide bicycle and pedestrian pathways that access the US Forest Service trail system at several points. The park's role as a gateway to the regional trail system will be enhanced when a trailhead to the Salmon Creek Levee Trail System is completed.<sup>12</sup> Salmon Creek also includes playground equipment and picnic areas. Not all of the land within the park is available for recreation; pump stations associated with the City's five water wells are located here, as well as the City's maintenance equipment yards, which may be moved out of the park in the future.

*Osprey Park* is characterized by a paved, multi-use path that meanders through a forested area, near the Willamette River. There are no other improvements within the park. Open areas near the river offer spectacular views of the surrounding hills and are used for picnicking and other passive recreational activities. A former excavation pit, formed when aggregate was removed from the site to build the highway, still creates a depression in the middle of the park, dividing the pathway from a meadow that is also part of the park property.



*Diamond View Park*

*Diamond View Park* was dedicated to the City as part of the Diamond View Subdivision, and has public access from several residential cul-de-sacs, as well as the west end of Commercial Street. The park currently has a full basketball court and is widely known for a bike course that the GOATS built with design help from IMBA. The track was designed to be

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<sup>11</sup> From the Oakridge-Westfir Community Trails Plan, 2008, p. 25: "The forested slopes of Larison Ridge provide an outstanding viewshed to the south of Oakridge across the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. Currently there is one trail, the Larison Rock Trail, which is popular with mountain bikers and hikers. It is a steep, single-track trail that is suitable for intermediate and advanced mountain bikers, but is not recommended for beginner riders."

<sup>12</sup> Project made possible by a grant from Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department.

a “Jump Park” and a “Pump Track.”<sup>13</sup> In part because it was built with existing soil and fill dirt, the track needs constant maintenance, with rocks and debris removed through the efforts of volunteers.

Once an elementary school, the *Willamette Activity Center (WAC)* is now host to numerous social service providers for the greater Oakridge area. The building also contains an auditorium that provides indoor basketball. As a cornerstone community asset, the WAC is located in a neighborhood much in need of a park. The grounds include a play ground and covered play area that is used by the Head Start program. There also is a fenced softball field with nearby restrooms and concessions and an undeveloped dirt field beyond the softball field. In the summer of 2010, the school district donated land adjacent to the WAC that community volunteers developed into a skate-park and basketball courts. Strong community involvement led to the development of these facilities.

The City also owns two undeveloped sites that have the potential to provide park use; a parcel in the industrial park that includes the former saw mill log pond and land adjacent to the mill site that straddles a tributary to Salmon Creek, which some have suggested could be used for a disk golf park.

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<sup>13</sup> A Jump Park is designed with a series of “table top” jumps where there is a launch on one side and a landing on the other. A Pump Track includes areas where a bicyclist can “pump” the bike through “rollers” without pedaling.

**Table 3.1: Existing and Proposed Park Facilities**

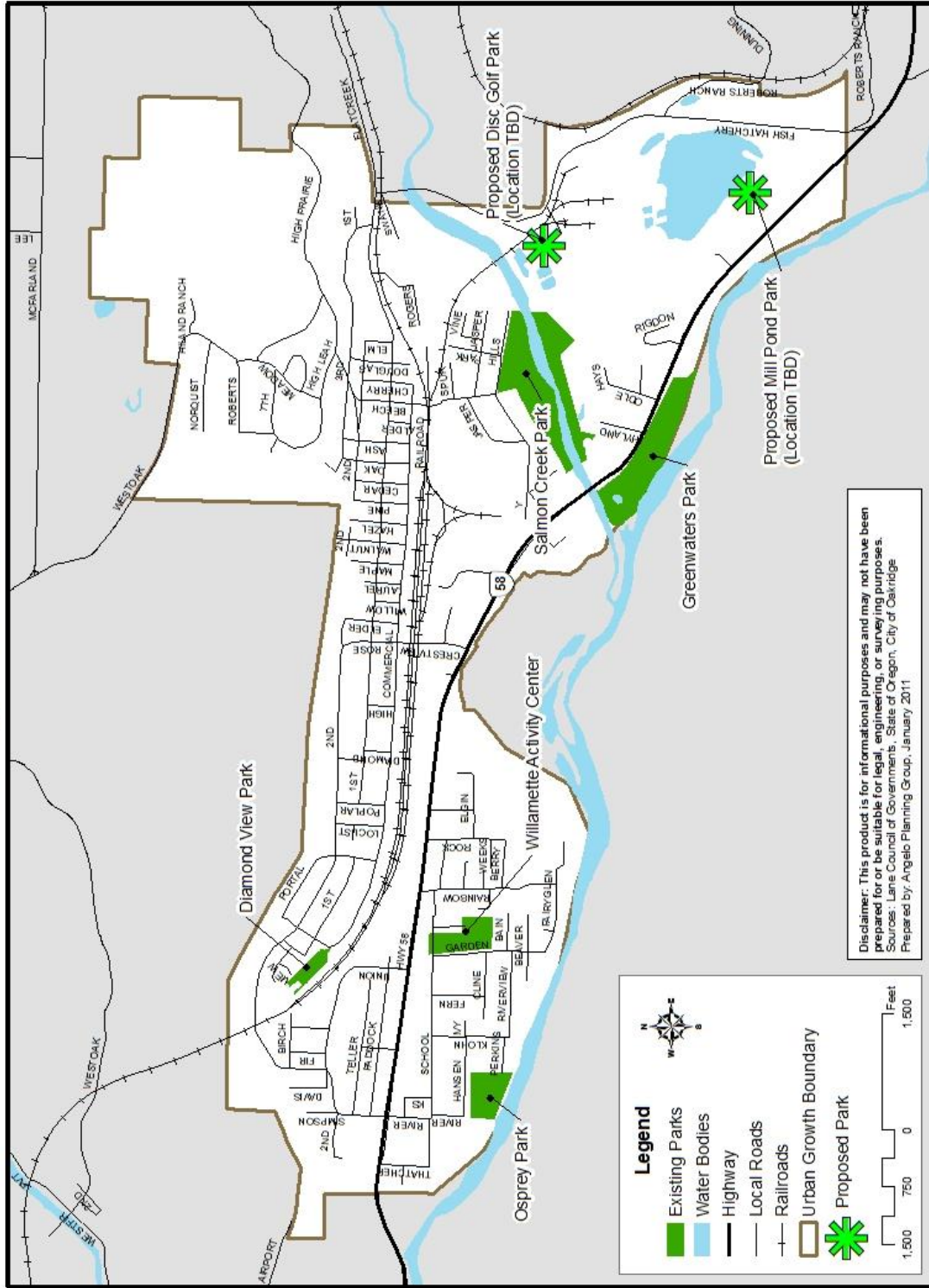
Park Facility	Acres	General Purpose (Present Day)	Amenities
Greenwaters	23.67 acres	Community gathering area and concert venue; access to the Middle Fork of the Willamette River; highway rest area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amphitheater</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Community center</li> <li>• Tennis court</li> <li>• Volleyball / Badminton</li> <li>• Playing fields</li> <li>• Playground equipment</li> <li>• Picnic tables &amp; shelter</li> <li>• Boat ramp</li> </ul>
Salmon Creek	30.87 acres	Playground and picnic area; access to the regional trail system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horseshoe Pits (4)</li> <li>• Playground Equipment</li> <li>• Basketball court (half court)</li> <li>• Picnic tables &amp; shelter</li> <li>• Community gardens</li> </ul>
Osprey Park	9 acres	Passive recreation activities: walking, biking, fishing, picnicking, some BMX riding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pedestrian and bicycle path</li> <li>• Picnic area (no tables)</li> <li>• Open space</li> </ul>
Diamond View	5.25 acres	Active recreation activities: basketball, BMX bike riding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMX track</li> <li>• Basketball Court</li> </ul>
Willamette Activity Center	6.29 acres	Community Center with gym, meeting rooms, community services, skateboarding, field and court sports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community building</li> <li>• Meeting rooms</li> <li>• Community services</li> <li>• Skate park</li> <li>• Playing field (softball diamond)</li> <li>• Basketball (indoor/outdoor)</li> </ul>
Mill Pond	39.1 acres*	<i>Proposed for passive recreation activities: walking, picnicking, fishing.</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>
Disk Golf	TBA	<i>Proposed for active recreation.</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>

*\*This is the acreage for a City-owned site within the Oakridge Industrial Park. While currently zoned industrial, this land is not considered part of the City's buildable industrial land inventory. The passive amenities proposed for this area are intended to enhance recreational opportunities for employees, as well as create a community asset on land unsuitable for development.*



Figure 3.1 – Oakridge Park Facilities

Oakridge Park Facilities



### 3.3 Trails

In 2004 the City initiated a planning process for the trails system, the Oakridge-Westfir Trails Project, after receiving a grant from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. The project was initiated in response to the increased usage of Oakridge area trails and the recognition of the major role outdoor recreation plays in the local economy. Led by the Oakridge-Westfir Area Chamber of Commerce and guided by a Trails Committee comprised of interested citizens and local trail user groups, the grant funded two years of technical assistance that resulted in the development of the 2008 Oakridge-Westfir Community Trails Plan (“Trails Plan”).

The stated purpose of the Trails Plan is to provide a tool to inform the public and to help acquire funding and grants for trail and related economic development projects. The goals described in the Trails Plan seek to benefit all citizens of the Oakridge-Westfir area and to make the area a regional destination for outdoor recreation. Recommendations include connecting existing trails and to build convenient and attractive meeting places at key trail junctions.

The conceptual model for the Trails Plan envisions an in-town trails network within the community that is linked to a periphery, or edge-of-town, trails system that extends into the natural areas surrounding Oakridge and Westfir. The intent of this trail system is to provide area residents with trail connections to commercial centers and community destinations, and visitors with connections to public amenities and the diverse recreational opportunities on adjacent U.S. Forest Service lands. To this end, the trail network is organized into three categories: In-town, Edge-of-town and Forest Trails (see Table 3.2).<sup>14</sup> These categories guide how different types of trails should be developed in order to form an interconnected system of practical and efficient routes for residents and visitors to walk or ride through



*Multi-use path, Greenwaters Park*

town, around the outskirts of the community, or access the adjacent forests and mountains.

The Trails Plan provides an overview of the range of trail types that would be found in the community trails system, including bike lanes, bike routes, sidewalks, multiple-use pathways, and single track trails. Identified amenities that could enhance trail users’ experience include benches, drinking fountains, lights, ramps at curbs, directional signs, and interpretive displays. Existing and proposed trails are shown on Figure 3.1.

<sup>14</sup> From Table 2. Trail Categories in the Oakridge-Westfir Community Trails Plan, 2008 Oakridge-Westfir Community Trails Plan.

