

# City of Turner Parks Master Plan

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# Executive Summary

The City of Turner's updated Comprehensive Plan (2001) recommended that the city prepare and adopt a long-range parks master plan to guide decisions related to development and management of the city's park system.

This plan provides a formal approach to addressing current and future park needs of the city. The purpose of the Turner Parks Master Plan is to create a long-term strategy for the City of Turner to adequately meet the needs of current and future residents and to ensure a high quality of life. More specifically, this plan:

- Inventories existing park facilities, including an analysis of appropriate park classifications;
- Identifies goals for the park system and a capital improvements program (CIP) that enables the City to achieve those goals. The CIP includes identified projects, estimated project costs, suggested funding sources, and completion timeframes;
- Identifies short and long-term land acquisition strategies; and
- Identifies potential funding sources to execute the capital improvement program.

This executive summary highlights community needs, goals and actions, and a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Turner's 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park.

## Park Inventory

A critical aspect of planning for the future of a city's park system is to conduct an inventory and condition assessment of existing parks and open space. Table ES-1 shows existing park facilities by name, classification, area (in acres), and level of service (e.g., park acres per 1000 people).

The City of Turner is currently moderately served by parks. As of February 2005, Turner owned and maintained 13.7 acres of parkland. Although Turner has a relatively high level of service, the city should consider additional parkland to meet park user needs. As the largest park in Turner, 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park includes more than 95 percent of the parkland in the City. Although 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park meets the city's need for community parks, the city is underserved by neighborhood parks and mini-parks.

**Table ES - 1. Park Acreage and Level of Service**

<b>Park Classification</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Turner LOS (acres/1,000 residents)</b>
Mini-Park	Burkland Park	0.30	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.30</b>	0.20
Community Park	Fifth Street Park	13.41	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13.41</b>	9.06
<b>Total</b>		<b>13.71</b>	<b>9.26</b>

Source: Community Planning Workshop, City of Turner and PSU Population Research Center

## Community Needs Assessment

Future park improvements need to reflect identified community needs. CPW engaged the community in a public involvement process, which included a public workshop and multiple work sessions with the Parks Committee. Park needs in the Turner community were expressed through this process and are based on the location of parks, park use, demographic characteristics, and activity participation trends. Turner residents indicated a need for a number of improvements, including:

- Park amenities for all ages
- Trails for walking and biking
- Development of 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park
- Parks within neighborhoods

## Park System Goals

The Turner Parks Committee assisted in identifying ten goals to address the findings of this parks master plan. They provide a framework to plan for the future of Turner's parks. The goals, in non-priority order, are highlighted below.

**Goal 1. Enhance 5th Street Park**

**Goal 2. Provide Adequate Parkland**

**Goal 3. Provide Diverse Park Facilities and Amenities**

**Goal 4. Increase Access to Parks**

**Goal 5. Promote Parks Committee Involvement**

**Goal 6. Perform Needed Park Maintenance**

**Goal 7. Encourage Partnerships**



## **Goal 8. Secure Long-term Funding Sources**

## **Goal 9. Ensure a Safe Recreation Environment**

## **Goal 10. Develop a Trail Network**

The plan goals provide objectives that the City should work towards to meet the community's current and future park needs. Moreover, the goals respond to suggestions and concerns that arose through the process of developing this plan.

# **Capital Improvement Program**

The Capital Improvement Program provides a detailed roadmap for implementing needed improvements and additions to the park system in the next ten years. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) identifies park improvement projects and estimates costs. A CIP was developed for 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park as the majority of the City's resources for improvement of the park system over the next ten years will be devoted to improving this park. If the City implements the CIP for 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park outlined in this plan, the City should expect to pay between \$425,000 and \$560,000 for improvements over the next ten years.

# **Parkland Acquisition**

The Acquisition Plan provides cost estimates and acquisition strategies for acquiring additional parkland to accommodate the growing population of Turner. According to the 2005 Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Plan, Turner is expected to have 2,661 residents by the year 2025. At that population, the level of service will fall from 9.8 to 5.2 acres of parks per 1,000 residents if additional parkland is not acquired. According to community desires, the city should pursue securing parkland within new neighborhoods as a way to diversify the types of parks in the city and provide close-to-home recreation options for residents. The Parks Master Plan recommends that the city develop 2-4 mini-parks within the next 20 years.

# **Funding Strategies**

The Turner Parks Master Plan establishes a vision for the future park system in Turner. That vision, however, is meaningless if the city cannot secure the funds to achieve the vision. Turner needs to identify and pursue new and ongoing funding sources to fulfill the projects and park system goals. Turner should strive to have a diversified funding and support strategy that includes short and long-term sources.

The Plan recommends the city focus on the following funding sources:

- Partnerships
- Donations
- Grants

- Systems Development Charges (SDCs)

The city does not have funds identified for all of the improvements and maintenance included in this plan. Thus, it is essential that the City seek ways to leverage existing funding sources. However, a broad range of funding and volunteer opportunities exist that the City can access to implement the Parks Master Plan.

## Summary

Completion of this plan is the city's first step down a pathway that will lead to the fulfillment of the city's park system goals. With careful attention, Turner's parks will continue to improve the local resident's quality of life.

The Parks Master Plan establishes the following actions as priorities to be completed in the 2005-2015 period:

1. *Re-invigorate Parks Committee as advisory body to City Council.* The Parks Committee was re-established for the creation of the Parks Master Plan and should continue to make recommendations to the City Council to implement the plan. The Parks Committee will make recommendations to city staff in the annual budgeting process.
2. *Develop 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park.* The city shall develop 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park in a manner consistent with the conceptual plan presented in this document. Improvements during the first phase will include a play area, improved baseball field, reconfigured parking, pavilion/covered picnic area, and walking/biking trails.
3. *Identify and evaluate sites for new parks.* The identification and evaluation of potential park sites should be an ongoing task for the Parks Committee.
4. *Develop mini-parks in neighborhoods.* The Parks Committee shall oversee the development of mini-parks. The city should develop the sites consistent with the conceptual plan presented in this document.
5. *Develop a Parks System Development Charge Ordinance.* The Parks Committee, with city staff assistance, should develop a Parks SDC that will work in concert with the city's Land Dedication ordinance.

# Chapter 1 Introduction

The City of Turner is situated along Mill Creek in Marion County equidistant between Aumsville and I-5, and eight miles southeast of Salem. This Turner Parks Master Plan provides a formal approach to addressing current and future park needs of the city. The purpose of the plan is to create a long-term strategy for the City of Turner to adequately meet the needs of current and future residents and to ensure a high quality of life.

## Community History and Setting

Historically, the members of the Native American Kalapuya tribe were the first residents in the Willamette Valley region. The Kalapuyas traveled the Willamette River in dug-out canoes and took advantage of the fertile soil and river access of the area.

After Louis and Clark's arrival in the Northwest in 1806, pioneers following the Oregon Trail descended on the Willamette Valley. In 1843, the Delaney family became the first settlers to arrive in the area of present-day Turner. By the late 1860's there were several attempts to construct railroads between Portland and California that would connect Portland with the farmlands of the Willamette Valley. While surveying sites south of Portland in 1870, the Oregon & California Railroad sent a crew to build a station and warehouse a few miles south of Salem and name it Turner. However, the crew built the station too far south and later named it Marion. Turner Station was built later at the location first intended by the rail company. The City of Turner is named after pioneers Henry L. and Judith A. Turner who were prominent landowners and operators of a flour mill in Turner.<sup>1</sup>

Turner is located in a narrow valley that separates the Salem Hills on the west from the Waldo Hills to the east. The narrowest point of 'Turner Gap' is only 1,600 ft. wide. Hillside elevations approach 300 feet higher than the valley below with steep slopes that exceed 25% in some areas. Once a glacial-era channel for the North Santiam River, this gap now provides a channel for Mill Creek, the City's primary waterway.<sup>2</sup> Battle Creek and Perrin Lateral feed Mill Creek from the Salem Hills.

Turner's location in the fertile Willamette Valley benefits the local economy. Agriculture and food processing are important to the region's economy, as are lumber, manufacturing, and education. The mild climate, abundant rainfall, and fertile valleys favor certain crops such as timber, loganberries, filberts (hazel nuts), cherries, marion berries, hops, nursery stock, grass seed, and prunes.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Turner Comprehensive Plan, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Turner Comprehensive Plan, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Oregon State Library, Salem Online History Project, [www.salemhistory.net](http://www.salemhistory.net).

Turner's growth potential has increased dramatically with the development of an improved wastewater and sewer system in the summer of 2000.<sup>4</sup> Today, Turner must balance the need for jobs, housing, and amenities such as parks. Turner's 2001 Comprehensive Plan recognized the need for a parks plan. The Turner Parks Master Plan is a proactive measure to ensure the city meets the park needs of future residents.

## Purpose of this Plan

Park facilities are key services that meet the park and recreation needs of community residents and visitors while enhancing the community's quality of life. Parks provide access to nature and affordable activities that are available to residents of all ages. However, lack of resources – both financial and staff – limit the ability of many communities to create and maintain adequate park infrastructure.

Local governments may prepare and adopt local parks master plans pursuant to Statewide Planning Goal 8: Recreational Needs and OAR 660-034-0040. These plans may be integrated with local comprehensive land use plans. Parks master plans help give communities direction in developing future parks and making improvements to existing parks.

The Turner Parks Master Plan seeks to provide a foundation for planning based on the community's vision of the park system. The Parks Master Plan ensures that the needs of residents are identified and incorporated into future decisions concerning local parkland. The plan:

- Inventories existing park facilities and amenities, including an analysis of their current condition and the overall level of service relative to similar communities in the area;
- Identifies park needs based on demographic and economic trends and citizen input;
- Provides a capital improvement program, including potential acquisitions, that addresses the desires of the community with a realistic estimation of costs and phases of development; and
- Identifies potential funding sources to execute the capital improvement program.

## Steps in the Planning Process

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommends a systems approach to parks planning. This approach "places importance on locally determined values, needs, and expectations... The systems planning approach is defined as the process of assessing the park, recreation, and open space needs of a community and translating that

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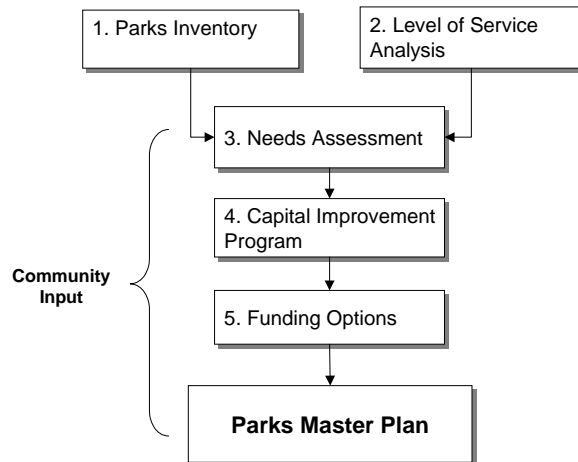
<sup>4</sup> Personal communication with Turner staff, October 14, 2004.

information into a framework for meeting the physical, spatial, and facility requirements to satisfy those needs.”<sup>5</sup> NRPA provides guidelines that may be adapted by individual communities to best suit local needs. The systems plan can then be integrated into planning decisions and strategies that address other community needs such as housing, commerce, schools, environmental management, transportation, and industry.<sup>6</sup>

The parks planning process involves several steps, as shown in Figure 1-1. An inventory of local park facilities and determination of the level of service (LOS) are the first steps. The inventory involves looking at the amenities offered at each park, the condition of the amenities, and the condition of the park itself. The LOS (expressed as acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents) allows the community to assess current service conditions and determine the appropriate facilities needed to satisfy future demand.

The next step is the community needs assessment. The needs assessment considers factors such as population growth, demographic characteristics, and outdoor activity participation trends. The needs assessment, combined with the inventory and level of service analysis, is used to create a capital improvement program (CIP). The CIP identifies projects that implement the plan. The CIP also includes an evaluation of funding options. Together, these components make up the Parks Master Plan for a community—giving the community direction to accommodate the needs of current and future residents.

**Figure 1-1. The Parks Planning Process**



<sup>5</sup> Mertes, James D and James R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. 1995.

<sup>6</sup> Mertes, James D and James R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. 1995.

## Methods

A variety of methods were employed to create this plan. In general, the planning process involved the following steps:

- Demographic and economic research on community trends and identification of existing facilities resources;
- Inventory of the condition and extent of park facilities at city-owned, school, and regional recreational facilities in the area;
- Facilitation of a community workshop and Project Advisory Committee meetings to identify opportunities and constraints of the parks system;
- Research of costs for capital improvement projects; and
- Research of potential funding sources for the capital improvement plan.

## Organization of this Plan

This plan is organized into five chapters including this chapter and three appendices. The following chapters are organized as follows:

- **Chapter 2: Community Setting** explores local population, housing, age composition, school enrollment, racial composition, income levels, employment, and poverty rates as they relate to parks planning.
- **Chapter 3: Park Facilities Inventory** includes information regarding the current park facilities of all types, in and around the city, that are available to Turner residents. The inventory includes city-owned, Cascade School District facilities, and regional recreation providers in the area. This chapter provides analysis of the level of service for existing facilities.
- **Chapter 4: Turner Park System Goals and Proposed System Improvement** examines park and recreation needs for Turner. This chapter identifies the goals of the park system and provides a capital improvement program that focuses on specific park improvements and their estimated costs. This chapter also provides strategies for park and open space land acquisition for the next 20 years.
- **Chapter 5: Funding Strategies** outlines funding sources for CIP projects and land acquisition.