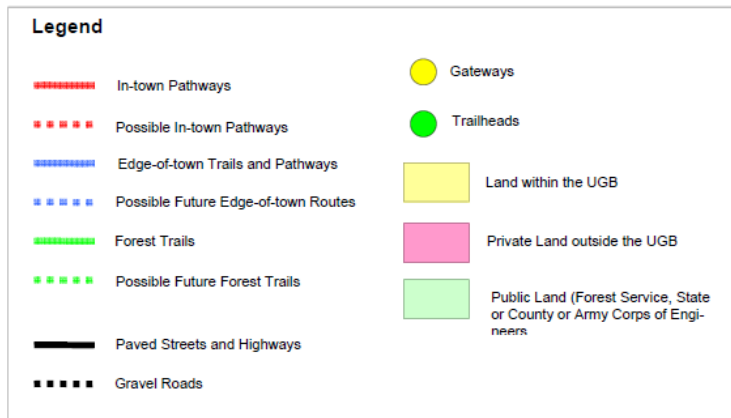
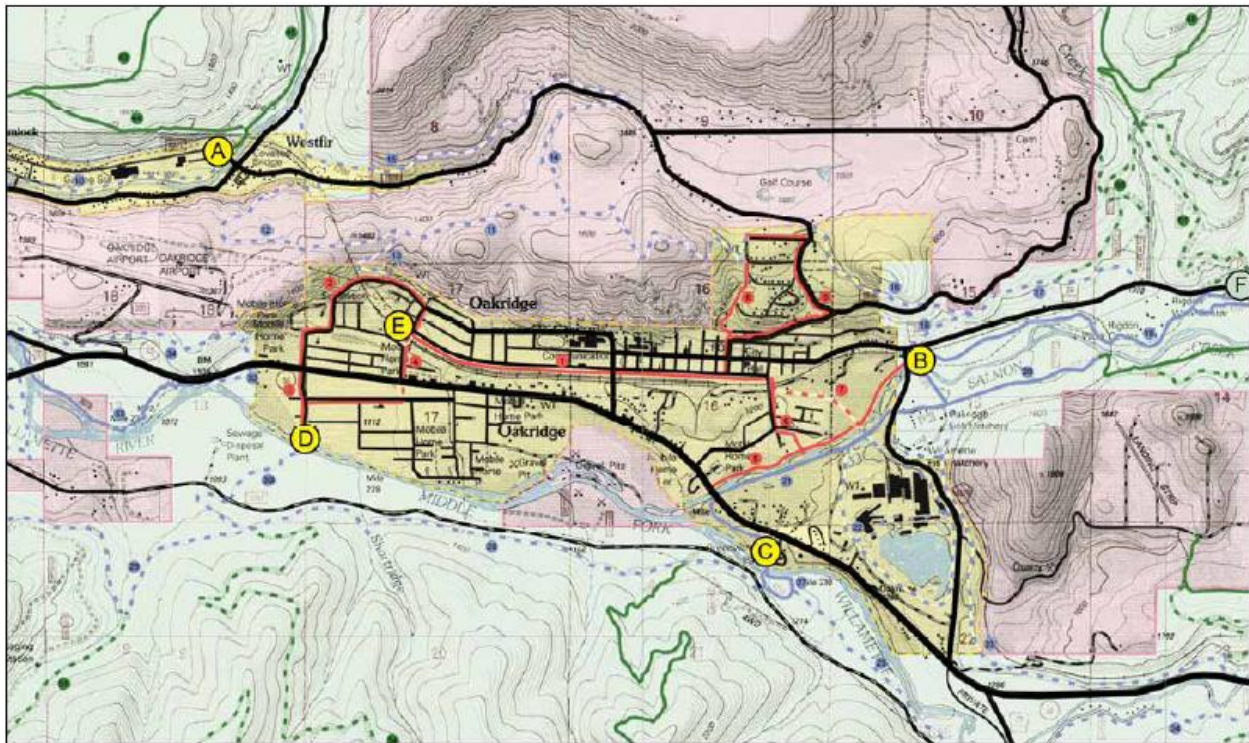
The Trails Plan recommends improvements to the City’s parks through the concept of “gateways.” Gateways are described as trailheads that provide a convenient reference point for people to meet or to park their cars while using the trail system and a place for people to learn about the area they are about to enter. Typical amenities that the Trails Plan envisions for Gateways include historical/interpretive signs, maps, drinking fountain, parking, garbage cans and benches. Future expansions to such facilities could include: restrooms, picnic facilities, and wash stations for bicycles and trail users to clean off poison oak oils and minimize weed seed dispersal. Within Oakridge, the Trails Plan recommends trail “Gateways” at Greenwaters Park, Osprey Park, and Diamond View Park (see “C,” “D,” and “E” on Figure 3.1). The plan also calls for important levy-trail development in Salmon Creek Park. These and other “In-town” trails are not only important recreation amenities but also named bicycle/pedestrian features in the Oakridge Transportation System Plan. As such, trail amenities are eligible for funding support using transportation as well as recreation resources.

**Table 3.2: Trail Categories**

<b>Trail Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
In-town	Routes that link points within the community such as parks, neighborhoods, commercial centers and schools. These routes could include sidewalks, bike lanes, or multi-use pathways.
Edge-of-town	Routes that are generally at the periphery of the urbanized area. Trails in this category connect the community to recreation opportunities on the Willamette National Forest and connect the communities of Oakridge and Westfir. These routes would be multi-use paths of compacted gravel or bark mulch.
Forest Trails	Forest Trails are routes in the Willamette National Forest that provide a natural experience and variety of levels of physical challenge. These trails are typically a single-track type. They are compacted dirt and can vary from flat to steeper grades.



Figure 3.2 – Oakridge Area Trail System



### 3.4 Recreational Programs and Services

The City of Oakridge does not employ a Parks and Recreation Director but does have a program budget for parks. The City maintains park and recreation areas through the Community Service Department and supports community-organized events from the Parks Projects fund. The biggest organized events are held at the Greenwaters Park Siuslaw Bank Amphitheatre as part of the Projects in the Park program that provides concerts and other entertainment at this venue. This program is jointly sponsored by the City of Oakridge, local community businesses, and the Oakridge/Westfir Area Chamber of Commerce, and offers music and other entertainment events from June-September. Greenwaters Park also hosts the Pioneer Picnic held in July at which the community holds a barbeque and celebrates the area's pioneer history.

The City owns and maintains the Willamette Activity Center which houses several community service organizations including Senior and Disabled Services, the Food Box, DMV Office, Oakridge Treasures (a second hand store), among other uses.

Youth athletic programs are available through Upper Willamette Youth Activities Inc., a non-profit organization. With a focus on providing affordable after school programs to grade school children, Upper Willamette Youth provides organized athletic activities such as skiing at Willamette Pass, soccer, basketball, and baseball, as well as a cultural arts program.

Other events routinely held in Oakridge are focused on mountain biking, some of which benefit the Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards (GOATS). The GOATS were formed in 2008 by a group of hikers, bikers, runners and equestrians who had worked on the Trails Plan and wanted to stay together to start implementing its recommendations. The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) is also involved with activities in the area. IMBA is a non-profit educational association whose mission is to create, enhance and preserve great trail experiences for mountain bikers worldwide. In 2008 IMBA designated Oakridge as one of their first "Ride Centers." Ride Centers are described by this organization as "areas with extensive trail networks, masterfully designed for mountain bikers of every skill level and built by professional trailbuilders" and are meant to serve "as social and educational hubs, where visitors can connect and learn new riding techniques."<sup>15</sup>

The GOATS partnered with the IMBA to apply for federal transportation funding through the 2010 House Appropriations Committee process. The Ride Center concept was awarded \$400,000 to be spent on signage and wayfinding, three trail construction projects, new bathroom facilities at Diamond View and Greenwaters, and grant administration. Other high priority trail projects will be executed through a continued partnership between IMBA, the GOATS, the cities of Oakridge and Westfir, U.S. Forest Service, Oakridge/Westfir Area Chamber of Commerce, Travel Lane County, Travel Oregon, ODOT, and Willamette Pass Ski Area.

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<sup>15</sup> Appropriations Request Form, 2010, U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee.

## Chapter 4 Park Needs Assessment

### 4.1 Approach

The approach taken to assess the need for future park facilities in Oakridge emphasizes locally identified needs and desires rather than trying to achieve a blanket standard that may or may not be responsive to community growth and desires. Prior to 1995, the recognized national standard was 10 acres of park land for every 1,000 people. Under this standard, Oakridge is well over-parked, with over 18 acres of parkland for every 1,000 citizens. However, an acreage-per-resident standard does not provide any guidance on how well the park facilities in Oakridge serve the existing population. Park land without amenities does little to serve residents other than to provide visual open space. The quality of City parks needs also to be measured based on the quality of the recreation experiences they enable for citizens. By that measure, the existing quality of the City parks system as a whole is not very good. This premise is particularly supported by the condition of parks that are located in neighborhoods. These parks have relatively few amenities and those that are in place have developed “organically,” in response to immediate needs or funding opportunities, but without consideration of their appropriateness in a particular setting. Walking trails are not well defined or improved. There are no picnic facilities or playing fields except for one softball diamond at the Willamette Activity Center and currently only two parks – Salmon Creek and Greenwaters – have bathroom facilities. Formal landscaping is minimal at all facilities. In short, the City has ample park land but the parks do not function as one would expect them to, given their location and the population they are meant to serve.

Oakridge residents are fortunate because the community is surrounded by forests and nature. Proximity to nature defines the City. What residents lack, however, are public places within walking distance from home and work where spaces are provided to sit quietly, where children can play under parental supervision, and where families can gather together in community to share a meal or watch their kids play sports. It is these neighborhood-based active and passive recreation opportunities that are typically provided in City parks that are missing in Oakridge.

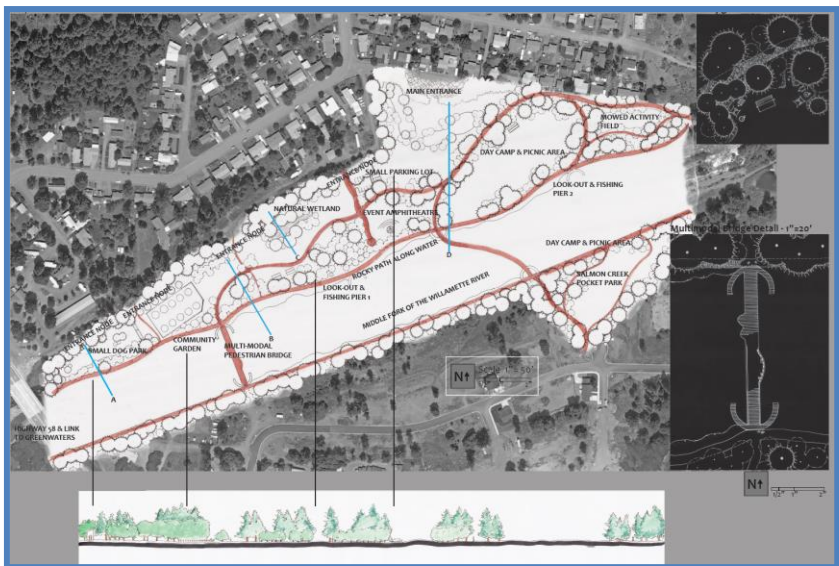
In 1996 the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) published the *Park, Recreation Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, which promotes a "systems approach" to park facility planning, and that acknowledges that every community has its own unique blend of social and economic characteristics that define it. Those characteristics should be used to help the community tailor its park and recreational facilities in ways that are appropriate in range, quantity and quality given community values, needs, and fiscal limits. In assessing future park and recreation needs, it is important to ensure that the current desires of the community adequately serve future populations in an equitable and fiscally responsible manner. To this end, the Park Needs Assessment relies on the planning context provided in Chapter 2 to help define and categorize each park (Section 4.4, below). The park classification system will help identify and prioritize facility needs (Section 4.5). The following Park Needs Assessment is consistent with this type of approach, using community direction to identify desired park elements and future improvements to the parks system.

## 4.2 Parks Survey

The 2008 Park Survey conducted by the City was the first step to developing a comprehensive, long range plan for developing, managing, and maintaining parks and open space. The Park Survey was distributed with City Water Bills and the City received 93 completed surveys. The questions and a summary of responses can be found in Appendix A. The survey provided an indication of what were the most popular activities, which parks were most frequented, and what additional activities and programs respondents would like to see offered. Greenwaters Park was by far the most used facility and the activities most often engaged in were walking, picnics, and community gatherings. Respondents also favored interpretive trails by a wide margin, over providing more opportunities for other, more active, pursuits such as athletic fields and courts. The survey responses also indicated that “more amenities” would entice people to visit their parks more often. The highest ranking desired amenities were picnic areas (39 votes), restrooms (37 votes), trails (31 votes), and play equipment (28 votes). The majority of responses indicated that more neighborhood parks were not needed.

## 4.3 Studio Design Process

To assist with a visioning process to inform the development of the Parks Master Plan, the City enlisted students with the University of Oregon Landscape Architecture Department to audit the existing park facilities, assess how they were currently being used, and develop conceptual plans for possible future uses. As part of their studio design course work, the students were challenged to create conceptual plans that were informed by the topography, natural features, and history of Oakridge, but not be limited by potential financial constraints associated with specific design elements. For the



*Detail of conceptual design for Salmon Creek Park*

City, the objective of this exercise was to provide Oakridge residents with some creative ideas for how to better use existing park space and amenities. Students from this program developed conceptual designs for four parks - Greenwaters, Osprey, Salmon Creek, and Diamond View.

### 4.3.1 Park Design Concepts

Twelve park design concepts were developed for the four City parks (see Appendix D). Two designs proposed elements in both Salmon Creek Park and Greenwaters Park, in effect treating the two areas as one large park, while the other eight designs focused on a single park. The design concepts were displayed at a June 2010 Open House where the public was invited to review each park design and to discuss proposed elements with the designer. Each display featured small scale inset drawings that



showed mini-concepts for other City parks, transect elevations through the main park, and access/connectivity beyond the park boundary. Designs displayed a mixture of enhanced existing features and new elements, including landscaping, buildings, and equipment. Some of the design elements and amenities that students designed for each park are as follows:<sup>16</sup>

### **Diamond View Park**

- Berms (sound buffering and viewing)
- Pathways through the park that use recycled materials
- Kids adventure playground
- Connector trail to downtown along the rail bluff lined with Aspen trees
- BMX track/meadow
- Cantilevered deck for viewing the rail corridor
- Buried power lines



### **Osprey Park**

- Pond and fishing area
- Vegetation buffers to neighborhood housing
- Pathways through the park
- A plaza/commons area leading down to the river
- A pedestrian bridge across the Willamette
- Playground area

### **Greenwaters Park**

- Enclosed Amphitheater and sound reduction berms
- East parking loop
- Boat ramp
- Beach areas
- “Meadow of Discovery” and open areas
- River views and access

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<sup>16</sup>Design elements that the public found most appealing, as well as ideas not favored, were summarized from Open House Comment Sheets and organized by park, can be found in Appendix B, Open House Summary.

- Pathways through the park including a loop path to the creek confluence
- Dog park

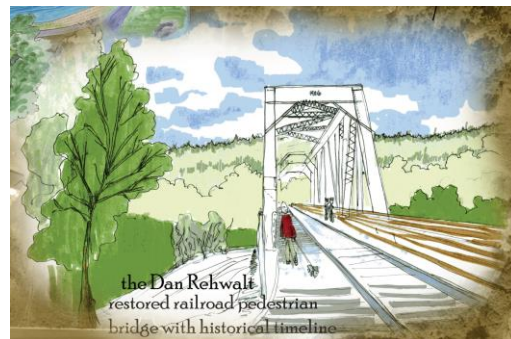
### Salmon Creek Park

- Water park elements
- Gazebo
- Party lawn
- Orchard
- Fishing piers
- Community garden
- Pump house art
- Equestrian facilities
- Day camp picnic area
- Adventure playground
- Creek overflow channels
- Backwater pond on south side of the creek
- Two bridges for crossing Salmon Creek - Cable/foot bridge
- Elevated viewing area/terraced overlook
- Pedestrian path connection at railway
- Walking paths/promenade
- Park expansion to the northeast
- Uses on both sides of the creek



### Combined Park (Salmon Creek and Greenwaters)

- Community gardens
- Use of the trestle bridge and railroad trail
- Community orchards
- Frisbee golf
- Adventure playground on Greenwater side
- Berm and landscaping at amphitheater
- Use of native plants
- Natural treatment of N. side of levee
- Boardwalks /pathways through and connecting the parks
- beaches on the rivers
- Plaza down to waterfront
- restored river channel (Salmon Creek)
- Interpretive trail
- Pedestrian/bike bridge on HWY 58



### 4.3.2 Public Open House Results

The intent of the Open House was to solicit residents' reactions to design concepts for each of the parks. To this end participants were asked to fill out comment sheets for each of the park designs and to indicate what elements they liked and disliked, as well as what improvements they would suggest. In total, 43 comment sheets were filled out; several sheets included comments on more than one park design, which made distinguishing the park design number that was associated with some comments difficult. With few exceptions, the creative ideas for park usage illustrated by the students were met with positive responses from the community. While participants were asked to be critical of the designs and to indicate what they liked and disliked about the designs, most respondents focused on the design ideas they liked.

Appendix B, Open House Summary, provides a summary of the comments received, organized by each park, as well as a verbatim transcript of the comments organized by the design number. The Open House comments indicate that the public generally found favor with design concepts that included amenities that were also identified as preferred park attributes through the park survey results. People responded well to more pathways, public gathering spaces, picnic areas, playgrounds, and connecting links to trails. Respondents were more skeptical of capital intensive proposals (e.g. a proposed equestrian center) and critical of locating recreation amenities near the rail line, primarily for safety concerns.

## 4.4 Park Classification

Classifying Oakridge's existing parks can serve as a guideline to evaluate the current park system and future needs. A park classification can also help prioritize the community's desires for certain park amenities. The proposed classification system categorizes developed parks based on the following characteristics: benefits, functions, location, service area, and amenities. The City's existing improved parks are considered one of the following four categories: Regional Park; Community Park, Neighborhood Park; Specialty Park; or Mini-Park.

### 4.4.1 Regional Park

Regional parks can be defined as large recreation areas that attract visitors far beyond the boundaries of the City. Typically large in size and designed to accommodate large numbers of people, they may focus on one unique feature or offer a wide range of activities and facilities. Generally, regional parks provide a wide variety of specialized facilities, such as sports fields, boating and fishing access, camping areas, and large picnic areas. They typically retain large areas in their natural state to provide opportunities for walking, boating, and various types of passive recreation. Regional parks may also include amenities that allow them to function as neighborhood and community parks for a particular service area, but also have portions that are considered part of the regional open space system.

Based on this definition, Greenwaters Park is the City's one regional park. While small for a regional park, the ODOT rest area, amphitheater, picnic areas, boat launch, and the Larison Rock trailhead into the Willamette National Forest are all amenities that make the park a regional draw.

#### 4.4.2 Community Park

Community parks are typically large in size, ranging in size from 10 to 30 acres, and tend to include amenities that serve broad community needs and interests. It is common to find in community parks large open space areas, lawns and pathways along with active recreation sites like sports field complexes and community activity centers . Their size allows for parking that can accommodate visitors from a large service area. Community parks, however, are oriented at serving local needs and interests. They also may include amenities that allow them to function as the neighborhood park for the immediate walk-in service area (i.e. within ½ mile of the park).

In size and for some functions, Salmon Creek Park currently fits the definition of a community park. Salmon Creek Park is within walking distance of residential areas east of Crestview and the historic Uptown Business District. The park also contains community gardens and is large enough to accommodate a wide range of existing and future active and passive recreation uses.

#### 4.4.3 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are principally defined by their proximity to residential areas. They typically include a playground area and open space, and are designated primarily to support non-supervised and non-organized recreation activities. Generally small in size - neighborhood parks tend to be 2 to 7 acres in size - their primary purpose is to serve neighborhoods within an approximately 0.25 to 0.5 mile radius. Since these parks are located within walking or bicycling distance of most users, the amenities and activities they offer tend to be particularly attractive for the neighborhood children and for adults on an evening stroll. Pedestrian access via more than one entry is important. Typically, facilities include a children’s playground, picnic areas, an outdoor basketball or tennis court, walking paths, and open areas for passive use. Depending on their size, some neighborhood parks also may include sports fields, but these amenities are not necessary to support their primary function. Ideally, all of Oakridge’s residential developments should be less than one half - mile from a neighborhood park.



*Community gardens at Salmon Creek Park*

With its proximity to residential neighborhoods west of downtown, and the existing basketball court, Diamond View Park is appropriately considered a neighborhood park. Given a service area standard of approximately half a mile or less, Diamond View Park could serve as the neighborhood park for most of western Oakridge if it weren’t for Highway 58, the railroad tracks, and the City’s topography, which inhibit access to this park from residential neighborhoods south of the highway. Osprey Park, with its location in the Willamette City neighborhood, can also be seen as a neighborhood park. This park, however, currently functions more as visual open space than as a recreation facility; it embodies few of the amenities typically associated with a true neighborhood park.



#### 4.4.4 Specialty Parks

Specialty parks and special use facilities include public lands that are intended for a limited range of recreational uses or public buildings that include a specialized facility. Facilities that fall into this classification include special purpose areas principally used for a specific type of recreation, such as a park dedicated exclusively to field sports, or specialty buildings used for indoor recreation. They are community assets that provide special purpose amenities for all City residents. By this definition, the Willamette Activity Center is a special use facility that includes a City-owned community center, a skate park, and ball diamond.

Two other City-owned sites have been identified as specialty parks: the Mill Pond Park envisioned in the Oakridge Industrial Park and the proposed Disk Golf park on the west side of Salmon Creek. Oakridge has the opportunity to develop the Mill Pond as a recreational amenity for workers in this employment district with a walking path, benches, a fishing platform, and possibly a sport court. It also would serve as a community recreation site before and after working hours.

#### 4.4.5 Mini-Parks

The Mini-park classification is used to identify small areas of land (less than one acre) that provide a limited recreational benefit at a specific local. Mini-parks are typically single-purpose areas designated for use by small children, passive adult recreation, or day use for employees. Examples include a landscaped plaza area in an industrial or commercial district, scenic overlooks, play areas for children in a shopping district or “tot lots” in neighborhoods. A designation of “mini-park” is given when a specific recreation need is being met or when a unique opportunity is afforded by the land or space the park occupies. Park systems do not typically have goals or standards for mini-parks. The classification is used to recognize public spaces that provide opportunities for meeting a recreation need in a specific location. In a residential setting the service area is typically less than ¼ of a mile in radius. Oakridge does not currently have any park space that is classified as a Mini-park.

### 4.5 Desired Park Elements Assessment

A number of park design features were identified by the public through responses to the 2008 Parks Survey and explorations of conceptual park designs, as discussed at a community-wide Open House.<sup>17</sup> The design process was a creative, highly conceptual exercise that provided members of the community with possibilities for the parks system that had never been publicly contemplated or discussed before. The resulting park designs have limitations for facilities planning, as the designers were not strictly limited by community demographics, identified needs, development cost, or the realities of operations and maintenance. However, citizens identified positively with many of the elements that went into the designs.

In addition to the present-day desires of the community, as documented through survey responses and explored through the studio design process, a park planning methodology must take into account the demographics and the location of principal park users to anticipate future needs (see Chapter 2). This

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<sup>17</sup> See Section 4.3 Studio Design Process.

community context helped to define and categorize each park (Section 4.4). Based on this classification, the types of amenities and appropriate park features become apparent for a particular park.