This plan includes three appendices:

- **Appendix A: Funding Options** provides a detailed list of potential funding sources to finance park improvements. The list includes the names, addresses, phone numbers, and websites for funding options listed in Chapter 5.

- **Appendix B: Community Workshop Summary** provides a summary of the opportunities and constraints gathered about the current and future park system from the community workshop.
- **Appendix C: Parks Committee Meeting Minutes** provides a summary of what was discussed and decided.





# Chapter 2

## Community Setting

Turner’s location and unique characteristics will affect the future of the community’s park system. This chapter describes socioeconomic data and development trends in Turner. Demographic trends help local governments understand present and future park needs. Housing trends contributes decisions regarding future park locations. The following characteristics of Turner should be considered when siting future park facilities and prioritizing capital improvements.

### Population

Despite a slight population decrease between 1990 and 2000, Turner has experienced growth rates over the past 30 years that are comparable to regional trends (Table 2-1). The Population Research Center at Portland State University estimates that Turner’s population in 2003 was 1,480 residents, an increase of 6% from its 2002 estimate of 1,400 persons. In addition, the recent completion of the City’s wastewater sewer system has significantly increased Turner’s potential for new housing developments.

**Table 2-1. Population Trends**

Year	Turner	AAGR*	Marion County	AAGR*	Oregon	AAGR*
1970	846	n/a	151,309	n/a	2,091,533	n/a
1980	1,116	2.8%	207,692	3.2%	2,633,105	2.3%
1990	1,281	1.4%	228,483	1.0%	2,842,321	0.8%
2000	1,199	-0.7%	284,834	2.2%	3,421,399	1.9%

\* AAGR – Average Annual Growth Rate

Source: PSU Population Research Center; U.S. Census, 2000; Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

According to the Salem Keizer Area Transportation System (SKATS), an arm of the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, the population projections for Turner for 2025 is 2,661. This represents an increase of about 80% (1,181 persons) over the 2003 population. CPW has used this population projection to estimate future parkland need within the City limits. The level of service analysis presented later in Chapter 4 also uses these population projections.

The implication of future population growth is increased demand for infrastructure—including parks. In short, by 2020 the existing parks system will be servicing a substantially larger population than Turner’s current population. Turner will need to acquire new parkland during this period if it desires to maintain the current level of service.

## Housing trends

Housing characteristics, including the type, location, and rate of housing developments, are important variables in determining where future parks should be located. Moreover, this data is useful for parks planning because it gives insight into the potential funding base coming from property taxes and systems development charges.

The 2000 U.S. Census reports there were 522 housing units in Turner, with 94.1% occupied and 5.9% vacant. With regards to housing tenure, of the 491 occupied units the Census estimates 65% are owner-occupied and 35% are renter-occupied units. These rates are slightly higher than county and state figures and may reflect the high number of retirees residing in Turner.

The City of Turner has experienced a recent period of growth with the development of Turner's first subdivision in many years, and development of 44 additional lots is expected in the near future.<sup>7</sup> In fact, this future development could total 84 new residences.<sup>8</sup> If all of these go on the market in 2005-6 approximately 185 people could be added to the Turner population resulting in a 13% population increase in one to two years.

## Age characteristics

Age is an important factor in parks planning. Residents in different stages of life have unique needs and desires. Current and future age distributions of a community should influence the facilities and amenities offered in parks.

Turner has experienced a slight age shift over the past few decades. This shift can be partially explained by national trends of decreasing birth rates as well as the State of Oregon's increasing retiree population. More than 22% of Turner's population is over the age of 65 years. The 2000 U.S. Census reports Turner's median age was 41.4 compared to 36.3 years statewide.

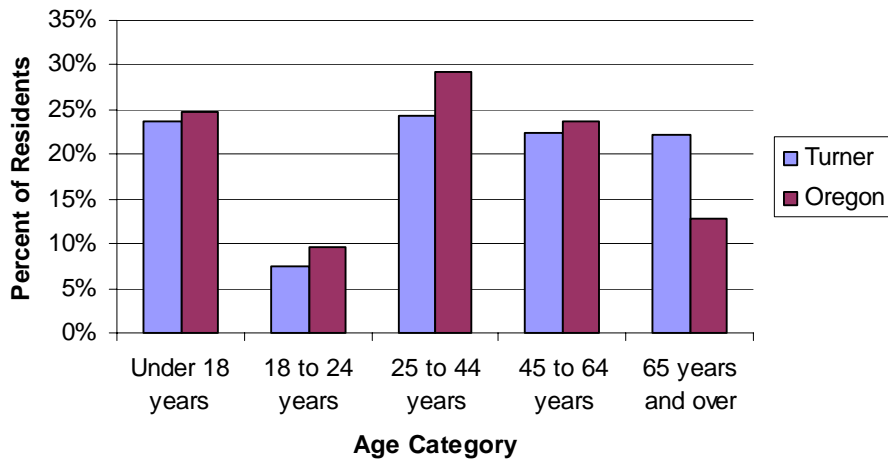
Age distributions in Turner and Oregon are presented in Figure 2-1. The data shows that the percentage of Turner's population over 65 years old is significantly higher than that of the State of Oregon. The under-18 and 25-44 age cohorts comprise the largest percent of the population.

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<sup>7</sup> Personal communication with Turner staff, October 6, 2004.

<sup>8</sup> Personal communication with Turner staff, November 5, 2004.

**Figure 2-1. Turner and Oregon Age Distributions in 2000**



Source: U.S. Census, 2000

The large proportion of retirees in Turner was caused by a recent change in the distribution of age groups between 1990 and 2000 (Table 2-2). The percent of residents over 45 years increased during this time, while the proportion of residents under 45 years decreased. This trend is likely the result of lack of employment opportunities and housing for small families. During the 1990s few families moved to Turner and baby-boomers reached the “empty nest” stage.<sup>9</sup>

**Table 2-2. Change in Age Distribution**

	1990	2000	% Change
Under 18 years	364	285	-22%
18 to 24 years	97	89	-8%
25 to 44 years	362	291	-20%
45 to 64 years	217	269	24%
65 years and over	241	265	10%
Total	1281	1199	-6%

Source: U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000

In creating a parks master plan, all age groups should be considered so that their needs may be appropriately met. The number of children and high percentage of retirees in Turner are expected to increase as new developments occur. Providing park facilities for these groups should be a priority of the city.

## Race and Ethnicity

The race and ethnicity of residents affect park use because residents’ cultural backgrounds influence which activities they tend to prefer. According to the 2000 Census, approximately 93.8% of Turner is white,

<sup>9</sup> Turner Comprehensive Plan, 2001.

with 4.0% being two or more races, 2.9% American Indian, and less than one-percent for the following races: black, Asian, and Pacific Islander.

## School Enrollment

School-aged children in Turner, Aumsville, Cloverdale, Marion, and West Stayton attend schools in the Cascade School District. Of the six schools in the school district, one elementary school is located in Turner. The 2000 Census of Turner residents indicates that 70% of the population of school-aged children age three and over (157 persons) attend elementary school (grades 1-8), 16% attend high school (grades 9-12), 4% are enrolled in kindergarten, 4% attend nursery school, and 15% attend college or graduate school.

The total Cascade School District enrollment reported for the 2002-03 school year was 2,298. The 2000 Census data indicates total school enrollment for the City of Turner three years of age and over was 259 persons.<sup>10</sup> It is noteworthy that approximately 75 students at Turner's elementary school are bused from Aumsville because the Aumsville elementary school has reached capacity. As Turner's population grows, local children will likely absorb the reserve capacity at Turner Elementary. Demand on city-owned parks and school facilities will likely increase as new development occurs in the city.<sup>11</sup>

## Income and Poverty

Household income is an important aspect of the community when planning for parks. The economic well-being of residents impacts their ability to support the park system through bonds, levies, and system development charges. Parks have also been shown to influence property values. In addition, they provide affordable locations for community events and family gatherings.

According to 2000 Census figures, 58% of the 933 Turner residents over 16 years and eligible to work were employed. In the same year, Marion County's employment rate was 64%. Turner's low employment rate is likely due to the low percentage of working aged residents (18-44 years old) and the large retiree population.

The percentage of Turner's population below the poverty level was 9% in 2000. The statewide poverty rate was 12% in the same year.

In 2000, the median household income in Turner was \$36,250, which was lower than Marion County and Oregon incomes.<sup>12</sup> Turner's median household income increased less than 6% during the 1990s while both

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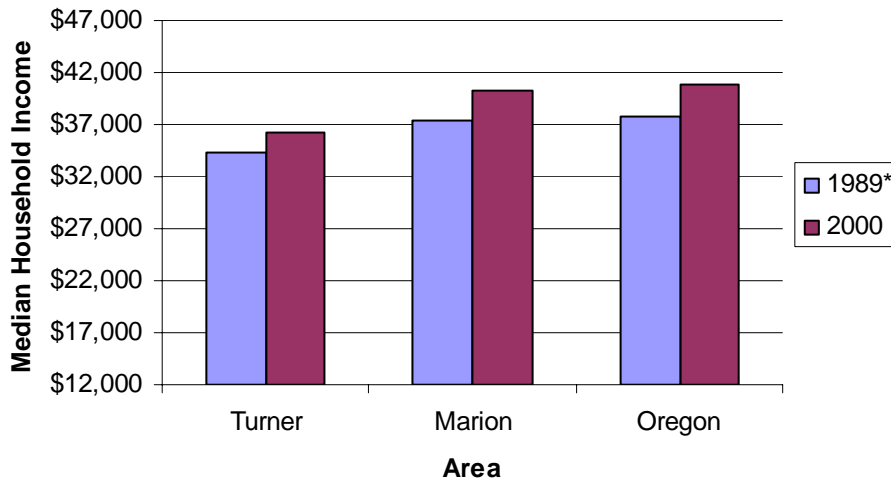
<sup>10</sup> National Center for Education Statistics and U.S. Census, 2000.

<sup>11</sup> Personal communication with Cascade School District staff, October 14, 2004.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census, 2000.

Marion County and Oregon rates increased 8% in the same period (Figure 2-2).

**Figure 2-2. Median Household Income**



\* 1989 figures have been adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index Calculator at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi)  
Source: U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000

## Summary

- Population in Turner decreased by 0.7% annually between 1990 and 2000; however, by 2025, the City is expected to grow to by approximately 80% or 2,661 residents. This population increase will increase demand for parks and recreation facilities in Turner.
- Nearly 25% of Turner residents are under age 18-years-old, and the percentage of residents over 44-years-old increased significantly in the past decade. These two groups should be considered when addressing park developments and capital improvements at City-owned parks.
- Demographic trends should be periodically reviewed to ensure parks planning keeps pace with community needs.



# Chapter 3

## Park Classifications and Inventory

The park classification and inventory are critical components of a parks master plan. They identify the quantity and condition of parkland, facilities, programs, and services within the City. Currently, the City of Turner is lacking diversity in its park system. The City of Turner has two parks totaling approximately 13.71 acres. The growing population in Turner will increase the need for parks and open space in the area.

Park function is a more important factor than size in creating the classifications. Park properties owned by the Cascade School District, Marion County, and State of Oregon are included in the classification system to show the full range of recreation opportunities near Turner.

### Park Classifications

The park classification system provides guidelines to evaluate the current park system and future needs. The National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) classifications and definitions were used as a reference in creating a local classification system unique to the City of Turner.

For each category of parks, CPW defined the category, benefits, functions, size, service area, and amenities. The system includes six park classifications: (1) mini-parks; (2) neighborhood parks; (3) community parks; (4) school facilities; (5) regional parks; and (6) trails and open space. Turner's city-owned parks fall into the mini-park and community park categories described by the NRPA classification system.<sup>13</sup> See Table 3-1 for complete details for all categories.

#### Mini-park

The smallest park classification is the mini-park, which is used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs. These may include:

- Play/picnic areas adjacent to downtown shopping districts or neighborhoods
- Landscaped public use areas in industrial/commercial areas
- Scenic overlooks

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<sup>13</sup> Mertes, James D and James R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. 1995.

Mini-parks are generally between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size. However, any park area less than five acres could technically be considered a mini-park. The service area for a mini-park is roughly a circle with a radius of one-quarter mile.



Burkland Park, located in downtown Turner, is the only mini-park in the community.

### Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are considered the basic unit of a park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. Typically, they are developed for passive and active<sup>14</sup> recreation, and accommodate a large variety of user types. Uses include:

- Sports
- Play Areas
- People Watching
- Picnicking
- Paths



According to NRPA, neighborhood parks are generally five to fifteen acres. Neighborhood parks should be centrally located in a service area of one-quarter to one-half mile.

Turner does not have any neighborhood parks.

### Community Park

The focus of a community park is on meeting community-based needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. They are larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Uses of community parks are both passive and active, including:

- Informal and unstructured recreation
- Trails
- Picnic/sitting areas
- Nature study areas and facilities for cultural activities

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<sup>14</sup> Passive recreation does not involve fields, rather it is more generally trail-based hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, picnicking, etc. Active recreation involves playing fields and group participation such as baseball, soccer, playgrounds, etc.



- Some have basketball and tennis courts, ball fields, and skateboard/biking facilities

The optimal size for these parks is between 15 and 50 acres; however, the actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate the desired uses. Typically, community parks serve two or more neighborhoods and have a service area of one-half to three miles in radius.