In order to begin to identify and prioritize facility needs, the design elements proposed for each park along with current design features were assessed based on how well they meet the needs of the community. This assessment is summarized in the table in Appendix C. The assessment criteria used to qualitatively analyze the merits of each element included the following:

- Consistency with Park Classification. - *Determine if proposed design element is consistent with park type, as defined in Section 4.4 Park Classification.*
- Construction Costs - *Estimate whether or not the proposed design element will have a significant construction cost.*
- Operation / maintenance - *Evaluate the relative operating and maintenance burden of the proposed design element*
- Funding Support - *Evaluate if proposed design element may provide a revenue generating opportunity through fees, licenses, events, concessions or other revenue sources.*

Based on how well the given design element meets these criteria, each element is shown with either a “high,” “medium” or “low” ranking. The ranking is an indication of how aggressively the City should pursue incorporating a given design element into the existing parks system and led to the recommendations in Chapter 5.

## 4.6 Other Park-Related Needs

Three other issues emerged in discussions with community interest groups and City officials that are not addressed in the previous sections. They are sports facilities that support organized adult and youth recreation activities, especially field sports, dog parks, and park financing.

### 4.6.1 Sports Fields

Oakridge has significant open space at the high school that could satisfy the need for athletic fields for youth football, soccer, t-ball, baseball, softball, and other recreation uses. The school district, however, has expressed concerns about public use of its sport fields. This is a common area of concern statewide between municipalities and school districts. Issues include district liability, student safety, and timing of public access versus student access. Other issues included the cost to maintain these facilities if additional public use affects the condition of facilities. The City and school district currently do not have an agreement that would enable City residents to rely on the availability of district sport fields to meet that recreation need. Unless that posture changes, the City will need to provide sport field facilities in City parks if it desires to have these amenities available for public use.

The City and school district have an agreement that allows the district to use the City’s baseball field at the Willamette Activity Center for school softball practice and competitions. The City also has an agreement with the Upper Willamette Youth Activities Inc. for use of the field by youth soccer teams

and softball teams in the summer. No other formal agreements are in place regarding inter-jurisdictional use of recreation facilities.

A review of City park facilities shows that the terrain at Salmon Creek Park and at Osprey Park is gentle enough that the development of sports fields may be possible in these locations. Given the need for parking at sport field venues, Salmon Creek Park may be a more suitable location for development of sport facilities because of its size. Diamond View Park has too small an area to accommodate sport fields and other neighborhood park amenities.<sup>18</sup>

#### **4.6.2 Dog Park**

The community of Oakridge has expressed a desire to have park land set aside for a Dog Park. This is a type of Specialty Park or area set aside in a Community or Neighborhood Park (see definitions in Section 4.4.4) that is intended for exercising and socializing by dogs and their owners. Typically, dog parks include an area that is dedicated to dog off-leash exercise and that is segregated from other park activities, such as children play areas and picnic areas. Such areas are signed as dog off-leash areas, and are often fenced and include plastic bag dispensers and trash receptacles designed for waste disposal. In contrast to the pet area associated with the Oregon Department of Transportation rest area at Greenwaters Park, which is intended for animals' rest and relief as their owners travel through the area, a Dog Park is designed and maintained for resident pets' exercise and socialization. While few physical improvements are necessary to develop a Dog Park, with the possible exception of fencing, maintenance of such facilities is on-going and includes management of waste disposal and turf conditions.

A review of City park facilities indicates that Salmon Creek, a sizable Community Park that currently accommodates a variety of recreational activities and also has development potential, may provide the best opportunities for incorporating a dog off-leash area.

#### **4.6.3 Park System Financing**

The Oakridge park system financing comes principally from three sources: the General Fund, contributions from other special revenue and enterprise funds, and grants. Spending on parks is monitored in a single budget account, except for personnel. Revenue and spending on park facilities and services are monitored through the Park Projects Fund, a component of the General Fund. The City owns and maintains park land but does not have a park department; per se. Responsibility for management and oversight of parks is the responsibility of the Community Development Department, which includes the Planning Department and Public Works Department.

In the past five-years, City investment in park maintenance and operations has been minimal at best. The Park Projects Fund is spent on capital improvements and special projects. Revenue typically is from third-party grants, donations, and fund transfers. In the last five years, most of the revenue to the Park

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<sup>18</sup> There is public support for retaining the BMX track at Diamond View and the basketball court as communicated through comments at the June 2010 Public Open House and the comment sheets submitted at this event. Due to land constraints, it is likely not feasible to further develop Diamond View with sport fields.

Projects fund has been devoted to the trail system development, improvements in Greenwaters Park, and the development of this master plan.

Another vitally important source of investment in the City's park and recreation system is from community groups. The effectiveness and level of investment from these groups cannot be understated. The Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards (GOATS) is well organized and has been very effective helping the City secure funding for trail development, signage, and information resources. Other community groups, including local businesses, have played important roles developing the BMX track at Diamond View Park, the skate park at the Willamette Activity Center, and funding for improvements to the concert venue and organizing events in Greenwaters Park. In essence, these community groups act as the City's park operations staff because without them, it is difficult to imagine how any activities could be staged in the City's parks.

A third source of investment in City parks and recreation is other governmental entities that provide services and operate programs in Oakridge at City-owned facilities. These include the Upper Willamette Youth Activities Inc. agency that manages non-profit youth recreation and education programs in Oakridge. The City of Oakridge operates the rest area at Greenwaters Park that provides services and information to the traveling public. ODOT and the City share expenses to maintain the rest area.

In summary, the City's park system is struggling financially, but innovative partnerships with governmental and community groups are making use of Oakridge park and recreation assets and providing important recreation and economic development benefits to community residents and visitors. Most of the system investments to date have been in support of visitor services, "at-risk" families and individuals, and young people. In order for the City to improve its parks and provide amenities that serve City neighborhoods, investment is needed in capital improvements to neighborhood and community parks and for maintenance of those parks.

## Chapter 5 Park and Trail System Plan and Investment Recommendations

### 5.1 Goals and Policies

#### Goal 1: Planning for Parks

Provide for park and recreation needs at both the community-wide level and neighborhood level.

- Policy 1.1. Provide public spaces, facilities and programs that allow recreational opportunities for all citizens, including the youth, elderly, and physically disadvantaged in the community.
- Policy 1.2. Improve the health and fitness of citizens by providing a variety of recreational opportunities within the community.
- Policy 1.3. Work with the Oakridge School District to find opportunities to jointly use and develop school and City park sites.
- Policy 1.4. Assist with maintaining and improving Forest Vale Memorial Cemetery.
- Policy 1.5. Support and maintain the Willamette Activity Center so that it can continue to offer a wide range of human services and recreation programs.
- Policy 1.6. Develop and maintain Osprey Park as an important link in the City's trail system along the riverfront and as a neighborhood park for the Willamette City area.
- Policy 1.7. Maintain Salmon Creek Park as a facility that serves broad community needs and interests and evaluate the potential for providing additional community recreation facilities in the park consistent with this function.
- Policy 1.8. Enhance the connections between Salmon Creek Park and Salmon Creek, Greenwaters Park and the Middle Fork of the Willamette River, and existing pedestrian and bicycle routes.
- Policy 1.9. Maintain and enhance Greenwaters Park as the primary community gathering spot for large events and concerts.
- Policy 1.10. Develop and maintain Diamond View Park as a neighborhood park with an emphasis on outdoor youth recreation.
- Policy 1.11. Coordinate the development of the former mill pond in the Oakridge Industrial Park as a public park and open space amenity.
- Policy 1.12. Develop and maintain a skate park that offers a state-of-the-art experience.

- Policy 1.13. Partner with International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) to develop, maintain, and promote a bike skills course.
- Policy 1.14. Coordinate City park and recreation planning with the efforts of the Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards (GOATS) and the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) in promoting and developing the City as a “Ride Center” for off-road cyclists.

## **Goal 2: Natural Resources and Open Space**

Increase and enhance the community’s access to natural areas in and around Oakridge, such as the Willamette National Forest and the Middle Fork of the Willamette River.

- Policy 2.1. Preserve and protect the riverfront open space along north bank of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River in order to preserve and maintain fish, game, and bird habitat, provide access to river, accommodate pedestrian and bicycle paths.
- Policy 2.2. Promote the riverfront open space as an important area linking the community and visitors to the Willamette River’s amenities and enhance connections to this area with public recreation and service facilities throughout the urban area.
- Policy 2.3. Continue to coordinate with the National Forest Service in planning for the Willamette National Forest and encourage the continuation of forest land preservation south of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River.
- Policy 2.4. Coordinate with property owners of the gravel quarry to include the provision of public open space and wildlife habitat in restoration plans following closure of the quarry.

## **Goal 3: Trails and Pathways**

Develop and maintain a trail network that connects Oakridge to the Westfir community, regional parks and open space, and the trails and recreation opportunities in the Willamette National Forest.

- Policy 3.1. Work collaboratively with the Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards (GOATS) to implement the Oakridge-Westfir Community Trails Plan.
- Policy 3.2. Improve connections within the community, such as between City parks, ball fields, schools, community centers, government buildings, etc.
- Policy 3.3. Increase recreational opportunities for families of all physical abilities through improved trails and pathways.
- Policy 3.4. Promote economic development opportunities, including tourism, by providing a connected system of parks and natural areas.

## **Goal 4: Park Design**

Design and manage all City park facilities in a manner that promotes user safety, health, enjoyment, and wellbeing.

- Policy 4.1. Engage stakeholders and community groups in park design and development.
- Policy 4.2. Develop new parks to be ADA accessible and, wherever appropriate and possible, upgrade existing park facilities to make them ADA compliant.
- Policy 4.3. Implement park design consistent with the vision and desired elements of each park, as determined by a community planning process.
- Policy 4.4. Design new parks to be attractive and environmentally sensitive; to the extent possible, design parks that are low maintenance, energy efficient, and cost-efficient.
- Policy 4.5. Promote the use of sustainable, locally available and “re-purposed” materials, and native plant species in park layout and construction.

## **Goal 5: Park Maintenance and Operations**

Maintain a safe and clean parks system.

- Policy 5.1. Periodically upgrade and/or replace facilities and equipment, such as restrooms, playground equipment, and picnic facilities, that are in poor condition or in need of repair.
- Policy 5.2. Promote special events, seasonal programs, and recreational facilities and amenities through a variety of methods, including through the City’s website and through partnerships with special interest groups such as the Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards (GOATS), the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), and the Oakridge/Westfir Area Chamber of Commerce.

## **Goal 6: Funding**

Pursue and use a variety of funding sources to acquire and maintain City parks, open space, and recreational facilities.

- Policy 6.1. Use strategies related to development impact as sources of capital funding for expanding the City’s park system and for maintaining service levels.
- Policy 6.2. Seek public and private support through grants, endowments, and donations to develop and enhance City recreational services and park facilities.
- Policy 6.3. Encourage civic, neighborhood, and other groups to participate in the upkeep and development of public parks and open space through “Adopt-a-Park” and similar types of programs.

## 5.2 Preferred Park System

The preferred parks system for the City of Oakridge maintains and enhances the amenities and activities of existing parks based on their classification (Section 4.4.). The City of Oakridge park classifications and a general description of the intended purpose of each park in the system are found in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1: Preferred Park System**

<b>Park Facility</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Intended Purpose</b>
Greenwaters	Regional Park	Regional outdoor event space; community gathering area; playground; picnic area; access to the Willamette River; highway rest area.
Salmon Creek	Community Park	Community oriented facilities for larger public gatherings, community gardening, active recreation and sports with suitable off-street parking for community events; public access to the regional trail system; walk-to neighborhood park amenities including a children’s playground and dog park.
Osprey Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood oriented passive recreation activities (walking, biking, fishing, picnicking); child play area; open space/prairie, possible future field-sport area.
Diamond View	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood oriented active and passive recreation amenities (e.g. sports court, walkways, child play area).
Willamette Activity Center	Specialty Park	Community services and active recreation activities: indoor facilities, skateboarding, court and field sports.
Bike Skills	Specialty Park	Active recreation area for developing mountain biking skills. <i>Note: No specific location has been identified for this type of park.</i>
Mill Pond	Specialty Park	Oriented toward passive recreation activities (walking, picnicking, fishing) for area employees. Seek park development partnership with ODFW.
Disk Golf	Specialty Park	A Frisbee course available to all residence. Park development to emphasize “design with nature” approach and the reuse of man-made features already on site (such as re-purposed concrete used for parking).

## 5.3 Preferred Park Design and Improvement Elements

Based on the Desired Park Elements Assessment (Section 4.5 and Appendix C), and application of the park classification regarding system attributes, the following elements have been identified as “high”



priority for City parks. The parks are listed in priority order for the development of refinement plans that will guide future investment of City resources. The order should not be considered binding if opportunities present themselves for the City to advance design and development of planning efforts in a different sequence than is depicted here. The sequence reflects the need for better neighborhood park facilities and emphasizes a preference to focus first on parks that have funding in place for capital improvements. Second priority would be focusing attention on parks whose current functional value (i.e., how well the park is being use) is low compared with how the City intends the space to be used. The priorities reflect the fact that the City has funding pledged to construct trails, restrooms, and signage in several parks so the need for an over-arching design plan for these parks is needed to ensure that amenities are constructed in locations that are consistent with the long term vision for the park.



Given the factors summarized above, parks that have dedicated funding for improvements, but no master plan to guide expenditures and design, and parks that are not functioning optimally based on their classification should have the highest priority for design planning. Using this approach, the City’s priorities for design planning should first focus on Salmon Creek, Diamond View and Greenwaters parks. A design plan for Osprey Park would follow the planning for these three priority facilities. The design plan sequence for specialty park facilities is not in priority order. The narrative for those facilities reflects desired outcomes for the attributes of those facilities with more of an emphasis on the process and partnerships needed to advance design planning for those facilities. The subsections below detail City actions to initiate

### 5.3.1 Salmon Creek Community Park Design Plan

In keeping with the placement of Salmon Creek Park in the highest priority for design planning, the City will initiate the preparation of a detailed design plan for phased development of this park. The design plan must be consistent with Salmon Creek Park’s Community Park classification as well



acknowledge the facility’s secondary function as a walk-to park for the Crestview neighborhood. The design plan should emphasize both passive and active recreation uses and bike/pedestrian facilities and provide connectivity to both sides of the creek and to Greenwaters Park and the Uptown Business District.

Specific amenities and design elements for Salmon Creek Park should include: community gathering and picnic area with sheltered seating area; adventure playground; active recreation area for field sports and possibly relocated BMX track with parking for these uses; pathways connecting all parts of the park with connections to the regional trail system and access to the creek via a new bridge across Salmon Creek in the park, or via connections to bike/ped crossing lanes added onto the ODOT HWY 58 Salmon Creek Bridge.



Consideration should also be given to the possible re-use of the railroad bridge if it is determined that that structure is no longer viable or suitable to provide rail access to the Mill Site Industrial Park. Important planning partners for this effort include residents of the Crestview neighborhood, the Army Corps of Engineers, ODFW, ODOT, GOATS, Oakridge BMX club, and community interest groups.

### 5.3.2 Diamond View Neighborhood Park Design Plan

Consistent with the placement of Diamond View Park in the highest priority for design planning, the City will initiate the preparation of a detailed design plan for developing this neighborhood park. Design elements will be informed by the design for Salmon Creek Community Park and the decision whether or not to move the BMX track to that location. The park should include neighborhood park amenities such as restrooms, a sports court, pathways, a children’s play area, a picnic area with shelter, and natural areas. The location of active and passive use amenities should anticipate that the power lines likely will remain in place and be sited accordingly. Important planning partners for this effort include residents of the Diamond View neighborhood, Lane Electric, GOATS, and community interest groups.

### 5.3.3 Greenwaters Regional Park Design Plan

Consistent with the placement of Greenwaters Park in the highest priority for design planning, the City will initiate the preparation of a detailed design plan for expanding uses in this regional park facility. The design concept should include better circulation and parking to the park’s east end for cyclists and river access, improved river access for river floats and fishing, enhancements to the concert area including the use of berms for sound



buffering and containment, a playground and sheltered picnic area near the highway rest area, and an integrated trail/pathway system with connection to Salmon Creek Park, inclusion of open areas/rooms

with views to the river with possible enhancement of beach areas along the river. Important planning partners for this effort include the Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon Marine Board, ODFW, ODOT, GOATS, Oakridge-Westfir Chamber of Commerce, Lane County, and other community interest groups and local business partners.

#### 5.3.4 Osprey Neighborhood Park Improvement Design Plan



Prepare a detailed design plan for developing the park so that it functions as a neighborhood park. The emphasis should be on passive recreation improvements that include loop trails, open fields/prairie, a small play area for neighborhood children, a picnic area with shelter from the elements, improved access to the river, and limited off-street parking.

Neighborhood interest to keep much of the

park in a natural state may present opportunities for restoring part of the park to a pre-settlement condition as a forest meadow. This park is referenced in the Oakridge-Westfir Trail Plan as a possible location for a new bridge across the Willamette creating a link to Greenwaters Park via trails south of the river and the Jim Tharp Footbridge. Other suitable location may be present in existing right of way west of the park. These should also be explored in the planning process. Important planning partners for this effort include residents of the Willamette City neighborhood, GOATS, prairie restoration and conservation groups in the upper Willamette Valley (e.g. Upper Willamette Watershed Council), and community interest groups.

#### 5.3.5 Specialty Parks Design Plans

##### *Willamette Activities Center (WAC) Improvement Plan*

The WAC property is located in a neighborhood that needs a park. The WAC is a cornerstone community asset and development of the grounds to include park and recreation facilities would be consistent with its role as a multi-use community recreation and activity center. The potential exists for additional sport fields, court facilities, and horseshoe pits as well as for a neighborhood playground and picnic facilities.

The City will examine opportunities to expand recreation facilities in partnership with other users, including the Oakridge School District, Upper Willamette Youth Activity Inc., Lane County Head Start, and Lane Community College. Improvements to consider include sports courts (tennis, basketball, handball), field sports (youth/adult soccer), lighting, open space, walkways, and neighborhood park facilities. The plan may integrate the skate park with the other outdoor recreational facilities at the WAC or relocate that facility to another City park. Funding for facility improvements need to be considered in concert with the availability of funding to operate and maintain facilities, services, and programs.

##### *Mill Pond Park Design Plan*

The City will initiate the preparation of a detailed design plan for phased improvements to this future City park with an emphasis on amenities that serve employees in the Oakridge Industrial Park. The City also will work with ODFW to establish a “put and take” fishery in the pond. Amenities should include

walking paths, seating areas, picnic area, ADA accessible fishing platform, and possibly a sports court. Important partners include industrial park property owners and tenants, ODFW, and other community interest groups.

*Disk Golf Park Design Plan*

The City will initiate the preparation of a detailed phasing plan for improving this City park located around a tributary to Salmon Creek in the southeast part of the City. The park’s design should take into consideration the opportunity for this to become a regional attraction. There is an opportunity for extensive reuse of materials from the mill site, which will keep costs down and recognize the importance of adaptive reuse to community revitalization. Access and parking will be important design considerations along with enhancement to the riparian buffer.

*Oakridge Bike Skills Park Design Plan*

The City will participate in identifying suitable areas in, or near, the City limits for a bike skills park. Important partners in this effort include IMBA, GOATS, and other community interest groups. At which time a preferred location is identified, the City will participate in preparing a detailed phasing plan for necessary improvements.

**5. 4 Preferred Trail System/Park System Improvements**

The Oakridge-Westfir Trail Plan includes a number of trail elements that connect to and pass through City parks. Table 5.4 lists trail projects from the plan that need to coordinated with park planning and development so that park access and throughways interface seamlessly with the adopted Trail Plan.

**Table 5.4 – Trail System Linkages**

<b>Trail</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Intended Purpose</b>
Salmon Creek Levy - North	In-town	Connect the in-town trail network through Salmon Creek Park to Greenwaters Park and the Edge of Town trail network.
Salmon Creek Levy-South	Edge of Town	Connect the edge of town trail network through Salmon Creek Park to Greenwaters Park and the in-town trail network. Coordination needed with the Salmon Creek Park and Greenwaters Park design plans.
Osprey Connector	In-town	Provide a trail link between Osprey Park and Diamond View Park. The connection to Osprey may conceivably provide linkage through the park to a future bridge across the Willamette connecting with forest trails. Coordination with the Osprey and Diamond View design plans.
Industrial Park Trail Loop	Edge of Town	Connects to the Salmon Creek Gateway, to Greenwaters Park, and to popular forest service trails, such as the Flat Creek Trail. Coordination needed with Greenwaters and Salmon Creek design plans and the Mill Pond design plan.



## 5.5 Implementation

The Parks Master Plan provides policies and a framework to support future City actions regarding investment in the park system in Oakridge. Specifically, it provides documentation of desired function and design features for each park, prioritized based on public review and consistent with a classification system for the City's parks. The Oakridge Parks Master Plan does not include individual development plans for each of the parks. The preparation of physical construction plans for each park is one of the critical mechanisms for implementing the master plan.

Design, or facility, plans for each park will be developed that provide specific details regarding how the desired park amenities can be developed and where they will be located. These plans should include phasing strategies for capital improvements, if warranted, and include detailed financing plans that not only address capital improvements but also financing for annual operation and maintenance. These individual park design plans should be consistent with, and adopted as refinements to, the Parks Master Plan through a public approval process that includes review and recommendations from the Oakridge Park Board and City Council approval.

The other essential implementation mechanism for the Parks Master Plan is through financing. Funding priorities are listed in the next chapter. There are two ways funding decisions that affect plan implementation are taken. First, the City's annual budget process is used to authorize and obligate City revenue to City services and capital improvements. The annual budget is approved by the City Council with input from advisory bodies, including the Park Board and the Budget Committee. Without budget approval, none of the projects and programs listed in the Parks Master Plan may move forward.

Second, and related to the budget process, are the fund accounts in the City budget that are designed to monitor the receipt and use of revenues obligated to park functions. The Park Projects Fund is a special fund that is used to monitor the expenditure of revenue from various sources that the City uses to finance capital improvement projects in City parks. Revenues that flow into this fund include: General Fund transfers (e.g. property taxes); Street Fund transfers (e.g. gas tax revenue); special grants (e.g. Ride Central Improvement Grant); donations (e.g. Chamber of Commerce); and miscellaneous revenue (e.g. interest income). Indirectly, the City also relies on Public Works funds to help with park maintenance, especially in Salmon Creek Park where maintenance of the City's well fields is inter-twined with maintaining some of the park's public uses areas.

Compared with most cities in Oregon, the number of revenue sources that Oakridge relies on to finance park functions is limited. In order for the City to effectively implement the Parks Master Plan, it will need to expand the level of investment it makes to parks and expand the sources of revenue obligated to this purpose. The next chapter explores strategies for achieving this goal.

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## Chapter 6 Park Funding

### 6.1 Park System Priorities

System investment priorities may be grouped in three areas:

- Secure funding for high priority capital improvements in neighborhood and community parks;
- Increase operation and maintenance funding to improve the functional value of existing parks;
- Secure funding for capital improvements in specialty parks using third party partnerships as opportunities arise and related O&M costs are financed.