5<sup>th</sup> Street Park serves as a community park for the City of Turner.



### **School Facilities**

School facilities may provide additional recreational opportunities for the community outside of school hours. This is an efficient and cost effective way to expand recreational opportunities for residents, as they can serve the same function as neighborhood parks. Active and passive recreational uses include:

- Sports
- Play areas
- Open space

### **Regional Parks**

Nearby regional parks provide larger scale recreational opportunities for the community. These county and state owned parklands preserve unique landscapes in the area. Regional parks offer many types of recreational opportunities including:

- Camping
- Trails
- Picnic/sitting areas
- Natural study areas and facilities for cultural activities
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Wildlife viewing
- Boating

## **Trails and Connectors**

Trails and connectors are public access routes that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. These facilities offer a variety of trail-oriented recreational opportunities such as walking, biking, and running. At present, Turner has one trail along Mill Creek near Tabernacle Lane.

## **Open Space**

Open space parks provide visitors with a unique outdoor experience. These parks offer few facilities or amenities, but allow access to minimally developed areas in a community. Open Space Parks offer a variety of recreation activities including:

- Wildlife viewing
- Walking
- Horseback riding
- Picnicking

**Table 3-1. Turner’s Park Classification System**

TYPE OF FACILITY	DEFINITION	BENEFITS & FUNCTION	SIZE CRITERIA	SERVICE AREA	DESIGN CRITERIA	EXISTING PARKS OF THIS TYPE*	
						NAME	ACREAGE
Mini-Parks	Mini-parks offer open space within neighborhoods, providing passive or limited active recreational opportunities. Mini-parks may simply be open lots within neighborhoods or may be more developed with a limited number of amenities. These should be accessible by sidewalks, trails, or low-traffic streets.	Mini-parks provide a balance between open space and residential development. They offer opportunities for passive recreation opportunities sand/or limited active recreation opportunities for neighboring residents. Mini-parks add activity and character to neighborhoods and may be an appropriate space for neighborhood gatherings.	0-0.75 acres	1/4 mile or less	Mini-parks may offer low-intensity facilities such as benches, picnic tables, multi-purpose paved trails, landscaping, and public art. If the mini-park also offers active recreation it may include children's play areas, community gardens, and a limited number of sports courts.	Burkland Park	0.30
Neighborhood Parks	Developed Neighborhood Parks offer accessible recreation and social opportunities to nearby residents. These should be accessible by sidewalks, trails, low-traffic residential streets. These should accommodate the needs of a wide variety of age and user groups.	Neighborhood parks provide access to basic recreation activities for nearby residents of all ages; contributes to neighborhood identity and creates a sense of place.	0.75-5.0 acres	1/4-1/2 mile	Neighborhood parks should include both passive and active recreation opportunities such as children's play areas, sports courts and fields, picnic facilities, public art, open turf areas, swimming pools, sitting areas, landscaping, community gardens, restrooms, and pathways. Security lighting and off-street parking may be provided if necessary.	N/A	N/A
Community Parks	Community Parks provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities for all age groups. These parks are larger in size and serve a wider base of residents than neighborhood parks. Community parks often include facilities for organized group activities as well as facilities for individual and family activities. Community parks also preserve open spaces and unique landscapes.	Community parks provide a variety of accessible recreation opportunities for all age groups. They also provide educational opportunities, serve recreational needs of families, preserve open spaces and landscapes, and provide opportunities for community social activities and events. These can serve as a community focal point.	5.0-50 acres	1/2-5 miles	In addition to amenities offered at neighborhood parks, community parks may also offer sports facilities for large groups, amphitheaters, group picnic areas, botanical gardens, event space, interpretive facilities, and community centers. Higher quality children's play areas may be provided to create a family play destination.	5 <sup>th</sup> Street Park	13.41

TYPE OF FACILITY	DEFINITION	BENEFITS & FUNCTION	SIZE CRITERIA	SERVICE AREA	DESIGN CRITERIA	EXISTING PARKS OF THIS TYPE*	
						NAME	ACREAGE
Regional Parks	Regional Parks provide a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities for persons of all ages and serve to preserve unique landscapes. These parks are larger than community parks and attract people from outside of the community. As such, they offer overnight opportunities--such as camping. These are generally state owned parks.	Regional Parks offer opportunities for large expanses of open space that draws both residents and visitors. These offer opportunities to attract tourists to the community while also benefiting residents.	50+ acres	Determined by location, size, and amenities offered.	Regional Parks should offer a variety of recreation opportunities such as benches, picnic tables, multi-purpose trails, landscaping where appropriate, camping amenities, and natural areas.	<i>County Parks</i> <i>Oregon State Parks</i>	<i>N/A</i> <i>N/A</i>
School Parks	School Parks may be established through a relationship with the school district which allows neighboring residents to use school grounds during non-school hours. These can serve many of the same functions as Neighborhood Parks.	School Parks offer an opportunity to expand recreational, social, and educational opportunities in an efficient and cost effective manner.	Varies	Determined by location of school district property.	School Parks offer varying amenities such as children's play areas, open turf, sport courts and fields, running tracks, benches, picnic tables, landscaping, and multi-purpose trails.	<i>Turner Elementary</i> <i>Cloverdale Elementary</i> <i>Cascade Middle School</i> <i>Cascade High School</i>	<i>8</i> <i>8</i> <i>12</i> <i>12</i>
Trails, Connectors and Open Space	Trails and connectors should be established to link elements of the park system or community. Open space areas should be managed primarily for ecological values and secondarily for recreation.	Trails and connectors provide opportunities for alternative transportation routes. Open space provides opportunities for habitat conservation and restoration.	Varies	Determined by location, size, and level of development.	Trails and connectors should be established based on their ability to link parks or other areas of the community. Only limited improvements should occur in open space areas.	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>

\* Note: The City does not own parks in italics

# Park Facility Inventory

A critical aspect of planning for the future of a city's park system is to conduct an inventory and condition assessment of existing parks and open space. This section provides information on existing city parks, as well as parks not owned by the city. The inventory includes a condition assessment including a list of concerns provided for city-owned facilities.

Some of the parks inventoried are not within the city limits or the Urban Growth Boundary. However, these parks are included in the inventory because they serve residents and visitors by providing recreational opportunities and open space.

## City Parks

City parks contribute to the overall character of the city and offer residents with outdoor recreational opportunities. Currently, there are 13.71 acres of city-owned parks in Turner that include one mini-park, Burkland Park; and one community park, 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park.

### Burkland Park (mini-park)

Burkland Park is a centralized 0.30 acre mini-park owned by the City and is located on the northeast corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Boise Streets.<sup>15</sup> The park is a developed site that offers active recreational opportunities for the community. The park is widely used by the community for family and public gatherings. A plaque in the northeast corner of the park is a dedication plaque to Donald Burkland for donating the park to the City of Turner.

Burkland Park is enclosed by a chain-linked fence, but is accessible from both side streets from the north and east sides. On-street parking accommodates 26 vehicles with one designated handicapped space. The park is ADA accessible.

### Amenities

- Paved walkways
- Bike rack
- One play structure
- One large oak tree
- ADA accessible restroom facilities

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<sup>15</sup> City of Turner Comprehensive Plan, 2001.

- Six picnic benches under a covered shelter that include wheelchair access
- Three grills
- Trash cans
- Lighting
- Benches
- Irrigation system
- Signage

The park facilities appear to be in good condition. However, restroom facilities were locked during daylight hours during two site visits. The City may want to examine its procedures for ensure these facilities are available to visitors.

The park is located between downtown commercial development to the west and south and residential housing to the north and east. Boise and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets have sidewalks that border the north and east sides of the park. An alleyway forms the western boundary.



Figure 3-1. Panoramic view of Burkland Park

### **5<sup>th</sup> Street Park (community park)**

5<sup>th</sup> Street Park is a 13.41-acre community park on the west edge of the City.<sup>16</sup> The park is located at the northern terminus of 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The park is owned by the city and was partially developed with a generous amount of open space surrounding the central ball field. A dense canopy of Oregon White Oak trees encloses the park and natural grasses and groundcover grow throughout the property.

The park is only accessible from 5<sup>th</sup> Street due to Mill Creek and the railroad. A large gravel parking area is located adjacent to the ball field; there are no designated parking spaces outside the park. 5<sup>th</sup>

<sup>16</sup> City of Turner Comprehensive Plan. 2001.

Street Park's southern gate does not allow regular access from the street to the parking area. The park is not ADA accessible.

The park is surrounded by a variety of land use types. The area west of the park includes railroad tracks that run from the northwest to the southeast corner of the park and industrial development. The northern boundary is shared with undeveloped private property. Turner's urban growth boundary and city limit, which are aligned with Mill Creek, form the western boundary of the park. Low-density housing lines the southern edge of 5th Street Park.

### **Amenities**

- One-eighth mile dirt path along Mill Creek
- One baseball field with backstop
- Four horseshoe pits
- Picnic tables and barbeque pits for picnicking
- Undeveloped restroom (porta-potty)
- One entry sign

### **Concerns**

- Inadequate restroom facilities
- Parking area maintenance
- Deficient amount of signage
- Horse shoe pits need repair
- Three BBQs do not have picnic tables nearby
- Lack of ADA accessible amenities and facilities
- Out-of-the-way location for some residents



Figure 3-2. 5th Street Park

## Taylor Valley Open Space<sup>17</sup>

The developer of Taylor Valley Estates, located between Third Street and Val View Drive, dedicated 1.2 acres<sup>18</sup> to the city for park and open space. According to the City of Turner Comprehensive Plan, one-fifth of an acre of this land would be developed as a park while the remaining acre would serve as open space.

Recently, the City of Turner determined that this parcel is unsuitable for development as a park. It is not feasible to develop a park at this site due to the steep slope, lack of accessibility, and associated springs that inhibit the land. As a result, the city is considering selling the property.

## School District Facilities

There are four school facilities in the area but only Turner Elementary School is within Turner city limits. While school facilities are only open to the public during limited daylight hours, they provide significant recreation for residents during non-school hours. The NRPA strongly advocates building good relationships between school districts and park and recreation agencies. These parks provide a broader scale of recreational connections and opportunities for the community.

The Cascade School District owns several nearby schools that have the potential to serve the community during non-school hours:

Turner Elementary

Cloverdale Elementary

Cascade Middle School

Cascade High School

The following school facility descriptions detail each school's location and amenities.

### Turner Elementary School

Turner Elementary is the only school facility located in Turner. The school is located on the east side of School Avenue behind the swimming pool. The school grounds include approximately 8.62 acres<sup>19</sup> that wrap around the backside of the school. The school facilities are open to the public during non-school hours and are



Figure 3-3. Turner Elementary School

<sup>17</sup> City of Turner Comprehensive Plan, 2001.

<sup>18</sup> City of Turner Comprehensive Plan, 2001.

<sup>19</sup> City of Turner Comprehensive Plan, 2001.



owned by the Cascade School District.

There are two access points to the park. One entrance is located on Mill Creek Road and the second entrance is at the front of the school on School Avenue. There are approximately five parking spaces in the undeveloped parking area along Mill Creek Road, and approximately 35 spaces in the front of the school. The school facilities include baseball, football, and soccer fields; basketball; tetherball and four-square courts; play structures; swing sets; a pool; and bleachers for spectators.

Mill Creek delineates the northern and eastern park boundaries. Aldersgate Ministry of Oregon is situated on the opposing side of Mill Creek. The Ministry contains a generous amount of open space and outdoor fields. A mix of commercial and multi-unit housing developments are located to the south and west of the park.

### **Cloverdale Elementary School**

Cloverdale Elementary is located approximately three miles southwest of Turner. The school's rural setting creates a unique character to the recreational facilities. It is open year-round to the public during non-school hours.

Access is available from Parrish Gap Road. There is a designated parking lot with approximately 30 spaces. The onsite facilities include play equipment and shed, basketball courts, baseball fields, tetherball, and hard surfaced play areas.

The surrounding rural residential character is a unique quality of the park. The park is primarily surrounded with agricultural fields.



Figure 3-3. Cloverdale Elementary

### **Cascade Junior High and High School**

Cascade Junior High and High Schools are located on the same property four miles outside of Turner on Marion Road. The recreation facilities are owned by the Cascade School District.

Access to the school facilities is available from Marion Road. Amenities include two football stadiums, a baseball stadium, soccer fields, half basketball courts, and several practice fields. Active recreational opportunities are abundant at this school facility. Multiple lots around the school offer sufficient parking to accommodate visitors.

Agricultural lands and rural residential development neighbor the school facilities.

## **Regional Parks**

Regional parks provide a wide array of opportunities for active and passive recreation that draw residents and visitors of all ages.

Regional parks tend to be more than 50 acres and serve a larger area than other park classification types. These state and county parks preserve unique landscapes and frequently attract tourists.<sup>20 21</sup> They provide a variety of recreational and educational opportunities including picnicking, camping, swimming, hiking, boating, and wildlife watching.

## **County Parks**

Marion County operates thirteen parks and recreation areas within 25 miles of Turner. The neighboring counties of Polk, Benton and Linn Counties also own nearby county park facilities. These parks include day-use parks and camping facilities, boat ramps, waysides, and historic sites.