### 6.2 Funding Sources

As with most municipalities in Oregon, parks in Oakridge are a general fund supported service and financed using discretionary revenues. Oakridge also relies on outside grants and donations to provide park and recreation services. Existing and potential resources are listed in Table 6.1.

**Table 6.1 – Funding Resources**

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Annual Property Taxes	G.F. - discretionary	The City used revenue from its annual property tax collections to fund a capital improvement through the Park Project’s Fund.
Special Property Tax Assessment	G.F. - dedicated	Special assessments on real property are commonly used by cities to acquire land and build capital improvements, including parks. Voter approval for an assessment is required. Assessments usually are related to issuing bonds that finance planned improvements. The bonds are retired using proceeds from the special assessment.
Local Option Tax Assessment	General Fund - dedicated	The persistent and continuing decline of property tax revenue since the passage of Measures 47/50 has led many cities in Oregon to seek temporary property tax increases through passage of local option tax measures. The proceeds are typically dedicated to a specific general fund services, such as libraries or parks or public safety. Local options levies must be approved by voters and sunset after 5-years. As such they provide temporary relief and are not a permanent funding solution.
Special Revenue	G.F. –	The City has used discretionary proceeds from the street fund

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Funds	discretionary	to help finance park improvements and maintenance.
System Development Charge	Special Revenue - dedicated	SDCs arguably provide the most important source of financing for park system improvements in Oregon. Funding comes from a one-time charge to new development for system improvements that serve growth. Oakridge does not have an SDC program. SDC programs are regulated by state statute.
Private Donations	G.F. - dedicated	Lane County has given the City funds for the concert in the park series. As the City expands tourism programs that rely on parks as staging venues, financial support by local businesses may become more important.
Grants	G.F. - dedicated	The City has been successful competing for grant support from various federal, state, and NGO sources. The funding for the planning grant that financed development of this plan came from Oregon State Parks. Grants for capital projects, such as trail facilities, boat landings, park amenities and other assets, typically require that the community has a financing plan in place to operate and maintain capital improvements.
Interest and Misc.	G.F. - discretionary	Discretionary revenues may be available from various fees and interest earnings on reserves that can be used for park-related uses. These revenues are not a significant or reliable source of funding.
User Fees	G.F. - dedicated	Most park departments and districts in Oregon collect fees from user groups and individuals for the use of park facilities. Fees typically are not collected for passive recreation use. Fees are more common with active recreation programs, such as sport leagues, field rentals, picnic reservations, boat launching, etc.
Park Maintenance Utility Fee	Enterprise - dedicated	With the persistent and continuing decline of property tax revenue, cities in Oregon and California and other states where property tax limitations have been passed have been experimenting with the collection of monthly fees to finance O&M services. Tualatin recently passed a monthly park maintenance fee, which freed up general fund revenue for other public services.



### 6.3 Funding Strategy

In order for Oakridge to finance both the capital improvements and operating commitments associated with the park system envisioned in this plan, additional revenue will need to be devoted to City parks. The strategy outlined here is based on four principals:

1. Use design plans to establish a clear understanding of life-cycle development and operating costs so that financing decisions related to capital investment are taken with full knowledge of long term fiscal obligations.
2. Capital projects should not be constructed without the commitment of resources to ensure long term stewardship and care for the public assets involved.
3. The burden of financing capital improvements for parks should be shared fairly by existing and future City residents.
4. Park system capital investments should make every effort to include facilities and services that have capacity to generate revenue that can recover O&M costs and reduce the level of public funding needed to support them.

With these principals in mind, the following fiscal strategy is recommended for the first five years after the master plan is adopted. This strategy is predicated on the City receiving funding for a paid staff person to support Ride Center facilities development and Tourism oriented toward attracting visitors to the City's trails and active recreation amenities. Funding for this shared position is temporary.

In the interim period, while grant funds are underwriting the cost associated with this position, the City will commit the value of that deferred labor cost toward the preparation of the park design plans for Salmon Creek, Greenwaters, Diamond View, and Osprey Parks. Funding will come from a combination of grants, if available, and City funds. The City recognizes that its chances of receiving future construction grants for park improvements will be improved if it invests its own funds in planning for the desired improvements.

The City is committed to improving the overall quality of its parks. Once design plans are complete and the initial grant funded trail, restroom, and signage improvements are under construction, the City will take the following measures to finance the implementation of the Park System Master Plan.

- Development Fees – the City will investigate enacting system development charges or some other fee system to ensure that future development contributes a fair share of the cost to acquire and develop City parks (i.e. capital improvements);
- O&M Cost Recovery – The City will develop a strategy to expand and sustain operations and maintenance funding for parks, including funding for maintenance of trails, restrooms, picnic areas, and other amenities and landscaped areas in parks from one or more of the following sources:

- User Fees – as park facilities are improved, the City may investigate measures to recover a portion of the cost to operate and maintain City park facilities;
- Maintenance fee – the City may investigate the possibility of increasing revenue for park O&M through a dedicated monthly service fee;
- General Fund – the City may investigate ways to reallocate general fund resources so that stable funding is available for parks O&M.
- Partnerships – The City will strive to develop long lasting strategic partnerships with community groups, state and federal agencies, and NGOs to foster the development and operation of City parks. Examples of strategic partners include ODOT, ODF&W, GOATS, Oakridge-Westfir Chamber of Commerce, Oakridge School District, IMBA, and Oregon State Parks. Partnerships will focus in two areas:
  - Facility development – The City will seek partners to help offset the cost to develop special-use facilities in its parks, especially facilities that support the area’s growing tourism economy, such as the bike skills park, kayak/raft launching, prairie restoration in park meadows, and the BMX track.
  - Event sponsorship – The City will seek partnerships to help increase the scale and economic viability of events in City parks with special emphasis on regional events that attract visitors to the City, such as the summer concert series, and Pioneer Days and potentially a BMX or mountain biking racing event.

## 6.4 Capital Improvement Program

Table 6.2 lists planned capital improvements for Oakridge Parks. The capital improvement program is divided into two sections – improvement planned in the next five years and improvements that are not anticipated to occur until 2016 or beyond.

The CIP list begins with park design planning projects that will guide development within individual parks. Preparation of these plans is important in order that capital investment in City parks proceeds in a thoughtful coordinated manner. Given the City’s fortune securing a Federal appropriation through IMBA to build restrooms, signage, and trail system improvements that affect three parks, the CIP list begins with design plans for those parks.

The CIP’s *Near Term* project list is intended to guide the City’s park system investment decisions for the next five years. The list is in priority order, especially with regard to design work. Most but not all of the listed improvement projects are funded. The design projects likely will need supplemental funding from third-party sources. The design projects are essential to ensure that the envisioned improvements in the parks are consistent with each facility’s park classifications and that the scale of investment matches City resources both for construction and ongoing maintenance.

The *Long Term* capital investment will occur as opportunities arise through partnerships with community and regional interests. Funding has not been secured for any of the projects on the *Long Term* list.

**Table 6.2 – Capital Improvement Program**

Item	Project	Description	Timing	Cost	Funding
<i>Near Term Investment Priorities</i>					
1	Salmon Creek Park Design Plan		2010		Water Fund, Park Fund
2	Diamond View Park Design Plan		2011		Street Fund, Park Fund
3	Greenwaters Park Design Plan		2011		Street Fund, Park Fund
4	Trail Signage & Kiosks	Kiosks and trail signage at key locations throughout the city	2012		Federal Transportation Grant
5	Salmon Creek - North	In-town trail on the north levy in Salmon Creek Park	2012		Grant
6	Salmon Creek - South	Edge-of-town trail on the south levy in Salmon Creek Park	2012		Grant
7	Picnic Shelter	Salmon Creek Park picnic shelter and community event space			Water Fund, Park Fund
8	Rest Rooms	Diamond Peak Park rest room facilities	2012		Federal Transportation Grant
9	Rest Rooms	Greenwaters Park restrooms and facilities for trail users	2012		Federal Transportation Grant
10	Lower Flat Creek Trail	Forest trail extension up Salmon Creek from ODFW Fish Hatchery	2012		Grant
11	Canal Trail	Forest trail extension up TV Butte from ODFW Fish Hatchery	2012		Grant
12	Osprey Park Design Plan		2014		Street Fund, Park Fund
13	Willamette Activity Center Design Plan		2015		Park Fund, Grants
<i>Long Term Investment Priorities</i>					
14	Osprey Park	Facility Improvements - phases	2016-2020		
15	Salmon Creek Park	Facility Improvements - phases	2016-2030		
16	Greenwaters Park	Facility Improvements - phases	2016-2030		
17	Mill Pond Park	Specialty park plan; seek partnership with park businesses	2016-2030		
18	Mill Pond Park	Facility Improvements - phases	2016-2030		

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## APPENDIX



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## APPENDIX A: City of Oakridge Parks Survey



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## Park Surveys 2008-2009

### General Park

#### Questions:

**How important is it to you, or your family, that Oakridge provide parks and recreational services?**

Very Important	99	Important	37
Somewhat Important	23	Not Important	7

**How often do you, or your family, use one of the Parks provided by the city?**

Once a day?	27	Month	52
Year	22	Never	7
Week	54		

**Which Parks do you, or your family use most often?**

Greenwaters	132	Skate Park	13
Diamond View	13	Salmon Creek	60
Osprey	32		

**What activities do you use the facilities for most often?**

Ball Games	19	Dog Walking	63	Picnic Areas	74
Basketball courts	18	Horseshoes	12	Playgrounds	56
Bicycling	44	Meetings	28	Running	13
Bike Skills Park	10	Nature	63	Tennis	9
Boat Launch	10	Open Fields	21	Skate Park	8
Walking	94	Other	8		

**When recreating in an Oakridge Park, what five activities does your family participate in Most?**

Basketball	17	Horseshoes	11	Skate Park	5
Biking	46	Gatherings	70	Softball	12
Boating	19	Picnics	80	T-Ball	11
Concerts	53	Playgrounds	56	Tennis	8
Equestrian	4	Nature	79	Walking	103
Fishing	37	Running	16	Other	2

**If available, what other outdoor activities would you use in Oakridge parks?**

Baseball/softball field	20	Free-ride Mt. Bike Course	28	Soccer Field	10
Camping areas	39	Children's summer water park	54	Tennis (new courts)	24
Driving range	32	Frisbee golf course	40	Volleyball	21
Dog Park	43	Interpretive Trails	47	Other	10
Duck pond	33	Rock Climbing Wall	28		
Equestrian Trailheads	7	Sand Volleyball	20		
Fishing pond	16	Skate Park (upgraded)	21		

**Specific Park Question: (Neighborhood Park)**

**Which local Park is closest to your residence?**

**(Greenwaters is a regional park)**

Osprey	40	Salmon Creek	68
Diamond View	23	Skate Park	18

**How often do you visit this park?**

Once a day?	16	Month	33
Year	20	Never	30
Week	44		

**What Improvements would make you want to visit the park more often?**

Better Lighting	32	More police patrols	22
More amenities	57	More shade trees	24
More Parking area	13		

**If you feel more amenities are needed in the park, what would you add that is not available?**

Biking amenities	14	Rock Climbing Wall	16	Other	21
Restroom	54	Volleyball	17		
Play equipment	20	Play fields	11		
Picnic Area	40	Upgraded Skate Park	9		
Trails	24	Soccer Fields	4		
Upgraded Facilities	12	Children's Summer Water Park	31		

**What other comments, if any, would you have for your park in the preparation of a Park Master Plan?**

Better signage

Leave Osprey natural/leave alone

Shade Trees along first street

Fenced in dog park

More walking Trails

Osprey is run down

Pond with Paddle boats

New Sign for Osprey

All parks connected by city wide bike path

Trail network

Once implemented keep clean/upkeep

Ban alcohol

More indoor facilities

Add security monitors

Skate Park Upgrade

Wheelchair Accessible trails and picnic areas

Dirt Velodrome

More user friendly/more places to sit

More summer activities for kids

Swimming Pool for everyone to use

Park Connectivity with designated paths

More trash cans and recycle bins

**Personal Information**

**What is your age group?**

Under 18	11	45-65	82
18-29	7	65-older	44
30-44	23		

**What is your gender?**

Male	65	Female	101
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**Are you willing to attend Park Master Planning?**

Yes	49	No	63
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## APPENDIX B: Open House Summary



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## **PARKS MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE**

June 7, 6-9 PM

Willamette Activity Center

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **Welcome by Project Staff**

Twenty-six citizens and interested persons signed in at the Open House (see list attached); several other citizens attended but did not sign in. DJ Heffernan welcomed attendees, stating that the city is in the process of developing a Parks Master Plan. He reviewed the project schedule and future opportunities for public involvement. He said that the purpose of the meeting was to get public feedback on the future of the City's parks system. DJ asked participants to fill out a general questionnaire about the city park system. He also invited the public to review the work of students from the University of Oregon Landscape Architecture Department and talk to students about their conceptual designs for four parks - Greenwaters, Osprey, Salmon Creek, and Diamond View. He asked that attendees use the five color-coded comment forms to record their thoughts about the concept designs.