### **Marion County Parks**

- Saint Louis Fish Ponds
- Lake Labish Park
- Spong's Landing Park
- Denny Park
- Parkdale Park
- Evergreen Wayside
- Scotts Mills Park
- Santana Park
- Bonesteele Park
- Joryville Park
- Almsville Ponds
- Wiseman Island
- Little North Fork

## **State Parks**

There are five Oregon State Parks within easy driving distance of Turner, including:

- Silver Falls State Park (21 miles east)
- North Santiam State Recreation Area (23 miles east)

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20 Marion County Parks Department. Accessed online, <http://publicworks.co.marion.or.us/Parks/>, 2004.

21 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Accessed online, [http://www.oregonstateparks.org/searchpark.php?region=willamette\\_valley](http://www.oregonstateparks.org/searchpark.php?region=willamette_valley), 2004.

- Holman State Wayside (15 miles northwest)
- Willamette Mission State Park (21 miles northwest)
- Maud Williamsons State Recreation Site (23 miles northwest)

## Baseline Level of Service

The baseline Level of Service (LOS) analysis is based on the City’s park classification system and the 2020 coordinated population forecast. The baseline level of service and the level of service standards are used later in the plan as a basis for the acquisition plan. The LOS approach is “based on the premise that parkland alone cannot meet the full range of recreation needs. Rather, the LOS is an expression of the instances of use of activity areas, and the facilities that are necessary to actually satisfy demand.”<sup>22</sup>

LOS is a simple way to measure the amount of parkland provided in a system usually expressed as acres of developed parkland per 1000 persons.<sup>23</sup> Table 3-2 shows the baseline LOS for developed City-owned parks, based on the 2003 population estimate of 1,480.<sup>24</sup> Undeveloped areas, such as open space and natural resource areas, do not include service areas and are typically not included in the LOS analysis.

**Table 3-2. Park Acreage and Level of Service**

Park Classification	Park	Acreage	Turner LOS (acres/1,000 residents)
Mini-Park			
	Burkland Park	0.30	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.30</b>	0.20
Community Park			
	Fifth Street Park	13.41	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13.41</b>	9.06
<b>Total</b>		<b>13.71</b>	<b>9.26</b>

Source: Community Planning Workshop, City of Turner and PSU Population Research Center

According to the City’s coordinated population forecast, Turner is expected to have 2,661 residents by the year 2025. At that population,

<sup>22</sup> Mertes and Hall, (p.63).

<sup>23</sup> Developed parkland typically contains facilities and amenities. Open space parkland is defined as areas generally free from development or developed with low intensity uses that respect natural environmental characteristics.

<sup>24</sup> Population figure from the Population Research Center at Portland State University.

the LOS will fall to 5.2 acres of parks per 1,000 residents if additional parkland is not acquired.

It is helpful to compare Turner’s level of service with other cities (Table 3-3). Turner’s level of service of 9.26 acres per 1,000 residents is half the closest comparable community of Brownsville (LOS 21.2/1,000 residents). The level of service standard Turner ultimately adopts should not be based on comparisons with other cities. Rather, it should reflect the city’s vision for its park system—and its financial capacity to develop, operate, and maintain that system.

**Table 3-3. Level of Service Comparison**

City	Developed Park Acreage	Undeveloped Park Acreage	Year 2003 Population	Dev.Parkland/1000 residents
Brownsville	30.5	NA	1,440	21.2
Lincoln City*	90.3	177.0	7,420	12.2
Turner	13.7	NA	1,480	9.3
Brookings	55.5	NA	5,950	9.3
Sweet Home	76.4	NA	8,330	9.2
Canby	37.0	NA	13,910	2.7
Astoria	21.6	NA	9,890	2.2
Newport	20.0	70.0	9,740	2.1

\* It is unclear whether Lincoln City has adopted an Open-Space Standard.

Source: Community Planning Workshop, 2004

Turner currently has a moderate level of service compared to similarly sized communities. The key reason for Turner’s level of service is 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park. More than 97% of the city’s park acreage is in 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park. The implication of this finding is that the city is well served in the community park classification, but potentially underserved in the neighborhood park and mini-park classifications.

## Chapter 4

# Turner Park System Goals and Proposed System Improvements

This chapter provides a framework for the development of parks and recreation facilities in Turner through 2025. This chapter describes park needs, park system goals, capital improvements for existing parks in Turner, and a parkland acquisition strategy.

Park needs are based on demographic trends, evaluation of the location and facilities in the city's park system, and input from residents during the community workshop and from the Parks Committee. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) provide a framework for evaluating park system adequacy. This framework emphasizes locally identified needs when determining park adequacy.

The goals offer a broad vision of what the City of Turner would like to achieve with its park system. The actions provide more specific steps the city can take to implement the goals. From the goals and actions, the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was developed to meet these expectations.

The Capital Improvement Program identifies park improvement projects and estimates costs. CPW developed a 10-year Capital Improvement Program for 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park. The city should use the CIP in coordination with the annual budgeting process to systematically fund parks projects.

In addition to the CIP, this chapter provides a Parkland Acquisition Strategy intended to assist the city in acquiring new parkland. The acquisition strategy is based on the city's population projections for 2025. After evaluating underserved areas in Turner's park system, the plan offers general areas and criteria the city can use to target additional parkland.

## Outdoor Recreation Participation Trends

### National, state, and regional trends

Identifying recreation and sport trends is relevant to parks planning because it allows a city to anticipate demand for facilities. Both the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) have compiled sports participation data, which show trends at the national, state, and regional level. An analysis of these trends establishes a context for evaluating Turner's park system.

The National Sporting Goods Association publishes annual data for participation in 42 sports at the state and national level. Participation trends outlined in this data may be useful in determining need for certain recreation facilities in Turner. According to the 2003 NSGA survey data, the following sports have the highest level of participation nationwide:

- Exercise Walking: 79.5 million participants
- Camping (vacation/overnight): 51.4 million participants
- Exercising with Equipment: 48.6 million participants
- Swimming: 47.0 million participants
- Bowling: 39.4 million participants
- Fishing: 38.2 million participants
- Bicycle Riding: 36.3 million participants<sup>25</sup>

As compared to national averages, additional NSGA data from 2001 show a number of sports that are popular in Oregon. The five most popular sports at the state level compared to the national average include:

1. Camping: 2.3 times greater in Oregon
2. Volleyball: 2.2 times greater in Oregon
3. Mountain Biking (on road): 2.1 times greater in Oregon
4. Fishing (salt water): 2.1 times greater in Oregon
5. Hiking: 1.8 times greater in Oregon

Volleyball, mountain biking, hiking and fishing are popular at the state and national level. Considering the popularity of recreational activities allows a community to anticipate park user needs and plan for future park amenities and facilities.

Taking state and national trends into consideration, Turner could provide additional opportunities for walking, biking, hiking and trail development on existing parkland. Future acquisitions should also be considered in the context of these activities.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) also gathers data on activity participation trends. OPRD completed their Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) process in 2002.<sup>26</sup> The SCORP data identifies outdoor recreation trends by

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<sup>25</sup> Sports Participation 2003, National Sporting Goods Association, [www.nsga.org](http://www.nsga.org)

<sup>26</sup> Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning process, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, April 2002, [www.prd.state.or.us](http://www.prd.state.or.us)

comparing recreation participation over a fifteen-year period. The data is presented at the regional and state level. Turner lies in Region Two, which is comprised of the inland portions of Clackamas, Hood River, Marion, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill, and Polk. For planning purposes, the SCORP combines Region Two with Region Three, which includes the inland portions of the counties of Lane, Linn and Benton.

The five activities that experienced the greatest increase in participation in Regions Two and Three between 1987 and 2002 include:

- Nature/Wildlife Observation
- Golf
- Using Playground Equipment
- Sightseeing/Driving for Pleasure
- Baseball

With the development of 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park, Turner will be able to provide opportunities for nature observation, using playground equipment, and playing baseball.

## **Community Needs**

Burkland Park acts as the centerpiece of Turner's park system. Its central location downtown and high quality facilities (picnic area and play structure) attract many community members. At this time, Burkland Park does not need any improvements. However, it will be important to continue to perform routine maintenance on the park to preserve its appeal to the community and the integrity of its facilities.

Due to its peripheral location and partial development, 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park is underutilized. However, community residents recognize that the park has the potential to become a community recreation center and gathering place. Assets of the park include its natural beauty, the abundance of mature trees, Mill Creek, and its large size. The city seeks to develop this park by capitalizing on its assets.

Community members also identified that they want more recreation options closer to where they live. New neighborhoods could benefit from parks located within walking/biking distance to homes. They also identified trails as a critical component of their park and recreation system. These trails would provide for linkages within the community and to other communities.

## **System-wide Goals and Actions**

The plan goals and actions collectively present a vision that Turner will work towards to meet the community's current and future park needs. The actions are detailed recommendations for projects or activities that

the city should implement to fulfill its goals. Both the goals and actions respond to suggestions and concerns generated by the Turner Parks Committee and by the public during the community workshop. These goals and objectives will be implemented through the Land Acquisition Strategy and Capital Improvement Program. The goals are not listed in priority order.

### **Goal 1: Enhance 5th Street Park**

- Action 1A. Enhance recreation opportunities.
- Action 1B. Create a trail network within the park.
- Action 1C. Upgrade picnic tables, BBQs, and offer a covered pavilion or multi-purpose area.
- Action 1D. Improve security and safety by installing light fixtures, increasing police presence, and establishing a fence along the railroad.
- Action 1E. Develop permanent restroom facilities.
- Action 1F. Enhance the park with landscaping, including techniques to improve the park entrance and minimize visibility of the waste water pump station.
- Action 1G. Investigate acquiring property north of 5th Street Park.

### **Goal 2: Provide Adequate Parkland**

- Action 2A. Acquire land as needed to maintain an adequate level of service for residents.
- Action 2B. Create mini-parks in residential areas.

### **Goal 3: Provide Diverse Park Facilities and Amenities**

- Action 3A. Provide facilities that are amenable to residents of all age groups.
- Action 3B. Offer ADA restroom facilities at Community Parks.
- Action 3C. Develop unique recreation facilities at new parks.

### **Goal 4: Increase Access to Parks**

- Action 4A. Provide ADA accessible facilities and amenities at parks.
- Action 4B. Ensure parks and trails are connected to all neighborhoods by trails and/or sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Action 4C. Maintain effective directional signage to parks from key roadways and trails.



- Action 4D. Provide sufficient parking for automobiles and bicycles.
- Action 4E. Ensure restroom facilities are open during daylight hours.
- Action 4F. Ensure access to open space and natural areas.

### **Goal 5: Promote Parks Committee Involvement**

- Action 5A. Implement the Capital Improvement Program.
- Action 5B. Review the CIP during annual city budget review process.
- Action 5C. Conduct a comprehensive review of the parks master plan every five years to address changing park needs and use.
- Action 5D. Promote community involvement in planning, operating, maintaining, and enjoying parks.
- Action 5E. Review land dedication proposals to ensure parcels are suitable for parks.

### **Goal 6: Perform Needed Park Maintenance**

- Action 6A. Create a Maintenance Plan to ensure attractive landscaping, park aesthetics, and facility upkeep.
- Action 6B. Diligently maintain restrooms.
- Action 6C. Repair acts of vandalism within 48-hours or as soon as possible.
- Action 6D. Consider park maintenance when evaluating acquisitions and improvements.

### **Goal 7: Encourage Partnerships**

- Action 7A. Develop a partnership with the Cascade School District.
- Action 7B. Partner with the State of Oregon, Marion County, Salem Keizer Area Transportation System (SKATS), the City of Salem, and neighboring communities to create improved park facilities and an inter-community trail network.
- Action 7C. Create an “Adopt-a-Park” program to augment funding and maintenance resources.
- Action 7D. Partner with community businesses to promote and maintain parks.

### **Goal 8: Secure Long-Term Funding Sources**

- Action 8A. Develop a Park SDC that works with the current Mandatory Land Dedication ordinance.
- Action 8B. Research and apply for at least one grant per year.

## **Goal 9: Ensure a Safe Recreation Environment**

- Action 9A. Arrange a system of regular police patrols through parks, or create a citizen patrol to prevent vandalism and illegal activities.
- Action 9B. Repair acts of vandalism within 48-hours or as soon as possible.
- Action 9C. Use park design methods that increase visibility and perception of safety in parks.
- Action 9D. Provide adequate lighting along trails and at park entries/exits.
- Action 9E. Locate parks near neighborhoods to ensure “eyes on the park”.
- Action 9F. Enhance fencing at 5th Street Park to prevent access across railroad tracks.

## **Goal 10: Develop a Trail Network**

- Action 10A. Create ADA paths with lighting, benches, and mile markers through 5th Street Park.
- Action 10B. Pursue easements along Mill Creek for an intra-community walking/biking trail that is ADA accessible and includes mile markers.
- Action 10C. Investigate a water trail and shuttle service from Turner to Salem with a put-in within downtown Turner.
- Action 10D. Use partnerships to develop a trail system with mile-markers from Turner to Salem.
- Action 10E. Work with neighboring communities to develop connecting trails for recreation and transportation.

## **Capital Improvement Program**

The capital improvement program (CIP) and the parkland acquisition strategy create the backbone of the parks master plan. The CIP provides specific details and costs of projects that the City of Turner should implement to fulfill their goals and objectives. The intent is to provide the city with a capital-budgeting tool that clearly identifies priorities, costs, and potential funding sources. We have developed a ten year Capital Improvement Program for 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park. At the end of this chapter we provide a detailed roadmap for implementing suggested improvements and additions to the park system.