Robert Melnick, ASLA, the studio professor for the project, gave a presentation that reviewed the process students followed. He noted the amount of work that had been achieved in a short period of time. He stressed that the students' work is intended to convey design ideas and concepts and the drawings are representational in scale, location, and form (i.e not construction drawings). He asked attendees to provide constructive critique - whether positive or negative – and to be as specific as possible in their criticism of the designs.

#### **Park Design Discussions with Designers & Park Board Members**

The park designs were taped to the walls around the community room. The team tried to group the designs together; for example, the two Diamond View concepts were displayed side by side on the north side of the room, but that was not always possible because of the size of the drawings. Some designs were as large as 8' x 4' in dimension. All displays featured small scale inset drawings that showed mini-concepts for other city parks, transect elevations through the main park, and access/connectivity beyond the park boundary. Two designs in effect treated Salmon Creek Park and Greenwaters Park as one large park while the other eight designs focused on a single park. In total, there were 12 park design concepts for the four city parks.

The meeting lasted from 6:30 to approximately 8:00. Attendees circulated around the room, many enjoying the home-made refreshments and snacks that were on hand, and discussed the design ideas with students and Park Board members and their neighbors. The U of O students departed around 7:30 but many attendees continued to look at the designs and make comments on the proposed designs after the student's departure.

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### Comment Sheets Summary

Participants filled out 43 comment sheets for the park designs; several sheets included comments on more than one park design, which made distinguishing the design that was associated with some comments difficult. While participants were asked to be critical of the designs, and to indicate what they liked and disliked about the designs, most comments focused on the design ideas participants liked. Hence, the submitted comments overwhelmingly were placed under the question “What elements did you like about this park design?”

The following section provides a summary of the comments received, organized by park and, to the extent possible, labeled with the corresponding design number. That outline is followed by verbatim transcript of the comments organized by the design number.

### *Park Design Comments*

#### Diamond View Park (#6 and7)

*The following elements participants liked:*

- Berms (sound buffering and viewing)
- Aspens (#7)
- Recycled tire path (2 related comments)
- Adventure playground
- Connector trail to downtown (#7)
- BMX track/meadow (2 related comments)
- Cantilevered deck

*The following elements participants disliked:*

- Adventure playground too close to tracks (2 related comments)
- The downtown connector trail to close to the tracks (#7)

*Proposed improvements/other comments:*

- Basketball hoop needs to stay – the neighborhood built it (2 related comments on #6)
- Park also being used for remote control cars and that should stay
- Covered area for shade/inclement weather
- Couple of covered picnic benches needed.
- More of neighborhood park than the others (#6).
- NO dog park.
- Verbal comment - Is it possible to bury the high-voltage cables? Cost? Shielding? (# 6)

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Greenwaters Park (#3)

*The following elements participants liked:*

- Enclosed Amphitheater – sound reduction (2 comments)
- East parking loop (2 supportive comments)
- Boat ramp
- Beach areas (2 related comments)
- “Meadow of Discovery”
- River views and access

*The following elements participants disliked:*

- Verbal comment – why no playground in this visitors park?

*Proposed improvements/other comments:*

Salmon Creek Park (#2, 4, 5, and 8)

*The following elements participants liked:*

- Shifted entrance to middle of park but keeps smaller neighborhood entries
- Water park elements
- Two bridges for crossing Salmon Creek (3 comments)
- Art for the pump house (3 related comments on #4)
- Community garden (4 related comments)
- Orchard idea is good
- Elevated viewing area/terraced overlook (3 related comments)
- Pedestrian path connection @ railway is good (#5 and 8)
- Space = windows into rooms (Design #2)
- “rooms” separated by woods – sense of discovery
- Fishing piers (2 related comments)
- Equestrian use is a draw for families even if they don’t have a horse (2 similar comments on #2)
- Day camp picnic area
- Walking paths/promenade (4 related comments)
- Adventure playground
- Pond on south side of the creek
- Cable/foot bridge (4 related comments)

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- Disk golf
- Park expansion
- Use of both sides of river (*2 related comments*)
- Orchards
- Gazebo
- Party lawn

*The following elements participants disliked:*

- Italian Poplars (why not Oaks?)
- Equestrian building may not be needed
- Not sure there is demand for the equestrian park/stables
- Placement of the foot bridge
- Design is a bit formal for Oakridge (Design #5)
- No need to move the community gardens (Design #8)

*Proposed improvements/other comments:*

- Questions regarding the need for an equestrian center (*3 related comments*)
- Use the trestle bridge to connect both sides.
- Want a loop concept connecting all the parks.
- All designs incorporate ideas that would benefit the city and surrounding areas.
- Not my favorite design; don't like placement of footbridge (Design #4)
- Great vision (Design #5)
- A more cohesive plan to integrate Salmon Creek with the Willamette River; this is my favorite design (Design #2)
- Some designs are more affordable than others.
- Combine elements from all the drawings – what a park!
- Provides a park near new housing
- Need connection to Willamette River from Salmon Creek Park

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Osprey Park

*The following elements participants liked:*

- Pond and fishing idea
- Buffers to neighborhood housing.

*The following elements participants disliked:*

*Proposed improvements/other comments:*

Combined Park /Confluence Park Concept (#1 and 9)

*The following elements participants liked:*

- Community gardens for local residents
- Use of the trestle bridge and RR trail (7 comments)
- Community orchards – great idea (3 comments)
- Frisbee golf (2 comments)
- Adventure playground on Greenwater side (2 comments)
- Berm and landscaping at amphitheater (2 comments)
- Use of native plants, esp. quamash
- Natural treatment of N. side of levee
- Boardwalks especially at the confluence area (4 comments)
- beaches on the rivers
- Plaza down to waterfront (2 comments)
- restored river channel (Salmon Creek)
- Interpretive trail
- Pedestrian/bike bridge on HWY 58 (3 comments)

*The following elements participants disliked:*

- Paths are too straight
- Put bridge under HWY 58, not over

*Proposed improvements/other comments:*

- Moving community garden would be challenging - social dynamics
- Amenities in Greenwaters will attract tourists

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- #1 sounds more affordable than some other designs

*Comments - Listed Under Associated Design Number*

- Combined Salmon Creek/Greenwaters Park #1 -
  - Liked: The incorporation of the river brings Oakridge to the front.
  - Disliked:
  - Things to improve:
  - Other comments:
- Salmon Creek Park #2 –
  - Liked: All the paths for walking; plaza and beach area; boardwalk.
  - Disliked: Straight line of paths.
  - Things to improve: Move bridge under Hwy. 58.
  - Other comments: Somewhat more affordable than some other designs. *(Note: not clear if this comment is attributable to Design #1 or Design #3.)*
- Greenwaters Park #3 –
  - Liked: amphitheater enclosed [for] sound reduction; parking loop (to the east) – great idea; Meadow of Discovery.
  - Disliked:
  - Things to improve:
  - Other comments: The amenities of Greenwater Park will be a huge tourism draw.
- Salmon Creek Park #4 –
  - Liked: The gazebo is a perfect idea; schematic plan for garden; paths and footbridge; party lawn is a great idea; love use of both sides of river, the pump house art.
  - Disliked: Not favorite design; don't like placement of footbridge.
  - Things to improve:
  - Other comments:
- Salmon Creek Park #5 –
  - Liked: Curve to pedestrian bridge on Alex Miller; painting the pump houses; confluence of boardwalk; pedestrian path and railway; access to water; water park concept; two bridges for crossing Salmon Creek; community garden; terrace/path/overlook; pond; footbridges; picnic shelter.
  - Disliked: Not favorite design- don't like placement of footbridge; a little too formal for Oakridge.
  - Things to improve: No comments.
  - Other comments: No comments.



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- Diamond View Park #6 – Neighborhood park concept with both passive and active recreation elements
  - Liked: ... the berms and aspens; tires – good idea; continuing the tree line from Commercial into the park; like the idea of industrial landscaping; the recycled tire path and sculptures; the bike plan in #6 captures a use that was [built here] by members or the community; the bike track looks sweet – designer must ride; like the use of the east to west for the bike track – doable; the bike/skate park is an awesome idea – something to actively pursue; the adventure playground; the connector trail [signs] to other places.
  - Disliked: only see benches; the basketball hoops need to stay – they were built by the neighborhood; the playground is too close to the tracks.
  - Things to improve: there needs to be covered picnic benches in the park to allow parents to go to the park with their children or grandchildren; needs to have a covered area for shade and inclement weather use.
  - Other comments: This park is more of a neighborhood park than the other [designs]; some in town want a dog park and this design does not mention a dog park – thank you - NO DOG PARK; this park also is being used by [people with] remote control cars; love historic Diamond View Park; really want to keep the bike track in the design for this park.
- Diamond View Park #7 – Active recreation with strong BMX emphasis and natural elements
  - Liked: the BMX meadow; the recycled tire path and sculptures; the cantilevered deck; the imaginative combination of nature and BMX culture; the rec. park [is] great for kids; the bike/skate park is an awesome idea – something to actively pursue.
  - Disliked: the adventure playground is too close to the tracks;
  - Things to improve: No comments
  - Other comments: love his overall playful plan.
- Salmon Creek # 8 –
  - Liked: Equestrian center; community garden; orchard; use of shed for gardens; bridge; design of garden beds; use of both sides of the river; disk golf; expansion of current park.
  - Disliked: Italian trees; equestrian center; moving the community gardens.
  - Things to improve: No comments.
  - Other comments: Bigger is not necessarily better- garden is big enough and located in a good place now; wonderful creative approach.
- Combined Salmon/Greenwaters # 9 –
  - Liked: pedestrian (rail) bridge; community garden; orchards; beach; disk golf course; berm at amphitheater; native plants; adventure playground; boardwalk; opening where rivers converge; Hwy. 58 foot bridge; cleared and restored river channel.
  - Disliked: No comments.
  - Things to improve: No comments.