To develop the list of potential projects, CPW gathered input from residents at a community workshop and through meetings with the

Turner Parks Committee. The City of Turner and the Turner Parks Committee balanced needed improvements with budget constraints. The improvements reflected in this plan represent what the committee considers a reasonable program given the city's financial capacity. Implementation of these projects will help the city to work towards the goals outlined above so that the parks can better serve current and future residents.

Total costs for 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park in Table 4-1 represent an estimated range of costs for the capital improvement projects for the next ten years. Because there is a great deal of variation in prices and prices were unavailable for some projects, it is recommended that the city consult with local contractors before beginning these projects. Total costs for new parks and amenities in the next 20 years were not calculated because the details, quantity, size, and location of amenities has not yet been determined.

## **Capital Improvement Projects for 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park**

5<sup>th</sup> Street Park is a community park located on the western edge of Turner. As Turner's largest park (approximately 13.5 acres), 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park offers the largest variety of activities including horseshoes, picnicking, and baseball. The city has recognized the potential for this park to become a community gathering place and is committed to further developing the park. Table 4-1 displays the proposed capital improvement projects for this park.

Based on the park improvements listed in the CIP, the city can expect to spend between \$425,000 and \$560,000 on park development costs. However, if the city adds to or deletes improvements that are listed in this capital improvement plan, the total cost will change. The Parks Committee should be involved in prioritizing the park improvements.

The CIP rates projects as Phase 1 and Phase 2 and provides a cost estimate and the source used to generate the estimate. CPW recommends the city address projects classified as Phase 1 (2005-2010), Phase 2 (2011-2016).

As seen in Figure 4-1, potential park improvements include creating a pedestrian trail around the park, developing a play area, BMX track, and activity courts; enhancing the base ball field, picnic facilities and horseshoe pits, and building bathrooms. Figure 4-2 and Figure 4-3 show the phasing of the improvements.

The Parks Committee identified some challenges that will need to be addressed as the city develops the park. They include: safety concerns for park users because of close proximity of railroad track, vandalism, transients, and potential drowning in creek.

Based on input from Turner residents and the Parks Committee, CPW recommends that the City of Turner make modifications to the current

parking arrangement. Figure 4-4 and 4-5 illustrate options for parking within 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park that will maximize the number of parking spaces while allowing for recreational activities and natural areas. The Parks Committee prefers the design shown in Figure 4-4. The exact design will need to be decided upon when the city pursues creating the parking area.

**Table 4-1: Capital Improvement Projects for 5th Street Park**

<b>Phase One (2005-2010)</b>				
<b>Capital Improvement Project</b>	<b>Cost Estimate (per item)</b>	<b>Amount of Item Needed</b>	<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Source of Estimate</b>
Walking Path (4 feet wide, island) – wood chip or graded, with labor	\$7 per foot (approx.)	1525 feet (approx.)	\$10,675 (approx.)	Dept. of Iowa Trails <a href="http://www.dot.state.ia.us/trails/CHPT05.HTML#trailcosts">http://www.dot.state.ia.us/trails/CHPT05.HTML#trailcosts</a>
Walking Path (6 feet wide, main park) – paved, with labor	\$42 per foot (approx.)	4425 feet (approx.)	\$185,850 (approx.)	RS Means
Multi-purpose Court (basketball, tennis, etc.)			Low - \$16,700 High - \$34,500	Kerr's
Baseball field enhancement (includes grading and backstop; varies depending on whether seeded or sodded)			Low - \$11,000 High - \$28,000	Kerr's
Baseball field fencing – 4 feet high (chain link, with labor)	Low - \$6 per foot High - \$7 per foot	750 feet (approx.)	Low - \$4,500 High - \$5,250	RS Means
Enhanced railroad fencing – 7 feet high (chain link, with labor)	Low - \$9 per foot High - \$12 per foot	1000 feet (approx.)	Low - \$9,000 High - \$12,000	RS Means
Restroom (south)			Low - \$35,000 High - \$58,000	Biological Mediation Systems, Inc. <a href="http://www.biologicalmediation.com">www.biologicalmediation.com</a>
Parking Area Turnaround			Low - \$2,600 High - \$4,100	RS Means

<b>Capital Improvement Project</b>	<b>Cost Estimate (per item)</b>	<b>Amount of Item Needed</b>	<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Source of Estimate</b>
Horseshoe Pits (relocation & enhancement)	Low - \$350 High - \$600	6 pits	Low - \$2,100 High - \$3,600	CPW
Signage – directional & interpretive	Low - \$150 High - \$200	11 signs	Low - \$1,650 High - \$2,200	EnviroSigns www.envirosigns.com
Children's Playground			\$32,000 (approx.)	Landscape Structures, Inc.
Trash Receptacles	Low - \$200 High - \$300	11 trashcans	Low - \$2,200 High - \$3,300	Outside Toys Pro www.outsidetoys.com
Bike Racks	Low - \$200 High - \$500	4 racks	Low - \$800 High - \$2,000	Outside Toys Pro www.outsidetoys.com
Benches (wood or concrete, with installation)	Low - \$500 High - \$800	12 benches	Low - \$6,000 High - \$9,600	National Outdoor Furniture www.outdoorchaise.com
Picnic Tables	Low - \$300 High - \$500	12 tables	Low - \$3,600 High - \$6,000	The Park Catalogue Highlands Products National Outdoor Furniture www.outdoorchaise.com
<b>Total Phase 1 (low)</b>	<b>\$323,675</b>	<b>For Phase One Improvements (approximates)</b>		
<b>Total Phase 1(high)</b>	<b>\$397,075</b>	<b>For Phase One Improvements (approximates)</b>		

<b>Phase Two (2011 – 2015)</b>				
<b>Capital Improvement Project</b>	<b>Cost Estimate (per item)</b>	<b>Amount of Item Needed</b>	<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Source of Estimate</b>
Expand parking (north area)	\$2.25/sq.ft. (approx.)	9 spaces, 2,250 square feet (approx.)	\$5,063 (approx.)	EcoNorthwest
Enhanced Fire Lane - gravel (including labor)	Low - \$10.10 per foot High - \$14.65 per foot	700 feet (approx.)	Low - \$7,070 High - \$10,255	RS Means
Restroom (north)			Low - \$35,000 High - \$58,000	Biological Mediation Systems, Inc. <a href="http://www.biologicalmediation.com">www.biologicalmediation.com</a>
BMX Track	Low - \$0.70 per foot High - \$1.35 per foot (approx., not including labor)	1,200 feet (approx.)	Low - \$840 High - \$1,620	BMX Dimensions <a href="http://www.prm.nau.edu/prm423/bmx_track.htm">http://www.prm.nau.edu/prm423/bmx_track.htm</a>
Footbridge, with labor	Low - \$55.50 per foot High - \$62.50 per foot	60-foot span (approx.)	Low - \$3,330 High - \$3,750	RS Means
Water Fountains	Low - \$1,600 High - \$1,950	4 fountains	Low - \$6,400 High - \$7,800	Northwest Recreation
Lights, steel pole, galvanized, 20 feet in height	Low - \$1,325 High - \$1,650	16 lights	Low - \$21,200 High - \$26,400	RS Means Kerr's
Pavilion or Covered Shelter (cost depends on size)			Low - \$22,000 High - \$53,000	Kerr's
<b>Total Phase 2 (low)</b>	<b>\$100,903</b>	<b>For Phase Two Improvements (approximates)</b>		
<b>Total Phase 2 (high)</b>	<b>\$165,888</b>	<b>For Phase Two Improvements (approximates)</b>		
<b>Totals for Phases I &amp; II (low)</b>	<b>\$424,578</b>	<b>(approximate)</b>		
<b>Totals for Phases I &amp; II (high)</b>	<b>\$562,963</b>	<b>(approximate)</b>		





The Parks Committee should monitor 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park use and evaluate the present management system at least every five years to determine if modifications are needed. A modified management approach may include restoring the river area, consolidating river access, and establishing a tree protection area. Opportunities for restoration of the riparian area can include removing invasive blackberry and reed canary grass, consolidating access to the river by providing a designated pathway to the river, as well as planting willow trees for bank stabilization.

Trees contribute to the environmental and economic health of a community by providing shade, cleaning the air and water, and increasing property values. To manage the existing trees and related vegetation, CPW recommends the city routinely monitor the health of 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park trees and support a management approach that addresses “tree succession”. Signs of unhealthy trees include discoloration of leaves, dead branches and disease such as root rot. Base compaction from vehicle parking can significantly contribute to the above tree abnormalities. The city and county may want to consider establishing a Urban Forestry Program to develop strategies to monitor the change in tree canopy over time and to develop strategies to manage their trees to maximize benefits while minimizing maintenance costs and liability.

Suggestions for native tree plantings in the Tree Protection Area include: Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) and Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*).

Suggestions for native tree plantings along the river include: Red Alder (*Albus rubra*), Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*) and Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*).

Suggestions for shrubs near the entrance and parking areas include: Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), Red-flowering current (*Ribes sanguineum*), Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) and Bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

## Parkland Acquisition

When calculating amount of parkland per resident, the city of Turner has a relatively high level of service. Currently, the City has 9.26 acres of developed parkland per 1000 residents. According to populations projections reported in the 2005 Salem Keizer Area Transportation System Plan, Turner can expect 2,661 residents by 2025. At that population, the level of service will fall from 9.3 to 5.2 acres of parks per 1,000 residents if additional parkland is not acquired.

Although the city has a relatively high level of service, more than 97% of the city’s park acreage is in 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park. This park serves a distinct purpose – once fully developed, it will function as a community

park complete with a baseball field, BMX track and pavilion. Other types of parks are needed in Turner to provide residents with a range of recreational opportunities, especially in their neighborhoods.

The Turner Service Areas map (Figure 4-6) shows the location and general service area of 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park and Burkland Park. The service areas represent the area from which most of the users come to use the park. As shown on the map, all neighborhoods outside the downtown are underserved by neighborhood or mini-parks. Physical barriers to service areas may limit service. For example, it may be difficult for small children to cross the railroad and major roads.

One of the goals of the Parks Master Plan is to provide a strategy for the city to acquire additional park and open space land in the next 20 years. Although the city does not have funding at this time to acquire new land, having a plan and a vision for potential new parks will help the city apply for grants and focus its efforts. The plan advocates the city pursue acquisition of two to four mini-parks of approximately 0.5 – 5.0 acres in size in the next 20 years. These mini-parks should be placed in or adjacent to neighborhoods to serve the day-to-day recreation needs of the residents (see Figure 4-7 for proposed locations). The purpose of the mini-parks in Turner is to provide modest recreational opportunities within neighborhoods. These parks could include a play structure, picnic tables, a sign, garbage cans, a hedge or fence, and landscaping. The city should expect to spend \$20,000 - \$70,000 on the development of a mini-park. Table 4-2 lists each improvement and its cost.

**Table 4-2: Potential Costs for Prototypical Mini-park**

<b>Capitla Improvement</b>	<b>Cost Estimate (per item)</b>	<b>Amount of Item Needed</b>	<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Source of Estimate</b>
Play structure	\$5,000 - \$35,000	1	\$5,000 - \$35,000	Outside Toys Pro <i>The Park Catalogue</i>
Picnic tables	\$300 - \$500	2	\$600 - \$1,000	Highlands Products
Multipurpose court	\$16,000 - \$34,000	1	\$16,000 - \$34,000	Kerr's
Signage	\$150 - \$200	1	\$150 - \$200	EnviroSigns
Trash receptacles	\$200 - \$300	2	\$400 - \$600	Outside Toys Pro
Bike rack	\$200 - \$500	1	\$200 - \$500	Outside Toys Pro
BBQ pit	\$100 - \$200	1	\$100 - \$200	Outside Toys Pro
Landscaping			varies	
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$22,450 - \$71,500</b>	

Considering the current service areas of existing parks and expected growth areas, the Parks Committee identified priority locations for new parks to ensure an equitable dispersal of parks within the city. Turner is expected to grow towards the north and then to the east. These areas will need to be served by parks in the future.

As identified in the Turner Comprehensive Plan (2002), the area around the River-Bend Sand and Gravel Mineral and Aggregate site on the north end of town may be a potential recreation area once the lake forms due to extraction and may be an appropriate place for a park. Other options include partnering with the School District to enhance the recreation options around Turner Elementary School in the southeast section of town. The swimming pool, located at the school, is a main recreation attraction and could be utilized to create a recreation hub in this area. Figure 4-6 shows the recommended general areas for additional parkland in Turner.

In addition to developing mini-parks, the city may want to continue to pursue expansion of 5<sup>th</sup> Street park on the 12.53 acre parcel to the north of the current park boundary. This parcel can only be accessed through the park and is located entirely in the floodplain. Preserving this land as a natural area would be consistent with the open space goals in the Turner Comprehensive Plan. The city will need to work with the Parks Committee, City Council and residents to identify specific parcels within the general recommended areas.

## **Locating New Parkland**

This section provides guidance on how to determine the suitability of potential parkland. The city should assess the following criteria when they decide to accept/purchase land:

- The topography, geology, access to, parcel size, and location of land in the development available for dedication/purchase;
- Potential adverse/beneficial effects on environmentally sensitive areas;
- Compatibility with the Parks Master Plan at the time of dedication/purchase;
- Vehicular and pedestrian access to the site;
- Availability of previously acquired property; and
- Parkland need based on improving the level of service.

Other land may become part of the city park system through donation. The following scoring matrix (Table 4-3) may be used to determine land suitable for parks, recreation, or open space. The matrix rates the site for its environmental attributes and its compatibility with the goals of the City's Parks Plan. Parcels that receive a yes to "meets criteria" on three or more of the criteria should be further considered for acquisition.

**Table 4-3. Scoring Matrix for Parkland Donations and Acquisitions**

Criteria	Meets Criteria (Yes/No/Partially)	Comments
It is within an area identified as strategic or a priority? (List appropriate reference.)		
Is the topography, geology, access to, parcel size, and location of land in the development good for parks? (List characteristics)		
Is the action compatible with the Parks Master Plan, Public Facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan, and the City of Turner Parks Acquisition Plan in effect at the time of dedication?		
Is the site is accessible by multiple transportation modes or can it be accessed by multiple transportation modes?		
Are there potential adverse/beneficial effects on environmentally sensitive areas? (List threats, if any)		
Does it protect natural and historical features, scenic vistas, watersheds, timber and wildlife for parks? (Describe.)		

Source: CPW

## Trail Linkages

Turner’s Comprehensive Plan indicates that providing trails within the city and connecting to other trails in the area is a priority. In Section 9.690 Public Facilities & Services Goals and Policies it states, “The long range park plan shall include consideration of greenway buffers and bicycle and pedestrian trails.” The Downtown Development Association Plan for Turner (2002) proposes creating a trail along Mill Creek, linking 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park with downtown. This trail could also link to the adjoining city of Aumsville and link with trails coming from Salem.

This parks master plan does not include a detailed trail/pedestrian route plan for the city for the next 20-years because at this time it is unclear where the new park facilities will be located. Pedestrian and bicycle trails provide wonderful opportunities to link parks with other community facilities and residential and commercial development. Once the city has a better understanding where they might locate some their new parks, CPW encourages the city to develop a trails master plan. In the meantime, the city should develop a trail at 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park to serve as the beginning of a trail along Mill Creek.

## **Maintenance**

In addition to planning, acquiring and developing parks, the city must pay to maintain them; however, the city can not use funds generated through SDCs for maintenance costs. Based on a cost estimation from other cities, Turner should expect to spend approximately \$2,000 - \$7,000 per acre of parkland each year on maintenance. Budget considerations and possible funding sources will be discussed in Chapter 6.

Addressing maintenance issues—costs, scheduling, etc.—should be an ongoing priority for the city. The cost estimates presented above show a wide range for maintenance. The amount the city invests will be reflected in the quality of the city’s parks and its overall system. Higher investments should lead to a higher level of service. The city should monitor maintenance costs as it develops its system. Maintenance costs should be factored into every acquisition and development decision the city makes.



# Chapter 5

## Funding Strategies

Providing the necessary resources for parks and open space can be a challenge for small communities. This plan identifies capital improvement projects and acquisition priorities for Turner's park system based on community input. The city will need to pursue new and ongoing funding sources to fulfill identified capital improvement and maintenance goals. A funding strategy is also necessary to meet the city's parkland acquisition goals. Turner should strive to have a diversified funding and support strategy that is comprised of short and long-term sources.

This chapter presents recommended funding and support strategies. This includes an evaluation of public (federal, state, and local) and private funding sources. Non-monetary support in the form of partnerships and volunteerism as well as monetary support are presented.

Key questions the city should ask as it pursues a funding and support strategy are:

- How much funding is needed to maintain existing park and recreation facilities?
- How much will be needed to maintain future park and recreation facilities?
- What stable, long-term funding sources can be created for ongoing maintenance, land acquisition and capital improvement needs?
- What long-term partnerships can be pursued?
- Where should future parks be located that maximize the use of available funding?

### Recommended Funding Strategies

Funding sources most appropriate to Turner are expanded upon in the following sections. The intent is to help the city understand where current park funding originates and provide options for diversifying those sources. Specific funding sources and contact information for each category is provided in Appendix A.

## Dedications

The City of Turner currently has a mandatory dedications ordinance (Section 7.400 of the 2002 Land Development Code). The ordinance specifies that a portion of land shall be dedicated for park and recreation purposes during development. According to the code, “within or adjacent to a residential subdivision, a parcel of land of not less than 6 percent of the gross area of the subdivision shall be set aside and dedicated to the public by the subdivider for park use.” The Planning Commission has the authority to decide if the land dedication is suitable for park purposes. If the land is not suitable, the subdivider must “pay into a public land acquisition fund a sum of money equal to \$1,000 per gross acre for each acre in the subdivision.”

An acquisition plan is a key component of a mandatory dedication policy. The acquisition plan should include a list of criteria for land parcel acceptance or rejection (see Chapter 4). The standard helps establish a legal nexus between mandatory dedication and the expected public welfare; however, measures should be taken to assure that the dedication policy is not too onerous for the developer. The current ordinance does a good job of this by tying dedications to residential subdivisions. The fee in lieu of dedication should be reviewed since \$1,000 per acre is well below current market value of residential land in Turner. Mandatory dedications should only be one of the multiple strategies employed by the city to develop new parkland.

## Systems Development Charges (SDC's)

A system development charge or SDC is a one-time fee imposed on new development to equitably cover the cost of facility capacity needed to serve new customers. The purpose of the system development charge is to impose a portion of the costs of capital improvements for water, wastewater drainage, streets, flood control, and parks upon the developments and redevelopments that create the need for or increase the demand on the specific capital improvement for which the SDC is being enacted.<sup>27</sup>

An SDC can consist of an “improvement fee” (for costs associated with capital improvements to be constructed) or a “reimbursement fee” (for costs associated with capital improvements already constructed or under construction).<sup>28</sup> The methodology used to establish the reimbursement or improvement fee are included in state statute guidelines (ORS 223.297-223.314). Since every community is different, each City establishes how they will apply the system development

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<sup>27</sup> League of Oregon Cities

<<http://www.orcities.org/citycenter/citytopicsinfo.cfm?id=70&topic=System%20Development%20Charges>>

<sup>28</sup> League of Oregon Cities

<<http://www.orcities.org/citycenter/citytopicsinfo.cfm?id=70&topic=System%20Development%20Charges>>



charge. Examples of how some local Oregon communities levy park SDC's include the following:

- Non-residential and residential facilities (single family, multi-family, manufactured homes)
- Commercial development
- Industrial development

Currently, a Systems Development Charge (SDC) can be charged in Turner for water and sewer improvement and are set by council resolution. The City is developing transportation and stormwater SDCs.

To decide if park SDC's are appropriate for Turner, the city should evaluate how much growth it is experiencing, whether the capacity of existing infrastructure can accommodate new development and if the community has a reliable plan for future improvements needed as a result of growth. The rates associated with the specific park SDC and cost of improvements should be proportional to the new customers or users of the park facility. The city should also consider the SDC in the context of the mandatory dedication ordinance.

No specific formula exists to establish a park SDC. The Parks Master Plan recommends the city establish a park system SDC. The City should start by exploring the broad guidelines outlined in ORS 223.297-314 and refer to recent statutory changes in Senate Bill 939.<sup>29</sup>

SDCs should be periodically reviewed to verify they are meeting the costs of development. The methodology for assessing SDCs in the future should be reviewed to assure that fees will be sufficient to meet the projects specified in the Capital Improvement Program (Chapter 4).

## Donations

Two key motives for donation are philanthropy and tax incentives. These benefits should be emphasized when collaborating with landowners. There are many strategies for securing donations including building public relations, creating a healthy community, and boosting employee morale. Another strategy includes existing tax structures that have built in incentives for donating land. It is



Figure 5-4. Burkland Park dedication

<sup>29</sup> Personal communication with League of Oregon Cities personnel, November 4, 2003

important to note that for some potential donors, tax considerations are the primary reason for considering a major land donation.

Soliciting donations, like partnering, takes time and effort on the part of City staff, but can be mutually rewarding. However, before donations are secured it is important to set up a foundation to accept and manage them. The City should begin working to set-up such a group or recruit volunteers to provide the services. Generally, donations are not stable sources of land or finances and should not be relied upon for a major portion of funding.

However, such funding strategies have a successful track record in Turner. Recently, Donald Burkland donated Burkland Park to the City of Turner. This is an excellent example of how donations can benefit the community by enhancing the park system. Similarly, 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park could be renamed to honor a resident that provides funding or adjoining land to improve the park.

Pursuing donations through partnerships may provide advantages to all parties involved. For example, working a land transaction through a non-profit organization may provide tax benefits for the donor, can provide flexibility to the City, and can reap financial benefits for the non-profit.

## **Grants**

Grants are a good strategy to supplement park acquisition and development funds. Many grant organizations fund park acquisition and improvements, although few provide funds for ongoing maintenance activities. Two factors that make grants challenging are (1) most grant organizations have lengthy processes that will require staff time and effort, and (2) grants usually have very specific guidelines and only fund projects that specifically address their overall goals. Moreover, grants should not be considered a long-term stable funding source.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants administered by the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, for example, require that the proposed project be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Because grants are usually highly competitive, staff time should be allocated carefully to apply for grants that are a good fit. Likewise, partnerships should be pursued for volunteer grant writing.

Because many grant agencies look favorably upon collaborative projects, a potential benefit of grant proposals is that they can foster partnerships between agencies, organizations, and the City. Appendix A outlines organizations' goals and provides contacts for state, regional, and federal grant opportunities.

## Partnerships

Partnerships can play an important role in the acquisition of new park and recreation facilities and in providing one-time or ongoing maintenance support. Public and private organizations as well as the Cascade School District may be willing to partner with the City. Such partnerships can provide funding resources to acquire additional parks and recreation services. Certain organizations may be interested in improving or maintaining an existing facility through a sponsorship. This method is a good way to build cooperation among public and private partners.

The specific partnering process employed depends on who is involved. Potential partners include State agencies such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (especially for acquisition of lands with habitat potential), local organizations, land trusts, and national organizations such as the Nature Conservancy.

Partnerships with local organizations can also provide an educational component.. Likewise, retirees could use their knowledge and experience to research and compose grant applications. While researching grant opportunities, retirees could train others to acquire the needed skills to perform the tasks.

Although partnerships may not yield monetary benefits, there are other important benefits including:

- Removing service duplication or use of complementary assets to deliver services;
- Enhancing stability because future service is more probable where partnerships exist;
- Enhancing organizational effectiveness and image;
- Pursuing projects that the city would not have the resources to complete;
- Identifying opportunities through partner organizations; and
- Providing educational opportunities.

The key problem with partnerships is that there is no guarantee of success. Developing projects with partners requires considerable time and energy.

## Bonds

To issue long-term debt instruments (bonds), a municipality obtains legal authorization from either the voters or its legislative body to borrow money from a qualified lender. Usually the lender is an established financial institution, such as a bank, an investment service that may purchase bonds as part of its mutual fund portfolio, or sometimes, an insurance company.

Issuing debt is justified based on several factors:

- Borrowing distributes costs and payments for a project or improvement to those who will benefit from it over its useful life, rather than requiring today's taxpayers or ratepayers to pay for future use.
- During times of inflation, debt allows future repayment of borrowed money in cheaper dollars.
- Borrowing can improve a municipality's liquidity to purchase needed equipment for project construction and improvements. Debt issuance also does not exhaust current cash-on-hand, allowing such general fund revenues to be used for operating expenses.<sup>30</sup>

The longer the maturity term, the higher the interest rate required to borrow for that period of time because borrowers have to compensate investors for locking up their resources for a longer time.

Oregon law requires that all Unlimited-Tax General Obligation (ULTGO) bonds be authorized by a vote of the people. The *Oregon Bond Manual – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*<sup>31</sup>, recommends municipalities hire a bond counsel prior to the bond election to ensure that all requirements are met for a legal bond election.

The Bond Manual also notes that approval of an ULTGO bond requires considerable effort. Some examples of ways to gain public support include attitude polls, forming a bond issue citizens' committee, holding public meetings, leaflets, and door-to-door canvassing. Note that under Oregon law, no public resources may be used to advocate a pro or con position regarding a ballot measure. Accordingly, any printed materials must be purely explanatory in nature.

A fundamental rule associated with issuing long-term debt instruments is that they may not be issued for maturity longer than the project's useful life. People should not be paying for a major park or recreational facility after it is no longer in use.<sup>32</sup> Furthermore, Turner should be very clear about the specific actions to be carried out with the bond revenue. Working with the community is an important aspect of passing a bond.

The key benefit of bonds for park acquisition is that the city can generate a substantial amount of capital. This capital can then be used

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<sup>30</sup> *Oregon Bond Manual – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*, 1998, Oregon State Treasury and Municipal Debt Advisory Commission.

<sup>31</sup> *Oregon Bond Manual- 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*, 1998, Oregon State Treasury and Municipal Debt Advisory Commission

<sup>32</sup> Crompton, John L. 1999. *Financing and Acquiring Park and Recreation Resources*. Champaign, IL, Human Kinetics.

to purchase parkland to accommodate needs far into the future. The Parks Master Plan advocates acquisition and development of 2-4 new mini-parks over the next 20 years. Given the relatively modest capital costs of these improvements, the Parks Master Plan does not recommend consideration of bonds at this time.

## Levies

A local option levy for capital improvements provides for a separate property tax levy outside the city's permanent rate limit. This levy may be used to fund a capital project or a group of projects over a specified period of time, up to ten years. Revenues from these levies may be used to secure bonds for projects or to complete one or more projects on a "pay as you go" basis.