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- Osprey Park #10 – Passive use orientation with a man-made central pond connected to the Willamette River.
  - Liked: the bridge across the Willamette linking [Osprey] to Greenwaters Park [via the south-side trail]; love the bridge and pond and “courtyard” [idea]; Front porch/courtyard [concept]; love all the paths for walking and the plaza and beach area is excellent; like the pond/fishing idea; the buffer between the park and houses is good.
  - Disliked: No comments
  - Things to improve: No comments.
  - Other comments: love the Osprey park ideas

### **Questionnaire Summary**

Participants were also asked to fill out a questionnaire (see attached) regarding the proposed goals and policies for the Parks Master Plan and to provide their opinion on whether or not the city should pursue various funding mechanisms. Ten questionnaires were completed and submitted at the Open House. All 10 respondents indicated that the six goals proposed for inclusion in the Draft Parks Master Plan reflect the “community’s values and desired direction regarding park and recreation planning (Question 1).”

Several of the respondents indicated that there were important goals missing (Question 2). The following comments were submitted:

*“Quiet zone to diminish train noise. The train noise negatively impacts all parks and all tourist based activity.”*

*“Implementation.”*

*“Doesn’t say much about who would use the parks i.e. visitors, youth, elders, etc. Address future growth of the city and change in composition of residents.”*

*“I just wish we could pull more “old time” Oakridge[sic] into the planning.”*

*“Oakridge is a big sports community. It would, therefore, be well to retain the basketball courts. A dog park has long been a community goal as well.”*

*“Increase the beauty of our community,”*

A few respondents also had comments about the proposed policies that accompanied the goals. Comments included:

*“I’d like to see the native plants and animals and cultural elements of native peoples who lived here represented in our parks.”*

*“I would like clear environmental impact studies.”*

*“Well thought-out. Community involvement and acknowledging local values is so important. Enhancing tourist appeal is also important.”*

One respondent attached the proposed goals and policies and indicated which ones were important and “very most important.” This attendee’s identified coordinating with other organizations (Policy 1.14 and Policy 3.1), seeking public and private funding (Policy 6.2), and encouraging community participation in the upkeep and development of parks and open space as very important. The Natural Resources and Open Space goal (Goal 2) and policies were also singled out as very important, with the note that more related policies were necessary in this section.

The last question asked participants to indicate which, out of a list provided, funding mechanisms the city should pursue to improve parks and recreational facilities. Five out of the 10 questionnaires returned marked “yes” after all of the suggested types of funding. Two more were in support of all but one strategy, indicating that they either had questions related to development impact-based funding, or were neutral, having marked a space in-between the “yes” and “no” box. One respondent was in favor of all the listed types of funding, but did not indicate support for “Public/Private Partnerships,” noting that it “depends on what” type. The final two respondents were not in favor of the city pursuing any of the types of funding listed, with the exception of Federal/State Grants.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The following goals are proposed for inclusion in the Parks Master Plan:

**Goal 1: Planning for Parks**

Provide for park and recreation needs at both the community-wide level and neighborhood level.

**Goal 2: Natural Resources and Open Space**

Increase and enhance the community's access to natural areas in and around Oakridge, such as the Willamette National Forest and the Willamette River.

**Goal 3: Trails and Pathways**

Develop and maintain a trail network that connects Oakridge to the Westfir community, regional parks and open space, and the trails and recreation opportunities in the Willamette National Forest.

**Goal 4: Park Design**

Design and manage all city park facilities in a manner that promotes user safety, health, enjoyment, and wellbeing.

**Goal 5: Park Maintenance and Operations**

Maintain a safe and clean parks system.

**Goal 6: Funding**

Pursue and use a variety of funding sources to acquire and maintain city parks, open space, and recreational facilities.

1. Do these goals reflect the community's values and desired direction regarding park and recreation planning? YES  NO

2. What, if any, important goals are missing?
- 

3. Do you have comments on, or additions to, the proposed policies associated with the goals above (see PowerPoint presentation)?
- 

4. Are you in favor of the city pursuing the following types of funding to improve the city's parks and recreational facilities?

General Obligation Bonds YES  NO

Federal/State Grants YES  NO

Strategies Related to Development Impacts  
(developer pays proportionate share) YES  NO

Public/Private Partnerships  
(some level of shared financing/responsibility) YES  NO

## APPENDIX C: Park Elements Assessment Table



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**Table C.1, Park Elements Assessment** – The information in the following table assesses design ideas that were proposed for City parks by the University of Oregon Landscape Architecture Design Workshop (Workshop). The analysis presented in the table assesses the ability of design concepts to meet each park’s intended purpose and function. The analysis uses a rating system to review and prioritize facility needs. The analysis only considers those parks that were evaluated by the Workshop and lists the conceptual design treatment, remarkable features, or “design elements” that the design teams explored for each park. It also uses “assessment criteria” to qualitatively analyze the merit of the proposed design elements. The assessment criteria include:

- Consistency with Park Classification. - *Determine if proposed design element is consistent with park type, as defined in Section 4.4 Park Classification.*
- Construction Costs - *Estimate whether or not the proposed design element will have a significant construction cost.*
- Operation / maintenance - *Evaluate the relative operating and maintenance burden of the proposed design element*
- Funding Support - *Evaluate if proposed design element may provide a revenue generating opportunity through fees, licenses, events, concessions or other revenue sources.*

Table C.1 indicates if the design element is in agreement with the criteria, or if the design element would provide a net positive benefit when measured by the criteria (“+”). When the proposed design feature is in opposition to, or would have a net negative impact on the park, as judged by the criteria, a negative sign is found in the respective column (“-”). A “0” rating indicates if the design element would have neither a wholly negative or positive impact, or that the feature’s impact would be negligible.

Based on how well the proposed design elements meets the rating criteria, that element is shown with either a “high,” “medium” or “low” ranking. The ranking provides an objective indication for how aggressively the City should pursue incorporating a given design element into the existing parks system. It is very important that individuals use this table while looking at the design concepts for each park so that the design ideas and ratings are viewed in context. *Note: The criteria in Table C.1 are not weighted. The Park and Trail System Recommendations (Chapter 5 in the Parks Master Plan) were based on a synthesis of the ratings in Table C1 and reflect an emphasis on providing amenities not currently available in City parks that are consistent with each park’s classification.*



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Table C.1 - Park Elements Assessment

Regional Park:						
Greenwaters Park						
Possible Design Element	Assessment Criteria				Ranking	Comments
	<i>Consistent with Park Classification</i>	<i>Construction Costs</i>	<i>Operation/Maintenance</i>	<i>Funding Support</i>		
“Meadow of Discovery”	+	+	-	-	<b>Medium</b>	Implement through partnership with prairie restoration groups for natural open areas.
Enclose Amphitheater	+	-	-	+	<b>Medium</b>	Seek funding from sponsors and grant agencies; removable fencing?
Berm at amphitheater (sound, visual barrier)	+	-	+	-	<b>Medium</b>	Seek funding from sponsors and grant agencies.
Beach areas	+	+	-	-	<b>Medium</b>	Seek stream restoration partnerships.
Boardwalks	+	-	-	-	<b>Low</b>	Difficult to maintain; not suitable for wet areas.
Trails/Pathways	+	-	-	+	<b>Medium</b>	Seek funding from sponsors and grant agencies.
Enhanced river views and access	+	+	0	0	<b>Medium</b>	June 2010 Open House participants also reviewed favorably the addition of boat ramps.
East parking loop	0	-	0	-	<b>Low</b>	Few people commented on this idea.
Trails Information Area*	+	+	-	+	<b>High</b>	Implement through partnership with community groups.

Community Park:						
Salmon Creek Park						
Possible Design Element	Assessment Criteria				Ranking	Comments
	<i>Consistent with Park Classification</i>	<i>Construction Costs</i>	<i>Operation/Maintenance</i>	<i>Funding Support</i>		
Fishing piers	+	-	-	-	<b>Low</b>	Limited opportunities for anglers; better suited to Mill Pond?
Adventure playground	+	+	-	-	<b>Medium</b>	Seek through partnership with community groups to maintain/enhance existing structure
Cable foot bridge (or related crossing)	+	-	-	-	<b>Low</b>	Seek partnership/funding with community groups and ODOT for bike/ped connection across Salmon Creek
Trails/Pathways	+	-	-	+	<b>Medium</b>	Seek funding from sponsors and grant agencies.
Community Orchard/Gardens	+	+	+	-	<b>High</b>	Seek partnership with community groups to expand/enhance existing facilities
Art for pump houses	0	+	+	+	<b>High</b>	There is public support for art to decorate the pump houses; this type of improvement could be provided, and possibly maintained, by volunteers.
Day camp/picnic areas	+	0	-	-	<b>Low</b>	Seek partnership with community groups to expand/enhance existing facilities; explore (re)use of covered utility building.

Elevated Viewing area/terraced overlook	0	-	-	-	<b>Low</b>	There were few comments that favored this structure.
Equestrian facilities	0	-	-	+	<b>Low</b>	While there were positive comments in response to this design element, several commentators questioned the necessity of such a facility in Oakridge.
Party lawn	+	+	+	-	<b>Medium</b>	Received favorable comments.
Gazebo	+	-	-	-	<b>Low</b>	Received favorable comments
Disk (Frisbee) golf	+	+	+	-	<b>High</b>	Received favorable comments

Neighborhood Parks:						
Diamond View Park						
Possible Design Element	Assessment Criteria				Ranking	Comments
	<i>Consistent with Park Classification</i>	<i>Construction Costs</i>	<i>Operation/Maintenance</i>	<i>Funding Support</i>		
BMX track/meadow	-	0	-	+	<b>Medium</b>	Consider relocating track to Salmon Creek park where better community access and event parking is available.
Berms (sound buffering and viewing)	0	+	+	-	<b>Medium</b>	This is a relatively inexpensive landscaping treatment.
Aspens (additional trees/landscaping)	+	-	-	-	<b>Low</b>	One commenter favored planting Oaks rather than Aspens to honor the town's namesake.
Cantilevered deck	0	-	-	-	<b>Low</b>	There were few comments that favored this structure.
Picnic area/shelter	+	0	-	-	<b>Low</b>	Received favorable comments
Pedestrian railroad crossing*	0	-	-	-	<b>Low</b>	There were few comments that favored this structure.
Connector trail to downtown <sup>†</sup>	+	-	+	-	<b>Medium</b>	Received favorable comments
Pathways through the park	+	0	0	-	<b>Medium</b>	June 2010 Open House attendees reviewed favorably a design that used recycled materials.
Bathrooms <sup>†</sup>	+	-	-	-	<b>Medium</b>	Funding to build restroom facilities secured in 2010 Federal grant.

<b>Osprey Park</b>						
<b>Possible Design Element</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria</b>				<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	<i>Consistent with Park Classification</i>	<i>Construction Costs</i>	<i>Operation/ Maintenance</i>	<i>Funding Support</i>		
Pathways through the park	<b>+</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Medium</b>	If other parts of the park are developed or enhanced for visitors' , pathways to those areas will be necessary.
Plaza/commons area leading down to the river.	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Low</b>	While this design element is not inconsistent with the "neighborhood park" classification, Osprey is in greater need of active recreation areas, especially for children.
Playground area	<b>+</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Received favorable comments
Vegetation buffers to neighborhood housing	<b>0</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Medium</b>	While there is some expense in installing and maintaining landscaping, this type of enhancement would be needed if other areas of the park, closer to residential homes, were to be developed.
Pond and fishing area	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Low</b>	One comment liked the creative idea to add a water feature to the park but questioned the cost and permitting.
Bridge across Willamette/link to Greenwaters <sup>†</sup>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Low</b>	Received favorable comments

\* Element from Oakridge-Westfir Community Trails Plan, 2008.

<sup>†</sup> Element from Oakridge-Westfir Community Trails Plan, 2008 and comments from the June 2010 Open House.