The advantages of levies include reduced interest, increased flexibility, enhanced debt capacity, improved borrowing terms, and increased fiscal responsibility. The major disadvantages of this approach are insufficient funding, intergenerational inequity (if, for example, long-term facilities are paid for disproportionately by current users), inconsistency of funding requirements, and use of accumulated reserves. There are also legal requirements including property tax limitations imposed by Article XI, Section 11 of the Oregon Constitution.<sup>33</sup>

Local option levies require voter approval and are subject to the double majority requirement. In addition, increases in the assessed valuation of each property are limited to three percent per year (Section 11(1)(b)), with special exemptions for property that is improved, rezoned, subdivided, or ceases to qualify for exemption. In combination with the fixed permanent rate, the limitation on the growth in assessed value will limit the growth of taxes on individual properties to an average of 3% per year. Due to these limitations, local option levies are not generally considered to be a good alternative to the use of general obligation bonds for large projects or groups of projects.

Property tax levies can be used for facility operations and maintenance, land acquisition, and capital improvements.

## Land Trusts

Land trusts use many tools to help landowners protect their land's cultural, natural or historic qualities. Land in land trusts may provide open space for visual or recreational purposes. Tools used by land trusts include:

- Conservation easements (which allow land to be protected while a landowner maintains ownership)
- Outright land acquisition by gift or will

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<sup>33</sup> Section 11 was created via House Joint Resolution 85, 1997 and adopted by the people of Oregon, May 20, 1997 via Measure 50

- Purchases at reduced costs (bargain sales)
- Land and/or property exchanges

A landowner can donate, sell, or exchange part of their land rights to a land trust, in cooperation with the City. There is a tax incentive to donate the land as a charitable gift, although it is the responsibility of the landowner to pursue the tax deduction.

Collaborating with land trusts and landowners takes considerable time and effort. Steps included in the process are:

- Determining the public benefit of a landowner's property for preservation. This step identifies the natural or historic values of the land;
- Working with the landowner to develop goals and objectives for the land;
- Gathering information including, title and deed information, maps, photographs, natural resources information, structural features, and land management and mining history;
- Conducting an environmental assessment for evidence of hazardous materials or other contaminants;
- Determining whether a new survey is needed to establish easement boundaries; and
- Designing the terms of the easement.

Contact information for land trusts that operate in the area can be found located in Appendix A.

## Summary

Completion of this plan is the city's first step down a path that will lead to the fulfillment of the city's park system goals. With careful attention, Turner's parks will continue to improve its residents' quality of life.

# Appendix A

## Funding Options

The following list provides brief descriptions and contacts for the funding strategies presented in Chapter 5. This list includes monetary sources as well as non-monetary sources such as partnerships with community groups and volunteerism.

### Partnerships

#### Federal

##### Bureau of Land Management

The BLM uses a multiple-use approach to managing public land in Oregon. It manages land for wildlife, recreation, timber harvest, livestock grazing, mineral extraction and other public uses. Their mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM does have grants available for land acquisition if it is to be used for recreation and public purposes. Local government can also obtain parklands at very low or at no cost if there is a developed park plan.

##### **Contact:**

Oregon State Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
333 SW First Avenue, Portland Oregon 97204  
P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208  
Phone: (503) 808-6002  
Fax: (503) 808-6308  
Website: <http://www.or.blm.gov/>

For the Salem area, the best contact for land acquisition issues is:  
BLM Real Estate Specialist  
Stuart Hirsh  
(503) 375-5623

##### United States Forest Service

The Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service offers recreation information and opportunities on federal lands. They offer urban and community forestry funds and assist with economic diversification projects.

##### **Contact:**

Group Leader, Grants and Agreements  
USDA Forest Service - Pacific Northwest Region  
333 SW First Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97208  
P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208-3623  
Portland, Oregon 97204-3440  
Phone: (503) 808-2202  
Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/>

## **State**

### **Division of State Lands, Wetland Mitigation Banking**

The Wetland Program staff work closely with cities in their local wetland planning efforts by providing both technical and planning assistance. Key elements of the program include state and local wetland inventory, wetland identification, delineation, and function assessments as well as wetland mitigation, public information and education.

#### **Contact:**

Wetland Mitigation Specialist  
Division of State Lands  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1279  
Phone: (503) 378-3805, Ext. 285  
Website: <http://statelands.dsl.state.or.us/>

### **Oregon Youth Conservation Corps**

Through assistance received from the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC), communities receive needed services, and unemployed youth are placed in gainful activities. The program can provide both work experience and an opportunity for participants to serve as role models for other young people. OYCC funding is distributed in equal amounts to each county in Oregon every summer. The program funds individual projects ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The OYCC program consists of grants of labor and capital financing. These grants generally support conservation or environment-related projects proposed by non-profit organizations. Youth corps members work on projects such as:

- Construction of trails, boat docks, disability access ramps, fences and picnic tables;
- Restoration/preservation of wetlands, stream banks, endangered species and other wildlife habitat, and historical and cultural sites;
- Maintenance of all of the above after wind, floods, fire or normal use; and



- Plantings, water quality testing, removing non-native plants and weeds, watershed work, managing nurseries, landscaping, mapping, surveying and recycling and community service projects.

**Contact:**

Oregon Youth Conservation Corps

255 Capitol Street NE, Third Floor

Salem, Oregon 97310

Phone: (503) 378-3441

Fax: (503) 373-2353

Website: <http://www.oycc.state.or.us>

**Local**

Public, private, and non-profit organizations may be willing to fund outright or join together with the City of Turner to provide additional parks and recreation facilities and services. This method may be a good way to build cooperation among public and private partners in the Turner-Salem area. A list of potential partners besides police and fire departments, utility providers, and the school district include:

- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts
- Salem Audubon Society
- Church Organizations
- Santiam Area Regional Agreement
- Friends of Mill Creek
- Oregon 4-H Conference and Education Center
- YMCA
- Boys and Girls Club
- Chemeketans Outdoor Club
- Native Plant Society of Oregon - Willamette Chapter
- Salem Garden Club
- Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center
- Marion Soil and Water Conservation District

Local businesses may also be willing to partner with the city to provide park services. The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce would be a good place to begin to form such partnerships.

**Contact:**

Salem Area Chamber of Commerce  
1110 Commercial Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Phone: (503) 581-1466  
Email: [info@salemchamber.org](mailto:info@salemchamber.org)  
Website: <http://www.salemchamber.org/>

**Not-for-Profit Organizations**

## American Farmland Trust

This organization works for the preservation and protection of agricultural lands throughout the United States, with a focus on planning for urban growth that keeps agricultural needs in mind. It is a private non-profit that receives funding from foundations, corporations and government sources. The organization has a land acquisition division, as well as some grant programs.

(For agricultural lands only)

**Contact:**

American Farmland Trust  
1200 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: (202) 331-7300  
Fax: (202) 659-8339  
Website: <http://www.farmland.org/>

**The Nature Conservancy**

This is a national environmental organization focused on preservation of plants, animals and natural communities. They have worked in direct land acquisitions and in obtaining conservation easements for protection of wilderness and agricultural lands. Their grants program are usually focused on their own acquisition of land, but they are willing to work with communities who want to purchase land if it is then to be set aside for environmental preservation.

**Contact:**

The Nature Conservancy of Oregon  
821 S.E. 14th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97214  
Phone: (503) 230-1221  
Fax: (503) 230-9639  
Website: <http://nature.org/oregon>

## Grants

### Private Grant-Making Organizations

#### National Grants

##### Kodak American Greenways Awards Program

This program is a partnership of the Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society. The program provides small grants, maximum of \$2,500, to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. A Kodak American Greenway Award could be used to create a walking/hiking trail along Mill Creek through Turner and extending into Salem.

##### **Contact:**

The Conservation Fund  
1800 N. Kent Street, Suite 1120  
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2156  
Phone: (703) 525-6300  
Fax: (703) 525-4610  
Website: <http://www.conservationfund.org/conservation/>

#### Regional Grants

##### Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Fund

The Paul G. Allen Foundation focuses its grant making on the acquisition of old growth and other critical forestlands. Priority is given to projects that protect forestlands with a strategic biological value that extend or preserve wildlife habitat, and, where possible, offer opportunities for public recreation and education. The foundation is particularly interested in landscape-scale projects that provide optimal potential for protection of ecological integrity, functional and intact ecosystems, connectivity, and biodiversity conservation.

##### **Contact:**

Grants Administrator  
PGA Foundations  
505 5th Ave South Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
Phone: (206)342-2030  
Email: [info@pgafoundations.com](mailto:info@pgafoundations.com)  
Website: <http://www.pgafoundations.com>

### **Bonneville Environmental Foundation**

Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) watershed project grants to date have ranged from \$5,000 to \$40,000. Any private person, organization, local or tribal government, located in the Pacific Northwest (OR, WA, ID, MT) may submit a proposal to BEF. Proposals will only be considered, however, from applicants proposing to complete a watershed biological assessment or applicants operating within the context of a previously completed watershed biological assessment.

#### **Contact:**

Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
133 SW 2nd Avenue, Suite 410  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Phone: (503) 248-1905  
Fax: (503) 248-1908  
Website: <http://www.bonenvfdn.org/about/index.shtm>

### **Ben B. Cheney Foundation**

Washington and Oregon institutions are eligible for Cheney Foundation grants. The foundation prefers to focus on areas where the Cheney Lumber Company was active, which includes Tacoma and Pierce County, Southwestern Washington, Southwestern Oregon, particularly around the Medford area, and portions of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Trinity counties in California. The foundation usually funds socially oriented programs in such categories as charity, education, and health services for youth and the elderly and a parks application should emphasize these categories. Letters of inquiry outlining the proposed project are required. Full applications are accepted only from those whose inquiry letters are of interest to the foundation. There are no deadlines.

#### **Contact:**

Ben B. Cheney Foundation  
1201 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1600  
Tacoma, Washington 98402  
Phone: (206) 572-2442  
Website: <http://www.benbcheneyfoundation.org/index.html>  
Email: [info@benbcheneyfoundation.org](mailto:info@benbcheneyfoundation.org)

### **The Ford Family Foundation**

The Foundation places a high priority on continuing to respond to the needs of rural communities in Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. Communities with a population under 30,000 are eligible for grant funding requests for capital support or time-limited project support rather than on going operating funding. Grants are made in one of three major categories:

Rural Education

Rural Home Services

Rural Civic and Community Enhancement

**Contact:**

The Ford Family Foundation  
1600 NW Stewart Parkway  
Roseburg, Oregon 97470  
Phone: (541) 957-5574  
Fax: (541) 957-5720  
Website: <http://www.tfff.org/>

**Meyer Memorial Trust**

The Meyer Memorial Trust seeks opportunities to make program related investments in Oregon and Clark County, Washington. General Purpose Grants support projects related to arts and humanities, education, health, social welfare, and a variety of other activities. Proposals may be submitted at any time under this program, and there is no limitation on the size or duration of these grants.

**Contact:**

Meyer Memorial Trust  
425 NW 10th Avenue, Suite 400  
Portland, Oregon 97209  
Phone: (503) 228-5512  
Website: <http://www.mmt.org/>

**State Grants**

**Oregon Community Foundation Grants**

Proposals to the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) are prioritized for funding based on their fit with a set of basic guiding principles and four specific funding objectives. They will potentially fund parks development and have done so on occasion in the past ten years, but all grants should stress these four objectives.

- To nurture children, strengthen families and foster the self-sufficiency of Oregonians (40-50% of OCF Grants);
- To enhance the educational experience of Oregonians (15-20% of OCF grants);
- To increase cultural opportunities for Oregonians (15-20% of OCF grants);
- To preserve and improve Oregon's livability through citizen involvement (10-15% of OCF grants);

Other considerations are does the campaign to create the park have strong local community leadership and significant numbers of private donors, does it serve an underserved area, is there specific programming--educational or recreational--attached to the park operation that would enrich the community, does it have a feasible plan for long term maintenance, is it a genuinely unique or historically significant site closely linked with the community's identity, etc.

Only about 5 percent of Community Grants are above \$50,000. Larger grants tend to be made only for projects that are an exceptionally good fit with OCF priorities, have a broad scope of impact, and address an area to which OCF's board has decided to give special attention.

**Contact:**

Oregon Community Foundation  
1221 SW Yamhill, #100  
Portland, Oregon 97205  
Phone: (503) 227-6846  
Fax: (503) 274-7771  
Website:  
[http://www.ocf1.org/grant\\_programs/grant\\_programs\\_fr.htm](http://www.ocf1.org/grant_programs/grant_programs_fr.htm)

**Oregon Department of Forestry**

This department supervises all aspects of forest policy in Oregon, appoints the state forester and adopts the rules for forestry practices in the state. They do have grants available for parks programs, but those are restricted to development involving trees and forest canopy (for example, brochures, informational signage and planting of trees are possibilities, but recreational facilities such as basketball courts are not).

**Contact:**

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grants  
Forestry Assistance Program  
2600 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310  
Phone: (03) 945-7391  
Website:  
[http://www.odf.state.or.us/divisions/management/forestry\\_assistance](http://www.odf.state.or.us/divisions/management/forestry_assistance)

**The Collins Foundation**

The Collins Foundation's purpose is to improve, enrich, and give greater expression to the religious, educational, cultural, and scientific endeavors in the State of Oregon and to assist in improving the quality of life in the state. In its procedures, the Foundation has not been an "Operating Foundation" in the sense of taking the initiative in creating and directing programs designed to carry out its purpose. Rather, the trustees have chosen to work through existing agencies and have

supported proposals submitted by colleges and universities, organized religious groups, arts, cultural and civic organizations, and agencies devoted to health, welfare, and youth.

**Contact:**

Director of Programs  
The Collins Foundation  
1618 SW First Avenue, Suite 505  
Portland, Oregon 97201  
Phone: (503) 227-7171  
Website: <http://www.collinsfoundation.org/>

## **Public Grant-making Organizations**

### **Federal**

#### **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

This fund provides federal dollars from the National Park Service that are passed down to states for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of park and recreation areas and facilities. The Land and Water Conservation Fund will receive approximately \$94 million for FY 2004. Oregon's estimated appropriation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for FY 2004 is \$1,370,429. Of this amount, approximately 60% is available for Local Governments and 40% is available for state agencies.<sup>34</sup>

To be eligible for LWCF grants, the proposed project must be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and elements of a jurisdiction's local comprehensive land use plan and parks master plans.

**Contact:**

For accessing of these funds, emphasis should be placed on the grants available to the state of Oregon rather than federal funds.

Land and Water Conservation Fund  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Phone: (503) 378-4168 Ext. 241  
Fax: (503) 378-6447  
Website: [http://www.prd.state.or.us/grants\\_lwcf.php](http://www.prd.state.or.us/grants_lwcf.php)

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<sup>34</sup> Personal communication with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff, November 22, 2004.

## **U.S. Department of Transportation**

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) was enacted June 9, 1998 as Public Law 105-178. TEA-21 authorizes the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety and transit. The TEA-21 Restoration Act, enacted July 22, 1998, provides technical corrections to the original law. TEA-21 funding for parks and connections includes:

- Bicycle transportation and pedestrian walkways;
- Recreational trails program;
- National Scenic Byways Program;
- Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot.

### **Contact:**

U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590  
Phone: (202) 366-4000  
Website: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/index.htm> and  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/sumenvir.htm#btapw>

## **State**

### **Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)**

#### **State Pedestrian and Bicycle Grants**

ODOT provides grants to cities and counties for pedestrian or bicycle improvements on state highways or local streets. Grants amount up to \$200,000, with a local match encouraged. These grants require the applicant to administer project. Projects must be situated in roads, streets or highway right-of-ways. Project types include sidewalk infill, ADA upgrades, street crossings, intersection improvements, minor widening for bike lanes. These grants are offered every two years.

### **Contact:**

Oregon Department of Transportation  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Program  
355 Capitol Street NE, Fifth Floor  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Fax: (503) 986-4063  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager  
Phone: (503) 986-3555

Julie Yip, Coordinator  
Bicyclist & Pedestrian Traffic Safety



ODOT Transportation Safety Division  
235 Union St NE  
Salem OR 97301  
Phone: (503) 986-4196  
E-mail: julie.a.yip@odot.state.or.us

### **Transportation Enhancement Program**

Funds are available from ODOT for projects that enhance the cultural, aesthetic and environmental value of the state's transportation system. Eligible activities include bicycle/pedestrian projects, historic preservation, landscaping and scenic beautification, mitigation of pollution due to highway runoff, and preservation of abandoned railway corridors. A minimum of 10.27% match is required. There is \$3 million of annual funding available for the fiscal years of 2002 through 2005. The application cycle is every two years.

#### **Contact:**

Pat Rogers Fisher  
Transportation Enhancement Program Manager  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
Phone: (503) 986-3528  
Email: patricia.r.fisher@odot.state.or.us

### **Transportation Safety Grants**

This ODOT program promotes transportation safety such as programs in impaired driving, occupant protection, youth, pedestrian, speed, enforcement, bicycle, and motorcycle safety. Over \$1.25 million is awarded annually. There is not an application process. Projects are chosen by problem identification.

#### **Contact:**

Julie Yip, Coordinator  
Bicyclist & Pedestrian Traffic Safety  
ODOT Transportation Safety Division  
235 Union St NE  
Salem OR 97301  
Phone: (503) 986-4196  
E-mail: julie.a.yip@odot.state.or.us

Kelly Mason  
Grants Assistant  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
Phone: (503) 986-4202  
E-mail: kelly.m.mason@odot.state.or.us

More ODOT funding information can be found on Oregon's Economic Revitalization Team website:  
[http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov/ERT/about\\_us.shtml](http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov/ERT/about_us.shtml)

This website includes a detailed table of available state funding, program contacts, application cycles, and a description of who can apply.

## **Oregon Economic and Community Development Department**

### **Oregon Tourism Commission**

The Commission focuses on tourism-related projects within a larger economic development strategy. They offer matching grants of up to \$100,000 for tourism projects such as marketing materials, market analyses, signage, visitor center development planning, etc., but not for construction. The funding cycle varies.

#### **Contact:**

Mt. Hood and The Gorge Region  
Oregon Tourism Commission  
Phone: (503) 986-0004

Specific Oregon Economic and Community Development Department funds can be found at the Economic Revitalization website:  
[http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov/ERT/about\\_us.shtml](http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov/ERT/about_us.shtml)

## **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**

### **Water Quality Non-point Source Grants**

Approximately \$2.7 million is available each year in grants from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for non-point source water quality and watershed enhancement projects that address the priorities in the Oregon Water Quality Non-point Source Management Plan. These grants require a minimum 40% match of non-federal funds and a partnership with other entities. Applications are generally due around June 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Contact the program for specific deadlines. Funds are awarded February of the following year.

#### **Contact:**

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Ivan Camacho  
[camacho.ivan@deq.state.or.us](mailto:camacho.ivan@deq.state.or.us)  
Phone: (503) 229-5088

Specific Oregon Department of Environmental Quality grants can be found at the <http://www.deq.state.or.us/programs.htm> or the Economic Revitalization Team's website:  
[http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov/ERT/about\\_us.shtml](http://www.oblpct.state.or.us/Gov/ERT/about_us.shtml)

## **Oregon Division of State Lands**

### **Easements**

The Oregon Division of State Lands grants easements for the use of state-owned land managed by the agency. An easement allows the user to have the right to use state-owned land for a specific purpose and length of time. This does not convey any proprietary or other rights of use other than those specifically granted in the easement authorization. Uses of state-owned land subject to an easement include, but are not limited to gas, electric and communication lines (including fiber optic cables); water supply pipelines, ditches, canal, and flumes; innerducts and conduits for cables; sewer, storm and cooling water lines; bridges, skylines and logging lines; roads and trails; and railroad and light rail track.

**Contact:**

Western Region Staff  
Oregon Division of State Lands  
Phone: (503) 378-3805

**Wetlands Program**

The Oregon Division of State Land’s Wetlands Program staff implement the wetland program elements contained in the 1989 Wetlands Conservation Act. They also help implement the Removal-Fill Law. The program has close ties with local wetland planning conducted by cities, providing both technical and planning assistance.

**Contact:**

Wetland Mitigation Specialist  
Division of State Lands  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1279  
Phone: (503) 378-3805, Ext. 285

Website: <http://statelands.dsl.state.or.us/>

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department administers several grant programs including the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (described under “Public Grant-Making Organizations” in this section), Local Government, and Recreation Trails grants.

**Local Government Grants**

Local government grants are provided for the acquisition, development and rehabilitation of park and recreation areas and facilities. Eligible agencies include city and county park and recreation departments, park and recreation districts, and port districts. The Local Government Grant program provides up to 50 percent funding assistance. For cities/park districts with population less than 5,000 and counties with populations less than 30,000, the program provides up to 60 percent

funding assistance. Projects that do not exceed \$50,000 total cost and a \$25,000 grant request, qualify as small grant requests.

**Contact:**

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Marilyn Lippincott  
Senior Grants Project Coordinator  
Phone: (503) 986-0711  
Fax: (503) 9986-0793

Grants Coordinator  
Phone: (503) 986-0712  
Fax: (503) 986-0793

**Recreation Trail Grants**

Every year, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department accepts applications for Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grants. Types of projects funded include:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails;
- Development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities;
- Construction of new recreation trails; and
- Acquisition of easements and fee simple titles to property.

Grant recipients are required to provide a minimum 20% in matching funds. Projects must be completed and costs billed within two years of project authorization.

**Contact:**

Recreation Trails Grants  
Phone: (503) 986-0750  
Fax: (503) 986-0793

**General Contact:**

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Salem Headquarters  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Phone: (503)986-0707  
Website: <http://www.prd.state.or.us/grants.php>

Heritage Conservation Division  
Kimberly Dunn, Grants Coordinator  
[kimberly.dunn@state.or.us](mailto:kimberly.dunn@state.or.us)  
Phone: (503) 986-0670  
Fax: (503) 986-0793

## **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) administers a grant program that awards more than \$20 million annually to support voluntary efforts by Oregonians seeking to create and maintain healthy watersheds. Types of grants provided by OWEB include: upland erosion control, land and/or water acquisition, vegetation management, watershed education, and stream habitat enhancement. A grant from OWEB could be used to enhance the Mill Creek watershed.

### **Contacts:**

Grant Program Manager  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290  
Phone: (503) 986-0203  
Fax: (503) 986-0199  
Website: <http://www.oweb.state.or.us/>

Program Representative, Willamette Basin  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290  
Phone: (503) 986-0185  
Fax: (503) 986-0199

## **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

### **Sport Fish and Restoration Program Funds**

Cities, counties, park and recreation districts, port districts, and state agencies may receive funding from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Funds are awarded at the start of each federal fiscal year to priority projects. This is a matching fund program of 75% federal and 25% by the State Marine Board. Eligible projects include acquisition and construction of public recreational motorized boating facilities, such as: boat ramps, boarding floats, restrooms, access roads, parking areas, transient tie-up docks, dredging and signs.

### **Contact:**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
3406 Cherry Avenue NE  
Salem, Oregon 97303-4924  
Phone: (503) 47-6000  
Website: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/> and  
<http://www.boatoregon.com/Facilities/FundSource.html>

## **Park and Recreation District**

Special districts, such as a park and recreation district, are financed through property taxes and/or fees for services. A governing body elected by the voters directs all districts. A good source for information is the Special District Association of Oregon (SDAO).

SDAO was established in 1977 to pursue the common interests and concerns of special districts. SDAO has outlined to the process of forming a special district.

### **Contact:**

Executive Director  
Special Districts Association of Oregon  
727 Center Street NE, Suite 208  
PO Box 12613  
Salem, Oregon 97309-0613  
Phone: (503) 371-8667; Toll-free: 1-800-285-5461  
Fax: (503) 371-4781  
E-mail: [sdao@sdao.com](mailto:sdao@sdao.com)  
Website: [www.sdao.com](http://www.sdao.com)

## **Land Trusts**

Local and national land trusts may be interested in helping to protect open space in the Turner area.

### **The Wetlands Conservancy**

The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC) is a non-profit land trust. It was founded in 1981 and is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and promoting the wildlife, water quality and open space values of wetlands in Oregon.

### **Contact:**

Executive Director  
The Wetlands Conservancy  
PO Box 1195  
Tualatin, Oregon 97062  
Phone: (503) 691-1394  
Email: [wetlands@teleport.com](mailto:wetlands@teleport.com)

### **Land Trust Alliance**

Since 1982, the Land Trust Alliance has assisted nonprofit land trusts and organizations protect land through donation and purchase by working with landowners interested in donating or selling conservation

easements (permanent deed restrictions that prevent harmful land uses), or by acquiring land outright to maintain as open space. They are a member-based organization, so becoming a member is a first step towards applying for assistance from this organization.

**Contact:**

Program Director  
Land Trust Alliance  
3517 NE 45th St  
Seattle, Washington 98105-5640  
Phone: (206) 522-3134  
Fax: (206) 522-3024  
Email: ltanw@lta.org  
Website: www.lta.org

**Trust for Public Land**

Land conservation is central to the Trust for Public Land's mission. Since 1972, the Trust for Public Land is the only national nonprofit working exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well-being. The trust helps conserve land for recreation, enjoyment and to improve the health and quality of life of American communities.

The Trust for Public Land offers the following:

- Research on park trends and best practices
- Help forging a community vision for parks and open space
- Help developing public-private partnerships for land-protection
- Assistance with real estate negotiation to acquire new properties
- Help with private and public fund-raising for parks

**Contact:**

Oregon Field Office  
Trust for Public Land  
806 SW Broadway, Suite 300  
Portland, OR 97205  
Phone: (503) 228-6620  
Fax: (503) 228-4529  
Website: www.tpl.org

**Northwest Land Conservation Trust**

The trust works with Oregon landowners to establish conservation easements to preserve and protect, agricultural land, forest land, wildlife habitat, wetlands, scenic open space, and other natural resources.

**Contact:**

Northwest Land Conservation Trust  
P O Box 18302  
Salem, Oregon 97305-8302  
Email: [nwlct@open.org](mailto:nwlct@open.org)  
Website: <http://www.open.org/~nwlct/>

**The Greenbelt Land Trust**

The Greenbelt Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that works to protect and enhance the open space amenities essential to the quality of life in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

**Contact:**

The Greenbelt Land Trust  
PO Box 1721  
Corvallis, Oregon 97339  
Phone: (541) 752-9609  
Email: [info@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:info@greenbeltlandtrust.org)  
Website: [www.greenbeltlandtrust.org](http://www.greenbeltlandtrust.org)